

Cramahe working toward a sustainable future

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Budget discussions continue to dominate Council meetings. Township departments (i.e. operations, treasury) have presented their preliminary draft budgets. Service groups and committees have requested grants to assist with operating needs for the upcoming year. It will be the Council's responsibility to develop an operational budget for 2011 that reflects the needs of residents and the infrastructure upgrades/maintenance of our roads, water and sewage systems.

Township of Cramahe is making environmentally conscious decisions for a sustainable future. We continue to work towards energy efficiency and reducing our carbon footprint. Council members will no longer receive agenda packages in paper form, but will move toward an electronic agenda with the recent purchase of laptops. The additional benefit will allow for members of the audience to see the agenda projected on a screen for their information.



Clinton Breau
COUNCIL CORNER

This move will be in place by the end of March. We feel that this is a socially and environmentally responsible decision.

Lastly, we are excited about the move of a community group to develop the trail system in the Rotary Centennial Park woodlands. The Suzy Kernaghan Trail committee will be submitting a Trillium grant application, with the support of Council, to develop a trail system connecting Ontario Street, Division Street and linking the sports fields to the Keeler Centre. We are excited about the commitment to honour the name of a well-known teacher in the area and the development of a trail system which supports our Parks and Recreation Master plan.

Clinton Breau is a Cramahe Township councillor.

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SUZY KERNAGHAN TRAIL PLANS

CRAMAHE TOWNSHIP — For several years, Cramahe Township has planned to create a walking path/parkland area linking Rotary Centennial Park and the Keeler Centre in south Colborne.

The plan got a substantial boost on Feb. 15 when Colborne resident, Alex Rutherford, outlined to council plans his group is working on to get the job done. The project will be organized largely by volunteers with some work contracted out.

Much of the area in the north end adjacent to Colborne Creek is heavily overgrown and wooded. Some trees have been felled and Colborne Rotary has contributed financially to the construction of the Suzy Kernaghan Memorial Bridge.

But there is much more to do and the Suzy Kernaghan Trail Committee is applying to the Trillium Foundation for \$15,000 under its Small Capital Projects section. Rutherford was at council asking the township to be the lead applicant. If the committee is successful, it will use the Trillium money to extend the trail and complete more work on the bridge.

Kernaghan died in January 2009 in a motor vehicle accident.

Bob Owen

BIG APPLE WATER

CRAMAHE TOWNSHIP — Cramahe Township may not have town water up County Road 25 all the way to Big Apple Drive and Purdy Road, but it is considering installing some of the infrastructure this year.

The section of Big Apple Dr. from Highway 401 to south of Purdy Road is being revamped by the County of Northumberland due to increased traffic.

Cramahe Township operations director Dan O'Brien got together with the county and Lakefront Utility Supply Inc. (LUSI) and approached McCormick Rankin Corp. The company is being employed by the county on the project and was pleased to provide Cramahe with an estimate for design of a new 200mm water main which would connect an existing stub line on Purdy Road to another one down County Road 25 south of Kelwood Lane.

The McCormick Rankin was presented to Cramahe Council on Feb. 15 and after a brief discussion was approved. When the \$15,500 plan is complete the township can decide whether to add the pipes under the new construction being done by the county, or it can choose to build the entire line and connect it to the existing spurs. Or it can choose to do nothing. That decision will be

made during budget discussions which take place in the next two months.

Bob Owen

NEW FLAG

CRAMAHE TOWNSHIP — Drivers coming off the eastbound ramp of Highway 401 will soon be greeted by a larger flag.

Cramahe Township Council decided to purchase a 45-by-90-cm model after weighing concerns about the effects a larger flag would have on the existing flag pole.

Councillor Ed VanEgmond encouraged council to ignore the advice of the flag manufacturer, saying that the two-year-old flag being replaced is so small it looks cheap. He reminded council that when the warranty expired, they would purchase a bigger one.

Deputy Mayor Jim Williams concurred, saying that from his experience poles gave plenty of warning before they broke.

Councillor Pat Westrope was the sole council member to offer resistance to the idea, wondering aloud about liability. She suggested if council wanted a bigger flag, it should buy a bigger pole.

In the end the vote was unanimous to go big.

Bob Owen

PRESERVING THE PAST

Brighton man creating historical database

INDEPENDENT
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T.J. LEBLANC
tleblanc@northumberlandnews.com

BRIGHTON — Dan Buchanan says he's always wanted to know when things happened and why. Now he spends much of his spare time figuring out just that. "I am a serious amateur genealogist and a history enthusiast," Mr. Buchanan said. "I'm interested in building a source that other researchers can use."

Mr. Buchanan says his interest in building a genealogical database began with a professional burnout 11 years ago.

"I was a computer consultant in downtown Toronto and I got working way too many hours, so in 2000 I reduced my hours by about 40 per cent... and I started doing my own family tree and it kind of exploded from there," he said.

