

BOB OWEN
FOR NORTHUMBERLAND TODAY

Barnes Road bridge update

CN Rail has confirmed by letter that it will replace the Barnes Road bridge in the east end of Cramahe Township.

The undated letter from CN Manager of Public Works Stefan Linder estimates the timber bridge will cost \$800,000 to design and build. The cost does not include removal of the existing structure. The cost was reduced by \$1 million by changing the design and using the existing road level.

The new bridge will be the same width as the current bridge and bear highway loads. When the design is complete, CN will meet with township officials to discuss costs and schedules. Cramahe will be expected to pay 15% of the bridge costs. It has been closed nearly four years since Labour Day weekend 2012.

Mayor's task force

Cramahe now has a task force to promote economic development and strategic planning. At a special meeting on June 27, the concept was approved. Less than a month later, seven people have applied and been accepted for the

task force led by Mayor Marc Coombs. The committee will consist of Dave Rutherford, David Smith, Chauncy Perry, Eric Lawlor, Cathy Ireland, Clinton Breau and Daniel Smith.

Toll road

Cramahe Township will have its first toll road on Aug. 13. For one day only, Community Care Northumberland has been permitted to run the voluntary toll on Victoria Square near the Colborne Hardware store. Volunteers from Community Care and the Cramahe Fire Department will be collecting from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the fundraiser.

In her letter to Cramahe Township council, Community Care program assistant Brenda Chapman stated that a similar toll had been conducted last year in Hastings with great success.

It's boom time in Cramahe

The building report submitted to council on July 19 states that building is three times what it was a year ago. For the six months ending June 30 buildings valued at \$8.4 million were started this year compared to \$2.7 a year ago. There have been 20 houses started, including three in June, compared to nine at for the same period a year ago.



LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION.

WHERE YOU ADVERTISE MATTERS!

Appeal judge orders new trial on assault charge for Grafton murder suspect

NORTH UMBERLAND NEWS JULY 28/16

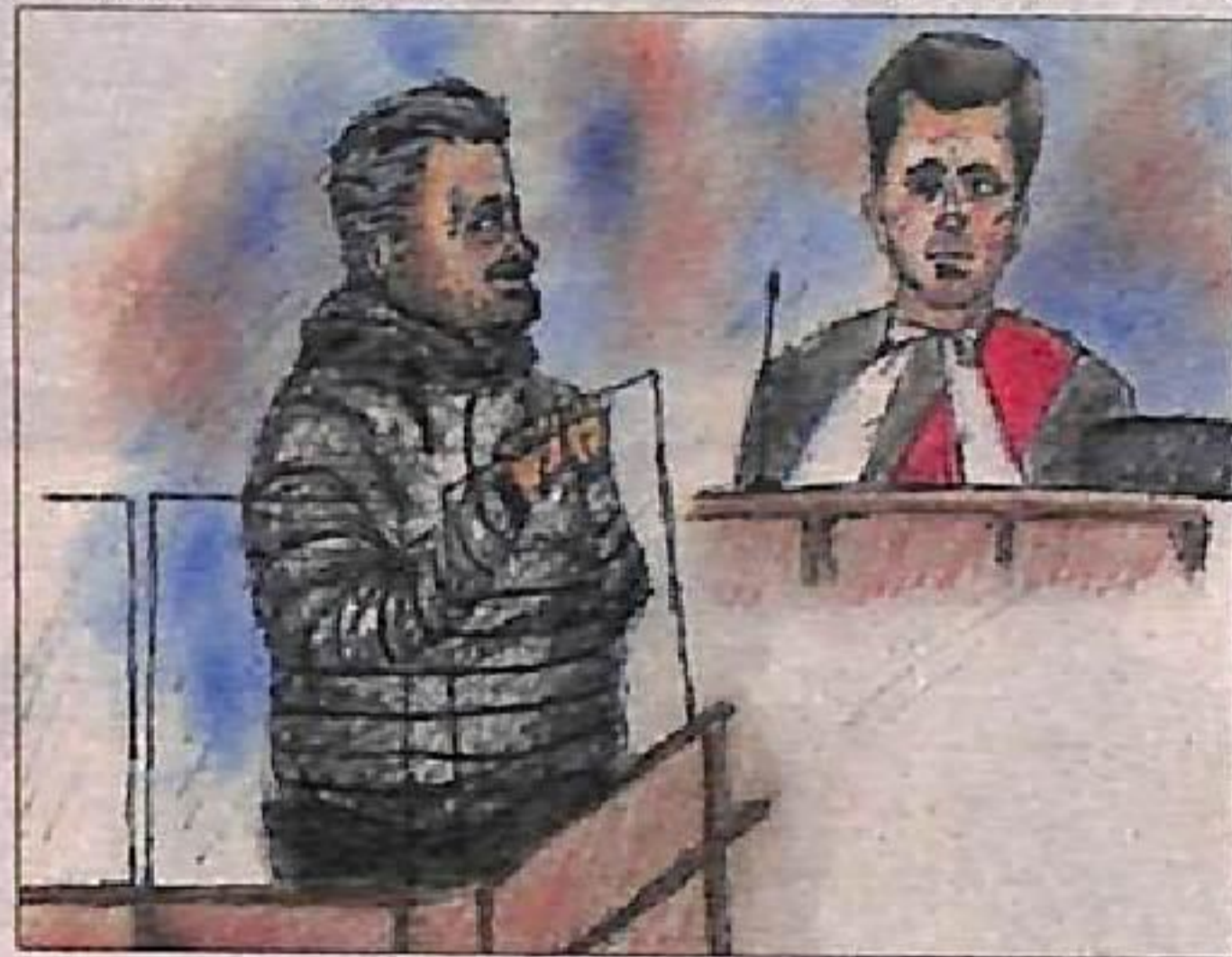
Daniel Grant, 61, also charged with attempted, first-degree murder

