

■ CRAMAHE TOWNSHIP: Consultants hired to do reports

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Council approves purchase of pickup, ditching mower

BOB OWEN

For Northumberland Today

COLBORNE - Cramahe Council was very busy on July 16 responding to staff requests for money-spending decisions.

Probably the easiest decision was to spend \$35,696 on a four-wheel-drive pickup truck. Director of operations Dan O'Brien provided Council with two options and recommended the less-expensive proposal by Vandermeer Toyota in Cobourg be accepted. The other quote by Scott Drummond Motors in Campbellford was \$39,525. O'Brien said that the prices were significantly higher than two years ago when the township bought its last pick-up. Vehicle manufacturers were experiencing financial difficulties in 2011 and were discounting their trucks.

Mowers are much more complicated.

The ditching mower operated by the township has broken down and cutting is getting behind. Works staff found a repair option, but it failed to pass safety standards. The cost to repair the drum would be \$7,000.

O'Brien recommended that the current mower be scrapped and replaced by a new one which

will cost from \$8,500 to \$11,000. If the township moves quickly there may be a demo model available for the lower price. It should be here by the end of the week.

That's not the only mower decision.

The Operations Department got three prices on a replacement mower for park grass cutting. The cheapest was only \$12,590, but didn't meet specifications. The mid-priced model (\$14,975) met the specs but lacked some of the features needed to cut the grass on all parks. If it were chosen it would only be capable of cutting grass at the Keeler Centre and the ball diamonds. The most expensive option was a Toro being sold by Turf Care for \$21,000.

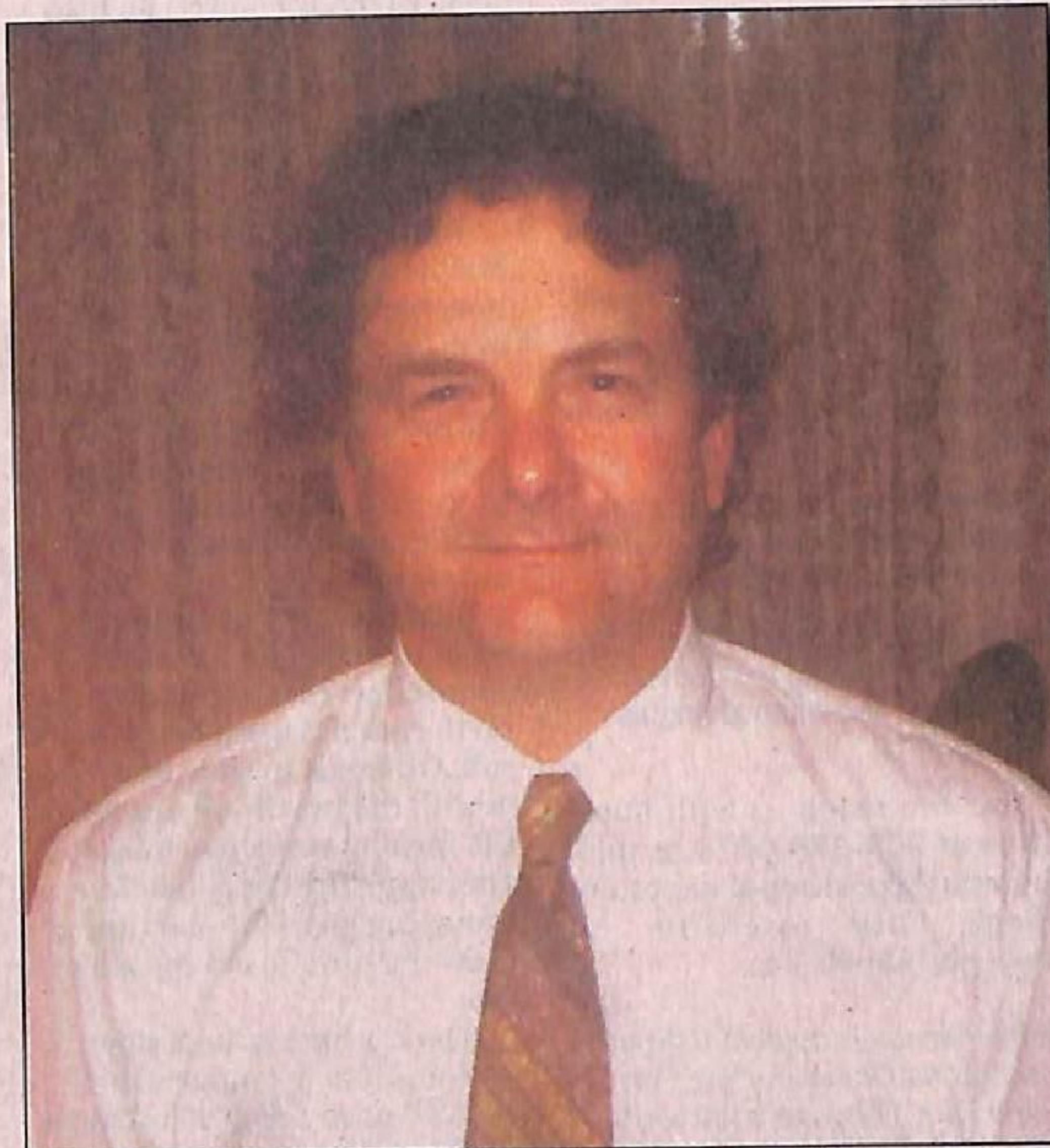
The Operations Department budgeted \$25,000 this year for a new mower. O'Brien explained that it is hard to get pricing on identical models as there are so many makes on the market today.

