

Cramahe won't buy prosecutor

BOB OWEN

CRAMAHE TOWNSHIP - Cramahe Township won't be joining other municipalities in Northumberland County that decide to hire a joint prosecutor for bylaw infractions.

A report prepared by township chief administrative officer Christie Alexander stated that costs and time sometimes make enforcement of bylaws difficult. People need to know that the township will prosecute infractions.

The Northumberland CAOs group recommended that a part time county prosecutor be hired with the costs being shared on a

per capita basis. Cramahe would pay \$5,000 of the \$50,000 per year estimated cost.

At this week's meeting of Cramahe Township council, Councillor Pat Westrope expressed her concerns first, stating she did not recall having discussed some of the issues brought forward in the report. If one or two communities dropped out then a few others could be left paying the whole shot. She rued the lack of local control over costs and saw no historical evidence to demonstrate the township's return.

Councillor Ed Van Egmond stayed on the same vein, wondering aloud if the township had incurred big costs in the past.

Deputy Mayor Jim Williams was the sole voting member of council to support the motion, arguing that the township had not prosecuted in the past so it had no revenue.

Mayor Marc Coombs felt that property standards would be better enforced.

Van Egmond suggested that there was no need for the service; most people comply with municipal bylaws.

Councillor Clinton Breau proposed that the township's own lawyer could handle any possible prosecutions but the CAO disagreed, noting that all member communities could benefit from the expertise of a (county) prosecutor.

BROADBAND

NORTHUMBERLAND TODAY Feb. 23/12

Better Internet on the way to Northumberland

Service is part of a \$170-million project in eastern Ontario

JOHN CAMPBELL

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NORTHUMBERLAND - Residents and businesses throughout Northumberland County will gain access to the Internet at increased speeds and with greater bandwidth, at a cheaper price, by this fall.

The improved service is part of a \$170 million project undertaken by the Eastern Ontario Wardens Caucus to provide broadband access to 95 per cent of the people living within a 50,000-square kilometre area.

"I'm pleased to say we're on time and we're on budget," Hastings CAO Jim Pine told County council Feb. 15.

"If we want to be competitive for our business community, the education sector or individuals at home, getting connected to the Internet is one of the most important things we can do as a municipal government," Mr. Pine said.

The wardens initiated the project in response to the loss of more than 12,000 jobs in the "traditional economy" -- manufacturing and forestry -- which occurred between 2003 and 2006. Improving access to the Internet using the latest technology was seen as a solution "that would be useful to all sectors of the economy," he said.

The Eastern Ontario Regional Network was established as a non-profit company to man-

age the project and negotiate contracts with Internet service providers.

About 300,000 people living in 13 counties are currently either not connected or "poorly connected."

The Eastern Ontario Wardens Caucus's "mantra" was to narrow the "pricing divide" between rural and urban customers.

"We've been able to bring down the pricing substantially for new customers," Mr. Pine said. "Over a three-year contract, it's going to save people \$2,000."

The federal and provincial governments are each contributing \$55 million to the network's creation, the private sector \$50 million and the wardens caucus \$10 million. Northumberland's share is just under \$600,000.

"By the end of the project we'll have at least 21 separate contracts with companies who will build it and then deliver it going forward," Mr. Pine said.

Bell and Bell Alliant are building the super highway while Internet service providers such as Xplornet Communications Inc. are constructing the "off ramps" through digital subscriber line (telephone), wireless and satellite connections.

Xplornet's wireless network in Northumberland will be made up of 20 towers, nine of them new.

"From an economic development point of view this is the single best project the County has ever undertaken," Councillor Marc Coombs said. "It's going to have a far reaching impact beyond today."

Work on the regional network is to be completed by March 31, 2014. For more information visit www.eorn.ca.

Death Notices

The Independent • February 23, 2012 23

Colin Douglas Mellor, 62, of Niagara Falls, Ontario, died Tuesday February 14, 2012, at Hospice Niagara surrounded by his family, following his brave battle with cancer. Doug is survived by his partner in life of 36 years, wife Nancy (Curtis). Doug is also survived by his two amazing daughters who blessed his life and instilled such pride, eldest daughter, Susan Mellor-Cooke (Jeff) whose two sons were the light of Granddad's life: Cooper and Bishop Cooke of Stoney Creek; youngest daughter, Trissia McAllister (Nathan) of Castleton; and brother John Mellor (Jeanette) of Sarnia. Doug is fondly remembered by several nieces and nephews. The middle of three sons, Doug was predeceased by his parents Colin and Alison, and his elder brother Allan. A railroad man for 40 years, he worked for New York Central, Penn Central, Amtrack, TH&B, Conrail and Canadian Pacific. He enjoyed many years working as a Passenger Conductor, Brakeman, and Freight Conductor, and served with pride as a Health and Safety Officer. Doug was also passionate about classic cars and loved sharing jokes. Doug's family wishes to express their grateful thanks to the staff at St. Elizabeth Nursing, Community Care Access Centre, and Hospice Niagara for their kindness and support in his final months. A service to celebrate Doug's life was held at the Church of St. John the Evangelist in Niagara Falls on Saturday February 18. In lieu of flowers, donations to Hospice Niagara would be appreciated by the family.

Card of thanks

WITH HEARTFELT THANKS

GRAY - "The Sisters" of the late Leonard (Len) Cecil Gray would like to express our thanks to the doctors and nursing staff at the ICU, Northumberland Hills Hospital, for the care provided to Len during his recent and short time there. To our families, relatives, friends, and the many friends of Len who provided support and comfort to us. Your words meant a great deal to us and we know that Len would have greatly appreciated your thoughtfulness and caring towards his sisters. For Nora and Denise, we give special thanks to the Rama First Nation and Beausoleil First Nation Chiefs, Councils, staff, and their EMS and Fire Departments for the beautiful floral arrangements at the visitation and funeral service. We also give our heartfelt thanks for their support in sending representatives who travelled the great distance to attend. As everyone knows, Len always enjoyed people dropping by his home for a visit, some tea, long talks and just having company around. The sisters express our gratitude to Denise Graham for opening up her home to the many family, friends, and visitors during the week of Len's passing. All were looking for a place to spend time to reflect and reminisce on Len's life, his hobbies and interests, his whacky sense of humour, and to talk about his true wishes. We are most grateful for everyone who stopped in and spent this valuable time with us. We must also express our endless thanks to Sherry, Len's partner. You brought Len much happiness and companionship and he always talked about the many things you and he did together. You did bring a lot to his life and the two of you were truly good for each other. Finally, the sisters could never thank Len enough just for being our brother. He candidly confided in us many times about many things while at the same time giving us words of advice and sharing his wisdom. We are deeply saddened that he is no longer with us and we will miss dropping in to visit him and enjoy our talks as well as the endless cups of tea. What we can say is that Len is finally able to tend to all the "flying asters" that are in full bloom. We will always love you and keep you in our hearts forever.

Love from "the sisters", Violet Aldridge, Sharon Smoke, Nora Sawyer, Wendy Ferrier, and Denise Graham

NORTHUMBERLAND TODAY Feb. 17/12

4