

## Local News

# Committee looks at Keeler Centre improvements

By **BOB OWEN**  
lowen@xplornet.com

Meeting for the second time since its inception July 22, the Keeler Centre Rotary Hall Planning Advisory Committee discussed concerns and goals for the centre.

Twelve participants representing the township and seven community groups met at the Keeler Centre Sept. 15.

The group made numerous suggestions which could affect future programs and services in the Keeler Centre.

The committee quickly dispelled any suggestion there will be early or summer ice in the centre.

Community Services Director Terry Scott explained the icemaking equipment was installed to operate between October and March and would have to be upgraded to create ice in the warmer months. The Colborne Rotary Club has a commitment from Cramahe council to keep the arena pad open until after the club hosts its Harvest Auction on the third Saturday of September in 2009 and 2010. And, a study completed by the Community Services Director demonstrated there is little demand for summer ice.

Mayor Marc Coombs told the group a portable floor could be laid over the ice but it is estimated to

cost about \$80,000. Likewise, an addition to the building would be costly.

Other opportunities the committee offered included trade shows.

Mayor Coombs thought people would be interested in lawn and garden shows early in the year, after the ice is out.

The township is hoping to build on the July 1 Canada Day celebration held by the Colborne Legion. Legion President Patti May was pleased with the idea as it matches her organization's goals.

Parks and Recreation Committee member Rita Collins wondered about having fireworks and a midway, but thought they might be difficult to organize.

Colleen Vandevalk offered that a fun fair with potato sack and minnow races might be a hit. Diane Turk added the suggestion of a family picnic on Canada Day. The events could be brought into the Keeler Centre if weather is inclement.

Christmas tree decorating and toys for the kids on a free skating day prior to Christmas was proposed by Rotarian Graham Norcutt.

But, before anything is running, the

Keeler Centre Rotary Hall Planning Advisory Committee agreed there needs to be better directional signage so people can find the place and a sign on the building so they know when they have arrived.

Committee member Felicity Sidnell-Reid emphasized the need by telling the group if speakers from Brighton could not find the centre then the current signage was a failure.

Mrs. Collins noted signage was one of the short-term goals of the 2004 Parks and Recreation Master Plan for Cramahe. She added that a brochure needs to be developed for new residents to let them know what is happening at the Keeler Centre.

The Community Services Director assured her he is working on a package.

Mrs. Sidnell-Reid felt money was needed to market the centre.

Mr. Scott offered that the township could use its Website better to promote the facility.

Budget cuts took the weekly ads out of the *Chronicle*.

The committee members saw a real need to publicize special events. They look in the paper for news, not the Website, they said.

To bring the need home, Mr. Norcutt stated that not advertising was like kissing a girl in the dark: you know what you're doing – but no one else does.

E-mails could be an effective tool as well to let people know what is coming, it was suggested.

If the committee has ideas it wants acted upon quickly, it should bring them to Cramahe council sooner rather than later, stated the mayor. He could see that the signage, advertising and paving for the parking lot might be considered as priorities.

The township recently received a one-time grant for roads. There is a roads plan but there might be some money available for small projects, the group was told.

At its Oct. 9 meeting, the Keeler Centre Rotary Hall Planning Advisory Committee will discuss programs and events. The members will look at current

programs which operate at the Keeler Centre and those which are run out of churches and the Colborne Legion.

Administration, support, advertising and promotion will be considered at another meeting.

The committee proposals are slated to go to council Nov. 18.

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