

Mayors challenge you to Keep the County Clean

Northumberland County is again hosting the annual Mayor's Keep the County Clean Challenge for the seven towns and townships located within our community. This year the Challenge runs from April 16 through to the 21. Alnwick/Haldimand residents can register with Dianne Nicholas (905-352-3949) and pick up bags and tools at both municipal offices in Grafton and Rosemeath any time after April 9. The litter collected along roadsides and other public properties is to be placed in green bags, and then left along the roadside for pickup by our public works staff. Individuals, families and



John Logel
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groups are all urged to join in. Last year's participation rate almost doubled that of previous years, and with additional awareness programs this year, we hope to achieve the same feat: a cleaner environment attracts visitors and is a better place to live. I recently attended the ROMA (Rural Ontario Municipal Association) conference. We heard about the history of Waste Management in Ontario. In the past 25 years, annual waste generated has dropped by 15%. From a

REDUCE standpoint there has been an 8.5% improvement. This reduction is attributed to glass, newspaper, cardboard and paper. Instead of glass, we have plastic bottles (lighter and easier to compact), newspapers that are smaller and thinner and cardboards that are less dense but more ridged and stronger. Electronic mail and e-banking has made for a dramatic reduction in paper for letters, reports and monthly bills. A further 4% reduction is the result of REUSE, the biggest contributor being recycled clothing, as well as items from garage and yard sales and of course Kijiji. Finally, there has been a 2% due to RECYCLE instead of going to land-fill. Have you noticed scrap metal bins with the sign "Free Metal Drop-off." Also tire and mattress manufacturer's are recycling

their products which used to go directly land fill. Did you know, the Blue Box Brand we all know today, was developed as a pilot project, 30 years ago in Kitchener Ontario. (Google blue box recycling-Wikipedia). In the early, 1970s Toronto, and other Ontario cities were dealing with problems related to garbage incinerators and dumpsites. Across southern Ontario several towns and cities started recycling projects involving various techniques including drop-off depots with a wide range of collectables including paper, cans and bottles. Kitchener was the first to offer curbside pickup for separated recyclables and waste. Now, the Blue Box system and variations of it are in place in hundreds of cities around the world. Why has the blue box been accepted and become a

culture in our normal daily life? In a recent survey, responses came back stating "because blue boxing makes me feel good", "because blue boxing is my environmental effort" and "I am willing to pay more for Blue Box friendly products." Surprising as it may seem, there are still areas and states on this continent where Blue Box systems are not practiced. All household waste is simply placed in the same container and carried to the curbside. What a lost opportunity. I will close off with a futuristic quote, without knowing the author's name: "Our only waste is our failure to turn things we discard into things we value." *John Logel is an Alnwick / Haldimand Township councillor.*

ENVIRONMENT

NORTH HAMBURG TODAY MAR 27/12

Cleanup continues after flail mower fire

VALERIE MACDONALD
Northumberland Today

GRAFTON — The Ministry of the Environment is continuing to monitor the cleanup of spilled hydraulic fluid after a brush cutter, or flail mower, caught fire on Clouston Road which runs north off Academy Hill near Ste. Anne's Spa last week. "There were no off-site environmental impacts," following the fire late Tuesday afternoon, ministry senior environmental office Jim Martherus told *Northumberland Today*. The company that owns the machine arranged cleanup and "it is progressing," Martherus said. The affected soil was being removed from the site, he added. The ministry will monitor and confirm the clean up is

completed, Martherus also said. The contractor who was brushing Alnwick/Haldimand roadsides, Len Legge, was not injured when the machine he was operating caught fire. He was able to move it into the entranceway of a field on Clouston Road, acting public works director Shawn McBride said at the time. The machine was completely consumed by flames and the fire department was called to extinguish them. *vmacdonald@northumberlandtoday.com*
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UTILITIES: Work expected to be complete in August

Cramahe seeks tenders for water meters

BOB OWEN

CRAMAHE TOWNSHIP — Council agreed on March 6 to commence metered water usage in the village of Colborne later this year. Council moved the process along a little more on March 20, passing a resolution to seek tenders for the installation of the meters. It is expected that the meters will be fully installed by the end of August 2012.

Once they have been installed, Colborne residents will pay based on usage. They currently pay a flat rate. The installation of meters is reported to significantly reduce water use and extend the capacity of the water supply system, and of the waste water treatment plant. This phase of the initiative will cost about \$300,000. Of that, \$202,852 is funded by the Ontario Small Waterworks Assistance Program (OSWAP).

NORTH HAMBURG TODAY MAR 27/12

POLICE

Grafton man charged with historic sexual assault

NORTH HAMBURG NEWS MAR 27/12

Accused operates animal sanctuary

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GRAFTON — The operator of a Northumberland animal sanctuary has been charged with the historical sexual assault of a male in Toronto. Toronto police aren't revealing exactly when the alleged offence took place, but said Monday they believe there may be more victims. Sex Crimes Unit Detective Constable Jason Rec-tor said a complainant told police he was sexually assaulted while volunteering at a facility called the Endangered Animal Sanctuary. William Valliere, 71, of Grafton, is 8477.



charged with indecent assault on a male and gross indecency. He was arrested Monday and is scheduled to appear in a Toronto court in May. Bill Valliere is identified as the manager of the Endangered Animal Sanctuary on Whitehead Road, north of Grafton, on the website for the Central East Ontario Community Information Database. The facility is described as "a home for animals with nowhere else to go." The sanctuary also offers presentations on conservation, biology and animal welfare, the website notes. Endangered Animal Sanctuary was established in 1967, according to the site. The facility moved from Toronto to Grafton, Det.-Const. Rec-tor confirmed. An investigation continues. Call police at 416-404-7474 or Crime Stoppers at 416-222-