

O'Brien new Cramahe CAO

MANDY MARTIN
For Northumberland Today

CRAMAHE TOWNSHIP — There are staff changes afoot in Cramahe Township.

Incumbent director of operations Dan O'Brien will be the new chief administrative officer (CAO) effective the end of June.

"Dan brings with him a strong background in operations, facilities and management and has the benefit of working for the past six years as part of our senior management team. This will serve us well going forward," Mayor Marc Coombs states in a press release issued shortly after 9 a.m. April 21.

"I am looking forward to working in collaboration with the mayor and council, staff and our many stakeholders to continue with the implementation of council's strategic direction," O'Brien states in the same release. "We have an incredible team of employees in place to service our community and I am

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looking forward to this new venture."

O'Brien said Tuesday he has not signed a contract with the Township but will receive a salary increase to reflect his promotion.

Born in Peterborough, O'Brien attended the University of Western Ontario for three years, married and began work in Toronto. His credentials are "all experience-driven" he said Tuesday evening. He was on the board of governors for Exhibition Place for 22 years which included major events planning, staff co-ordination, contract negotiations and risk management. He was also general manager of the Markham Fair Grounds on a two-year contract. Among the many large-scale events he has overseen was the Toronto SARS concert at Downsview and Pope John Paul II's visit to Toronto.

Three weeks ago, current CAO / clerk Christie Alexander announced her retirement effective June 26.

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Dan O'Brien

Two weeks ago, deputy clerk Candace Doiron announced she is leaving effective May 4 to take up the same post in the Municipality of Trent Hills.

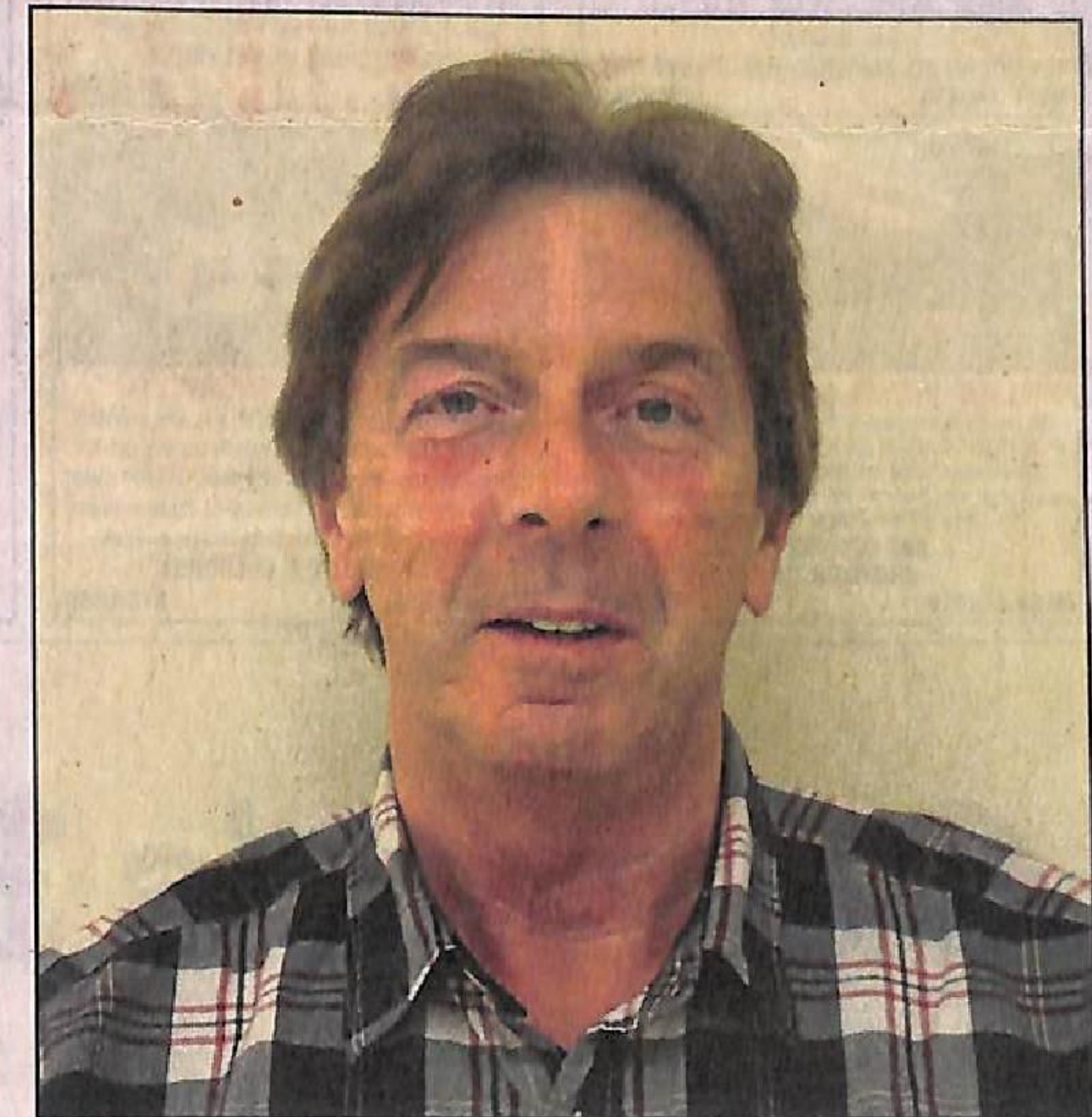
On April 10, Cramahe posted a job vacancy for a new position, that of clerk, which recommends an Association of

