

Cramahe mayor announces intention to run again

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by John Campbell

News - Cramahe Township - Mayor Marc Coombs will seek re-election in the municipal election next fall.

In a news release announcing his intention to run again, Coombs said his past seven years on council, three as its mayor, "have been highly rewarding" because of the "many positive results" he and his fellow elected officials have been able to accomplish working as a team.

He gave as examples, in an interview with *The Independent*, expansion of Colborne's industrial park, "which has been very successful in growing our economy," and its wastewater treatment plant, at a cost of \$7 million, which "had been talked about since the 1980s ... (and now) sets us up for long-term future growth for the community."

The most recent feather in

the township's cap was to have Northumberland County choose Colborne as the site of a 15,000-square-foot agri-food incubator that's being built in the industrial park. Its services will include cooking, chilling, freezing, and storing local foods. As the main tenant in a larger building that will house other businesses, the niche food facility is scheduled to open this year.

Coombs also made reference to the new Tim Hortons in Colborne, "which has created jobs for our local people ... and created a lot of interest commercially in the area."

Coombs said he was personally involved in efforts by local parents to get a new public school built in Castleton. The school board planned to close Cramahe's two rural elementary schools, Castleton and South Cramahe, and bus the children to Brighton but

"we were able to get them to change their decision and build a brand new ... Northumberland Hills School," he said.

Coombs first served on council from 1998 to 2000. He then ran for deputy-mayor and was defeated, and was returned to office as councillor in 2004. He moved up to mayor in the last election.

Over the past seven years, the township has been "blessed with a conscientious, stable and progressive" council that "is seen as a leader in our wider Northumberland community," Coombs said in his release.

He added the role of mayor "is an important one as success relies on the leadership skills of the incumbent to bring Council together as a team and to work

closely with staff and the community to achieve common goals."

Coombs said he "will continue to push for fiscal responsibility, keeping tax rate increases to a minimum, upgrading infrastructure and promoting and growing our local economy for the benefit of all residents."

He told *The Independent* tax increases generally have been two to 2.5 per cent.

"I think the last two years we had the lowest increase of any municipality in Northumberland," he said. "Cramahe used to have the highest tax rate and a lot of people still think we do, especially locally, but now we're middle of the pack. Port Hope, Cobourg, Trent Hills

all have higher tax rates."

Coombs said he would release "a more specific platform of goals and objectives" in the summer, but chose to declare his candidacy now, so he wouldn't be asked constantly if he was going to run again.

"Since I definitely knew I was going to run again, there was no advantage in being coy about it," he said.

As of last Friday, Coombs was the only person to have filed nomination papers in Cramahe.

The nomination period closes September 12 and municipal elections across Ontario will follow on October 27.

Not all fire department services are free

Written by Bob Owen

Thursday, 15 August 2013 01:38

It may cost you if the Cramahe Fire Department is called out to your property.

Cramahe Township Council supported the recommendation of its Fire Chief, Brandon Northrup on August 1, updating the department regulations.

If you are a non-resident involved in a motor vehicle collision or mishap shall pay a fee and it won't be cheap - \$410 per hour per vehicle at the call out.

Cramahe has had a bylaw in place where the chief can bill residents or companies which have repeated false alarms when the alarms are caused by faulty equipment. The charge is \$410 and forget about the excuse that you were working on the equipment. If you didn't notify the department, or can prove it was someone tampering with your equipment, get out the wallet. And repeat offenders will not be forgiven.

If you are convicted of arson, you pay the subsequent inspection costs - \$350 plus \$50 per hour per inspector.

Any call outs for insurance or business inspections will be billed, but that is not new - \$50 per inspection plus \$75 for the report.

Tenants don't escape the collector if they have failed to comply with lawful requirements of the Ontario Fire Marshall and an inspection is needed. The cost there - \$350 per inspector plus \$75 per report.

Cramahe bylaws have allowed the township to charge the full cost of fighting a fire if a person has set the fire illegally or without a permit. The fire setter can be liable for all property damages too. The township can also bill when extra services and personnel are required to fight a fire.