

Properties in arrears being registered for tax sales

By Eileen Argyris

In an attempt to deal with a mounting tax arrears problem that approached half a million dollars at the end of last year, the Township of Cramahe has begun tax sale proceedings, said administrator Gerry Morrison last week.

Morrison told the township council last Monday, May 3, that eight notifications of tax

sale registrations had gone out to property owners at the end of last month. The municipality is permitted under the law to seize and sell properties where the taxes have remained unpaid for three years or more.

On vacant land, the township can seize the property after only two years.

Morrison added that another eight registrations were going out last week and another eight this week.

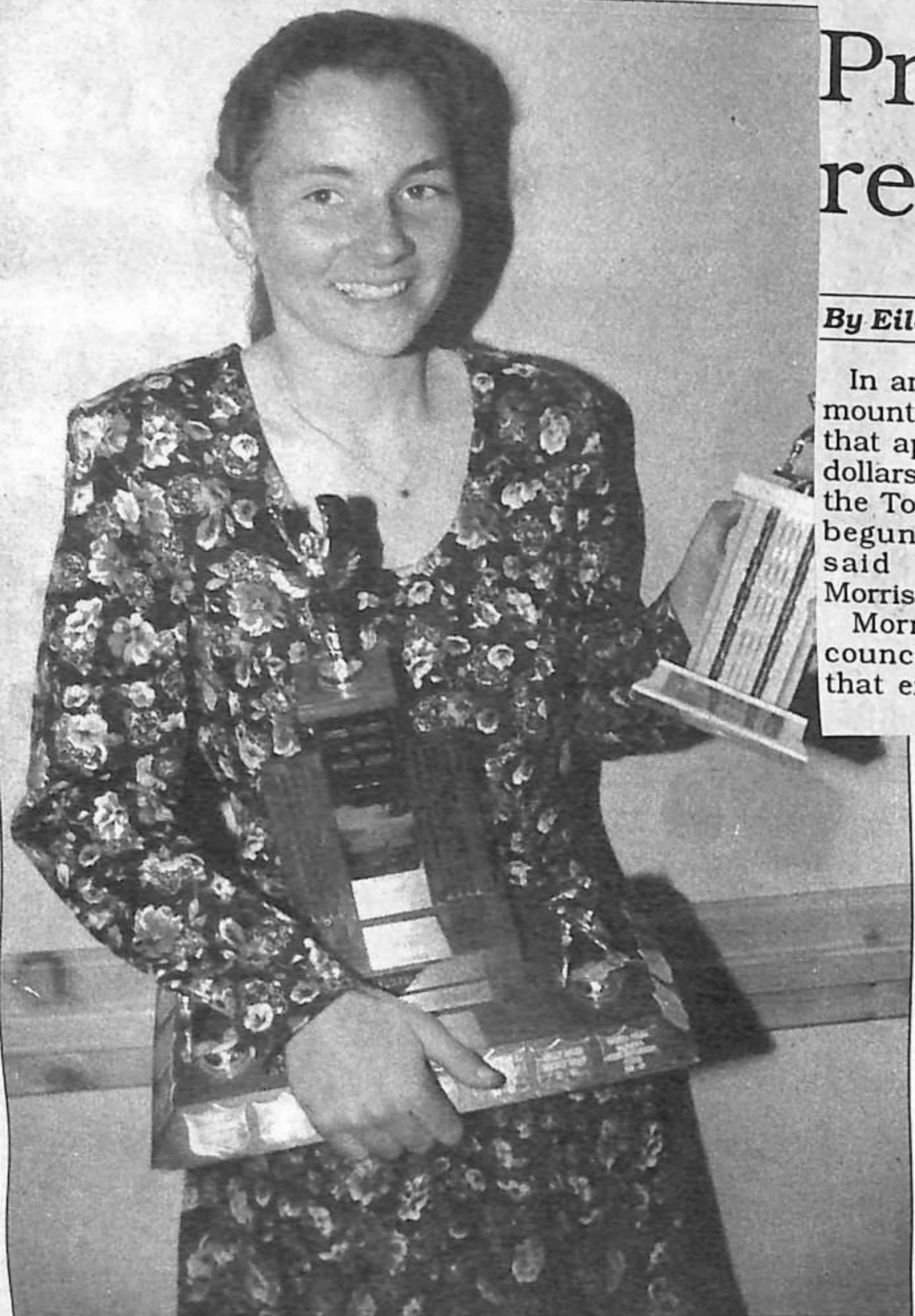
When the owners are notified of registration for tax sale, they have one year in which to redeem their indebtedness and thus avoid having their property repossessed.

Morrison told council the process was a time-consuming one. "With some, up to 15 or 20 different people have to be notified."

He warned council members that they could receive calls from irate property owners who have either received notification or a visit from the bailiff.

The bailiff, said Morrison, has been successful in collecting some accounts. "In the past two weeks, we have received about \$40,000 in back taxes," said the administrator.

Council is concerned about the problem of back taxes owing because it cuts down on the municipality's cash flow and thus places an additional burden on those who do pay their taxes.



Best Junior in United Counties Girls Hockey -- Mollie Miron of Cramahe Township accepted her award at the league banquet on May 4. Photo by Bob Owen

Trophies for girls' hockey team

By Bob Owen

The season is finally over for the Colborne girls hockey team. At a league banquet attended by more than 200 girls girls and their families, the league presented its team trophies and individual honors. The Big Apple was the host for this event, with girls from as far away as Warsaw enjoying the local hospitality.

Despite other roads priorities Co. Rd. 25 to proceed this year

By Eileen Argyris

County Road 25 (Percy St.) will be rebuilt this year as scheduled, said Doug Galt, former county warden, at last week's meeting of Cramahe Township council.

Members of council expressed concern May 3 after having read recent reports in the local press about the planned diversion of dollars from other county roads projects this year to County Road 9, which has suffered severe damage from frost.

Galt said, "As I understand it, \$100,000 will be diverted from

County Road 25, but they (the county roads department) were thinking they could still do the same amount of work with the \$800,000 they have left."

Galt explained that, due to the economic recession, the roads department is expecting to receive more competitive bids from contractors than in other years.

Galt admitted he was unsure of the exact length of the road that was scheduled to be rebuilt this year, but he said he believed it ran from a point about midway between Colborne and Castleton ("where the work left off last time") up to Castleton.

The questions to Galt were initiated by Coun. Howard Whaley. Coun. George Blyth reminded council that the work on this road has been promised by the county since 1979.

Later in the evening, Galt stunned council by tendering his resignation as reeve, effective immediately, citing instructions from his employer, the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food as the reason for his decision.

He resigned as warden of the county the following morning, May 4.