

Memory stones for Colborne cenotaphs available for purchase

By John Campbell

News - Colborne - Memory stones are now on sale as part of the Colborne Cenotaph Restoration Project.

The eight- by 12-inch granite stones are being sold for \$150 on a first-come, first-served basis. The cost includes three lines of text.

Between 260 and 280 will be sold, with two-thirds reserved for veterans and one-third for supporters.

A call for tenders is to go out this week for construction of concrete

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pads and a sidewalk that will connect the two World War monuments and fountain to the sidewalk at the south end of Victoria Square.

The committee in charge of the restoration, led by former councillor Pat Westrope, raised \$50,000 for the project, through cash and in-kind donations from the community, and matching funds from Veterans Affairs. Cramahe Township staff removed the wall around the World War I cenotaph and fencing around the World War II

monument, and prepared the site for the concrete work that is to be done.

Westrope made clear the memory stones include men and women who have served in the military, not just those who died while serving their country.

Construction won't begin until after the Colborne-Cramahe Apple Blossom Tyme Festival is held at the end of the month.

"I'm guessing the work will take a month, and after that the stones will

go in," she said.

A dedication ceremony will likely take place in October.

Campbell Monument will supply and etch the stones, and a landscaper will install them.

Their cost is being funded entirely by revenue earned from their sale, Westrope said. "It's pretty much a break-even project."

The price tag for the restoration work includes benches and planters but not picnic tables. Her committee will "probably start asking for corporate sponsorships" or contributions from service clubs and individuals to cover the cost.

The planned improvements will preserve a monument that is almost 100 years old—the World War I cenotaph was erected in 1922—and "guarantee the longevity" of an area dedicated to honouring an important part of the township's history.

As well, it will bring the park up to 2015 standards and "provide a little bit of cohesiveness" to what's there, Westrope added.

Colborne Legion, Heritage Cramahe and Music in the Square committee were involved in the project to make sure the needs of everybody were met, she said.

"I feel really positive," Westrope said. "Anybody I've talked to thinks it's just a wonderful idea."

Orders for stones have come as far away as Saskatchewan and she has received "quite a few inquiries" since they went on sale less than two weeks ago. "The more we can sell, the more we can install, the more we can dedicate," Westrope said.

Order forms are available online on the township website, <www.visitcramahe.ca>, at the library or by calling Westrope at 905-355-2027 or Lenna Broatch, 905-355-5502.

Slight drop in property taxes for Cramahe

By John Campbell

News - Cramahe Township - After trimming \$12,280 in expenditures at another special budget meeting held last week, Cramahe Township council left it in staff's hands to find another \$30,000 to chop to lower this year's increase in the municipal levy to below three per cent.

Staff managed to do it, with

a number of cuts they submitted in a joint report to council for its May 5 meeting. If approved as expected, after press time, the local levy will go up by 2.9 per cent to \$4,913,647. That represents a tax rate increase of less than one per cent—62 per cent—which, on an average home in the township assessed at \$207,251, translates into an increase of almost \$10 for the

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year. However, the overall tax bill, including Northumberland County and education levies, actually drops by \$2.89 for the same property because of a drop in school taxes. The new total will be \$2,938, with the breakdown as follows: municipal \$1,556, county \$978, and school board \$404.

The municipal levy will bring in

55 per cent of the money the township will need this year to pay for \$8,959,722 in projected expenditures.

Transportation services will take the largest bite of the 2015 budget at \$1.66 million, followed by environmental services (\$1.58 million), protection services (\$1.36 million), general government (\$1.32 million), recreation and culture (\$1.08 million), construction (\$731,300), fire services (\$498,898), facilities, library, and planning and development.

To achieve the final number, council members went through the budget in detail that had been prepared by staff, making a number of changes over the course of several meetings.

The most recent changes were made April 28 when council reduced wage and training costs by \$7,800 for part-time staff support in the building department, and operating costs at the Keeler Centre

canteen by \$4,480.

