

localnews

■ cramahebriefs

PUBLIC TRANSIT GETS A BOOST

CRAMAHE TWP. – Public transit in Cramahe Township got a boost on Tuesday night when the township completed the paperwork to accept a \$1,100 grant through the Ontario Municipal Transportation Demand Management (TDM) program.

On Sept. 24, 2009 the Northumberland Transit Initiative applied for a Grant through the Ontario (TDM) program in conjunction with the Municipality.

The intent is to promote transit, which will in turn increase ridership and promote TDM and its best practices.

Currently the transit vehicle serves Cramahe and Alnwick/Haldimand townships, ferrying riders three times a day to Cobourg and places in between.

Increased funding, including an \$80,000 Trillium grant, a \$20,000 CFDC grant, and a \$5,000 grant from the Northumberland United Way has allowed co-ordinator Jessica Hoskin, of Community Care Northumberland, to purchase a van and expand the program from two days a week to four. The expansion will occur this spring.

— Bob Owen

REVISED BYLAW APPROVED

CRAMAHE TWP. – Cramahe Township decided on April 6 to approve the revised bylaw which will bring McDonald Homes one step closer to building an apartment building at the corner of Victoria and Earl streets in the former village of Colborne.

The project has drawn considerable attention from neighbours, with some of them voicing objections to it. The proposal was first brought to a public meeting on Oct. 29, 2009. Since then the developer has dealt with numerous local agencies.

The zoning bylaw presented to council by its chief administrative officer, Christie Alexander, on April 6 restricts building development within an R-3 (multi-unit designa-

tion) zone. Council maintained a holding provision which gives the township continued control over some aspects of the development until all specifications are met. The so called R3-7 bylaw was instituted concerning proximity to Colborne Creek and neighbouring properties. The maximum number of dwelling units is limited to 14 and the maximum height is two storeys. It must also be set back six metres from an environmental conservation zone at the back of the property near Colborne Creek. The conservation authority reserves regulation of the land 15 metres from a floodplain like the creek, therefore negotiations must be agreed upon between the developer and the authority for the nine-metre overlap.

There is now a waiting period during which anyone opposing the project may appeal to the Ontario Municipal Board.

