



Study lays out procedure for ending train whistles

By John Campbell

News - Cramahe - It could cost Cramahe tens of thousands of dollars in upgrades at each of its railway crossings to get trains to stop blowing their whistles as they pass through the township.

A draft pilot study by CIMA that looked at a pair of CN crossings estimated the required improvements could cost between \$45,000 and \$65,000 at Peters Road and \$46,000 at Ontario Street.

The township commissioned the study in response to complaints from residents about how much the sound of the whistle was disrupting their lives.

The two sites were chosen for study to give council an idea of the steps required to end the use of train whistles in Cramahe and the expense involved.

Transportation technologist Khaled Hawash said Transport Canada "will consider applications for an exemption from the whistling regulations at specific railway grade crossings provid-

ing certain requirements are met."

Those requirements include carrying out safety measures to address "any non-conformities and deficiencies" at each at-grade crossing, revolving around surface conditions, sight lines, signage, pavement markings, warning devices, gates and fencing.

Hawash pointed out he looked at only two CN crossings in his review. "Going forward, if the goal is the reduction of noise from train whistling," he recommended that "complete corridors and all the crossings" within Cramahe be considered when applying for the cessation of whistles.

Director of operations Dan O'Brien said there are six CN and CP railway crossings in the municipality.

He said some "fine details" need to be collected and added to the report before it is finalized and then presented "to council in depth so the general public can grasp what they're talking about."

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Santa came a-calling

Colborne rolled out the welcome mat for a special visitor from the North Pole Saturday night and it was clear by the twinkle in his eye that Santa Claus enjoyed all the attention. Bands such as Oak Ridge Percussion, and floats, including Habitat for Humanity and Heritage United Church, formed a lengthy procession as it wound its way through downtown Colborne. Photos: John Campbell.

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Saying good-bye

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CIMA will be asked to make a presentation to the new council after it takes office next month.

Farewells said

Their days in office came to an end last week for Deputy-mayor Jim Williams and Councillor Clinton Breau as they took part in their last council meeting. Councillor Pat Westrope, who lost out in her bid to unseat Mayor Marc Coombs, was absent from the meeting. Williams said he enjoyed his 20 years in total as an elected official, having served in "different capacities" prior to and following the amalgamation of Cramahe Township and Colborne.

He said the past eight years "have been

exceptional in terms of what this council accomplished" and he was "very pleased" to have been part of a group whose teamwork set "an example" for Northumberland County and other municipalities in the province.

Councillor Ed Van Egmond told Williams he had been "a good teacher" because even when the two of them had disagreed on different things, he had "always learned from those experiences."

Coombs joined van Egmond in thanking Williams and Breau for their contributions to council, saying "it's the best one I've ever sat on, certainly had the most fun and enjoyment, and from the township's point of view [produced] the most results."