

# Property alterations bylaw to be prepared

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FOR NORTHUMBERLAND TODAY

**CRAMAHE** — There are “grey” areas of private property land use Cramahe Township has no authority to control. Council instructed staff at its Nov. 15 meeting to prepare a bylaw that will attempt to give some authority to the municipality in such cases. Examples of potential problems were cited: topsoil removal, dumping, placement of fill or grading of

land which can lead to flooding and erosion, poor water quality, degradation of farmland and damage to significant natural areas. Asked if Cramahe’s concern was raised by a specific occurrence, such as the clearing and grading of a property on Purdy Road in Colborne, Cramahe Clerk Julie Oram said there are other potential situations on private properties that can arise. Unlike development projects, where site alteration is regulated

by planning approvals or, if environmental zones are involved, also through the Lower Trent Conservation (LTC) authority, there is nothing the municipality can do if changes to a site cause potential harm to adjacent properties, agricultural resources or the environment. In Northumberland County, the municipalities of Brighton, Port Hope and Hamilton Township have site alteration bylaws. “It would be beneficial for (the)

Township of Cramahe to introduce a similar set of criteria for future developments to deal with these issues,” a staff report to Cramahe council states. “I would want it (a bylaw) to be Cramahe’s own,” Councillor Ed Van Egmond said. “We know a lot of farmers do a lot of work on their land. If we have to go in (to the municipal office) for every fence line, it would be stupid.” “The intent isn’t to restrict agricultural operations,” Oram said,

“but if Lower Trent Conservation (authority) doesn’t have an area mapped (for environmental sensitivity), then there’s nothing we can do about it, and there is no site plan requirement.” Oram said a draft bylaw can be prepared for council’s review and recommended a public meeting also be held to discuss the proposed bylaw. Councillors Tim Gilligan and Van Egmond moved a bylaw be prepared and council voted to proceed.

## LOCAL BRIEFS

### Cramahe receives funding

The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) has allocated \$199,506 over three years to Cramahe Township. The funding is to be received as follows: \$50,000 in 2017, \$57,262 in 2018 and \$92,244 in 2019. The funds will go toward rehabilitating sanitary sewers in Colborne, Mayor Marc Coombs said at council Nov. 15.

### Little Lake house empty

The Cramahe Township-owned house adjacent to the Little Lake gravel pit remains empty. When Deputy mayor Sandra Arthur asked about the status of the residence, Mayor Marc Coombs said, “we need to talk about the Little Lake home at (2017) budget time.” CAO Craig Brooks said he would check to ensure all utility services to the house are shut off. - Mandy Martin

BRIGHTON INDEPENDENT DEC. 1/16



John Campbell/Metroland

Top left, three-year-old Reilly Day of Colborne and many others enjoyed a skate with Santa at the Keeler Centre Nov. 26. The annual event came close to being cancelled until Cramahe Township stepped in to fill the role of host, which included serving free cookies and hot chocolate. Sparky the Fire Dog and members of the fire department also took part. Top, it was another fine turnout for the annual Colborne/Cramahe Santa Claus parade Nov. 26, with children and adults lining the streets for a glimpse of St. Nick and the procession that led him through the community. The many floats included members of the local minor hockey association’s Firehawks. At right, Northumberland Stars are mired in last place but the players’ spirits haven’t diminished, as forwards Jameson Champion and Ian Elvery, along with other members of the team demonstrated Nov. 26 by taking part in Skate with Santa at the Keeler Centre in the morning, and the Colborne-Cramahe Santa Claus parade through the town that night.



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