After some discussion about the practicalities, council approved the \$21,000 Toro.

Trucks, tractors, what about consultants?

Cramahe put out Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for a building fees report and development charges report.

Two companies responded.



Ed Van Egmond

The selection of Tunnock Consulting for the building fees report seemed straight forward. Tunnock bid \$3,800 for the job versus Clark Consulting which bid \$10,481. Tunnock also ranked

ahead of Clark in the non-monetary aspects of the contract. The company will prepare a cost of services and recommend the new building fees.

Tunnock was also low bidder

by \$4,067 on the report to establish development charges. But Cramahe chief building official (CBO) Natalie Moroz-Cornell stated that Clark's bid of \$14,042 was superior.

Clark had answered other criteria in the RFP better than Tunnock, she said. Moroz-Cornell said that Clark would provide more thorough public consultation, would meet with developers, and has additional staff to do the work. It also has more experience handling development charges reports.

Councillor Ed Van Egmond seemed to support the Clark proposal, stating that Council had "torn the last report (by Tunnock) to pieces."

Councillor Pat Westrope asked why Tunnock couldn't do both and was told by the CBO that the Township was asking for very different reports. The building permit costs report is "black and white," with less public involvement. Clark was more expensive as he operates a bigger company and has staff to pay.

Deputy Mayor Jim Williams sided with Moroz-Cornell and her RFP results.

Council approved the recommendation of Moroz-Cornell and will take the \$5,842 cost overage from the Future Capital Reserve.



■ CRAMAHE TOWNSHIP

Horticultural Society making upgrades

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COLBORNE — The Cramahe Ecology Garden, located in Rotary Centennial Park in Colborne, will see a few improvements this summer, thanks to the efforts of Cramahe Horticultural Society members and the co-operation of Cramahe Council.

Society member Shirley Ross was at the July 16 Council meeting to outline the club's plans and seek support. A group of 13 club members has identified four priorities for the park and is tackling two of them. At the top of the list is a rain collection system. They hope to collect rain off the roof of the concession building in the park by setting barrels under the downspouts. Their second goal is to add three raised garden beds. Club members have noticed kids rushing into the park to pick strawberries. They'd like to add some more plants to encourage the kids more. One of the gardens will be planted in a square-foot plan, with different plants planted in each square.

The club's two other proposals were to replace a damaged park bench and to plant a specimen tree. They are planned for some time in the future.

Ross assured Council that the club had consulted Parks and Recreation manager Keeley Biron. He supports their plans.

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1