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Colborne Chronicle

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Boxboard now goes into blue boxes

By Bill Eekhof

Trash the idea of throwing out those empty cereal and detergent boxes.

These and other types of boxboard are now officially part of Northumberland's blue box program.

Boxboard becomes the 13th item recycled in Northumberland.

To publicize the changeover, the county has blitzed 35,000 Northumberland homes with flyers spelling out how to dispose of the material.

County recycling coordinator Mary Little says the reason for adding boxboard is to cut down on the volume of waste going to county dumps.

The money generated from the sale of boxboard to Toronto-based Paper Board Industries for reuse will be minimal at best. The county expects to receive \$20 per tonne, Mrs. Little said.

The county has pegged the amount of boxboard to be collected in the first year at 160 tonnes.

Mrs. Little said the biggest challenge will be to educate the public about how to dispose of boxboard.

It is imperative that plastic liners be removed from inside boxes before they are recycled, she said.

Householders are also asked to flatten down the boxboard to make it easier to handle. To keep the material from becoming wet, the county is asking that the flattened boxboard be bagged.

There is no problem mixing boxboard with newspaper or magazines set out

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The tie that binds — Castleton school principal David King shows he can get into the spirit of St. Valentine's Day as much as his students can. Grade 4 pupil Stefanie Jones admires the principal's heart-decked tie. Photo by Eileen Argyris

February is month to help Big Sisters

By Eileen Argyris

February is the month of St. Valentine's Day, when we think of love and special friends.

How appropriate that it is also Big Sisters Month, a great time to celebrate the special bond of friendship that exists between Big and Little Sisters in 60 Big Sisters agencies across the province.

Northumberland Big Sisters celebrates Big Sisters Month with Winterfest, a special cold-weather-fun day at Presqu'ile Park. Here in Colborne, Big Sisters is also celebrating by moving its successful Second Helpings store into a larger shopfront (the former Stedmans store) in downtown Colborne.

And, the organization is opening a new store in Brighton, to be known as "Second Helpings Third Edition," joining those already operating in Colborne and Port Hope.

Barb Keenan, executive director of Northumberland Big Sisters, says that 11 out of the total 68 Big-and-Little Sister matches in the county exist in the Colborne area. More Big Sisters are always needed, and more Little Sisters are always welcome.

Pinch of recession

Like almost everyone else these days, the Big Sisters are feeling the pinch of the recession, said Ms. Keenan.

"The board of directors is working on a strategic plan for the organization. We must look at our fun-

draising efforts which are not meeting the demands of the service."

Big Sisters programs have grown by 18 per cent over the past two years, she explained, while available funds have grown by only four per cent in the same time period.

Big Sisters is a United Way agency and, while the organization's funding from the United Way has remained stable, other sources have not kept pace with demand.

Bingos, the Second Helpings shops — major sources of revenue on which the organization depends — are making less as the public has less available money to spend.

"We decided to look at our strengths," said Ms. Keenan. They decided the

Put your own house in order

Province won't force restructuring

By Kathy Blair

In the absence of firm local support, the provincial government has no plans to get involved in any new restructuring attempts, says a chief negotiator with the municipal affairs ministry's boundaries branch.

"We no longer have the resources — the time and money — to walk through what was often a long and fruitless exercise," Rick Temporale told the Rural Ontario Municipalities Association conference in Toronto last week.

He was speaking during a session entitled "Consolidations and Unifications," chaired by Hamilton Township Reeve Charlotte Clay-Ireland.

"You balk, we walk," Mr. Temporale said, summing up the province's new position.

Northumberland County and some other Ontario municipalities have been involved in restructuring studies for several years at the instigation of the province.

Restructuring was introduced by the Liberals in 1987 with a report called *Toward an Ideal County*. A year later the local study began and is still incomplete.

The government will implement restructurings, amalgamations or annexations over the wishes of a local municipality or group of municipalities only if there is a clear, overriding provincial interest, Mr. Temporale added. That might involve a serious environmental issue or an economic opportunity that might otherwise be lost.

But in most such cases, the problems are local in nature. There's no sense tying up legislature time to deal with such issues, he said.

On the other hand, if municipalities consent to a particular solution, it can be passed into law simply through an order-in-council.

The province's new hands-off stance doesn't mean it no longer believes in restructuring.

Indeed, small municipalities should realize that the financial good times governments once enjoyed are not likely to return for some time, he warned. Long-term savings can result from amalgamations, he suggested.

local organization was very good at setting up their Second Helpings stores.

They have even been asked to help six other Big Sisters agencies across the province to get similar shops going in their areas.

"We are going to clean up and spiff-up our stores, and we are looking at new angles, like our designer-labels boutiques, and we are expanding our operations."

The new shop in Colborne is more than three times larger than the present location. Store manager Janet Taft said she and her volunteers hope to have the new store open and fully operational by Feb. 21-22.

Big Sisters are women.

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