

# "Ah" a new gallery to promote arts and history coming to town

EMC  
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By Sue Dickens

**Entertainment - Warkworth**  
"We want to make the building more alive. It's kind of been embalmed with centuries of dismalness."

Those are the words of local artist Clive Russell, a retired architect who is bringing his creative sense to a new project in the village, the formation of a gallery to promote arts and history ... named "Ah."

He and some other local folks interested in the project are hosting a fund-raising concert in early November for their venue.

Russell and David Pollock, an ex-Toronto financial advisor and local businessman and Dimitri Papatheodorou, a painter, architect and musician, gathered for an interview with the *Trent Hills Independent* to talk about their plans to breathe new life into the historic Memorial Hall, which they will be leasing.

The hall was built in 1922 as a monument to those who died in World War I.

"My idea is to have an ongoing centre in Warkworth for art and history combined because

the village is the home of J.D. Kelly, a pioneer artist in this area," commented Russell.

The connection between J.D. Kelly and the village is celebrated with a plaque outside the hall.

"We see history through the eyes of J. D. Kelly and so the relationship of art and history ... well I thought this would be a good place to have the centre," he added.

The group's proposal has been presented to the Municipality of Trent Hills which owns the building and it happened on the cusp of the hall being turned into a storage facility after the Warkworth Percy Historical Society, which used the building for meetings, became defunct.

"Clive, myself and Delphine White [Genie, Gemini and Emmy-nominated costume designer who lives outside of Warkworth] approached the municipality with our idea ... Mike Rutter the Trent Hills CAO, loved the concept," said Pollock.

The proposal was taken to Trent Hills Council and approved unanimously.

"Sheree Rasmussen [a local mixed media textile artist] was the one who thought of using the Memorial Hall," said Russell. Artists and artisans, business people and others have become the force that is propelling the project forward.

"I'm just one of several people who are lending support to this," noted Papatheodorou.

"The idea is the centre will be focused on education as well and the beauty of having people who are artists, designers etc. at a professional level ... they can also mentor younger people. The gallery will not be just for professional artists; it will also be for education purposes," he added.

The group has already chosen a youth co-ordinator Nafshiya Haylestrom, who has already made her mark in the art world.

Her paintings, prints, pencil/charcoal sketches, and sculptures have appeared at a number of art shows and exhibits.

She will be performing at the concert as will Papatheodorou and his group TALESPINN featuring Howard Baer, a standup bass player and Steve Rapos of

Fiddlehead Studios here whose daughter Olivia will be singing.

Joining them will be musician Tina Nodwell and San Murata a self-taught painter, designer and illustrator and accomplished jazz violinist.

"The concert is designed to get us more seed money to get this project running the way we envision it," said Pollock.

The concert will take place

Sunday, November 9, from 2 until 4 p.m. at the Warkworth Town Hall Centre for the Arts.

Tickets \$15 (\$10 for students) available at Our Lucky Stars, Frantic Farms in Warkworth or at Kerr's Corner Books and The Holmstead in Campbellford.

The goal is to open the gallery on Victoria Day weekend 2105. It will remain open every weekend until Labour Day.



Gathered on the front steps of the historic Memorial Hall in Warkworth are members of a committee inspired by local artist Clive Russell dedicated to opening "Ah" an arts and heritage gallery; front from left, Sheree Rasmussen, David Pollock and Dimitri Papatheodorou; back from left, John Speakman, Clive Russell and Steve Rapos. Not available when the photo was taken were Judy Kaufman, Dorothy Caldwell, Delphine White, Nicole Tellier and Elizabeth Aikenhead. Photo: Sue Dickens

