

Colborne Legion collecting school supplies to send to Afghan students

COLBORNE — It's roast turkey for the Colborne Legion's mid-month dinner Friday, April 15 with all the fixings: mashed potatoes, stuffing, gravy, cranberry sauce, turnip, green beans, coleslaw and Ambrosia for dessert. Remember, our meals are all prepared from scratch with our cooky, Marilyn Babcock, leading the team. Served from 5 to 6:30 p.m., the cost remain at a thrifty \$10 per person.

You can help kids in Khandahar, Afghanistan, with their schooling. Some of our troops are committed to delivering pencils, pens, crayons, erasers and small notebooks to a struggling school there. Please consider donating some of these desperately needed items. Drop your donated supplies off at the Colborne Legion any day after 12 noon. We'll ensure they're taken to CFB Trenton to catch one of the supply flights.

The annual mega-Mother's Day Breakfast is back May 8. Our

men prepare and host this event. Mom's dine for free, \$6 for everyone else. It's a great way to save your kitchen and honour Mom at the same time. From 8 a.m. to 12 noon, enjoy eggs, bacon, sausage, pancakes, toast, tea, coffee and lots of fun are on offer.

Don't want people touching your junk? Then sell it — at the Colborne Legion yard sale Saturday, May 14 starting at 8 a.m. We'll even provide the place: rent a table for \$10 to display your stuff. Call 905-355-5479. Donations are gratefully accepted at the branch any day after 12 p.m. They'll be a bake table, too, offering sustenance: homemade muffins, loaves, cookies and savoury breads. On the barbecue will be our homemade hamburgers, fried onions, sausages plus pop, water, tea and coffee. How's that for a beneficial pat-down?

Mark your calendars! The annual Honours and Awards wine and cheese ceremony will

be held the afternoon of Sunday, May 15 starting at 1 p.m., with wine, cheese, dips and lots of friendly people. This is always a warm, welcoming event where members and community volunteers and contributors are saluted. We're going for the optimistic approach: we anticipate our patio will have reopened by then, an added bonus.

Remember: you don't have to be a member to drop in at the Colborne Legion. Our club room has two pool tables, big-screen television, on-going communal jigsaw puzzles, card tables, dart boards and friendly bar service. Any day now the outdoor patio will open or the spring/summer/fall warm weather. It's a relaxed, welcoming atmosphere open daily from 12 noon.

We're here to serve you! Are there events and activities you'd like at the Colborne Legion? Do you have menu suggestions for future dinners? We welcome your ideas! Leave your phone number and/or e-mail address with the bar steward or one of our dinner servers and we'll get in touch with you for a chat.

You can rent our club room or our main hall for events at very reasonable cost — \$130 per room. Add a bar steward for a \$25 cash gratuity. The kitchen facilities are also available for rent or discuss catering arrangements. There's lots of free parking available, welcoming staff and hosts. Give us a call at 905-355-5479.

For members, keep in mind nominations for next year's executive will be made at our April 19 general meeting at 7:30 p.m. All members can stand for office and also vote for executive members.

Get to the meat (draws) of the matter every Saturday afternoon in the club room. You can win up to three pieces of meat at 3 p.m., three pieces at 4 p.m. and again at 5 p.m. for just \$2 an hour (and five tickets per draw!). Play pool, watch sports on the big screen television, work on the communal jigsaw puzzle or enjoy chatting with great company. Everyone's welcome and odds are good you'll go home with your dinner menu!

Here's your cue! The monthly pool tournaments are back! Every fourth Sunday of the month through to the end of May. The monthly Fun Pool Tournament welcomes players of all calibers who are paired at random with other entrants. There is a monthly fee of \$6 which covers the cost of the lighting and prizes. A light lunch is available for \$2. This month's pool party is Sunday, April 25. Interested players please contact the Legion at 905-355-5479 the week before the event.

Remember: you are only a stranger once at Colborne Legion Branch 187!

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NORTHAMBERLAND TODAY APR 7/11

cramahebriefs

BUDGET PASSED

CRAMAHE TOWNSHIP — Cramahe taxpayers face a 3.45% increase in the municipal portion of their taxes this year. Cramahe Township Council passed the budget at its April 5 meeting.

In her report to council, treasurer Mora Chatterton outlined the process taken to get to the final number. In February council faced a 14.2% increase. Since then, staff has reduced the budget by \$450,500, leaving taxpayers with a \$4,352,051 bill.

In her detailed summary Chatterton pointed out that almost 25% of tax dollars raised (\$1,064,744) goes to paying the OPP for municipal coverage. Another 30% goes to public works and roads. The fire department takes 9.1% of the budget and community services cost 13.9%.

There was no separation of administrative costs. They form part of each of the budget categories.

To get to the reduced levy, council dipped into numerous reserve funds. Work on the registry office and both fire halls will be paid for out of reserves.

On the negative side of the ledger, the township has had to budget \$50,000 for consulting fees, \$40,000 of which is to cover expenses undertaken to negotiate a first contract with its newly unionized employees.

The tax total for 2011 has not yet been finalized. The township is awaiting the Northumberland County tax rate for 2011 and the school board levies.

In a related discussion council did find another \$120,000. The OPP has refunded the township for \$70,000 in services paid for but not required in 2010. And the township received \$50,000 from the province from its Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF). Most of the OMPF money will go into roads reserves. The other \$25,000 is destined for facility reserves.

— Bob Owen

VB/J FOR SALE?

CRAMAHE TOWNSHIP — Council appears to have decided at its April 5 meeting that the Vourneen Buff Jack (VB/J) Centre is too expensive

mission to relocate the cairn to Walter Eddy Memorial Park at the north entrance to Colborne.

When permission was granted the school committee approached Cramahe Township Council to approve the move. And that's where it got complicated.

In discussions on April 5, council took a broader view of the situation, with a discussion of the growing number of attractions in the park and their apparent randomness. There was even a question about whether the cairn should be located on the grounds of the new school or possibly at Little Lake which is close to the former school.

In the end, operations director Dan O'Brien was asked to look into the situation and report back to council with his findings.

— Bob Owen

DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF NAMED

CRAMAHE TOWNSHIP — New Cramahe Township Fire Chief Brandon Northrup presented his first report to his new bosses on April 5. At the Cramahe Council meeting he reported that he has appointed 29-year fire department veteran Eric Sheldrick as his sole deputy. The appointment is effective March 30.

Within a week the department will add the positions of chief training officer and chief fire prevention officer, as recommended by the Ontario Fire Marshal.

The chief reported that he and two other officers have completed the Incident Management Systems Course and the class portion of the Trainer Facilitator Course. Once they have completed all the Facilitator coursework and testing they will be qualified to sign off the training for the department.

Three of the department's captains are attending the Eastern Ontario Fire Academy (EOFA) for four sessions this month to qualify them as building construction safety officers.

The chief and four of his officers will be teaching a vehicle fire suppression course later this month at the EOFA.

Three of his new firemen are graduating this June from the EOFA Recruit Course.

The chief hopes to add another three firefighters to his roster of 27, but expects to wait until closer to 2012 when they can attend in-depth recruit training sessions.

— Bob Owen

CAIRN HOME UNDECIDED

CRAMAHE TOWNSHIP — Oh where, oh where will the little cairn go?

Many years ago veteran Cramahe official George Blyth was instrumental in the construction of a commemorative cairn at South Cramahe Public School. Last June the school closed and its students moved to the new Northumberland Hills Public School.

The South Cramahe Public School Committee wasn't happy to leave the future of the cairn to chance with the sale of the former school. The group went to the Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board and asked for per-