Municipal Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO) designation or a certificate of completion of the AMCTO municipal administration program course and / or Certified Municipal Officer (CMO) designation, none of which Mr. O'Brien has.

On April 2, it was announced Northumberland County employee Dan McBride will be assuming the position of Cramahe roads superintendent, a role presently filled by O'Brien, effective May 4 on a six-month contract.

"Council is very pleased to have filled the CAO position with an internal candidate who brings such strong skills to the job and is very familiar with our community," Coombs states.

The Township is reviewing a new organizational chart for municipal employees with staff before it will be publicly presented sometime soon, Coombs said at Tuesday's meeting of Cramahe Township council.



Dan O'Brien

■ **REPORT:** System 'in good operating condition' overall, council hears

Colborne water system facing some upgrades

MANDY MARTIN
For Northumberland Today

COLBORNE — Some water mains in Colborne will require replacement or rehabilitation in the coming years.

Craig Brooks, manager of water treatment and distribution with Lakefront Utility Services Inc. (LUSI), the company contracted to oversee Colborne's water sys-

tem, said in a report received by Cramahe Township council April 21.

"Burnham Street is an undersized main based on its location in the distribution system. Because it is undersized, it cannot provide adequate fire flow to that area and points downstream," Brooks said.

In addition, "King Street East is also undersized in the Parliament

Street area and causes this same negative effect to areas to the east. Colton Street is also undersized and provides very little flow and inadequate fire protection to the area and residents it serves."

Iffy water pressure on a Big Apple Drive watermain is under engineering review with hopes to reach a solution this year. When fixed, that main will provide a "reliable second feed" for the

water distribution system.

Water pressure for the system is maintained by a water tower on a hill on the north side of Highway 401. In 2014, there were several water system shutdowns when a Bell line connecting the tower to the water treatment plant was severed during reconstruction of Purdy Road. Other 2014 water system alarms were caused by power outage or chemical feed pumps

becoming gas locked.

Overall, the Colborne municipal water system "is in good operating condition and will continue to provide good quality drinking water" to customer for the foreseeable future, Brooks said.

All regulation standards and test results are readily meeting met. In fact, the Colborne water system is using only 24% of its approved capacity. The average

flow was down 11% in 2014 from the prior year — but the income from billing is still below what is actually being metered. That has lead to LUSI suggesting an audit of all commercial, industrial and institutional customers be done.

In the distribution system, the hydrants were all flushed in the fall, with one hydrant being replaced. There was one water main break during 2014.