## ■ ELECTION 2014

# Coombs, Van Egmond hang on in Cramahe

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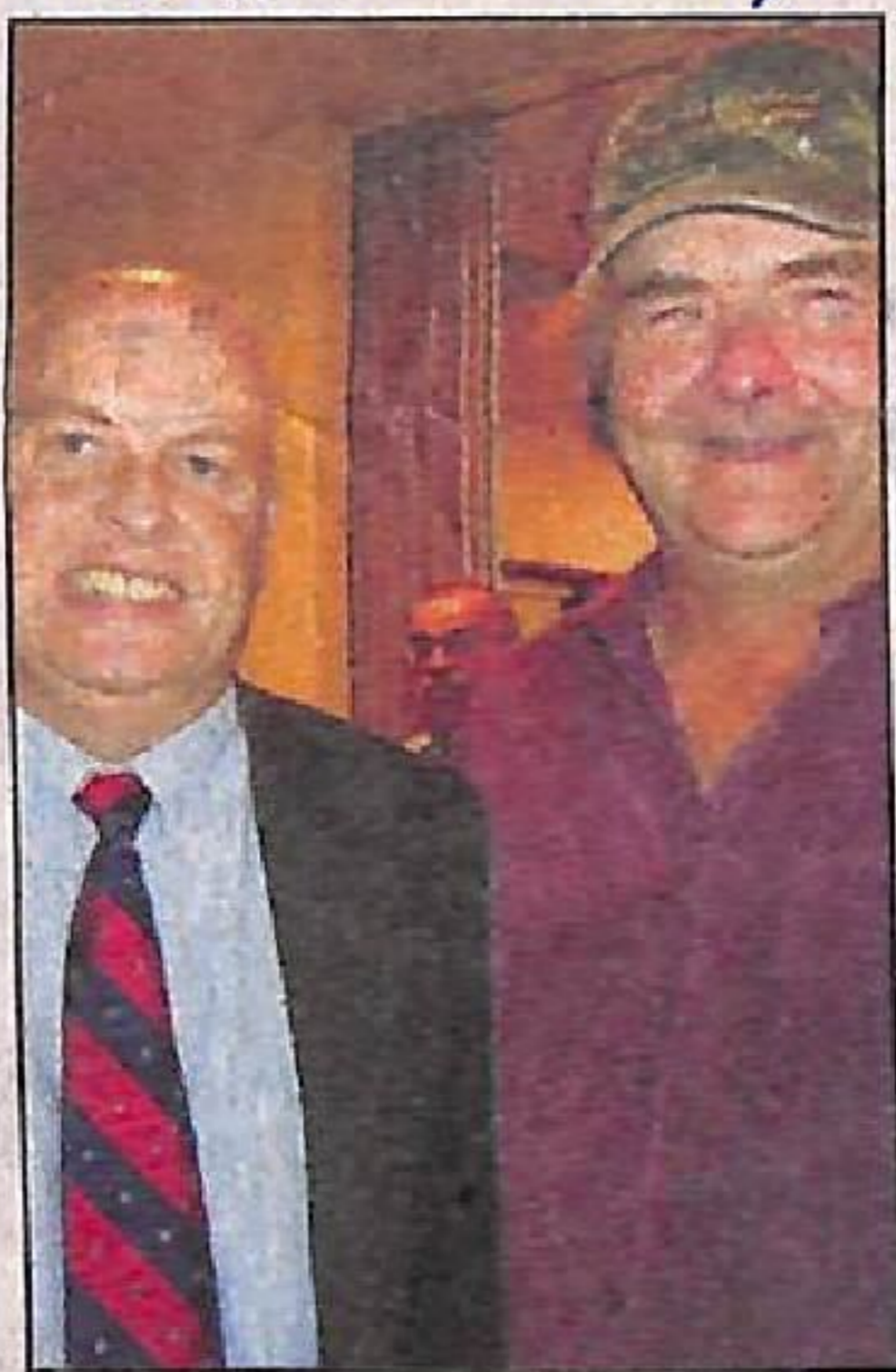
**MANDY MARTIN**  
For Northumberland Today

**CRAMAHE TOWNSHIP** — There were moments of held breath for the top two Cramahe Township council spots but in the end, at 10:45 p.m., Monday, incumbent Mayor Marc Coombs held on.

He defeated the challenger, incumbent Councillor Pat Westrope, by 166 votes. The final unofficial count was Coombs 1319, Westrope 1153.

And it wasn't until the last box of votes was counted that newcomer Sandra Arthur was declared deputy mayor-elect. In a three-way race, the vote results were: Arthur 894, incumbent Jim Williams 857 and Lee Dekeyser, a former mayor, with 717.

Two of three councillors are new. Incumbent Ed Van Egmond, who led easily all evening, garnered 1,479 votes. Next came newcomer Don Clark with 1,202



MANDY MARTIN PHOTO

**Cramahe Mayor Marc Coombs retained his seat and Councillor Ed Van Egmond led the polls in the race for a councillor seat.**

votes and Tim Gilligan, a former councillor defeated in the 2010 election, regaining his seat with 1,178 votes. Incumbent councillor Clinton Breau was edged out with 999 votes, followed by Murray McCullough 530 and Ken Awender 454.



MANDY MARTIN PHOTO

**Newcomer Don Clark won a seat as a Cramahe Township councillor.**