

## Local News

## Final pleas made for new Cramahe school

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Ms. Rath also pointed to information she had collected which did not put a time limit on using the \$4.8-million provincial grant for a new building. She hoped this would allow more time to do the work needed to get a greenfield site prepared for building.

In her presentation to the trustees later in the meeting, Associate Director of Education, Sherry Summersides clarified the situation regarding grant money.

Ms. Summersides acknowledged that a person in MPP Lou Rinaldi's office may have said there was no deadline on use of the money, "but they can't possibly know all the background."

The board had already agreed to "realistic time lines" with the provincial Ministry of Finance, she said and, further, there is a need to start as soon as possible as there is an understanding between the board and the province that ideally the grant money will be spent by 2009-10. It was a commitment made even before the politicians became involved, Ms. Summersides said.

Castleton Public School parent Michelle

White was next to speak.

Ms. White pointed to her concerns regarding the Williams greenfield location on Purdy Road, notably its proximity to the Cramahe Industrial Park.

She suggested the Forget property just north of Telephone Road on County Road 25 also has limitations, being close to a closed landfill site and on a route which has traffic issues due to aggregate haulage.

Ms. White added that the Castleton site is safe, beautiful and shovel-ready. Mario Meeke spoke on behalf of the Castleton Sports Club which operates 14 acres of sports fields behind the current Castleton Public School.

Mr. Meeke advised that his non-profit organization could make its lands available for use by the students of a new school. Choosing the Castleton option would allow the board to tap into the additional resource and would increase usage of the 10 acres of sports fields now already operational he said.

Castleton Public School parent Danielle Moffat was the first of three unannounced delegates. Her only comment was to ask whether the board has the funds to buy

property when it can't afford enough teachers.

South Cramahe parent Kelly Morreau urged the trustees to "think outside the box" and look at decreasing enrollment figures for Colborne Public School. A 2001 consultant's report recommended one school for the whole township. In 2008, a single township school would need to house 500 students, but Ms. Morreau predicts the numbers will drop to 400 in five to 10 years.

With most students in the township living south of the 401, she suggested the Purdy Road greenfield site now owned by Pete Williams family would be the best.

Ms. Morreau went on to find fault with some of the details in the background paper presented to the trustees later in the June 4 meeting. Arguing that South Cramahe is the

best school in Cramahe Township, and that it has a larger population than Castleton, the South Cramahe parent proposed the trustees choose the Williams greenfield site. Janet Simpson added her support to the South Cramahe voice.

She felt a school built on a greenfield site will better represent the whole of the greater community of Cramahe Township. Castleton families are hoping, in her opinion, to use the South Cramahe kids to save their community.

In closing, Ms. Simpson concluded "Cramahe kids" should have a school they know has been built for them. This school site decision is slated to be made June 19 by trustees of Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board at the Peterborough board office.

## Trustees given background on proposed school sites

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After hearing the presentations on June 4 of six delegations, the members of the Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board heard Associate Director of Education Sherry Summersides outlined the background.

The board has agreed to build a new school in Cramahe Township to replace Castleton Public School and South Cramahe Public School which are both prohibitive to repair.

Since last fall a committee, the Accommodation Review Committee for Castleton and South Cramahe Public Schools, made up largely of Cramahe residents has discussed the needs and considered locations. This committee could not come to a consensus over the best location, and in April was split between the Castleton School site and a site at the corner of Purdy and Parliament Street, owned by the Williams family.

Since then a piece of the Forget property on County Road 25, between Telephone Road and County Road 21, opposite the OLCO station property, was offered to the board.

Because it is close to the mid-point between the two current schools, board administration felt it should be looked at and the selection criteria applied.

The criteria review for the Forget site was included in the information given to the trustees at the June 4 Resources Committee meeting.

As well, the discussion paper included input from the board's Facilities Services Department.

The facilities services staff identified the need to continue on a well and septic as challenges for Castleton.

The site on Purdy Road will need to have the electrical service upgraded from single phase to three phase. A school located there will have to be heated by oil. A well and septic system will be needed. In her oral presentation, Ms. Summersides reminded the trustees of the cost to purchase the

Williams property. It has to be purchased, severed and rezoned before construction can begin. The money to buy the property must come from board funds. It is not part of the \$4.8 million provincial grant.

The Forget property, on County Road 25, north of Telephone Road, is below road elevation, there are wetlands around it. The school would be serviced by well and septic.

Trustees said little that would suggest their preferences.

Questions related to the Forget property concerned truck traffic and the proximity to the former landfill site on Telephone Road. One trustee also wondered how many walkers would there be if the Forget site was selected. Ms. Summersides suggested very few.

The associate director was pleased that people had come forward with greenfield options. In response to questioning, she offered that some of the preparatory work could be done while severances and rezoning were being completed. On the other hand, the Castleton site is more straight forward. Work could proceed immediately, giving it a one-to-two month advantage.

Trustee Cathy Abraham suggested the comparison was only true if all went perfectly on one of the purchase properties.

Fellow trustee Angela Lloyd agreed, offering that from purchase to putting the first shovel into the ground is never less than six months.

That seemed to be the feeling of trustee Diane Lloyd. In her experience, it could take two-to-three years to get a school built on a new site if there were any problems with the site.

Ms. Summersides agreed to explore the trustee's concerns, but admitted if the township had to go to the Ontario Municipal Board "all bets are off".

No decision was made on any of the three potential school sites. The trustees will choose a site for the new school on June 19.