

# Local News

## Open Doors shows off history

COLBORNE CHRONICLE



**Steeple chase:** One day the parishioners of Salem United Church hope to replace the steeple with the original. Holding it are Ken and Nancy Ellis and Laura Haferkorn.

The much valued stained glass windows, given as memorials, were installed at various times from the 1890s onward. The two windows in the hallway between church and hall, dedicated to Canon and Mrs. Davidson, are from St Peter's, Lakeport and were brought here after that building was deconsecrated and torn down in 1969.

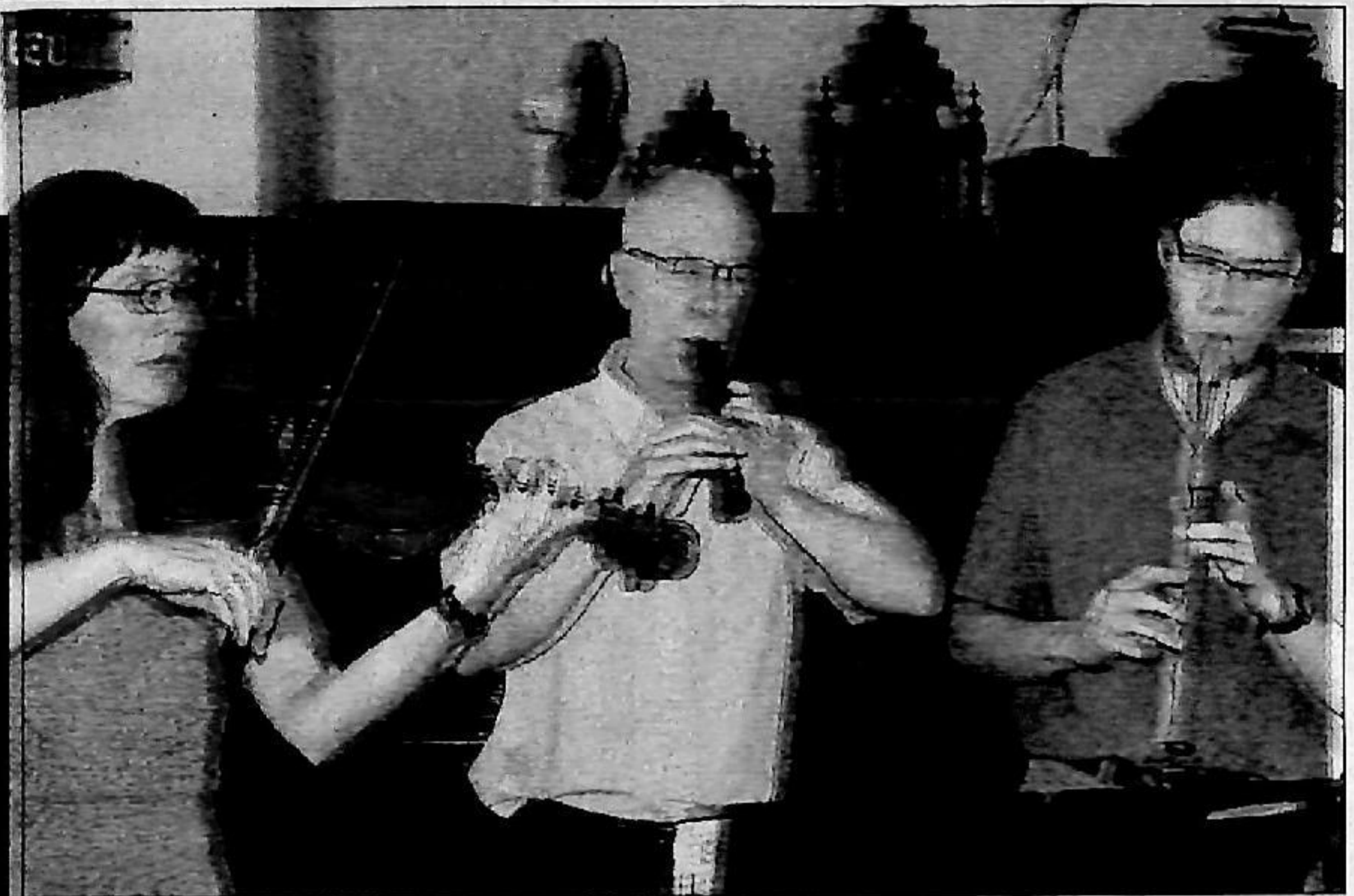
The newly-renovated former County Registry Office now boasts a welcoming historical exhibit. The neo-classic style building with a barrel-vaulted interior has a unique tie to Cramahe's past as it was once owned by Joseph Keeler a

community founder. It became the registry after John Grover donated it to East Northumberland. The registry records were held in the office until 1992.

Colborne retained the building and in 1997 it was leased by a co-operative of artists who have shared the building with the museum, operating a very successful gallery.

The downtown core of Colborne contains numerous properties of historical significance.

Old St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, built in Georgian style of local stone on land donated by



**Musical interlude, above:** Violinist Deborah Henderson, soprano recorder player Fred Long and alto recorder player Julian Nelson are the Ancient Music Trio. For an hour the trio gave the Old St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church sanctuary an aura from another era.

Joseph Keeler, is perched high above the main street of the former village.

The stone used in the church was hauled up from Lakeport on an ox trail through the woods. Mr. Keeler's only request with his donation was that a seat be reserved by him.

The building has seen changes over its 178-year history. It is one of the oldest surviving Presbyterian churches in Ontario.

Newcomers to Cramahe know it as the Colborne Town Hall. Anyone who has grown up in this area since 1922 remembers it as the Colborne High School. Each year over 100 students studied to earn their high school diploma and the keys to higher education. For 40 years it was fed by elementary students from the

surrounding area. The Village of Colborne took it over in 1962. Since then it has housed the village offices, community library and now the Township of Cramahe offices.

Across the street from the former high school is Cramahe's signature park, Victoria Square Park.

It too, has links to the Keeler family, having been laid out by Joseph Keeler in his original town plan of 1815. It was donated to the Village of Colborne by his grandson in 1882. Since 1903 there has been a fountain in the park. The two Crimean War cannons were given to the village in 1910.

The Keeler Centre was the final piece in the Cramahe Open Doors celebration. Visitors got a first-hand look at its state-of-the-art geothermal technology



**Registry office:** Standing in front of an 1880 quilt with the names of Wilfred Laurier and Oliver Mowat, Roseanne Quinn talks history with Patrick James Morris. The quilt is a 2008 donation from Rosemary Robertson. The signature quilt also contains many names from people in this area.



**Trinity Anglican Church** in Colborne is one of the most beautiful churches in the area. Doors Open volunteers, from left, Carol McArthur, Patti May, Gail Moffat, Anne McMurray and Don Prentice stand behind the altar.

Photos by Bob Owen