

# LOCAL NEWS

■ CRAMAHE TOWNSHIP: Public meeting Dec. 17

## Council not ready for huge permit hikes

**BOB OWEN**

For Northumberland Today

CRAMAHE TOWNSHIP — Glen Tunnock of Tunnock Consulting told Cramahe Township Council on Dec. 3 that it would have to raise building permit charges by at least 100% if the municipality were to recover

the actual costs of issuing permits.

But that's not going to happen.

The \$600 cost of a building permit would jump to \$1,411 if council approved a new base fee, adjustments for subsidized permits and a 15% cushion to cover lean years. Tunnock used

figures from 2011 and 2012 and information provided by chief building official Natalie Moroz-Cornell to establish that it costs over \$95,000 to operate the building permit operations.

He told council that it had five options — the status quo, increasing the fees to the recommended amount, increasing

the fees but not subsidizing fees for minor construction jobs, increasing the fees incrementally or it could raise the fees by less than he proposed.

Deputy Mayor Jim Williams balked at the massive increases, sparking a discussion of what might be more reasonable. In the end, council agreed to pro-

pose a raise in fees of 25% next year. It is expected that there will be some consideration given to keeping demolition fees and minor renovation fees down. High fees often mean that work is not reported to the township.

On Dec. 17 there will be a public meeting at the Keeler Centre

to discuss the proposal and to listen to the views of the public.

Following the meeting a bylaw will be written and passed.



WILLIAMS

■ CRAMAHE TOWNSHIP

## Campbellford hospital requests support

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CRAMAHE TOWNSHIP - Cramahe has recently completed a pledge made in 2008 to give the Campbellford Memorial Hospital \$10,000 a year for four years.

John Russell, executive director for the hospital, was at

Cramahe Township Council on Dec. 3 asking for a long-term commitment of \$10,000 a year. The hospital, Trent Hills and the Campbellford /



WESTROPE

Seymour Community Foundation are on a five-year campaign to raise \$4 million in medical equipment, \$1 million in recreational plans, and \$2 million to establish community funds. Russell told council any money granted from Cramahe would be used strictly for the medical equipment. Already \$1.5 million of has been raised for the med-

ical equipment. The money will be used for laboratory and cancer diagnostics equipment, and improved patient care.

In support of his request, Russell told council that many residents in the north end of Cramahe use the hospital emergency department, outpatient clinics and surgical facilities. More than 1,500 visits have been

made in the past four years by Cramahe residents.

He went on to boast of recent awards received by the hospital for attaining high standards. The hospital foundation has funded a CT scanner which is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, reducing health care costs by reducing patient transfers.

Councillor Pat Westrope asked if Russell were asking for \$10,000 on an ongoing basis.

He admitted in a perfect scenario that would be his wish, but he would be happy to come to council each year with his request.

Council will consider the request at budget time in the spring.

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