

# Colborne erratic driving incident blamed on new Pokémon GO game

No charges, but OPP will be enforcing distracted driving laws

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NORTHUMBERLAND -- Police warn of the dangers of playing the new Pokémon game after an incident in Colborne.

Two red cars and four occupants were spotted driving erratically in the downtown area of Colborne around 1:30 a.m. on July 13, Northumberland OPP said.



Police stopped the vehicles and spoke to the people who told police they were playing Pokémon GO.

No charges resulted but police will be enforcing distracted driving laws, he said.

"It could pose a real risk to themselves and others on the road while they are playing this game," said Const. Steve Bates. "We are going to be watching

this closely."

Even though the game is not officially available in Canada, police across the country are getting reports of drivers, pedestrians and cyclists distracted while playing the

game, which police refer to as an augmented reality app, Const. Bates said.

The game has people use a cellphone to search for Pokémon characters outdoors. The game has led to serious injury in some

cases as the players are distracted, looking at their phone while walking, driving or cycling.

"It is certainly a concern," said Const. Bates.

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# Cramahe's financial picture looking rosy after first six months

BRIGHTON INDEPENDENT JULY 28/16

By John Campbell

**Cramahe Township** – The township's financial results for the first six months of the year shows a "favourable variance" of \$645,7000 to the good, treasurer Nicole Leach-Bihun told council.

She explained the variance of net operating revenues exceeding equipment and other capital costs were the result of "timing events" involving projects, tender awards and social services program spending which can be "unpredictably spread" over the year.

Non-timing events, including "gaps" in staffing as well as legal and consulting costs, also affected the financial results. As well, differences in utility costs compared to budgeted amounts are affected by changes in rates and usage over the prior year, she said.

Cramahe took a while before hiring Leach-Bihun after letting go her predecessor when a \$400,000 budgetary deficit in 2014 only came to light last fall. It has been without an parks and recreation

manager for three months and it only recently filled its planner vacancy.

With those positions remaining unfilled, the township will save on wages but consulting expenditures are expected to be higher than projected due to costs the township incurs related to planning and human resources while it is short-staffed.

Leach-Bihun forecast additional revenues might be found as a result of a review of the township's current assessment roll by a consultant who has been hired by Northumberland County.

The report might highlight "any large variances" that some properties might have between what they're assessed and what they're actually worth, which could lead Cramahe applying to the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation for "possible adjustments," Leach-Bihun said.

"What we're doing is ensuring that any properties that change in values" have been picked up by the system, she said, adding "there are some cases" where a property is valued less than what the prevailing market because of "substan-

tial reasons for it being valued at a lower amount."

Task force members chosen All seven people who applied to sit on the Mayor's Task Force on Economic Development and Strategic Planning were accepted.

Dave Rutherford served on the Mayor's Task Force that led to the Keeler Centre being built.

David Smith is an independent consultant with extensive entrepreneurial and communication skills. He served as Ontario director for the Canadian Christian Business Federation, and is the Ontario director for Corporate Chaplains Canada.

Chauncey Perry is a member of the Cramahe/Brighton Chamber of Commerce and has a downtown storefront in Colborne.

The others are Cathy Ireland, Eric Lawlor, a retired Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs regional information coordinator, and former township councillor and parks and recreation chair Clinton Breaux.

# Cramahe has a new CAO who's quite familiar with the township

**Cramahe Township** – Cramahe has a new CAO. He's Craig Brooks, the manager of water services for Lakefront Utilities where he has worked for the past eight years.

"He has extensive knowledge of our municipality and our staff which should enable a quick [and] successful transition," Mayor Marc Coombs said in a news release sent out July 25.

"Council wanted someone with a strong operational background with emphasis on infrastructure projects," Coombs said. "Moving forward, this is critical to Cramahe's future growth."

Coombs said Brooks is "highly regarded by the Cra-

mahe employees that he has dealt with in the past for his experience [and] knowledge as well as being professional, passionate [and] dedicated. I have no doubt that Craig will provide the leadership we need moving forward."

Brooks, a certified engineering technologist, is an active member of the Eastern Ontario Waterworks Association.

Brooks begins his new job Aug. 8. He replaces Dan O'Brien, who announced in January he would be resigning in March "for personal reasons" but remained until a successor was found.

Coombs thanked O'Brien on behalf of council for "his dedication to the municipality, our staff and our residents for continuing to stay on as CAO throughout the search process."

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## Forthcoming Marriages

### Murphy-Goheen Wedding



Patricia Murphy and the late Harold Murphy of Grafton, are delighted to announce the forthcoming marriage of their younger daughter

**Danielle Jaclyn to John Charles Howard Goheen,** son of the late Janet Goheen, of Prince Edward County, and Robert and Marie Goheen, of Oshawa.

John and Dani's young sons, Maxx and Knox, will walk Mommy down the aisle.

The wedding will take place in Grafton on July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

Congratulations and Best Wishes!  
"Have a wonderful Life!"  
Mom and Family