

12

■ cramahebriefs

NORTHUMBERLAND TODAY
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QUEEN'S HOTEL TO GET YEAR-ROUND PATIO

Since 2001 the Queen's Hotel in Colborne has erected a fence on the sidewalk outside its doors. The patio has been a popular addition to the bar, and since 2006 it has been a refuge for smokers who want to take their drinks outside in all weather.

In the 2001 agreement with Cramahe Township the Gilligan family which owns the hotel was granted permission to have the patio on condition that the fence be removed prior to the first snowfall.

In 2006 the fence remained up after the snow arrived and, according to a report filed at Cramahe Council on Nov. 17, 2009, it was only removed after repeated requests.

The report filed by township bylaw officer Jim Harris states the same problem occurred in 2007.

In a very animated discussion, Tim Gilligan Jr. declared conflict of interest, stepped out of his council chair in and up to the podium in defence of his family's argument that a permanent fence should be allowed.

Mr. Gilligan Jr. took issue with some of the statements in the Harris report, questioning the dates of discussions referred to in the document and the existence of an agreement which council directed staff to complete in 2008.

Mr. Harris did not complete the agreement, stating that council was requesting something not in keeping with the original (2001) resolution.

In his report to council last Tuesday and in his comments Harris expressed his concerns over entering a long-term agreement giving exclusive rights to one person based on an eight-year-old resolution.

Despite his objections, council approved a resolution requesting the finalization of an agreement which will include responsibilities for snow removal, identify ownership of the property, require annual renewal, and allow year-round use of the contained patio.

Bob Owen

BROADBAND LAUNCH SET FOR DECEMBER

The long-awaited arrival of high-

speed Internet in Cramahe Township is expected early in the new year.

Cramahe Township Council announced at its Nov. 17 meeting that a launch will be held at the Castleton Town Hall on Dec. 8 from 5 to 7 p.m.

To make it an event, the host, Barrett Xplore, will be giving out door prizes. The company will also be taking orders from potential customers who want high-speed.

Most residents in the largely rural municipality must rely on dial up service. With the new Northumberland County Broadband Project many are ready to give up their phone service and go wireless.

Seven of the 10 towers being erected across the county were complete as of Oct. 31 and are accepting customers. The tower serving Cramahe was delayed when Cramahe Council refused to sign off for the developers over a location issue.

That problem has been resolved and the tower at Griffis Corners in the west end of the township should be in service by the end of the year.

Bob Owen

MORE WORK ON CASTLETON TOWN HALL

Cramahe Township continues to spend money on the last remaining work needed for the revamped Castleton Town Hall.

This past spring the township approved \$40,000 to complete the renovations in the lower level of the building where the Castleton Library is housed. A low section of floor discovered during the renovations added another \$5,000.

Chief building official Natalie Moroz-Cornell was back at Cramahe Council on Nov. 17 asking for a further \$3,600 to complete drainage work on the outside of the building to end a seepage problem.

After some discussion about the method being used, council approved the work.

Bob Owen

LOTS TO DO

This is the weekend to make Cramahe Township your place to be, especially if you want to get a jump on that Christmas list.

Bob Owen

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■ **ART SHOW:** Colborne Art Gallery holds annual exhibit, sale



Colborne Art Gallery member artists (from left) Liz Wilson, Irene Osborne and Veronica Derry welcome patrons to the opening of annual Colborne Art Gallery Christmas show and sale at 51 King St. E. in Colborne Nov. 14.



Artist and illustrator Jirina Marton of Colborne included original paintings of recent award-winning children's book illustrations in the annual Colborne Art Gallery Christmas show and sale at 51 King St. E. in Colborne. The show, featuring original art works and gifts created by member artists, continues through Dec. 20.

Photos by
MANDY MARTIN Sun Media



Member artist Judith Kreps Hawkins of Port Hope arrived bearing a platter of colourful hors d'oeuvres.



Colborne Art Gallery member artist Claus Heinecke, left, and Tim Dignam, converse in front of a Dignam work.

NORTHUMBERLAND TODAY
COURT NOV 23/09
Jury hears teenager talk about possible location of gun

SARAH DEETH
Sun Media

PETERBOROUGH — A 14-year-old boy was arrested on a school bus after telling police about a possible location of a gun used in his mother's disappearance, court heard Friday, Nov. 20.

This information was one part of a taped interview played to members of the jury in the boy's second-degree murder trial in the Superior Court of Justice.

Leaning in, OPP Det. Sgt. Jody Albert implored the 14-year-old, a suspect in his mother's murder, to tell him everything he knew.

"This is going to eat you up," Albert said to the boy. "I can see it in you, you want to tell."

The boy, now 16, is charged with the first-degree murder of his 33-year-old mother.

She was last seen May 27, 2008. Her body was found 16 days later, buried in the backyard of her Warkworth home.

The boy can't be named under the Youth Criminal Justice Act, and *Northumberland Today* isn't naming the woman

see TRIAL | Page 2