



LEGION OF HONOUR

A grand family celebration. The Viehbachers celebrate Chris's investiture into the esteemed 'Chevaliers'. In front, from left are - Nancy, Lauren, Karena, Chris, and Alex. Behind, Al and Alison. PHOTO SUBMITTED

COLBORNE CHRONICLE JAN 8/04

Former Colborne resident

Awarded France's highest honour

By BOB OWEN
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Christopher Viehbacher, son of Al and Nancy Viehbacher of Colborne, has been awarded the Legion of Honour, France's highest civilian award.

The award was presented in the Quai d'Orsee, Paris, France on September 28, 2003.

Over a year ago, Chris learned his name had been put forward to the French government by Mme. Noelle Lenoir, the national minister overseeing European business. He was informed he was to be awarded the Legion badge and the accompanying red ribbon. The announcement to his family arrived at the Viehbacher home in Colborne on his mother Nancy's birthday, January 12.

At his childhood home in Colborne with his wife and children over Christmas, Chris explained the award is a recognition of service to the French government. He considers there were three major factors leading the award.

While serving as general manager for Glaxo Wellcome of France, then as chairman for

France and, finally, as director for continental Europe, Chris Viehbacher worked with the French Minister of Health in the establishment of *Medecins sans Frontieres*. He was a founding member of the group which devotes itself to providing care for the totally disadvantaged in third-world countries.

In the late 1990s, as AIDS became more prominent, Chris was asked to join a task force to set up a solidarity fund. Mother Nancy essays Chris' actions were part of personal mission to assist those with AIDS. His company, Glaxo, was the main manufacturer of HIV medicines. They began to offer the drugs at cost or below to third-world nations.

That in itself was a learning process. One in four of the early packages was returning to Europe to be resold by black marketers, causing Chris to comment publically at one point on the morality of people who steal from the dying. In a press release December 2002, he expressed his company's concern about the thefts.

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Cramahe council issues statement on Public Works

New Director position proceeds

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Cramahe Township council issued a press release defending its decision to reorganize Cramahe Township Public Works department.

The township is currently advertising for a newly created position - Director of Public Works. The new position is to encompass responsibility for roads, sewers, water and wastewater.

Existing staff to be affected by the reorganization "will remain employed with Cramahe," the press release states. Incumbent Roads Superintendents Jim Black and Brian Williams "will receive fair compensation for the change in their respective status/duties and also in recognition of their cooperation in phasing in this change" the Mayor is quoted in the council's press release.

In an interview following the release, Mayor Lee Dekeyser maintains there will ultimately be a financial saving for the township because, "hopefully the township will have someone to look after the whole scenario - all roads, sewage and water."

Water is now overseen by Lakefront Utilities Services Inc. based in Cobourg at an estimated cost of

\$130,000 annually. Mr. Dekeyser said he was to talk to officials from Alnwick/Haldimand January 7 about sharing water responsibilities.

Prior to amalgamation, Gil Clarey worked for Colborne Public Utilities and supervised water delivery in the village. Colborne sold the public utility to LUSI. Mr. Clarey initially worked for LUSI until last year.

Mr. Dekeyser admits the two current Roads Superintendents "aren't the happiest campers in town", but says, "we've treated them pretty well."

The mayor said he met with Mr. Black last weekend and thinks they "have resolved some things."

Mr. Dekeyser says, "I don't call it a demotion. I call it restructuring. Two (roads) superintendents and two foremen for a small community is too much. We're not downtown Toronto. We don't need them."

The Mayor emphasized the decision to make the staffing reorganization was a unanimous decision of council.

That decision "should have been made four years ago," Mr. Dekeyser said. "It would be all over now." Because that decision was not made, hard feeling exist, he said. The decision has now been made "for all the right reasons," he says.

Text of the Cramahe Township statement

The text of the Cramahe Township council press release issued Tuesday evening is printed below:

"With the amalgamation of Cramahe and Colborne, an initial emphasis was placed on administrative and business process improvements that would ensure that the newly formed municipality was poised to meet the ever-increasing complexities of Municipal Management. Having completed this task, Council has now turned its focus to an area which provides the greatest opportunity for managing controllable costs, that being Public Works. This area of Municipal Service provision that encompasses roads, sewers, water and wastewater has the single largest impact on the expenses of the Municipality.

Mayor Lee Dekeyser announced that Cramahe Council has taken the first step to formally amalgamate all Public Works functions into one Public Works Department under the Administrative and Operational Leadership of one person.

The newly created position of Director of Public Works, which reports directly to the Chief Administrative Officer, will oversee all aspects of Municipal Public Works Operations. To fill this position, the Township will be looking for an individual who has a Civil Engineering background, MOE certification for water and wastewater and demonstrated experience managing a diverse Works Department with an urban/rural mix.

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