

Council should be accountable for actions

To The Editor:

Many thanks for your recent article in the *Colborne Chronicle*, January 1, 2004 enlightening us all on our brand "new" council's activities.

All I can say is "tacky, tacky, tacky"! What a despicable way to reward years of hard work and loyalty- demotions and pay slashes because a new job is being created with higher qualifications. How can this be legal, let alone moral? Were Jim and Brian given the opportunity to upgrade their skills? If their expertise is still needed, why would they be demoted and paid less for it? This is like being dumped by someone who then says "but we can still be friends, can't we?" Are we taxpayers facing lawsuits that we won't be allowed to know about under the guise of "personnel policy"?

Obviously, the ink wasn't dry on the new mayor's appointment papers before this plan was implemented and even more obviously this was in the works *before* the last municipal election. Why wasn't it publicized then by the candidates planning it? Who knew what and when? And who is next?

I, for one, am really tired of the backroom skullduggery that goes on at "in camera" meetings in Cramahe Township! I do not want our municipal employees treated so poorly and I do not want any of them afraid to come forward because they are threatened with job loss or demotion. This should not be the norm here and at the very least our new mayor should be ashamed of himself for allowing this to happen. Where is the leadership? I also understand our CAO is already now retired after probably a year and a half of employment here but has been retained on contract. Why?

I urge everyone who is as disgusted as I am to complain loudly to all the council members, demand fewer "in camera" meetings and more openness so we don't have to read the local paper after the fact. Don't complain to the municipal office because the ladies there are also employees who likely face similar treatment. It is the councilors who make these decisions and each one should be held accountable.

I wonder how many people already regret the votes they cast last time around?

Roseanne Quinn /
Cramahe Twp.



An explanation is needed

COLBORNE CHRONICLE

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To The Editor:

Thank you, Bob Owen, for writing the article regarding the "Two Cramahe road supers to be demoted", *Colborne Chronicle*, January 1, 2004. At first I was appalled that such a tasteless article appeared in print and then I realized the importance of this article to the public. If it had not been made public, we would not be aware. Thank you for covering this article.

I want to know ...

Where is Merlin Dewing getting his instructions to reduce the Rural Roads /Superintendent Brian Williams and Urban Roads Superintendent Jim

Black responsibilities and their pay for the new year???

Who asked them to continue in the township's employ for their expertise?

Why would you hire a new director of Public Works in charge of overseeing all roads, operation of the sewage plant and safety of the Colborne water supply when good people are already in place? Why not give them the opportunity to upgrade to Class 3 water management papers, Class 2 sewage control papers and CET qualifications OR equivalence to these courses for road supervision? An explanation is needed.

As a taxpayer, I would like to know who voted for this at council. Why take two off and hire one. Is it to get rid of staff and hire contract and avoid pensions, benefits, etc.?

I want to see as an individual what Cramahe township infrastructure looks like. I am a visual person and need to see how the flowchart looks. How does everything function? I want to see Keeler Center host a week-long display on this infrastructure and make it available to the public viewing.

Janice McKnight /
Cramahe Township