

No spoiled ballots in Cramahe election

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MANDY MARTIN

For Northumberland Today

CRAMAHE TWP. — There were no spoiled ballots in the Oct. 27 Cramahe Township municipal election, council heard Tuesday.

There were some near-misses, though.

To open the mailed-in ballots, a municipally-owned electronic letter-opener was initially used to slice open envelopes containing ballots. It was discovered the slicer was cutting off one of the two mayoralty candidates from ballots.

"We were able to tape them all back together," Cramahe Deputy Clerk and Deputy Returning Officer (DRO) Candace Doiron reported at the council meeting. "We were able to count all the bal-

lots."

An estimated 40 to 50 ballots were mis-sliced, she said. At that point, the scrutineers moved to manually opening the ballot envelopes.

Of the 5,200 ballots mailed out to voters, only 2,511 were returned for counting, a 45% voter turnout for the municipal election.

"There were 50 ballots in a bundle," Doiron explained. "There were 10 stations (for counting), so each had 250 ballots."

Asked why there was a delay in results being posted, Doiron said the first delay came with sorting out the sliced ballots, then moving to manual opening. The vote-counters at each were requested to count each bundle and, when 50 ballots were completed, they were to raise a recording sheet

to be picked up and relayed to another municipal staff member for electronic posting on the township website and also to the public gathering awaiting election results at the Keeler Centre. However, Doiron said, one station held back their bundle tallies.

"For some reason, they held on to their results until the end," she said, noting that it had nothing to do with where the ballots were from geographically.

The incoming council will "probably" look at electronic voting to tabulate the municipal vote in 2018, Mayor Marc Coombs said. It will be a decision of council.

A detailed report, although not required by the Municipal Act, is being prepared for the final meeting of the incumbent council on Nov. 18.

'No parking' zone to be posted

MANDY MARTIN

For Northumberland Today

COLBORNE — Vehicles parked on King St. East (County Rd. 2) in front of the Colborne Legion east to Kensington St. in Colborne are a safety problem, nearby resident Dave Forster says. He asked Cramahe Township council to install signs on the south side on King Street to create a 100-foot-long "no parking" zone.

"It's difficult to turn the corner either way" when existing Kensington Ave. into King St. E., Forster told council Tuesday. "I feel it's a real safety issue there because you can't see" when cars are parked for events at the Legion.

"There's a big parking lot in the rear but I guess people park

at the front to access the front door or something," he said.

At present, there are no posted parking restrictions on either King St. E. or Kensington St. A former "no parking" sign on Kensington was knocked down and never put up again, Forster said.

The Ontario Highway Traffic Act says there's no parking within 15 meters of an intersection, Councillor Pat Westrope noted.

"We could try that and see what the results are," Forster said.

Council will instruct municipal staff to erect no parking signs establishing the 45-foot exclusion area on the south side of King St. E. from Kensington west.

\$6,000 sign vandalized

A \$6,000 mobile electronic speed sign is toast.

It was twice vandalized when posted on Durham St. N. in Colborne.

Now, the Cramahe Township Community Policing Committee is requesting a smaller, pole-mounted speed sign be installed on the north side of King St. E. (Cty. Rd. 2) somewhere between Durham St. N. and the Olco station in an effort to enforce the 50 kph speed limit.

The cost will probably have to be come out of a capital budget, it was noted by Councillor Pat Westrope. It will also probably need Northumberland County approval, Councillor Ed Van Egmond observed, which takes time — and that will allow the cost to be a 2015 budget item.

— Mandy Martin

Plenty of festive gifts at Colborne Art Gallery's special show

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News - Colborne - Cool days and frosty nights herald the beginning of the holiday season. Homes and streets sparkle with adornments and our thoughts soon turn to the anticipation of finding just the right gifts for our loved ones.

If it's your wish to find something truly singular this season then consider the gift of original art and The Colborne Art Gallery's All Things Bright and Beautiful exhibition and sale of art works in a variety of mediums, sizes and price ranges.

This year's show opens November 15 and runs until

December 21 with an opening celebration on November 15 from 2 to 4 p.m.

The Colborne Art Gallery will be beautifully decked out for the season and the opening afternoon will offer guests a chance to meet the artists, sample homemade treats, sip some holiday punch and buy some original art.

The art offered at All Things Bright and Beautiful have been created with holiday gift-giving in mind; they will give you the opportunity to communicate a personal message to someone who is very special to you.

A painting or photograph might bring to mind a particular memory you share while a one-of-a-kind piece of pottery could reflect a favourite food or drink.

The right piece of jewellery can convey a message of love; a handcrafted card could send warmth and love across a great distance.

The Colborne Art Gallery, at 51 King Street East in Colborne, is open Thursdays through Sundays, from noon to 5 p.m. For more information, please visit <www.thecolborneartgallery.ca>.