



BRIGHTON INDEPENDENT ?  
AUG 4ST 7/14

Shailyn Barrett  
Matthew Benyon  
Noah Boughton  
Jocelyn Buttle  
Cody Campbell  
Ava Clifford  
Lillian Corkery-Heffernan  
Sara Cronk  
Samual Hall  
Daniel Herbacko  
Kaylee Jenkins  
Jade Lalonde  
Katelyn MacFarlane  
Andrew Milne  
Emily Mitchell  
Kevin Singleton  
Nathan Smith

**AWARDS**  
*Inner Wheel Math Award*  
Ava Clifford  
Matthew Benyon  
*Legion Literacy Award*  
Shailyn Barrett  
*Science Award*  
Ava Clifford  
*Optimist French Award*  
Ava Clifford  
*Rotary General Proficiency Award*  
Ava Clifford  
*Legion/Parent Council Most Improved Student Award*  
Sara Cronk

*Lizzy Corbiel Memorial Award for Citizenship*  
Shailyn Barrett  
*Leadership Award*  
Matthew Benyon  
*Principal's Award*  
Shailyn Barrett  
*Character Education Award*  
Lillian Corkery-Heffernan  
*Kids Who Care*  
Jocelyn Buttle  
*Early Act-Rotary Award*  
Lillian Corkery-Heffernan  
*Fawcett Family Sports Award*  
Samual Hall

Emily Mitchell  
*Dingsdale Family Creative Arts Award*  
Katelyn MacFarlane  
*Little Theatre Drama Award*  
Kevin Singleton  
*Lenore Griffin Award*  
Lillian Corkery-Heffernan  
*William F. Isaac Award*  
Emily Mitchell  
*Mitchell A Ferguson Memorial Music Award*  
Samual Hall  
Matthew Benyon  
Andrew Milne  
*Valedictorian*  
Matthew Benyon

# Cramahe agrees to study in response to calls for train whistle ban

BRIGHTON INDEPENDENT  
AUG. 21/14

By John Campbell  
**News - Colborne** - Hear that loathsome whistle blow isn't exactly what country music legend Hank Williams wrote but that's how some Cramahe Township residents feel whenever a train passing through the municipality announces its approach at railway crossings.  
Elizabeth Ross is one of dozens who have tried to put a stop to the practice, saying "the high frequency, high volume blaring of train whistles night and day is damaging the quality of lives."  
In an email sent to council members in May, the Colborne Creek resident said the train whistles pose "a serious threat to the well being of myself, my family and community members here in Colborne ... Imagine never having an undisturbed night of sleep due to train whistles screaming out repeatedly all through the night."  
Ross said that as a registered nurse she knows what are "the negative implications to human health from chronic sleep deprivation" and she insisted she was "experiencing some of those adverse effects first hand."  
Expressing concern for herself, her spouse and the couple's three children,

she implored council "to seriously review the noise pollution from train whistles and its effects on real people in this community. The prophylactic benefit of train whistles (potentially affecting a few) does not negate or outweigh the actual suffering it is presently causing."  
Although previous appeals to have the township enact a train whistle ban had failed, Ross said she was trying once more to get it to do something, because, as "the frequency of railway traffic ... continues to increase, perhaps council will be additionally motivated to reflect on this problem again. Even a partial ban during the night-time sleep hours would promote the health of local residents."  
That's not in the cards as yet but last week council unanimously agreed to have a whistle cessation study done, one of several steps Transport Canada requires before a ban on whistles at crossings can be implemented.  
A detailed safety assessment will be done at two crossings, Ontario Street and Peters Road, by CIMA Engineering Services at a cost of \$2,440 per crossing.  
In a report to council August 11,

director of operations Dan O'Brien said the assessment "must include the railway corridor for 400 metres in each direction from the crossing surface and the roadway in each direction from the rail crossing through the safe stopping distance of the design vehicle."  
The assessment will identify "required upgrades and any other work needed to request whistle cessation" as well as the costs involved.  
Cramahe Mayor Marc Coombs said in an interview council "finally decided to move forward" in response to "persistent" demands by residents to take action. The study will focus on two of the seven crossings in the township—one urban, one rural—so council can make "an educated decision based on a real cost."  
It has been approached by two groups of citizens in the past asking for a whistle ban, most recently in the spring when a petition was submitted, Coombs said, but "there's always been the question, if we're not committed to spending \$100,000 [for example, to upgrade a crossing], why spend the \$2,500 [on a study]?" he said. "But we don't know about the \$100,000. After we get this done we'll at least know

for sure."  
The mayor said the study should be completed "within a month or so ... It's not complicated."  
The railways "will still have the right" to sound a whistle at crossings even should the township enhance

existing safety measures and a ban is put in place. If the train engineers "think they see something, then obviously they're going to blow their whistle to alert people they're coming through," Coombs said.

