

Two Brightons a natural fit: Quick

By MANDY MARTIN
Staff Writer

The two Brightons plan to amalgamate administrations and service before the year 2001. The Town of Brighton and Brighton Township have announced they plan to pursue a streamlined municipal government set-up.

"We're going to put it together before the next election in 2001," says Town of Brighton Reeve Glen Quick.

Last month, Cramahe Township reported it had been requested to join "the two Brightons" to discuss possible future municipal realignment.

However, Cramahe maintained it would undertake any plans within the context of the Pine Ridge Municipal Planning Agency, the group of eight of 13 Northumberland County municipalities tackling future planning and realignment issues.

Colborne Village and the township of Cramahe are already pursuing a joint policing proposal of their own.

"We'll still be a member" of the Pine Ridge Municipal Planning Agency, says

town of Brighton's Mr. Quick. "But, we think the two Brightons are a viable unit. We don't want to expand at this point.

"If the Harris government wants it larger than that, they'll have to do it themselves," the town Reeve says.

"We'll have something by June 1, 1998 for Al Leach (provincial Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing)," notes Mr. Quick. The province had indicated Ontario municipalities must have some form of realigned municipal structures for shared services in place by that date or risk having the province impose a realignment.

In 1997, the Town and Township of Brighton instituted a joint fire department: "It's going very well," says Mr. Quick.

"We're going to have a joint policing proposal," Mr. Quick says of the two municipalities which now form the eastern end of Northumberland County. Effective January 1, Murray Township forms part of the new municipality of Quinte West.

"As I see it, it will be a joint proposal with the OPP," Mr. Quick predicts of proposed policing.

"I doubt we'll get a proposal for policing from Trenton, although we could look at it."

The OPP are currently policing the two municipalities. As of January 1, all Ontario municipalities are responsible for paying for police services.

Quinte West is in turmoil over the new municipalities announced plans to go with Trenton Police for policing as opposed to OPP

"I wouldn't want to be a taxpayer in Quinte West right now," says Mr. Quick, long a opponent of Murray Township's departure from Northumberland County. "They won't be getting rid of that issue for some time to come."

Viewing the "two Brightons" as a natural fit, Mr. Quick says the two municipalities will be discussing joint general administrative services, recreation. The existing joint fire department implemented in 1997 is working well, the town Reeve says.

Borrowing limits set for municipalities

CRAMAHEBRIEFS

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The financial restraints on municipalities are loosening.

Where once a municipality required Ontario Municipal Board approval to borrow over \$10,000, the province has now established borrowing limits for each municipality. If a municipality opts to

borrow within that upper limit, there are no provincial approvals required.

The township of Cramahe has received notice its borrowing limit is \$268,000 per year. The entire amount is now recoverable locally: pay for it and collect it.

The January 19 regular meeting of Cramahe Township council will be dealing with severances and rezoning applications. The meeting is set for 7 p.m. at Castleton Town hall.

Who will serve as delegates to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has still to be decided by

Cramahe Township council. Selection has been deferred to January 19.

A special AMO meeting is scheduled for February 6 in Toronto. For Cramahe, the issue in not wanting to go, but all council members interested in serving as delegates. There's a January 30 deadline to register as voting delegates for the February 6 special meeting.

An interim borrowing bylaw was approved by Cramahe Township council January 5.

The \$250,000 borrowing bylaw is put in place to cover any financial demands that arise before the municipality receives its first interim taxes from township ratepayers. Cramahe Township interim tax rate has been set at 40 per cent of the 1997 residential mill rate. The interim bills are due on two installments: February 25 and April 28.

A final tax bill for 1998 will not be ready until all provincial downloading figures, including new real value assessment, education tax levels, policing and county costs and new residential and commercial mill rates are set later in the year.

The official road and street names for the entire Cramahe Township council have been listed and defined in a bylaw approved at the January 5 meeting of council.

"This is accurate and complete now for implementation of the 911 emergency response system?" Deputy reeve Jim Williams asked township administration.

Both Chief Building Official Joe Bonura and Treasurer Administrator Gerry Morrison assured the nine, legal-length list of names and descriptions was complete.

— MANDY MARTIN

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