

# Cramahe gets new Jr. A hockey team

BOB OWEN  
For Northumberland Today

CRAMAHE TOWNSHIP - Northumberland County will ice a new junior A hockey team this September.

Team owner Dan Fisher made the announcement at the contract signing and logo unveiling ceremony in Colborne on March 4. The Colborne Cramahe Jr A Hawks will play their 21 regular-season home games out of the Keeler Centre for at least the next four years.

Colborne is the third home for the Greater Metro Hockey League (GMHL) team since Fisher took ownership eight years ago. It played the 2013-4 season out of Bobcaygeon. The 20-team GMHL includes teams from as far away as Temiskaming, Sturgeon Falls and in 2014-5, Cambridge.

Fisher, who currently lives in Lindsay, says he had planned to keep the team in Bobcaygeon but head coach Mike Jeschke suggested that Colborne's Keeler Centre was a nice venue. Fisher felt that the area would support a team. While Bobcaygeon had been good to the team, the management decided it was time to move on.

Their goal is to ice a competitive team and make it part of the community. They have scouts in Europe and draw players from across North America. Last season they had Russians, Americans and a Mexican player on the 25-man roster, along with



BOB OWEN PHOTO

Cramahe Township Mayor Marc Coombs, left, and Colborne Cramahe Hawks owner Dan Fisher shake hands after signing a four-year contract for the Junior A hockey team to play its home games out of the Keeler Centre.

players from Ontario, B.C. and Quebec.

Some of their players are signed from tryout camps. Their first will be held in Cobourg in April. Players interested in attending can get more information by going to the team website, [www.hawksjr.ahockey.com](http://www.hawksjr.ahockey.com). They

will be looking for players born in 1993-97 and have already contacted a large number of players in this area.

With most of their players coming from out of town or country, there will be billeting opportunities. Anyone interested can call the Keeler Centre in Colborne

to pick up a package. Fisher was very clear about the responsibilities of his players to set an example in the community. They will have strict curfews and will help out with minor hockey practices. Colborne is a small town and you can't hide (from scrutiny), says Fisher.

Mayor Marc Coombs called this exciting news for Cramahe and the Keeler Centre and praised the team management for their knowledgeability. The team will pay more than \$20,000 in ice rental fees annually. Games will start in October, with playoffs beginning in late February.

■ COBOURG: Town asked to rename bridge

# Another Chris Garrett memorial proposed

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CECILIA NASMITH  
Northumberland Today

COBOURG — As the 10th anniversary of the killing of Cobourg Constable Chris Garrett approaches, the Cobourg Police Service is asking the town's support to arrange a memorial.

At a recent committee of the whole meeting, council reviewed a letter from Cobourg Police Service Sgt. Jeff Sheils asking for the town's support in renaming a bridge in Garrett's honour.

Within a year of his death — on May 15, 2004 — the town honoured the fallen officer by declaring the parcel of land immediately south of St. Mary Secondary School Chris Garrett Memorial Park. It is a passive-use park with a sculpture of 24 white doves in the shape of the letter C (for "Chris") called Hero's Flight by renowned Canadian artist Gerald Gladstone.

Garrett also received a posthumous honour for his sacrifice, but it was awarded in an atmosphere of controversy.

The Governor General's Medal of Bravery was applied for, given the circumstances of the incident.

Garrett responded to a call by reporting to the vacated site of the old Cobourg hospital on Chapel Street. He was ambushed, his throat slit. The dying constable managed to shoot his assailant in the leg — which, it was later discovered, derailed plans the young man had to launch a killing spree.

The time required to put together an application to have Garrett receive the Medal of Bravery was longer than the two-year window within which it would have been required. Though public outrage forced the removal of the deadline and Garrett's application was allowed, for whatever reason, the posthumous award granted to Garrett was the Star of Courage.

The story is told on the plaque at Chris Garrett Memorial Park, along with a tribute to Garrett as a person.

"Everyone who knew Chris knew that his family was the most important focus in his life. When you spoke with Chris you could hear in his voice the true love and passion he had for everyone close to him. Chris Garrett left behind a wife and two children.

"Although encouraged by management to enter the promo-

tional process, Chris was happiest out on the street fighting crime. He died like he wanted to live, being the first officer on the scene. Chris would have said he was only doing his job but, he will forever be a hero to all of us. He will be missed."

Now that the 10th anniversary of the event approaches, Sgt. Sheils's letter said, they want to arrange another tribute: naming the Highway 401 overpass at exit 474 (to County Road 45) in Garrett's honour.

This bridge is owned and maintained by the Ministry of Transportation, the letter said.

"As required under the Highway Memorials for Fallen Police Officers Act 2002, written consent is required from the municipality where the fallen officer served," the letter said.

Sheils said letters requesting support have also been sent to county council and MPP Rob Milligan.

No financial support is being asked, Councillor Forrest Rowden said — only support.

Sheils's request will be referred to protection services for a report, and Rowden expressed confidence that council will be glad to vote its support of the project.