

## ■cramahebriefs

### TOWNSHIP STARTS OFFICIAL PLAN REVIEW

CRAMAHE TWP. — Cramahe Twp. has six months to review its Official Plan. It took the first step in the process Dec. 1 by appointing the people who will do the work.

In an earlier proposal, the township considered having all the work done by consulting firms. In this scenario, the township planning consultant, Peter Josephs, will review the work of the other consultants, creating added cost.

Under the plan approved by council last Tuesday, Josephs will manage the project and undertake the initial comprehensive review. Planning consultant Heather Sadler will review the plan as it relates to the province's Places To Grow legislation. Mapping will be done by EcoVue Consulting.

Total cost of the review will be \$34,000 and will be paid for out of reserves.

### NORTHUMBERLAND AND IDDAV DEC 3/09 NEW COLBORNE PUB WILL GET SOME MONEY

COLBORNE — The new Brewster's pub and restaurant in Colborne will receive a cheque for \$350 even though its owners didn't follow all the rules.

Cramahe Twp. has a Community Improvement Plan which provides incentives for business improvements in Colborne and Castleton. Tracy Grealy and Bruce Hamilton submitted an application for façade and signage improvements several months ago but they did not follow all the procedures. Bylaw officer Jim Harris admitted to council that township staff contributed to the problem.

The couple's accomplishments did adhere to the spirit and intent of the plan, according to the report filed at council Dec. 1.

Harris could not reconcile receipts with work done on the exterior of the building, but he could see they had paid \$700 for a sign.

After a brief discussion, council approved the request to pay half the sign cost.

Bob Owen

### MEDICAL CALLS

#### OUTNUMBER FIRE CALLS

CRAMAHE TWP. — Looking at this year's Cramahe Fire Department report one might ask why it is called a fire department.

The local crew of 28 fought only 23 fires, including eight involving automobiles. Over half of the remaining 186 calls were for medical emergencies. Another 47 calls came in for automobile accidents and there were 19 false alarms, down by 15 from the year before.

The report by Chief Gary Cammack states a need to replace one of the township's three pumpers built in 1984. Cramahe Twp. council will consider the request in the 2010 budget.

Most other gear and vehicles are in good condition.

In his report, Chief Cammack predicts some reorganization and increased training in 2010. He would like to see the force increase to 35 men.

Bob Owen

### MORE STUDY OF FIRE DISPATCH SYSTEM ENDORSED

CRAMAHE TWP. — Further study of an amalgamated fire dispatch service for the lower-tier Northumberland County municipalities is endorsed by Cramahe Twp. council.

The county will send out a request for proposals if enough support is elicited from the seven lower-tier councils. It will consider infrastructure needs and costs.

In March 2008, the county had a fire communication/dispatch network study completed. It was followed by a needs analysis study and a design alternatives review.

The result was a recommendation that the county go to a three-channel VHF simulcast system worth about \$2 million.

Dec. 1, the request received by Cramahe council stated a preference for an in-house centralized system over the use of a private provider.

In the September 2009 Design Alternatives Report prepared by KVA Communications, the estimated annual operating costs in a purpose-built building would be about \$1.1 million.

Current emergency dispatch staffing costs paid by the lower-tier municipalities are about \$380,000.

Currently, Cramahe is covered by a dispatcher in Port Hope. Within the county there are three different services providing fire dispatch.

By approving the request for proposal made by Cramahe Fire Chief Gary Cammack, council did not commit to the expenditure of any money on a new dispatch service.

Bob Owen

## POLICE

# Hamilton Township woman dies in accident near Bewdley

**PORT HOPE** — A 52-year-old Hamilton Township woman was killed after a head-on collision, on County Rd. 28, near Bewdley, on Sunday night.

Jacqueline Macaskill was driving a 2005 Chevrolet Cobalt north on County Rd. 28, around 6:40 p.m., when she lost control on the wet pavement, OPP said.

Her vehicle was then struck head-on by a southbound 2008 Jeep, driven by Jason Bonisteel, a 22-year-old Carrying Place man.

Ms. Macaskill was pronounced dead at the scene, while Mr. Bonisteel received minor injuries.

### Man robs Colborne Mac's at knife-point

**COLBORNE** — Northumberland OPP are searching for a man after the Colborne Mac's Milk was robbed at knife-point, on Friday night.

Police said a man entered the store around 11 p.m., on Nov. 27, brandishing a knife. He made off with a small amount of cash.

The suspect is black, 5'9 with a slim build, wearing a black ski jacket, blue jeans and a green mask.

He was last seen on foot heading west on King Street. Police searched the area but did not find the man.

## NORTHUMBERLAND NEWS

22