

# Read all about it: Township Library has much to offer

**A**s a member of the Cramahe Township Library Board and a frequent patron of the libraries, I am pleasantly surprised at how much small libraries have to offer. Just last week, I picked up some DVDs, borrowed several magazines related to cooking, did some geneology research, and discovered available funding from Canadian Heritage for a War of 1812 commemoration. All of this was available at no charge and processed very quickly and efficiently. This is due to the wonderful experienced staff that work in Cramahe Township libraries and also because of the high speed connection that is available at both branches.

I have been a member of the current



**Pat Westrope**  
COUNCIL CORNER

library board for five years and prior to amalgamation was a member of the Colborne Library Board. It is very evident that libraries are evolving and they need to in order to keep current with new technology and resources. At one time research was mainly provided through huge volumes of encyclopedias but today it is mostly online research, hence the demand for faster and more efficient computers. Books and literacy are the cornerstone of the mandate of public libraries but more and more ser-

vices are becoming available through the use of technology. From circulation and book processing, to patron reference services and public Internet access, to providing access to information using eResources, your public library is there to provide all of this.

Through the website, [www.cramahelibrary.ca](http://www.cramahelibrary.ca), patrons are able to access a growing number of databases which are of interest to all age groups. You can do this from your home computer or come into the library where one of the very well trained staff will help you. Patrons can now download free digital audio books and eBooks. Some of the new databases may capture your interest. The new Mango Languages will help you learn a new language quickly and easily using software. This could be of interest to travellers who wish to have a basic knowledge of the language of a country they are travelling to, or to a student who is struggling with the study of a foreign language for a credit course. Another great one is the Craft Corner, where the basic skills of knitting, crocheting, quilting, etc. are demonstrated and patterns, advice on materials, and techniques can be explained to the new and not-so-new crafter.

Regular programs at the Colborne

branch include Storytime, held every Thursday from 11 a.m. to noon for children aged two to five years; a children's art program with local artist Barb Smith held on Saturday mornings, and a new art class for teenagers beginning Saturday, March 3. This new class will focus on charcoal and pastel sketching and the use of acrylic colour mixing. Interested teens should register at the library for this class. Because space is limited, the sooner the better.

At the Castleton branch, Saturday art classes with Barb Smith are available and the usual children's summer programs will be offered at both locations. These include math / literacy tutoring, the poetry / short story contest and the summer reading program.

Acknowledging the changing needs of the community, the library staff is also offering lessons and training with a focus on technology. On March 3 at the Colborne branch, training for e-readers will be offered. You will learn how to download free eBooks and audio books.

In other countries, library users are facing annual user fees. This has not yet come to Ontario and the Library Act clearly states that services must be supplied by the municipality. It is not a choice, it is a must. However it is acceptable to charge a

late fee for resources that are not returned on time. This fee was recently reviewed by the board and everyone agreed that our goal is to keep the resources moving and not to be too harsh on those of us who have a lapse in memory. The new policy states that the maximum fine that can be accumulated is \$20. When this amount is reached, borrowing privileges and inter-library loan privileges will be suspended until an amount is paid that will bring the fine below \$20. So if you have accumulated \$20 in fines, pay \$1 to bring the fine down to \$19 then your borrowing privileges will be reinstated. It is hoped this will not make the paying of the fines too onerous and will allow patrons to keep accessing library resources.

In these days of economic uncertainty, the library is a great place to come and browse, borrow and become informed. Please use it!

My thanks to chief executive officer Mary Norton for providing much of the detail and information presented here.

*Pat Westrope is a Cramahe Township councillor and vice-chair of the Cramahe Library Board.*

# Task force suggests plan for public-use buildings

**CRAMAHE TOWNSHIP** - The Mayor's Task Force on Facility Usage in Cramahe Township moved forward one more step on Feb. 14 with the tabling of the final draft of the group's proposal.

Mayor Marc Coombs laid out the background and rationale for council before the document was tabled until the March 6 meeting.

The report lays out a plan for future usage of all public-use buildings in the township but focuses mainly on the Rotary Hall and Keeler Centre, where the township hopes to recoup some operational and maintenance costs through rentals to private and out-of-township users.

Absence of governance and ad hoc rental rates caused the mayor to initiate the task force last summer. Since then the group of residents, staff and two elected officials created a plan, presented to user groups in January.

Feedback from that meeting has resulted in a simplified plan which would allow the halls to be used free of charge for community groups if they are not having meals.

If the report is accepted by council on March 6 the township will issue tenders for a single caterer to handle all functions at the Keeler Centre. The caterer will pay the township a percentage of gross receipts.

Two groups would be grandfathered. The Auction Barn Jamboree will be allowed to keep its caterer and the Community Care Diners' Club will continue with its volunteer caterer.

Community groups which use the halls would be encouraged to make a donation to the township. Others would face rates from \$50 to \$750 depending on the time period and portion of the hall they are renting.

Director of operations Dan O'Brien will continue to have some discretion with rates under special circumstances.

Council did act on one of the task force recommendations, voting to ask staff to prepare a report to consider the feasibility of selling the VBJ Centre on Victoria Square. Funds from the sale would be used for maintenance and improvements to township facilities.



**Marc Coombs**

## ■ SERVICE CLUB NEWS

# Colborne Lions Club has lots to celebrate

On Monday, Feb. 6 the Lions Club of Colborne celebrated a birthday, an anniversary, good news about future events and listened to a great speaker.

The Lions enjoyed two cakes as they celebrated with president Brenda Dohla and her husband Andy Zvagulis their 30th wedding anniversary, and their first vice-president celebrated his birthday.

Members were informed and entertained by a retired high-profile lawyer in legal dress, Robert Lee, who now lives near Castleton with his wife Mary. He has a Queen's Counsel designation; however, he explained how it lost its significance and the designation ended in the early-1980s. He described the work required in advance of the trials for the Air India Crash and the Via - CN train crash near Hinton, Alberta. He explained to us the strategy used in trials and how it was important to

know the strengths and weaknesses of the judge and the other lawyers.

His talk included how exciting it was to work on the various trials as he learned so much about other trades and professions. He was very complimentary about how arbitration started in our justice system and how it is now well established in Ontario. It saves time, money and embarrassment for all of the participants.

A guest for the evening was Rachel Revoy, who has applied to be a Lions Exchange Student. She impressed members with her ease in speaking and explaining why she would like to attend an international arts camp during an exchange in Norway.

It was confirmed that the Lions Club would host a 1.8-km Dog Walk on May 27 to raise funds for the Lions Dog Guide School in Oakville.

On Feb. 24 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. the Lions will host a Health and Wellness Fair at the Keeler Centre. A large number of health and wellness organizations have committed to participating.

Several of the Lions have completed their Vision Screening Training and are now ready to do the Lions Vision Screening in the schools located in Grafton, Castleton and Colborne.

Members also heard that the Lions will be hosting Music in the Square and it will start on June 23 with an Elvis impersonator.

The Lions of Colborne and District are now a year old, well organized with enthusiastic members accomplishing a large variety of community projects.

For further information please contact Doug Galt at 905-355-2394 or 289-771-1094.