

Cramahe to get ecology garden

Cramahe Township will soon boast its own ecology garden, thanks to a generous offer made to council at its June 17 meeting.

The proposal put forward at the meeting by Community Services Director Terry Scott, and supported by Colborne and District Horticultural Society President Shirley Ross, was quickly approved by council.

Mr. Scott explained the area will preserve the natural environment in Rotary Centennial Park across from Sunnyside Country Markets, reflect the area's vegetation and offer people a place to be physically active and involved in gardening. It will also provide an opportunity for the community to learn about organic gardening.

To help pay for the project, an application is being made to the federal government for \$15,000 New Horizons for Seniors grant.

The Scott report noted the park will hopefully one day become a focal point. Mrs. Ross expressed her hope it will become a place where people can come and take home plants to grow in their own gardens.

Posthumous honour: Rev. Agnes Lee

COLBORNE CHRONICLE

By Cecilia Nasmith ^{JULY 10/08}
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The Reverend Agnes Lee has been posthumously proclaimed the 2008 Senior of the Year for Alnwick-Haldimand Township.

Friends and family members gathered during the July 3 council meeting for the presentation and to share memories, most of which dealt with her efforts to preserve the Wicklow Baptist Church.

Organized in 1798 and built in 1854, it was known as the oldest Baptist church in Ontario before it was destroyed by fire in 1986.

Agnes Mildred Lee, who was born in the area (and who later attended the Toronto Bible College and ended up serving at Colborne Baptist Church), had loved that church all her life. When she settled back on the farm where she had been raised,

she realized the church was in danger of being abandoned and becoming derelict.

After the fire, she became a guiding force in the construction of the one-third-scale replica chapel to keep the church and its heritage alive.

"She cared deeply for this area and wanted to maintain its history," Shirley Johnson stated.

Referring to her often as "Miss Agnes", Ms. Johnson recalls how inspiring she was to the Wicklow Chapel Property Conservation Committee (which Ms. Johnson headed). The example she and her brother Norm Lee presented in lovingly tending to the property guided the group as they applied for Trillium funding and began work on what is now a heritage-themed



Agnes Lee

park surrounding the reconstructed chapel.

The property was deeded to the municipality by the Baptist Convention of Ontario and Québec in 2003, and the park's grand opening took place July 26, 2004.

"We sometimes don't pay too much attention to the wonderful work people do behind the scenes, and Rev. Lee is

truly one of the exemplary figures of our community who go day in and day out doing the things she loved the most for the betterment of the community," Northumberland MPP Lou Rinaldi said.

The Rev. Lee died early this year at the age of 89, but the park remains both a landmark for the community and a tribute to what Ms. Johnson referred to as her last major concern — "demonstrating her love for the community where she was born, spent her youth and ended her long ministry.

"With the fulfillment of this important dream, Miss Agnes was content to retire from active ministry, but it remained her life's passion.

"If she were here today, I know how she would respond to this honour. With determination in her voice, she would say, 'I never expected any award. I was just serving the Lord.'"



TED AMSDEN / SUN MEDIA

From left, Alnwick-Haldimand Township administrator Terry Korotki, Shirley Johnson, Norm Lee, Mayor Bill Finley and Northumberland-Quinte West MPP Lou Rinaldi honoured the late Reverend Agnes Lee during a meeting of council in the Alnwick-Haldimand Township Hall.