

A large first challenge for our new council

COLBORNE CHRONICLE
SAR 8/04

To The Editor:

It was disturbing, to say the least, to read the article in last week's *Colborne Chronicle* (January 1, 2004) regarding the situation with the Roads Superintendents. What a Christmas present that must have been.

Two men who have worked in this area for 25 and 18 years respectively, gaining experience and understanding of the requirements and problems of the area, are suddenly to be demoted and have their pay reduced in order to bring in an outsider to be their boss with the underlying theory to save money. Well, these two Supers must be paid an awful amount in order that we can take part of their salaries to pay a director to *save* money.

Parallel to this, our new Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), has left full time employment - to return after the month of January in Mexico - to become

our latest consultant. Surely one of the platforms in the last election was the fact that we had had our bellyful of consultants. Is this going to save us money also?

Certain members of our council have known both Road Superintendents for some time - why were their heads not wanted before now?

It was an election promise that the local constituents would have more access to our elected officials. This is an ideal opportunity for details and a sound explanation be issued in order that people understand the logic and reasoning for treating long term employees in this manner.

This is an ideal time for the new council to set their course before their reputation is tarnished so early in their first term.

Graham Norcutt /
Castleton

Not the council action for which I voted

To The Editor:

I read with alarm "Two Cramahe road supers to be demoted", *Colborne Chronicle*, January 1, 2004.

I worked with Jim Black for a number of years and found him extremely competent and willing. Frozen water mains got repaired in the middle of a below-zero-degree night, there were no citizen complaints and he was voted "Citizen of the Year" recently.

I quite agree; in the longer run, there should be only one road superintendent but this is a poorly conceived, extremely insensitive, expensive way to deal with a situation.

Council says it needs the expertise of

these two people in the future. This is a strange way to cultivate initiative and cooperation. The village (of Colborne) spent a good many dollars in education to ensure competence in running the sewage plant - no Walkerton catastrophe here.

I also understand there is a plan to remove the stone "fencing" on King Street in Colborne. Some like it, some don't. Personally, I like the effect. It is unique to Colborne/Cramahe as opposed to conventional, boring steel rails (that kids can climb and fall off off).

This sure as hell is not the council action I voted for,

Ted Pedlar /
Simpson Road, Cramahe Township

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THE INDEPENDENT

NEWS

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In a league of her own: Betty Cranfield, 1924-2004

by TOM PHILP

The Independent

One of Brighton's most involved and most loved characters has passed on.

Elizabeth Ruth "Betty" Cranfield moved to Brighton with her late husband, Doug, and daughters Jane and Karen in 1956, to own and operate the town's bowling alley and snack bar. After running that business successfully for a number of years, the Cranfields sold it, and Doug worked at CFB Trenton until his death in 1982.

Betty, who always bragged that she was "only 39," was never one to sit idle. In 1959, she started the first Brownie and Guide groups in Brighton, sat on the executive of the Quinte

Girl Guide Movement, and

was elected to the provincial board of that organization. Around the same time, Betty became a member of the Trenton Memorial Hospital Auxiliary, eventually becoming president of that group, and a member of the provincial board of hospital auxiliaries of Ontario. She remained a dedicated and active volunteer with TMH until illness forced her to scale back her volunteer time there.

One of Betty's first loves was the Order of the Eastern Star. Joining the Order in 1955 in her birth place, Port Hope, Betty went on to join the Colborne Chapter 82 in their golden anniversary year, and served the Order faithfully

until her death.

Throughout her nearly fifty years in Brighton, Betty Cranfield was known for her inability to say "no" when asked to help out. Two of her favourites were Applefest, and her beloved United Church, both of which benefited from many years of dedicated, loving service from Betty.

Inside the foyer of Brighton's municipal building, visitors may notice a plaque illustrating a bountiful apple harvest. Betty obtained it from a merchant in Indiana while on a bus trip, had a Brighton artist paint the name of her community on it, and donated the plaque to the municipality as a constant reminder of her love for the community.

Betty's greatest gifts were the love, humour and positive attitude she instilled in

her family, and shared unselfishly with her friends. Anyone who knew this

classy lady understood that, if you weren't prepared to do something wholeheartedly, lovingly, and with a smile, then get out of the way... Betty had work to do!

Betty died shortly after celebrating her 80th birthday. She is survived, and greatly missed by her daughters, sons-in-law Bob Franks and Michael Parker, grandchildren Trenholm, Holly and Hope Parker, and the many hundreds of people who were lucky enough to know and appreciate her. Betty Cranfield ... you'll always be 39 to us!