Councillor Don Clark suggested the amount initially set out for canteen wages, \$12,800, be reduced. He said, "going forward," it might be better to have it open only on weekends, for tournaments, and when the junior Colborne Chiefs play, because "some evenings there's no revenue generated" during the winter.

One possibility is to have a group take over its operation "on a volunteer basis," but "we don't know from a union standpoint whether you can do it," he said.

"We were very close to having a deal cut with minor hockey just before we went union here," Mayor Marc Coombs said, but "at the last minute ... they didn't want to do it."

The township is looking to hire a qualified person to serve in place of its chief building official whenever she is on holidays, sick or is in need of assistance, at a cost of

\$20,000, but that role will be taken over after one of its staff has been trained to handle those duties when needed.

Councillor Tim Gilligan grumbled at the amount of money the municipality spends on staff wages.

"I keep saying it over and over, we're out of control with salaries here," he said.

Among the nearly \$39,000 in additional spending cuts staff submitted this week was a \$9,000 reduction in contracted services for winter control, an \$8,000 decrease in shelving for records management, and a \$5,000 decrease in the amount of inventory that will be stocked in the canteen.

There was also \$3,000 less pencilled in for planning department legal expenses and economic development conventions and seminars, and \$2,500 in lower administrative costs associated with the sale of properties for unpaid taxes.

County providing staff support for township's roads department

By John Campbell

News - Cramahe Township One of the recommendations Cramahe Township director of operations Dan O'Brien made in his Operations Capacity Review earlier this year was to "explore the possibility of supervisory support" from other municipalities and Northumberland County.

He got his wish last week with the announcement that county roads supervisor Dan McBride has been seconded to Cramahe for six months "to support the ongoing development of the Township's roads management program."

In a joint news release, acting county CAO Jennifer Moore and Cramahe CAO Christie Alexander said the move "reinforces the commitment of both organizations to staff

development, and is another expression of our continuing collaboration to leverage best practices and achieve efficiencies."

McBride, they said, "will make valuable contributions to the advancement of Cramahe roads department goals and priorities." He has worked 15 years for the county, the last five in a supervisory capacity.

"He's going to work directly with our roads crew on construction and maintenance," Mayor Marc Coombs said in an interview. "He's going to be in charge."

O'Brien in his review also recommended that a non-union position be created, foreman for the roads and environmental division, whose duties would include "the full scope of day-to-day supervision of all staff" in

that division.

"The Operations Department's capacity to deliver quality services is being negatively impacted by its current organizational structure," he wrote.

He suggested the county's roads superintendent be seconded to the township at a cost of \$85,000 a year.

"We've been spending a lot of time going into camera talking about the organizational chart," Coombs said. "The problem we have with Dan O'Brien's role as director is that he just doesn't have enough time for the proper oversight of the guys in the field."

What's to be done with the organizational chart should be decided before the end of the month when council finally completes its budget deliberations, he said.

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Death Notices



TORRENS, Shirlie Elizabeth. Peacefully at the Northumberland Hills Hospital on Tuesday March 17th, 2015 in her 95th year. Beloved wife of the late Arthur Torrens. Loving mother of Paul Torrens and Valerie Cabell (Benjamin). Dear grandmother of Jeff (Katie), Alan, Alisun and David (Michelle) and great grandmother of Linden, Bodhi and Jackson James. Shirlie will be sadly missed by her dear friend Carol. Friends are invited to attend a Memorial Service at the **MACCOUBREY FUNERAL HOME**, 30 King St., E., Cobourg on Saturday May 9th at 3 pm. If desired, donations may be made to the **AMERICAN LEGION**, 30 King St., E., Cobourg.

Celebration of Life for



Doreen Lorraine Clark

Friends are invited to join Doreen's Family on May 9th, 2015 from 1-4:00 pm at

The Knights of Columbus Centre at 232 Spencer St. Cobourg