

Cramahe inauguration brings township full circle

by TOM PHILP
The Independent

As the song says, "Everything old is new again."

Cramahe Township, the municipality founded in the 1790s by Sir Joseph Keeler, and fragmented by the founding of the Village of Colborne in 1859, is whole once again. Responding to directives from the Ontario government, village and township councils have amalgamated to form one representative body, incorporating the new Township of Cramahe January 1.

Called to order by Rotary President-elect Graham Norcutt, an estimated 80 area residents gathered in an upstairs room of the municipal office in Colborne to welcome "new" Cramahe's first official council. Piped to the table by Lakeport piper Glen McVeen, Reeve Jim Williams, Deputy-Reeve Elie (Lee) DeKeyser, and Councillors Jane Boreham, Ray Kelly and Mike Johnston were sworn to their duties by Justice of the Peace Patricia McHenry.

Immediately before the swearing in, local songstress Katie Chapman led the gathering in "O Canada," Rev. Vic Parsons prayed the invocation, and Colborne businessman Dave McGlennon treated the crowd to a historical overview of the municipality.

McGlennon said that Cramahe, recognized in 1792 by Sir John Graves Simcoe, was one of the largest townships in Ontario, encompassing the lands now known as Hope, Murray and Haldimand Townships. He reminded people that "name changes" were nothing new for the area, remarking that Castleton was once known



Jim Williams was sworn in as the new reeve of Cramahe Township on January 2.

Nancy Powers photo

as Piper's Corners.

Some things have not changed, McGlennon reminded guests to the evening's events.

"More and more people have come, and keep coming here for a better quality of life," he said.

Paul Macklin, newly-elected Member of Parliament for Northumberland, brought greetings and congratulations from Ottawa, while MPP Doug Galt extended congratulations from Queen's Park "not only to council, but to all those who put their names forward at election time." Campbellford/Seymour Mayor-elect George McCleary also welcomed the new council in his role as Acting Warden of the county.

In his inaugural address, Williams said amalgamation was achieved "through the hard work and dedication of our staff," whom he thanked for their successful efforts.

"We owe a huge debt of gratitude to them," he said.

"As we reflect, we also focus on the future to ensure our community will grow and prosper," Williams said.

While the crowd moved to an adjoining room for refreshments, Cramahe's council opened, and closed, the first meeting of its three-year mandate. With several housekeeping chores behind them, councillors adjourned to join their friends and neighbours in celebrating the new beginning for the Township of Cramahe.

Cramahe councillors appointed to municipal committees

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The following committee appointments were approved at the Township of Cramahe's inaugural meeting Jan. 2.

- Lower Trent Conservation, Nutrient Management.
- Councillor Jane Boreham: Executive Committee, Economic Development, Arena, Rural Job Strategy/Millennium Tourism Promotion and Development.
- Councillor Ray Kelly: Cemetery Board, LACAC, Library Board, OPP Advisory.
- Councillor Mike Johnston: Economic Development, Committee of Adjustment, Property Standards, Castleton Town Hall Restoration, Waterfront Regeneration.

On our website:
See our online edition for additional municipal coverage, including excerpts from the inaugural addresses of Brighton Mayor Lou Rinaldi, Cramahe Reeve Jim Williams, and Campbellford Seymour Percy Hastings Mayor George McCleary.
The Independent Online
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Council sets meetings schedule

COLBORNE CHRONICLE JAN 11/01
With a new municipality comes a new order of business. The Township of Cramahe will hold two regular council meetings a month, the first and third Mondays. A public meeting will begin at 6:45 p.m. with the regular council meetings scheduled for 7 p.m. those Mondays.

General committee meetings of the council will be held at 5:30 p.m. the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month.

Both the full council and general committee meetings are open to the public. At committee meetings, presentation of issues, discussion, receipt of reports will take place. For example, Arena Board, Recreation, Library, Fire Board and other committee and boards reporting to the council, will have their reports and requests come before the committee of the whole for discussion and review. The committee of council will then make recommendations carried forward to a regular council meeting. The recommendations of the committee of council will be officially adopted - or not - at with a formal vote of adoption or rejection.

"It's the same system that was been in place for the transition Board (of the former Colborne Village and Cramahe Township)," Reeve Jim Williams confirms. "It was the recommendation of the Transition Board to continue with that system because it worked well."

All council and committee meetings are held at the Colborne Municipal Building - unless otherwise stated.