

Cramahe short-listed as site for jail

By Dawn Liersch

The race to capture the nod as the chosen site for a proposed new "super jail" has left Cramahe Township vying neck-and-neck with Lindsay and Millbrook.

And Cramahe has a good shot at flying past to the finish line, township officials say.

Cramahe was recently announced to have made the province's short-list, now competing only against a Millbrook site and two in Lindsay.

"I'm thrilled. I think we have a great shot," Cramahe's deputy reeve, Jim Williams, told the *Chronicle*.

"The next step is for the province to reduce it down to two sites. There's a good possibility

Cramahe will be one of them."

Mr. Williams listed the site's close proximity to

Hwy. 401 and Cobourg and Port Hope courts, and the availability of police and fire services, as winning advantages.

The 86-acre (35-hectare) site is located north of Hwy. 401 and east of County Road 25.

Mr. Williams said the township will also partner with nearby Colborne, if the site is approved.

Colborne is already planning a sewer expansion to allow for village development. It will then be able to supply the jail water and sewage services.

Colborne may receive 80-per-cent grants to upgrade its sewer and water services.

Lawyer Peter Hustler, who has prepared Cramahe's application for the jail, stressed the province can avoid duplicating grant monies by giving a one-time grant that will address Colborne's needs and those of the jail.

"Colborne will benefit greatly," Cramahe Township administrator Gerry Morrison said.

"In fact, this will benefit

everybody in Northumberland."

Colborne Reeve George Boycott calls the jail a "win situation".

He added the village might hold a public meeting about the jail once council has more information.

A public meeting in Cramahe has been scheduled for Aug. 13.

Mr. Morrison said there haven't been a lot of concerns raised so far, and he's hoping the meeting will draw a lot of supporters.

"We understand that there will be objectors, but we hope to get out that the benefits outweigh the downside by a long measure," he said.

"Some other areas already have total support."

Cramahe Reeve Stuart Oliver has cited advantages,

"I think we have a good shot,"
— Jim Williams,
deputy reeve of
Cramahe Twp.

including 1,200-1,500 people temporarily employed during jail construction, 3 0 0

permanent jobs once the jail is built, and economic spin-offs for the whole county.

The township is expected to receive an estimated \$100,000 per year in grants-in-lieu of taxes.

Mr. Oliver has called the jail a "clean industry" because it won't house high-risk offenders, only those who have had cases remanded or who have sentences that are two years less a day.

Mr. Williams said it was beneficial for council to hold a public meeting now, instead of doing so before the proposal was submitted June 4.

"We're now in a position to answer concerns," he said.

"Often, when people object, it's because they don't have the information. Now we're in a much better position."

Plans to draw the jail to Brighton were quashed before the application was even made when objectors made their concerns known at a public meeting.

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Colborne man is \$75,000 richer after big win

July 30/97

By Dawn Liersch

Colborne resident Ross Spatola can celebrate his honeymoon in style after winning a whopping \$75,000 through Instant Bingo.

Spatola, 74, said he has been hooked on Instant Bingo since '93 but his biggest lottery win had only been \$500.

He tried to call it quits recently, and lasted two months, but the bingo bug hit him again in May.

It paid off big time with a ticket bought July 19 at Brighton's Balfour's Corner Store.

"I thought maybe I had won \$500 or \$5,000," Mr. Spatola recalled, still exuberant after receiving his Ontario Lottery Corporation cheque last



Happy honeymooners — Joan and Ross Spatola were all smiles after Mr. Spatola learned he had won \$75,000 through Instant Bingo. The Spatolas are planning a honeymoon trip to Australia as a result. Photo by Dawn Liersch

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Mr. Spatola said he laughed then and has been laughing ever since because he's so happy.

"I'm going to enjoy myself — go on a trip," he said, noting that, since marrying four years ago, he and wife, Joan, haven't had their honeymoon yet. They're now planning a trip to Australia.

Mr. Spatola said he'll be

able to pay off his bills for the rest of his life and his five children and seven grandchildren will be well taken care of.

"My kids are in shock," Mr. Spatola said.

"A lot of people think it's phony."

The Spatolas said, even with money in hand, they still can't believe it.

But from now on, Mr. Spatola said he'll never doubt again, and will buy his Instant Bingo tickets faithfully each week.

"I'm going to keep on trying," he said.

"Maybe I'll win again."