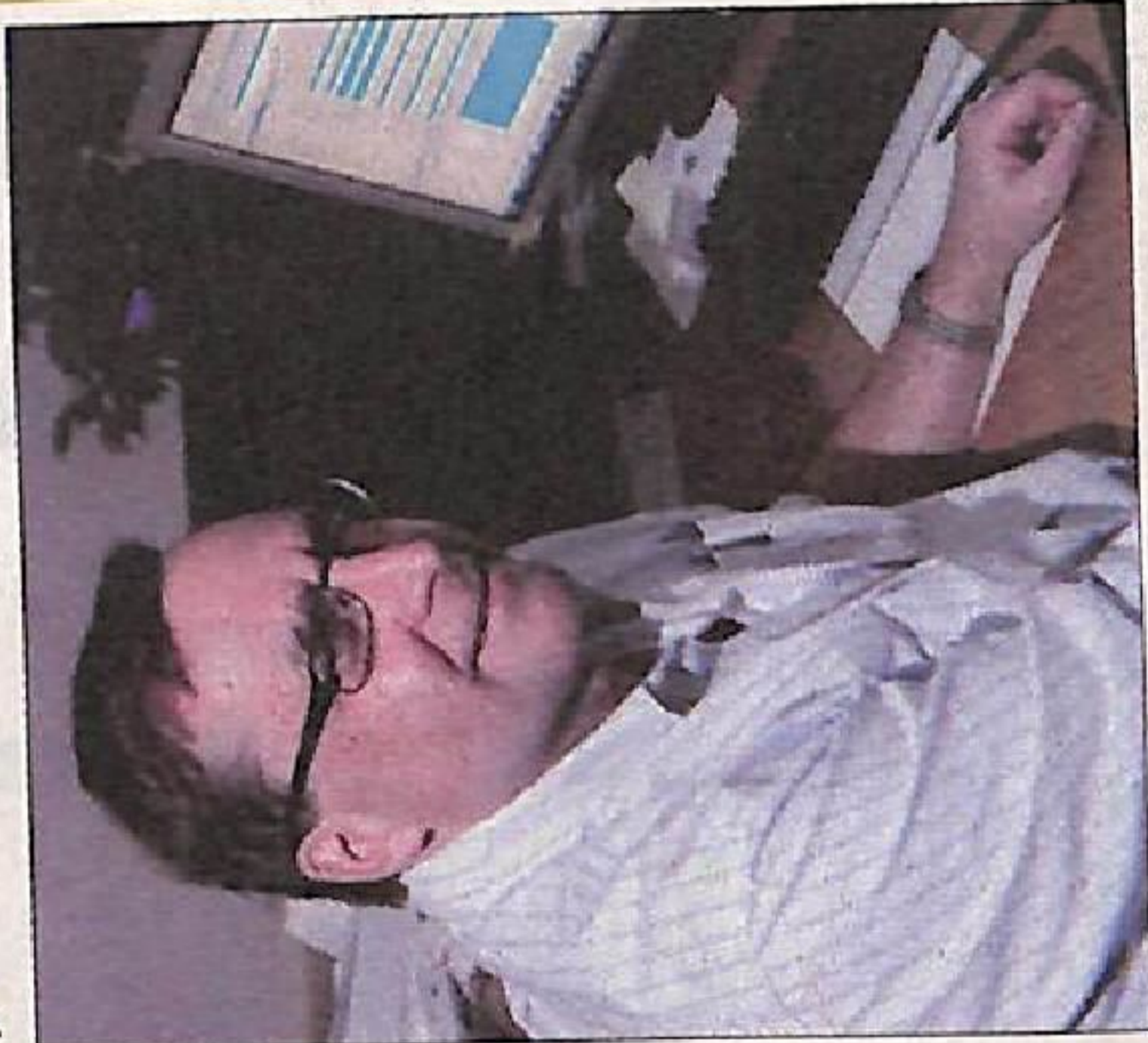
Over more than a decade, what started out as a family tree has become a database of approximately 80,000 individuals and documents a great deal of Brighton's history.

"Not only do I see it as just building a family tree, but it's linking all of those families in a community and making it into a view of local history. I call it community genealogy," Mr. Buchanan said.

As he compiles the information including full name, date of birth, date of marriage and date of death, Mr. Buchanan then adds the information into a plain text database that it is accessible and free of charge on his website.

"It became for me just another history project. The only imagery that I use is pictures of gravestones. I link the (images) to the person's record so you can see them on the website," he said.

For the professional consultant, there is nothing pretty about his database or the work that he is doing. He looks at his work



T.J. LEBLANC / THE INDEPENDENT
BRIGHTON — Dan Buchanan is building a database of Brighton's history, one person at a time. It started as a simple project but quickly grew.

as information and information only. "It's data. Dull, boring, raw data," he said.

But all that dull, boring, raw data holds hundreds of thousands of stories. The data offers today's generation insight into why people did the things they did, lived where they did, married who they did, immigrated, lived, loved and died. It creates a connection from the past to the future.

"We kind of crave connection, whether it's the family or actual home, and the whole family tree thing generates something that we can point to and say 'hey this is me, this is my connection', whether it's to a physical place, to a patch of ground or to a house. The connection actually to the people is more important," Mr. Buchanan said.

To explore Mr. Buchanan's website, visit <http://www.treesbydan.com/>.