— Bob Owen

OLYMPIC BANNERS TO BE DONATED

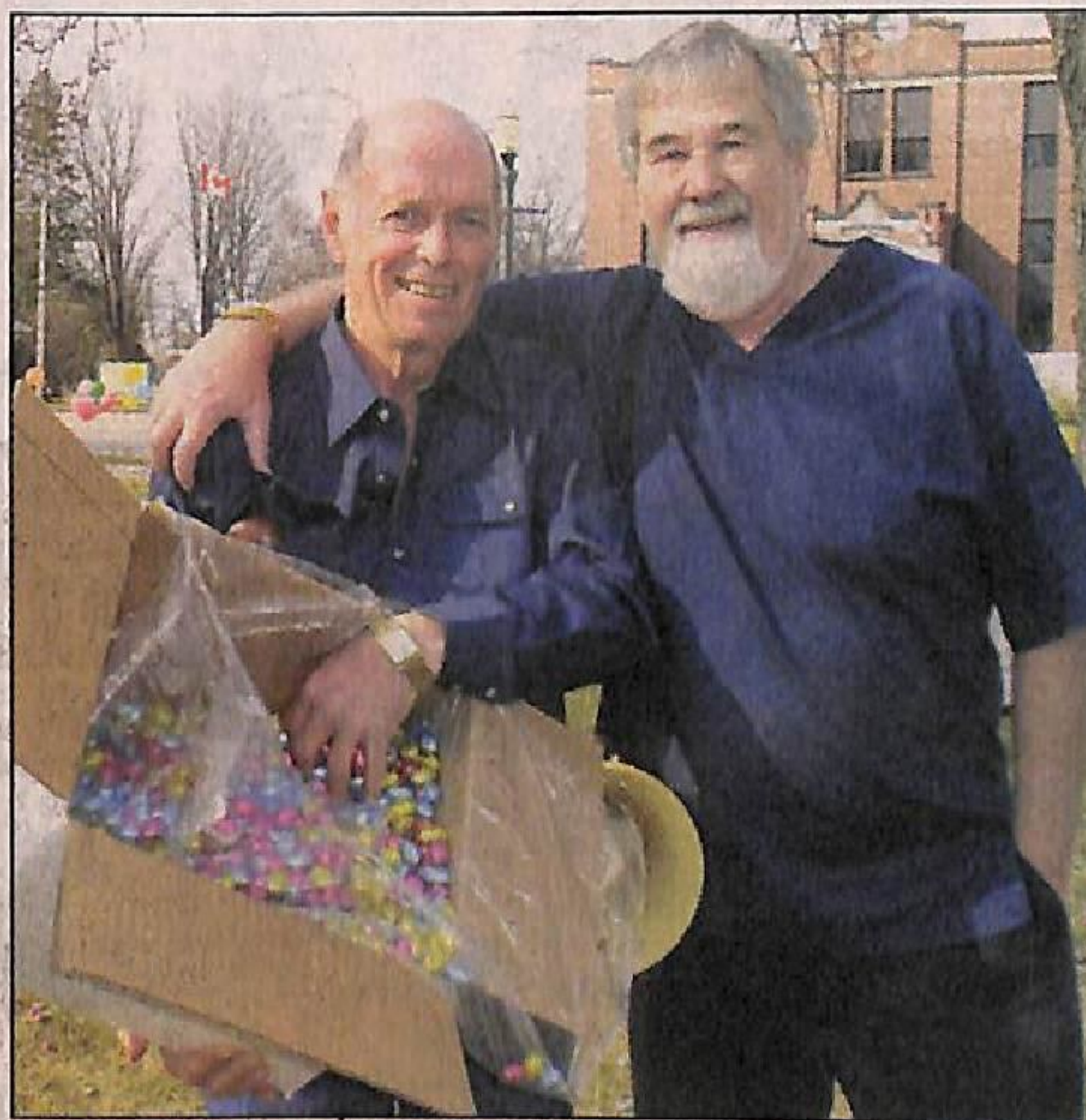
The 28 Olympic Torch Relay banners hung by the Township of Cramahe will be donated to a number of local schools and organizations. Sixteen banners have been requested and council agreed to follow through. The destination of the remaining 12 was a point of discussion at the April 6 meeting of Cramahe Council.

Dan O'Brien, the director of community services and public works, suggested they be given away on a first come, first served basis in response to public inquiry and requests. But in the end council favoured Mayor Marc Coombs's idea to donate them to the Rotary Club to auction them off at future events, thus adding to the auction inventory and turning the funds raised back into the community.

— Bob Owen

■ EASTER EGG HUNT

Kids have a ton of fun finding a half-ton of chocolate



Submitted photo

Easter egg hunt volunteer Wayne Jones, left, and event organizer Steve Bowskill prepare for the hunt.

COLBORNE — It was the warmest weather in years for the annual Colborne Easter Egg Hunt in Victoria Square Park 10 a.m. Saturday, April 3.

Organizer Steve Bowskill, with other community businesses and a team of volunteers, gathered at 7 a.m. to begin blowing up nearly 1,000 helium-filled balloons that were tied throughout the downtown and park areas.

Just before 10 a.m., the volunteers and Bowskill scattered nearly half a ton of chocolate

Easter eggs in the park — one area for the tiny tots, another for the older kids.

Then, as Bowskill counted down on a megaphone, the hunt was on.

Hundreds of kids dove for the candy as relatives and friends looked on, snapping photos, encouraging the searchers.

It was all over in five minutes. The candy was collected in bags, baskets, hats and hands. The balloons were given away and the park returned to normal by 10:30 a.m.



Submitted photo

Addison Rusk, 2, was ready for the hunt.



Submitted photo

Lauren Taylor, 6, came in her best Easter egg hunting attire.