



GRAFTON -- Northumberland County officials inspected damage inside the Materials Recovery Facility in Grafton on April 14, after a smoldering fire broke out inside the facility the day before. Staff members are now conducting a review to identify potential causes with foul play not being suspected. --Submitted Photo

Grafton recycling facility reopened after weekend fire

Smoldering fire was contained to loose pile of recyclable materials: County

NORTHUMBRLAND NEWS
 Dominik Wisniewski APR. 17/14
 dwisniewski@northumberlandnews.com

NORTHUMBRLAND -- The investigation into the cause of a fire at the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) in Grafton on Sunday continues, but the plant has since reopened due to minimal damage. White smoke billowing from an exhaust vent was visible on Hwy. 401 before a passerby reported it to Alnwick/Halifax Fire and Rescue around 10:30 a.m. Sunday, April 13. As crews arrived at the Edwardson Road plant and started to line up oxygen tanks in the parking lot, more than a dozen firefighters wearing breathing apparatus started to assemble near bay doors at the west end of the building. After nearly 10 hours at the scene, crews extinguished the fire and approval was given to County staff to enter the building. The specific site of the fire was determined to be a loose pile of recyclable materials within the plant, according to Tim Blake, the mutual aid fire coordinator for the County of Northumberland. County administration met with MRF

staff the next morning to address plans for a cleanup, and the facility has been back up and running since noon on April 14. "It turns out that because the fire was smoldering and there was not a lot of flames, the fire department did a great job at keeping that under control," said County spokeswoman Kate Campbell. "The damage was very minimal upon initial inspection... with no equipment and facilities damages that have yet been identified." She said all waste and recycling collection is proceeding as usual. "The cleanup began once the fire department gave the all clear," Ms. Campbell said. "We had trucks in there that were removing some of the material that had been on fire, and the fire department had been hosing that down." She said County staff were impressed with the professionalism and response of the firefighters. "The County Mutual Aid fire response was also exceptional. They really came together to make sure there was full coverage throughout the county while those firefighters were working at the MRF," she said. Asked about the sprinkler and alarm system at the facility, Ms. Campbell said both were inspected on March 17 with no issues being identified, but it's not confirmed whether alarms sounded during the fire. "That will be part of the post-cleanup investigation," she said. Foul play is not suspected.

■ CRAMAHE TOWNSHIP: Work must meet historic requirements, blend with landscaping

Victoria Square cenotaph upgrade raises other issues

BOB OWEN
 For Northumberland Today

CRAMAHE TOWNSHIP - A committee headed by Cramahe Councillor Pat Westrope has been authorized to get renovations done on the First World War monument in Victoria Square in Colborne. The committee of 12 has been very enthusias-

tic and Westrope was at last week's council meeting, seeking clarification of the group's role in the future appearance of the historic park. The cenotaph committee has met three times and is developing design ideas for the area around the base of the monument. They plan to replace the retaining wall which encircles the statue

of a soldier. They have also considered a sidewalk, landscaping and benches. In their third meeting they began discussions of completing work on the Second World War monument which lies farther north in the park. Westrope is aware that council budgeted two years ago for a park plan, but nothing has been done. She wondered if

she should apply the brakes to the committee's plans or give it free rein. After some discussion it was generally agreed that there should be a plan before substantial work is done. Township planner Jennifer Sisson has landscape architecture qualifications and could be a resource, if the planning were to be done in-house. She has

already been sitting in on committee meetings as a resource. As well as meeting the historic requirements, the designated park should blend with the landscaping for the Cramahe Town Hall which is across the road. Staff will consider the possibility of doing the design work internally and report back to council.



Pat Westrope

NORTHUMBRLAND TODAY APR 22/14

8