

Local News

Mayor outlines goals for Keeler Centre

By Bob Owen
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Mayor Marc Coombs outlined how the Keeler Centre fits township plans at the Sept. 15 meeting of the Keeler Centre Rotary Hall Planning Advisory Committee.

In 2004, the township completed a Parks and Recreation Master Plan and an overall vision statement outlining how it was going to achieve the goals in the plan.

Parks and recreation committee member

Rita Collins stated the development of the Keeler Centre was a long-term goal when the plan was initiated.

Fellow committee member Felicity Sidnell-Reid explained the Keeler Centre plans were more long term because of what was being suggested — a gym, a swimming pool, and the use of geothermal energy to heat the proposed pool. The parks and recreation committee had been looking 10 years ahead.

Keeler Centre committee member Graham Norcutt asked if any studies have

been completed concerning the long-term plans. There have not.

When the current council was elected in 2006, it set out a strategic plan for its four-year term. The plan was to be used as the basis for an action plan to “govern the affairs and identify the priorities.”

Council anticipated in the plan that the quality of life for residents would be enhanced and the community would be brought together in a “team atmosphere.”

The strategic planning report stated

the implementation of the plan was dependent on a commitment and focus on a longer term perspective of program and service planning, delivery and evaluation.

Implementation was also dependent on “continued involvement from residents, businesses, key stakeholders and employees”.

The strategic plan’s third objective included increased recreational programming and maximizing the efficiency of the Rotary Hall/Keeler Centre.

Township seeks Trillium grant

By Bob Owen
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The Township of Cramahe is planning to apply for a Trillium grant before the Nov. 1, 2008 deadline to pay for extensive work on Rotary Centennial Park.

Currently, there is little in the park other than a climbing apparatus and two ball diamonds. The Cramahe Horticultural Society is planning an ecology garden.

Community Services Director Terry Scott revealed that the Parks and Recreation Master Plan for development of the park includes trails, the ecology garden, ball field revitalization,

arena deck development, a picnic shelter, band shell, children’s play area, fencing, lighting and a volunteer cairn.

The trails, when completed, will link the Waterfront Trail through the Colborne Creek subdivision and the Keeler Centre. It will also cross Colborne Creek and run alongside the creek.

The Parks and Recreation Committee hopes to establish basketball and hockey nets on the pad of the former Colborne Cramahe arena and locate the picnic shelter nearby.

Mayor Marc Coombs asserted the plans will not affect what the township is doing with the

Colborne Rotary Club for the park.

At the last Cramahe Parks and Recreation meeting Sept. 23, the Parks and Recreation Committee decided to discuss with Rotary the possibility of the Rotary Club becoming involved in supporting the initiative at Rotary Centennial Park. This included meeting with the club in October.

Mr. Scott told council there will be a public meeting to build support for the plans. He cautioned council that the application requirements for a substantial Trillium grant are quite extensive.

No value has been placed on the projected project.

Donna Rusaw joins local Community

Colborne Care Oct 16/08

Community Care Colborne has a new staff member: Donna Rusaw.

“Community Care Colborne is thrilled and very proud to announce the addition of Donna Rusaw to our staff.” Cheryl Storey, program coordinator of Community Care Colborne, says, “Donna is responsible for managing our hot and frozen Meals On Wheels programs, and our monthly Diner’s Club as well as participating in our fundraising and special events that occur throughout the year. She will also be involved in programming discussions.”

“Community Care Colborne hopes you will help us welcome Donna in her new role as she continues to help us serve our community.”

Mrs. Rusaw started part-time with the agency Oct. 1. She will also be involved in programming discussions.

VBJ

Centre

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Mr. Williams went on to say two other parties had expressed an interest in the building when the township was purchasing it. They should be made aware of the proposal.

Mayor Coombs agreed the township didn’t buy the building to use as it wanted but to support seniors programs.

Mr. Williams was asked to outline what programs were offered when the building was under VBJ management. They included bingo, euchre, once-a-month birthday lunches, special holiday lunches and dinners to mark Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter and St. Patrick’s Day and regular meetings of Alcoholics Anonymous. At one time, the centre was open periodically for lunch. It was open Monday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Community Services Director Terry Scott confirmed some programs continue.

There is a Friday afternoon bingo. Weight Watchers and the Alcoholics Anonymous groups continue to meet there.

There are no longer any food-related programs and the euchre group moved back to Castleton when the Castleton Town Hall reopened last month. The daily drop-in has been curtailed.

Mr. Scott is meeting with staff from Community Care regarding programming.

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