Todd McEwen
tmcewen@northumberlandnews.com

NORTHUMBERLAND -- A man currently facing a charge of first-degree murder of his mother will get a new trial on a 2015 charge of assault on his stepfather.

On Friday, July 22, Justice Stephen Bale ordered a new trial for Daniel Grant, 61, of Grafton, after granting an appeal by the Crown attorney of a 2015 finding of not guilty of assault with a weapon against his stepdad. Justice Bale called the appeal a "difficult" but "interesting" case. No new date has been set for the assault trial.

But Mr. Grant will return to court Aug. 3 on charges of attempted murder of his stepfather and first-degree murder in his mother's death. On New Year's Eve 2015, John Byers, 80, and his wife Delores, 82, were stabbed in their home west of Grafton. She later died in hospital. Mr. Grant is currently at Ontario Shores Centre for Mental Health Services in Whitby for an assessment.



Sketch by Todd McEwen

NORTHUMBERLAND -- A judge has ordered a new trial on an assault charge for Daniel Grant, 61, who's also accused of first-degree and attempted murder.

Last September, the Crown had appealed Justice Robert Graydon's finding of not guilty on the assault charge. Mark Moorcroft argued the judge erred when he mixed the concepts of intent and whether Mr. Grant had a "mental disorder that prevented him from forming the intent," according to the appeal obtained by the Northumberland News.

Mr. Moorcroft also argued Justice Graydon elevated Mr. Byers' opinion on his stepson's behaviour that morning to

the basis of fact, treating the stepfather as if he was an expert witness, and that no expert witness was called.

Mr. Grant, 61, was arrested on April 14, 2015 and charged with assault with a weapon after confronting his stepfather with a knife earlier that morning in the backyard of their rural home. In court, he was found not guilty and released with orders to stay away from his parents.

Mr. Grant didn't enter a plea, didn't have a lawyer and didn't testify.

In his ruling, Justice Graydon cited Mr. Grant's troubled history, said he accepted as fact Mr. Grant had suffered "something like" an epileptic seizure, and appeared to accept Mr. Byers's opinion that no assault was intended, according to the transcript.

"I find as a fact that this is what happened," Justice Graydon said on Aug. 21, 2015. "That on the day in question (April 14), not taking his medication, Mr. Grant suffered something like and [sic] epileptic fit; a disturbance of the mind, that leaves me with a doubt that he had the general intent to assault Mr. Byers."

Mr. Grant was slapped with a common-law bond to keep the peace, stay out of trouble, and stay 500 metres from his stepparents.