

County OKs agriculture action plan

By Bob Owen
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Some startling economic statistics for regional agriculture were presented to county council Wednesday.

In Northumberland, 57% of the county's 1,031 farms earned less than \$25,000 gross in 2006.

In east central Ontario, 60% of farmers earn less than \$25,000 a year gross. Only 40%

make more, and 37% earn less than \$10,000 a year.

That compares with west central Ontario where 62% earn more than \$25,000 before expenses and only 20% earn less than \$10,000.

After hearing the income stats and more, Northumberland County council unanimously supported a 27-page agricultural action plan which will have wide-reaching effects when implemented.

The plan, presented by Northumberland

County economic development and tourism director Dan Borowec on behalf of the Northumberland County Agricultural Action Plan Steering Committee, looks at agriculture's current status in the county and proposes actions on three fronts: agricultural production and marketing; bio-product and agri-energy opportunities; and ideas to improve rural communities.

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ERIN REED ROOM TO HELP CHILDREN DEDICATED IN PETERBOROUGH



BOB OWEN/SUN MEDIA

Arlene and Jim Reed stand in front of the mural painted in the Erin Reed Memorial Room at the BOOST Centre in Peterborough. COLBORNE CHRONICLE OCT 23/08

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Victims of child abuse will be better cared for, thanks to donations made in memory of Colborne teen Erin Reed.

Erin's parents, Arlene and Jim Reed, dedicated the Erin Reed Memorial Room in the BOOST Centre in Peterborough Oct. 19.

BOOST is a satellite of the 30-year-old child abuse centre in Toronto. The centre received funding to open satellite offices in Peterborough and Barrie this year, but lacked the toys and games needed to keep children amused and comfortable.

Child witness advocate Kaye Torrie uses the adjacent office to

prepare children to testify as witnesses to abuse. It can be very stressful as many of the children are testifying against former caregivers.

The notification that donations in memory of Erin were going to be used at the centre came as a huge relief centre staff say.

The connection was logical.

Erin was a student at Humber College in the Child and Youth Worker program. Erin had taken an active role in the Go Purple for Prevention campaign, a fundraiser and public awareness campaign to inform people about child abuse. Her actions had been noted by the Dean of the

college who sent her a letter of commendation.

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FACEBOOK PHOTO

Erin Reed

SPOOKY WINNERS



BOB OWEN/SUN MEDIA

The winners of the costume contest at the Colborne and Cramahe Figure Skating Club's Hallowe'en Dance show off their duds. From left, are Val Sawyer, Katie Scriver, Gabby Sallian and Rebecca Breau with Elijah. COLBORNE CHRONICLE OCT. 23/08

County over budget for '08: CAO

By Bob Owen
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Northumberland County is over budget for 2008, according to the chief administrative officer.

Bill Pyatt cited roads maintenance, escalating fuel costs and building maintenance as the primary causes of the escalating costs during the Oct. 15 county council meeting.

Other factors will also negatively affect the final bottom line: garbage bag tag and recycling revenues from the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) are down.

Mr. Pyatt suggested bag tag revenue may be down because people in the county were given longer to convert their old tags and begin with the new, more expensive ones. The shortfall at the MRF is the result of lower prices for recyclables than anticipated.

On the other hand, Mr. Pyatt noted the MRF was out of operation for only two weeks for the installation of equipment which will result in major cost savings. Originally, the expectation had been a four-week closure.

While the county appears to currently be under budget, this is due to the timing of expenditures and revenues, Mr. Pyatt said.

In order to come in under budget by year end, three actions were recommended:

- deferring some projects and purchases until 2009
- seeking savings in the waste and transportation budgets; and
- closely managing scheduling and overtime to minimize additional wage costs.

Deferring the purchase of a trammel for the Brighton landfill and broadband adjustments could save \$575,000.

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