

# Cramahe council to spend \$6,300 to end 'negative' image

'We never get any credit for what we do,' Ray Kelly says

by ADAM HURAS

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Cramahe Township has made a move to change the way the municipality does business after identifying "communication problems" in the governing system.

Saying communications between the councillors, and council and the community, are below par and that the local government as a whole is perceived negatively, the township has inquired and accepted a proposal to have facilitated meetings.

Upon the request of the township, DS Executive Services Group has outlined a plan that will set goals to be achieved through facilitated "Town Hall" meetings involving council, municipal staff and the community.

With an initial Town Hall meeting tentatively scheduled for Sept. 28, eight meetings in total will be scheduled, one a month, with each focusing on a specific topic such as roles and responsibilities, authorities, legislative requirements, opportunities for changing the way business is conducted and public communications all relating to the local government.

"I work hard for this community and we deserve the respect," said Mayor Lee Dekeyser. "By doing this, it shows we're willing to work with (the community), and that they can work with us."

Cramahe CAO Merlin Dewing outlined the overall goals of the project in the proposal. The plan will attempt to foster understanding of the roles and responsibilities of elected officials and administrative staff, identify aspects of business that need to be changed, identify and provide enhanced opportunities for public input into the decision making process and to establish a general framework for ongoing consultation and engagement in decision making.

The meetings are expected to promote openness and accountability, provide incentives to council for improvement, and produce effective community leadership, according to the report put forth by DS Executive.

While the township hopes the plan will put it back on the right track, the facilitation service does come at a price. Cost for the service is generally high, but has been significantly reduced to that of normal per diem rates which is between \$600 and \$800 dollars a day. The township will end up paying a total of \$6,300 for 21 day's of service between Aug. 16 and Feb. 28 of 2005, averaging a reduced rate of \$300 per day.

While a successful outcome of this engagement would be the community feeling part of the overall governance process, some councillors were skeptical of the proposal, despite acknowledging a need for change in communication.

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THE IN

NEWS

## Spirit of the Hills hosting art show

Spirit of the Hills will host its fifth annual Red Barn Art Show & Sale Aug. 21 from 9.30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Aug. 22 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free. The Red Barn is located next to the Campbellford Arena on Front St. North.

It is an historic building, which provides a fitting venue for the broad selection of art and sculpture, all by members of Spirit of the Hills.

The show features some exciting works with several new member artists exhibiting a wide range of media, including: paintings, drawings, photography, sculpture,

