

DE-CONSECRATION PROTESTED

JUNE 11/12

NORTHUMBERLAND TODAY

Group continues to fight Colborne church closure

COLBORNE — The fight to keep Trinity Anglican Church and its contents in Colborne continues. The church is slated for a de-consecration service tomorrow at 3 p.m..

The closure is being protested by the recently formed group, The Friends of Trinity Anglican Church, Colborne. Author Jane Urquhart is honorary chair and artist Tony Urquhart is an active member.

A letter from Cramahe Township council, a legal letter on behalf of the church warden and copies of a public petition protesting the church closure were forwarded to Anglican Church authorities in Toronto on Wednesday, June 6.

The Cramahe Township letter from Mayor Marc Coombs notifies the Anglican Church of the municipality's intention to proceed with designating the church as a heritage building. By doing so, the building and its artifacts would remain in Colborne. The letter was sent to Trent-

Durham area bishop, the Rt. Rev. Linda Nicholls.

Also on Wednesday, a letter from lawyer Wilf Day, written on behalf of the wardens of the church, was sent to the Archbishop of Toronto, the Most Rev. Colin Johnson. Church authorities have not responded to an Apr. 30, 2012 submission requesting a delay in the de-consecration of the church and outlining options to keep the church open. The letter also questions the Anglican diocese's steps taken leading up to the decision to close the Colborne church.

"There was nothing voluntary about it," Day's letter states of the local congregation's position in March when faced with closure of the church. "It was anything but voluntary, and they were not taking ownership of it."

At its June 5 meeting, Cramahe Township council unanimously passed a motion to proceed with designating the church as a heritage prop-

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De-consecration service Tuesday

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erty after a heartfelt presentation from Jane Urquhart.

"Trinity Anglican Church has been an integral part of our community for over 160 years and has been an active part of the social fabric and spiritual life of this community since pioneer times," Coombs's letter states to Bishop Nicholls. "Please note that I am not only concerned about the impending closure but also the process involved."

"I am aware the Toronto Diocese has been approached to reconsider and I would hope that full consideration is taken with regards to the decision," the mayor's letter states.

Cramahe council will proceed with an "intent to desig-

nate" Trinity Anglican Church "due to the cultural heritage value of the church," the Cramahe letter says. "We will be forwarding further information to you on this matter shortly."

With only one business day remaining before the scheduled de-consecration, no response has yet been received from the Anglican diocese. Heritage proponents are concerned the unique pipe organ, the nine stained glass windows and other historic artifacts will be removed or, if left unattended, damaged if the church is closed under the sole control of the Anglican diocese. A brass altar rail was removed for use in a Brooklin church days after the final service on Apr. 22.

People are reading Cramahe Now

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Written by Bob Owen

Saturday, 16 June 2012 16:45

It's been awhile since we updated our readership figures for you. Less than a year ago we recorded our 500,000th page read and our 200,000th reader. We're happy to report that over 750,000 *Cramahe Now* pages have been read and the number is growing by more than 30,000 per month. Readers have turned to *Cramahe Now* about 280,000 times since we started providing news for you just over three years ago.

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