

INDEPENDENT
MAR. 22/12

Castleton United Church
ROAST BEEF DINNER
 Saturday Mar. 31, 2012

Adults \$15.00
 Children 6 - 12 \$6.00
 5 & under FREE

Music by Cheryl Casselman & Friends
 Tickets available at:
 Castleton General Store,
 Downey Pharmacy (Cobourg),
 Call Linda 905-344-5084, Marlon 905-344-7601
 Church Office 905-349-2738

Coming Events
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Editorial & Opinions

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WE THINK...

email responses to northnews@northumberlandnews.com

Giant colon's stop in Alderville serves an important reminder

Northumberland residents got the rare opportunity to travel through a colon this week.

And while the giant colon, which made a stop in Alderville Tuesday, lends itself well to the butt of many jokes, it also lightens up a very serious issue, providing the opportunity to discuss an area of the body many are uncomfortable with.

The giant colon, an inflatable tube large enough to walk through, is touring Canada with the Colorectal Cancer Association of Canada, an effort to raise awareness of the importance of colorectal cancer screening.

Equipped with hemorrhoids, a bouncy polyp or two, and a deep dive down diverticula holes, the not-to-scale model pro-

vides a view of what a colonoscope could see during testing, according to Frank Pitman, colon cancer survivor and volunteer coordinator with the Colorectal Cancer Association of Canada. The purpose of the human tour through a colon is to help raise awareness that if testing is done early, cancer can be cured or prevented, he added.

With all the treatments and diagnostic tests available today, it's hard to believe colorectal cancer is still the second-leading cause of cancer death in Canada, affecting men and women in equal numbers. With screening, the disease can be prevented and if caught early, it has a more than 90 per cent cure rate.

According to the ministry of health and

long-term care, cancer in the colon or rectum can take up to 10 years or more to develop to an advanced stage, which is why it's so important to make screening a regular part of health checks, despite the emotional and physical discomfort many people associate with testing that area of the body.

Mr. Pitman is no stranger to the benefits of screening -- 18 years ago he was diagnosed with early stage cancer, which could have been prevented if he had a scope done earlier. Polyps can be removed, which stops them from becoming tumors, he said. During the early stages, polyps may grow to a large size without causing any symptoms, according to the Ontario's

ministry of health and long-term care, but as cancer progresses, stomach discomfort, unexplained weight loss, fatigue, vomiting and more can occur.

The ColonCancerCheck program recommends getting screened for colorectal cancer with a kit every two years if you are 50 years of age and older and at average risk for colorectal cancer, more often if you have a family history of colorectal cancer.

The sight of a giant colon in Northumberland provided lots of smiles and fun for those who visited, but most importantly it provided a necessary reminder to be aware and informed about what's happening in your body.

--Northumberland News

Auditor's report of Cramahé's books is upbeat

FINANCE: Township's cash position is strong

CRAMAHE TOWNSHIP - of Collins Barrow Chartered Accountants. Park was at report on the township's Cramahé Council on Mar. 20 in good shape, says Joanna Park



MUTTON, JOHN Harold - November 11, 1925 - March 16, 2012 - Passed peacefully at Belleville General Hospital on March 16, 2012. John was a proud farmer, born right at home on the farm. Son of Floyd Mutton and Sara Jane (Sauva). Predeceased by brothers William and Frank. Uncle John is lovingly remembered by Jeff and Laura Mutton, his great niece and nephew Jennifer (Mutton) and Matt Ellis, Jonah Mutton and his pride and joy, his Great-great nephew Kolby Ellis. John was a kind and generous soul, who despite having no children of his own, treated Jeff and his family as his own children. He was full of stories and loved his card games. Also a proud member of the Brighton Legion. Memorial Service to be held Sunday, March 25, 1 pm at Dunderdall Church on County Road 21. Donations may be made to Shiloh Cemetery.

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The audit covers the calendar year 2011 and is required by law. The township's cash position is strong, with over \$5 million in cash and short-term investments. That represents an increase of about \$1.4 million over 2010. The \$5 million includes reserves which are set aside for future work. Accounts receivable were down by about \$600,000. The township has more recoverable tax revenue than the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing would like. Cramahé has just over \$1 million owed to

it. The number has shrunk since 2010 but still represents about 11.5% in income. The ministry recommends 10% or less. Cramahé contracted out \$1.5 million in services in 2011. Almost two-thirds went to the OPP for policing. Another quarter million was doled out on the waste water treatment expansion. The Transportation Department spent over \$126,000, and the Planning and Development Department spent \$80 thousand on consultants last year. Capital assets jumped by almost 15% to over \$20 million, with the work being done on

the waste water treatment plant and upgrades at the Keeler Centre. The number has shrunk since 2010 but still represents about 11.5% in income. The ministry recommends 10% or less. Cramahé contracted out \$1.5 million in services in 2011. Almost two-thirds went to the OPP for policing. Another quarter million was doled out on the waste water treatment expansion. The Transportation Department spent over \$126,000, and the Planning and Development Department spent \$80 thousand on consultants last year. Capital assets jumped by almost 15% to over \$20 million, with the work being done on

—Bob Owen

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