

If you qualify, you will be given a voter's kit which you can fill out in a secure location at the township office — or you can take it home and return it later.

If you have lost your voter's kit, destroyed it or made an error filling it out, you can get another one at the township office during business hours.

Your ballot will be rejected if:

- there is no Voter Declaration Form with it;
- if the Declaration Form is not signed;
- if there is a different number of ballots and Secrecy Declaration forms in the yellow envelope;
- if there are identifiable marks on the Secrecy Envelope; and, finally
- if there is more than one ballot in an envelope and one is not marked.

Ms. Alexander cautions voters to be cognizant of the day they mail their ballots. She recommends no one mail their ballot after November 3. Instead, she

It is suggested anyone who is having someone else mail or deliver their ballot, seal it before passing it on.

Spending limits

Candidates are restricted in the amount of money they can spend on their campaigns. Candidates for mayor may spend \$7,500 plus 70 cents per elector. Candidates for the other positions on council may spend up to \$5,000 and 70 cents per elector.

Who can vote?

If you are a Canadian citizen at least 18 years old living in the municipality or an owner or tenant of land in the Township of Cramahe, and not otherwise prohibited from voting, you can vote.

A voter is eligible to vote only once in the municipality, regardless of how many properties owned in the municipality.

Students may vote where they are going to school and at their home, as long as they have not abandoned their home.

The Mail-in Vote

Everything you need to know to vote in the Cramahe Twp. municipal election

COLBORNE CHRONICLE

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If you're wondering how to vote in Cramahe Township this fall — wait no more. This year, as in 2003, the township will be conducting a mail-in vote.

For voters, there are several important dates.

After nominations close Friday, September 29, Cramahe Clerk Administrator Christie Alexander and her staff will create a list of candidates and send it to DataFix, the company compiling the voters' packages.

During the week of October 16-20, the township will mail out an individual voter's package to everyone on the voters' list. The township is using the list compiled by the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC). If you plan to be away during this period and know where you will be, you can fill out a form and the township will mail it to the alternate address.

You may fill out your ballot at any time once you have received it in the package, up to official election day November 13. Once you have marked your ballot, place it in the Ballot Secrecy Envelope. It and the Voter Declaration Form are placed in the yellow envelope for mailing.

It does not cost to vote — your yellow return envelope is pre-stamped and paid for by the township.

You can have your name added to the voters' list at any time but, if you do not receive a ballot by the end of October, you should go to the township office and complete the necessary form to have your name added.

suggests after November 3 that you bring your ballot into the township office in Colborne. No ballots received after 8 p.m. on November 13 will be counted.

Voters are cautioned not to drop their envelope into the Post Office in Colborne on November 13 in the hope it will reach the township. It won't. The Post Office staff has that day off as a lieu day for Remembrance Day; the Post Office will be closed November 13.

The last day for the township to pick up ballots at the post office is November 10.

Voters who want to deposit their ballots at the last minute have until 8 p.m. to take it to the township office. Then, the doors will be closed and the serious work of counting the votes will begin.

Ballots will be counted in locked rooms on the top floor of the township office on Toronto Street, but voters and candidates are welcome to join in the election night excitement in a reception at the Keeler Centre.

There will be boards up and the unofficial totals will be phoned in to the Rotary Room, where Becky Bonisteel and Terry Scott will post them. Results will also be posted on the township web site as soon as possible after election day November 13.

In 2003, when the township first used this system of voting, 47.21 per cent of eligible voters cast their ballots.

In an interview September 21, the Clerk Administrator attempted to allay any fears of improper voting. Once a voter marks a ballot and seals the envelope, it is considered mail. Anyone caught tampering with sealed ballots would be committing a federal offence with jail time if found guilty.