

# New Cramahe council takes office

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**MANDY MARTIN**  
For Northumberland Today

COLBORNE — There was optimism, many references to teamwork and best bib and tucker for new Cramahe Township council members at the inaugural ceremony Tuesday night.

Before a crowd of 120 people, the five council members took their oath of allegiance and officially signed in.

Led into the ceremony by Pipe Sergeant Christopher Knox, emcee Dr. Doug Galt welcomed all, thanked all who had run in the Oct. 27 municipal election, and offered some words of advice to the successful candidates.

"It's a team you are working with," Dr. Galt said. "Teamwork will accomplish a tremendous amount. You have a proven team leader (Mayor Marc Coombs) to (all) work for the good of the township."

The municipal government has two pillars, Dr. Galt said: the elected council and the municipal administrative staff.

"The Chief Administrative Officer Christie Alexander gas a very distinct role to play: to lead the rest of staff and ensure policy is carried out and ensure what council wants is carried out. If one of the pillars overcomes the other pillar, then the people of the township suffer. Staff are not here to set policy, but they can make recommendations. The two pillars must continue to work in harmony."

As each council member completed the oath of allegiance, Dr. Galt invited spouses to come forward for a photo. As the final council member, Ed Van Egmond burst into laughter when Dr. Galt called out "Mrs. Van Egmond?" Laughing heartily, Coun. Van

Egmond said, "I was wondering how you were going to handle that."

After the prayer of invocation led by the Rev. Michael Calderwood, the new council members spoke individually. First up was new deputy mayor Sandra Arthur who thanked all for attending and paid tribute to the previous council.

"Cramahe has lost experience," Ms. Arthur said, referring to former Deputy Mayor Jim Williams and Councillor Pat Westrope and Clinton Breau who were defeated in the 2014 election, "but council is strong moving forward. I'm hoping through the hard work moving forward to November 2018, residents, industry and citizens are going to be proud to be a member of the Cramahe community. My door is always open to you as Deputy-mayor."

New Councillor Don Clark said he is "excited by the next chapter of my life." The Cenotaph committee has received funding, a new community garden is underway and a new picnic shelter is to be built by Colborne Rotary Club at the Twin Diamonds. "Cramahe's greatest asset is its people," Mr. Clark said. He hopes new residential development and new industry will be attracted to the area. "New affordable rental housing" for future workers and retirement residential facilities are required, he said, and "we need to engage our young people in exercise 60 minutes a day. As a rookie councillor, I have no idea what we will be able to achieve" and urged support of the Colborne Legion's Christmas Hamper program. "I look forward to serving you in the new year."

New Councillor Tim Gilligan thanked Cramahe voters, family

and friends and predicts "great things from the team here. All we can do is our best. I think we have the best crew to go forward."

Returning Councillor Van Egmond, who topped the polls, thanked all for attending the ceremony. "It's great to see friendly faces. I've worked with everyone on this council in one way or another in my life. What we lack in experience is made up for in exuberance" which will emphasize "building pride in being in Cramahe."

Last to speak was Mayor Marc Coombs who congratulated his fellow council members on their election and thanked his wife Eileen for her support. He paid tribute to the three past council members Westrope, Williams and Breau.

"We have the finest staff of anywhere in Northumberland," Mayor Coombs said. "My past eight years as mayor have been very rewarding. People are looking to us to provide leadership for the community. They need us to make the tough decisions." Rural roads, the local economy and fiscal responsibility remain priorities, he said. "With respect for the views of one another; we will have honest debate. The community expects to less."

While Northumberland-Quinte West MP Rick Norlock and MPP Lou Rinaldi sent letters of congratulations and support, Brighton Mayor Mark Walas and Alnwick-Haldimand Mayor-elect John Logel (who will be installed in office Thursday morning, Dec. 4) were in attendance and spoke.

Emcee Dr. Galt announced Mayor Marc Coombs is standing for election as Warden of Northumberland County at the upcoming Dec. 10 county council meeting.



MANDY MARTIN PHOTO

The new Cramahe Township council inaugural ceremony was held Dec. 2 at the Keeler Centre, Colborne. Seated are Mayor Marc Coombs and Deputy mayor Sandra Arthur. Standing are Councillors, from left, Ed Van Egmond, Don Clark and Tim Gilligan.