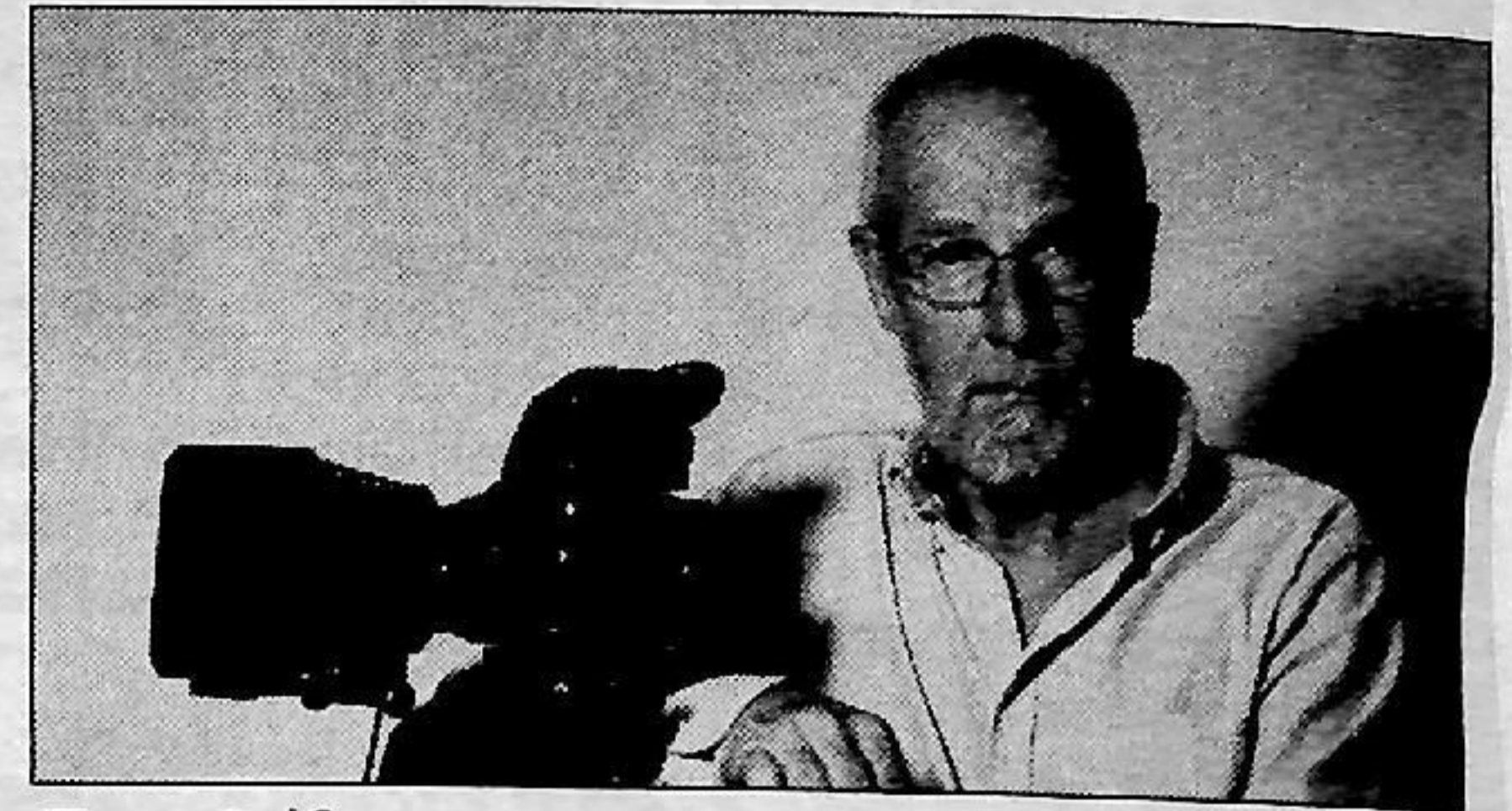
### Communication needs to become positive again: Kelly

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"I don't want this to just look like a PR stunt," said Councillor Mark Coombs. "The attitude of both the council and the community has to be open for this not to become one."

Councillor Ray Kelly also expressed his concern about how his council is perceived.

"It's too bad that we have to go this route to open up the communication lines," said Mr. Kelly. "But it's always negative, we never get



Terry Self

woodturning, glass, ceramics and mixed media. Participants this year include: Linda Deleau - Mixed Media; Jim Dumka - Acrylics; Susan Forget - Painter; Candice Gunter - Sculpture & Ceramics; Zuzana Horti - Glass &

Ceramic painting; Robert Kranendonk - Photography; David Lyon - Wood Turning; Gene Ouimette - Painting, Digital Art; Alida Ruben - Primitive Driftwood; Terry Self - Photography; Randy P. Smoke - Aboriginal Art.

Randy P. Smoke is a first-time exhibitor at the Red Barn Art Show.

any credit for what we do and the communication between the community and us needs to become positive again."

The plan will give the community a more active role in what is passed at council and in turn a greater understanding of the decisions the township faces. Cramahe council doesn't believe this will place a muzzle on their decisions, yet will gain a greater public knowledge through the use of facilitation.

#### DEATH NOTICES

McGregor, Russell (Bompa)

Suddenly at Trenton on Friday, August 13th, 2004 in his 75th year. Beloved partner of Brenda Lambier of Brighton and husband of the late Rhonda McGregor. Loving father of Doug (Charlotte) of Port Hope, Dennis of Trenton, Phil of Kingston and Jack. Dear grandfather of Tammy, Trish, Nicole, Jenny, Doug Jr., Morris and Danny and great grandfather of several great grandchildren. Brother of Lillian Rightmyer, Verna Pomeroy, Ross, Ken, Donald, Alvin, Leonard, Larry and Sandy MacGregor and predeceased by his sister Gwen Seymour. Friends were invited to call at the MacCoubrey Funeral Home, 11 King St. W., Colborne on Tuesday, August 17th from 12 noon - 2 pm, followed by the funeral service at 2 pm. If desired donations may be made to the Heart & Stroke Foundation. Condolences received at [www.maccoubrey.com](http://www.maccoubrey.com).

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