



At left, Lou Rinaldi celebrates his victory in the Brighton mayoral race on Monday night. Above, Jim Williams and his wife Adrienne welcome the news that Williams is the reeve-elect in Cramahe Township. Below, George McCleary and his wife Ann celebrate McCleary's election in Campbellford/Seymour/Percy/Hastings.

photo credits: top left, Nancy Powers; top right, Tom Philp; bottom, Steven Warburton

## Cramahe Votes for New Leadership

by TOM PHILP  
The Independent

In a tight race for Reeve that went to the wire, Jim Williams was elected to head the first council of newly amalgamated Cramahe Township. Joining Williams in decision-making will be two former Reeves, a veteran councillor, and one rookie who finished second in total ballots cast in the November 13 municipal election.

Williams' victory was not assured until results of the last poll were posted. The current Cramahe Deputy Reeve was less than fifty votes ahead of incumbent Cramahe Reeve Stu Oliver until totals from the Salem Poll were determined. That poll added a further fifty votes to Williams' margin, giving him the victory. Less than 120 votes separated the newly elected reeve from third-place challenger, and incumbent Colborne Deputy Reeve, Pat Westrope.

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## Jane Boreham tops polls in Cramahe Township

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With 5,800 eligible voters in the combined municipalities, 1,938 cast their ballots Monday. According to Cramahe Administrator, Gerry Morrison, that 33 per cent turn-out was "just about what we always get." Of those votes, 720 went to Williams, Oliver received 621, and Westrope finished with 597 in the battle for the Reeve's chair. Cramahe did not offer a "mail-in" option to voters.

Thanking supporters gathered at Colborne's municipal building, Williams said, "I feel very strongly that this election is just a starting point. Council will be looking for your input and support on every issue."

Gracious in defeat, Westrope said, "I honestly thought the voting would have had a different look. But the people have spoken, and I wish Jim the very best." Oliver, an 18-year veteran of Cramahe council, was not available for comment.

In what some observers called a "surprising" upset, former Cramahe Reeve Lee Dekeyser defeated incumbent Marc Coombs for Deputy Reeve of the township. When the final tally was in, Dekeyser received 1102 votes, to 834 cast for Coombs.

"It was a very clean, fair election, and that's what I like," Dekeyser said. "We're united now, and that's the way (this council) is going to work."

Veteran Colborne councillor Jane Boreham topped the polls with 1,319 votes, followed by political newcomer, Mike Johnston, with 1,168 total votes. In a political comeback, former Colborne reeve, Ray Kelly finished third in the council race with 982 votes. Kelly defeated incumbent councillors Tim Post (791), and Carl Wilce (702).

"It's time to get down to business," Johnston said. He admitted he had to "come up to speed" very quickly on some issues, but added, "I love a challenge."

Kelly left to attend a victory party before a comment could be obtained.

Wilce said, "We gave it a good run," while seasoned Colborne councillor Post summed up his feelings in a few words.

"I'm surprised at the outcome, but the voters have made their choices," Post said. "That's what the democratic process is all about."

Top, Lee Dekeyser; centre, Jane Boreham; bottom, Mike Johnston.

Tom Philp photos

