

Fire burns all night in Colborne, neighbours evacuated

NORTHUMBERLAND NEWS

Multiple stations battle blaze on holiday Monday

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Karen Longwell

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COLBORNE -- Neighbouring residents were evacuated after a two-storey Colborne building burned for 12 hours Monday in what's believed to be an electrical fire.

Cramahe firefighters were called to the building on Victoria Square just after 9 p.m. on Aug. 4, said Cramahe Township Fire Chief Brandon Northrup. The lone occupant, who had been renovating the first floor, noticed smoke coming from a second floor closet, said Chief Northrup.

The man left the building and was not injured in the fire. When the first fire crews entered they saw smoke coming through the first and second floors, the chief said.

"I think it had been burning for a while before we got there," said Chief Northrup.



COLBORNE -- Fire crews from four different stations battled a blaze on Victoria Square from late into the night until early morning.

Karen Longwell / Northumberland News

The cause of the fire is believed to be electrical, he said.

Chief Northrup called in mutual aid from Brighton. Cobourg brought an aerial truck and Alnwick/Haldimand also came to assist Cramahe and switch out manpower, he said.

"It was pretty hot and the guys were getting tired," he said.

Approximately 40 firefighters battled the blaze and the last crews left the scene just after 9 a.m. on Aug. 5, he said.

About six to eight residents were forced to leave neighbouring buildings because

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of smoke and the power had to be cut to buildings on the block, said Chief Northrup.

A resident in the closest neighbouring building, who did not wish to be named, said she and another couple were evacuated from their apartments above a dental office. The residents were sent to a motel for the evening.

Smoke poured out of the building as nearby residents watched in Victoria Square park until the early morning hours.

The fire was stubborn as it had moved between three layers in the ceiling and two layers of metal roof, which had been added to the building since it was built approximately 100 years ago, said Chief Northrup.

"The problem we had was accessing the fire," he said.

After 12 hours, the building was still standing but sustained extensive damage, said Chief Northrup. An insurance company would be able to evaluate the damage and determine if the building should be torn down or not, he added.

The fire burned close to the adjacent dentist office and residential unit building. Chief Northrup praised firefighters' efforts in keeping the fire contained to one structure.

"I think our crews did an excellent job in containing the fire -- it didn't spread," he said.

There was a restoration team cleaning up smoke damage to the neighbouring building on Aug. 5, he added.

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Kernaghan Cup attracts 15 fastball teams in Grafton

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GRAFTON - The Grafton Diamonds hosted 15 fastball teams for the annual Kernaghan Cup from July 18 to 20.

Davis Plumbing from Kingston took home the title in the men's division while the Colborne Free Spirits were crowned winners in the women's division.

In the men's final, the undefeated team, The Lakes, clashed with Davis Plumbing, which carried an undefeated streak heading into the last game of the day.

The Lakes struggled to silence Davis Plumbing's hot bats, as the Kingston-based team soared to a 6-2 win.



GRAFTON -- The second annual Kernaghan Cup swung through Grafton on Saturday, which ended with Colborne Free Spirits winning the women's title and Davis Plumbing winning the men's crown. Pitcher Alan Cormier of Oliver's Excavating (pictured) was part of the 17-team, three-day tournament.

Todd McEwen / Northumberland News

The women's championship game saw the Colborne Free Spirits face off against the Pickering Lions. Colborne jumped to

JOHNSON, Robert



Bob fought a hard battle with cancer and with his family by his side passed away suddenly at his home on Monday July 28, 2014 at the age of 55 years. Loving husband of Lydia

Johnson nee Mensen. Cherished dad of Glen & his fiancé Laurel, Jenna and Tarlynn. Survived by his brother Kerry & his wife Lena and his nephews Jeff & his wife Holly and Michael. Fondly remembered by his mother in law Frances Mensen and the entire Mensen family and predeceased by his father in law Henk. Predeceased by his parents Norm & Joyce Johnson. Visitation was held at Weaver Family Funeral Home - Warkworth Chapel on Friday August 1st, 2014 from 2-4 & 6-9 PM. Funeral Mass was held at St. Jerome's Catholic Church, Warkworth on Saturday August 2nd, 2014 at 11 AM. Father Tony Barol officiated. As expressions of sympathy, donations to the Central East CCAC - Campbellford or the Bridge Hospice, Warkworth would be appreciated by the family. Online guest book & condolences www.weaverfuneralhomes.com

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NORTHUMBERLAND NEWS AUG 7/14