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Lakeport residents won't see municipal water soon

COLBORNE CHRONICLE
SEPT. 6/07

By BOB OWEN
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It is unlikely Lakeport residents will see municipal water routed to their taps from Colborne anytime soon.

Cramahe Twp. council heard and responded to a request from Lakeport resident Tom Philp at its May 15 meeting.

Mr. Philp asked for a commitment from Cramahe Mayor Marc Coombs to meet with his Alnwick/Haldimand counterparts over the issue of water and sewers for Lakeport.

That has been done and it appears there will be no movement forward on the issue in the near future.

Mayor Coombs, Councillor Pat Westrope, Cramahe Clerk Administrator Christie Alexander and Public Works Director Barry Thrasher met at the Colborne Town Hall Aug 1 with Alnwick/Haldimand Mayor Bill Finley, Councillor Art Jeninga and Alnwick/Haldimand's Clerk Administrator Terry Korotki.

In a brief interview Aug. 29, Mr. Finley said his township has not budgeted any money for studies to provide water or sewers to the hamlet located on Lake Ontario.

After meeting with Cramahe officials, he's convinced the idea is an expensive one. The earliest his council will look at funding a study is at budget time next year, he said.

Under current provincial regulations, services provided to residents must be user-paid. That would leave the Lakeport residents paying for all pipe from the Colborne treatment plant to their homes.

If sewage treatment were also included, they would be required to fund the pumping of untreated sewage up to the sewage treatment plant in Colborne when the facility is expanded.

Cramahe is moving forward on sewage treatment expansion, but there is much to do before anything concrete is done to relieve the plant which is near capacity now.

In an Aug. 30 written statement to the *Chronicle*, Mayor Coombs wrote, "We understand that there are housing developments planned for west of Lakeport and there will be pressure for Alnwick/Haldimand to provide services to those houses.

"As good neighbours, we are happy to be fully co-operative in any studies that Alnwick/Haldimand wishes to undertake.

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Castleton General Store now open as LCBO outlet

By BOB OWEN
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PHOTO BY BOB OWEN

Finally, after more than two years, Bruce and Lydia Kim are selling beer, wine and spirits at the Castleton General Store.

Aug. 23, the couple sold their first alcohol, having met all the requirements of the provincial government.

July 25, 2005 the Kims purchased the business from the former "mayor" of Castleton, Keith Olan. The genial new owners were eager to meet the community needs and were anxious to begin the work to put in the necessary coolers to sell alcohol.

Mr. Olan had completed all the preliminary plans and had received approval from the province prior to selling. He was available to help get things rolling. But the approval didn't carry forward to the new owners, so they had to start all over again.

Liquor outlet expansion was announced for this area earlier this year but it wasn't until May that the Kims had permission to sell alcohol.

Since then, they have employed Arnold Jones and Dennis Clarke to complete work necessary to turn the garage at the back of the store into a liquor outlet.

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Lakeport residents

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"We don't feel, however, that Cramahe taxpayers should be asked to pay the costs for studies done in other municipalities as suggested by Mr. Philp."

The previous Alnwick/Haldimand Council showed no interest in a project to provide water and sewers when it was proposed during the last term of council.

Castleton General Store now open as LCBO outlet

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Once that was done, there was a further wait as they sought the cooler and had it installed.

Finally, with the help of Colborne LCBO Manager Victoria Dingman, they were able to open for business.

Area residents can now purchase their beer, wine and spirits from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday to Saturday, and from 11

a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday.

Lydia explains the shorter Sunday hours are a requirement of provincial law.

Always appreciative of the welcome they have received from the community, the Kims want to thank everyone who wrote letters and signed petitions in support of their new venture.