

Insurance claims continue to rise, Council told

MANDY MARTIN
FOR NORTHUMBERLAND TODAY

CRAMAHE TOWNSHIP — As the number and amounts of claims against Cramahe Township continue to rise, so does the cost of insurance. The municipality will pay \$179,357 for coverage next year, a 6.3% increase from last year's \$167,666.

"This past year has continued to be a challenge as the overall fre-

quency and severity of claims continues to rise," Dave McGlennon of McGlennon Insurance reported to Cramahe Council in his annual report Dec. 1.

McGlennon Insurance partners with another local firm, Newman Oliver McCarten Insurance, to provide the municipal coverage.

Across municipalities, costs are trending at a 10% to 15% rise, McGlennon reported.

"Municipal insurance is still an

increasingly litigious and challenging environment," McGlennon said. "Progress continues to be made with risk management in Cramahe on our roads, sidewalks and wit facilities. Two claims involving property damage were received in 2015. Six additional claims remain open with deductibles having already been paid in three of them."

In a breakdown of insurance claims against Cramahe since

2006, Cramahe has paid out over \$1.5 million. Of that, \$146,539 went for automobile-related claims, the largest being \$143,694 paid out in 2011. In the property/building category, \$561,683 has been paid out, the largest amount of \$558,029 in 2011. In the errors / omissions category, \$150,677 was paid out in three claims: \$90,477 in 2009, \$50,000 in 2012 and \$10,200 in 2014. The costliest insurance category for payouts is under liability:

\$641,438 since 2006. That total is made up of payouts of \$70,412 in 2010, \$246,674 in 2012, \$81,00392 in 2013, \$202,860 in 2014 and \$40,100 in 2015.

Adding to headaches are joint and several liability cases, McGlennon said, urging the municipality and insurance industry to continue to lobby for provincial law change.

"This deep pocket syndrome places unreasonable risk on municipalities," McGlennon said.

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COUNCIL BRIEFS

CANADA 150 COMMITTEE FORMED

CRAMAHE TOWNSHIP — To ready for local celebration of Canada's 150th anniversary of Confederation in 2017, a volunteer Cramahe Township committee has been formed.

The chair is former council member Patricia Westrope with Lenna Broatch as acting secretary and Chauncey Perry as treasurer. Directors are former Cramahe council member Jim Williams, Patti May, Don Clark, Joy Gifford, Craig Robinson, Frits Scheltema and municipal rep Keeley Biron.
- Mandy Martin

PLAQUE REPLACED

COLBORNE — Seaton House, 57 King St. East in downtown Colborne, home of the current Cree business owners, is an historically designated building. The original plaque pronouncing the designated status, was missing. The Heritage

Cramahe Committee recently had a replacement plaque presented to the owners.

- Mandy Martin

FACADE DISTURBED

CASTLETON — Architecturally significant buildings in Cramahe Township can be officially designated with written request to the Heritage Cramahe Committee, subsequent investigation for verification and approval by Cramahe Township council. Previous owners of a Castleton house had the home designated. Now, new owners have installed wooden cladding in preparation of installing new siding, a no-no under the designation agreement.

Heritage Cramahe has brought the project to the notice of Cramahe Township Council. Asked if council would take any action, Mayor Marc Coombs said, "No. Not unless someone brings it to council."

- Mandy Martin

ART GALLERY OFFERS DISPLAY SPACE

COLBORNE — The Heritage Cramahe Committee / Archives has been offered space to display documents and artifacts in exchange for a representative to staff the Colborne Art Gallery, 51 King St. East in downtown Colborne several hours a week.

Cramahe Councillor and HCC committee member Don Clark has volunteered to be the HCC representative.

- Mandy Martin

HOUSE RECOMMENDED FOR DESIGNATION

COLBORNE — The owner of a house at 26 King St. West in Colborne has written a request to have his house designated an architecturally significant property. André Reny has intensively investigated the history

or the property.

The Heritage Cramahe Committee (HCC) has visited the property and concur the house should be designated. A request to proceed was included in HCC minutes received by Cramahe Township Council Dec. 1.

- Mandy Martin

SILENT AUCTION

COLBORNE — You've been good! So everyone is invited to drop by the Colborne Legion, 92 King St. E., 12 noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 13 to celebrate the season, our community, family and friends. There's no admission (cash donation appreciated). There's opportunity to bid on the many silent auction items (bids close at 3:30 p.m.) and enjoy Christmas yummys provided by Black Dress Catering, enjoy the music and Christmas cheer. A great afternoon for family, friends and acquaintances is on offer. Round

off your Christmas list with unique items and pamper yourself with homemade festive food!

- Mandy Martin

VOLUNTEER AWARDS NOMINEES SOUGHT

CRAMAHE TOWNSHIP — Nominations for two Ontario volunteer awards are being sought.

The Ontario Medal for Young volunteers recognizes young volunteers between the ages of 15 and 24 years for their actions and dedication. Nominations close Jan. 15, 2016.

The Ontario Volunteer Service Award recognizes adults with continuous years of service to one organization. Nominations close Jan. 25, 2015.

To learn more, visit www.citizenship.gov.on.ca/english/citizenship/honoursandawards.shtml.

- Mandy Martin

Grafton's St. Mary Catholic school celebrates 50 years

Special mass marks anniversary

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GRAFTON -- St. Mary Catholic Elementary School celebrated 50 years under the same roof Oct. 24.

Former students, staff and officials gathered to mark the anniversary with a special mass led by the bishop of Peterborough, William McGrattan, followed by speeches, refreshments and tours of the school.

The school community dates well past 50 years to 1893 but the bricks and mortar of the school as it stands today were laid and a new three-room school was opened in 1965. Portable classrooms were added over the next decade and in 1985 there was an addition of a gymnasium, library and a kindergarten room, according to the Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board.

Alnwick Haldimand Township Mayor John Logel started at the school just before



GRAFTON — Former St. Mary Catholic Elementary School student Janine Turk looked at historic photos during the school's 50th anniversary celebration on Oct. 24.

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the new building was constructed.

"It was in an old building -- currently called the barn," said Mayor Logel.

He finished Grade 8 in 1966, making him one of the first graduates of the new school.

"I wanted to be back here to celebrate this milestone," he said in his speech at the reception.

Northumberland Quinte West MPP Lou

Rinaldi joined Michelle Griepsma, Catholic school board chairwoman, David Bernier, school trustee, and school principal Joe Kennedy in celebrating the anniversary.

Prior to 1893, Catholic children of Grafton and area attended classes in the vestry of St. Mary's Church. A one-room frame school was completed in 1893 and was

ready for grades 1 to 8. Over the next 75 years, the school population ranged from seven to 98.

Today, the school features a newly built library extension, a large school yard with a baseball diamond, soccer field, two basketball courts, sun shelter, climbing equipment and swings. It is home to 250 students.