

\$2,000 Grant Approved *Sept. 28/83*

# County backs history book

By Gerald Tracey

"The History of Renfrew County", a 28-chapter book presently being written by local resident Dick Trainor, got a financial boost Thursday when Renfrew County council agreed to commit \$2,000 to the project.

The book was started this past spring by Mr. Trainor, a professor at Algonquin College's Pembroke campus, and to date 16 chapters have been written. The book is expected to contain 425 pages and the initial press run will be 7000 copies—2000 hard cover and 5000 soft cover books.

According to Mr. Trainor, who met with the county's finance and property committee earlier in the month, the book is intended to fulfill three objectives: as an educational textbook, for the residents of Renfrew County, and for tourists.

Many more people other than the author are working on the new book. An editorial board, consisting of a representative of each Historical Society in the county and a representative of the History Department or History Club from

each of the county's secondary schools has been established.

The editorial board will serve a dual function—firstly to act as editor and critic of the written material, and, secondly, to handle the financial matters of the project. Mr. Trainor will hold the copyrights to the book.

Historical Societies and History Clubs in the county schools will be the beneficiaries of all profits derived from the new book. The financing of the cost of researching, writing and publishing the book is being solicited from businesses and municipalities in the county as well as from private donations.

Finance committee chairman reeve Gordon White said such a comprehensive history of the county is overdue "and, indeed, is urgently required as a textbook for use in our schools."

The county's contribution will be paid at the end of 1983 out of any surplus funds that may be available. In the event there is no surplus, the amount will be provided for in the 1984 budget.

Support for the grant was almost unanimous. However, Horton township reeve Norm Eady was opposed

to the grant because "it is not customary to give an author of a book a grant."

However, reeve White replied there is no book with the county's history readily available to students.

"Bits and pieces have been written by other authors," he said.

He also explained the grant was not being made to the author, but rather was being used for research endeavours.

Beachburg reeve Art Jamieson named several counties surrounding Renfrew which have history books "totally paid for by the counties."

Arnprior reeve Bill Price, a member of the finance committee, said he opposed the request at a committee meeting "because I felt the grant should have at least been \$5000."

"When you get a person of the calibre of Mr. Trainor, who is anxious and willing to write a book on the history of Renfrew County, I feel excited about the proposal," he said.

Sebastopol reeve Marg Kaddatz said it was also important to consider where the profits from the books are going.



Red Bargain Barn captain Mike O'Connor accepts the Upper Ottawa Valley Men's Softball League trophy [the Ken Robinson Memorial Trophy] from league president Mike Sheedy and

Iva Robinson. The team took the championship with an incredible 8-7 comeback over Queen's Line in Forester's Falls on Sunday. Story inside.

*Oct 5/83*