

# Cramahe makes changes to its staffing as new CAO prepares to step in

BRIGHTON INDEPENDENT

MAY 7/15

By John Campbell

**News - Cramahe Township** - The municipality has re-organized its staff following a service delivery review.

"The overall effect is we save some money and the organization's a little flatter," Mayor Marc Coombs said in an interview. "I think it's an excellent solution ... going forward, for this term anyways."

Most of the changes won't take place until after Dan O'Brien moves up from director of operations and becomes the new CAO the end of June when the current chief administrative officer, Christie Alexander, retires.

O'Brien's position, director of operations, will disappear, to be replaced by manager of operations. Northumberland County's roads

supervisor has been seconded to Cramahe to fill the post for six months.

A half-dozen people will report to O'Brien—the municipal clerk, treasurer, fire chief, manager of parks and recreation, manager of operations, and chief building official—rather than four as is now the case with Alexander, Coombs said.

O'Brien was initially hired as director of community services but was given extra responsibilities when the municipality's director of public works went elsewhere.

That became a problem, Coombs said. "We needed more direct supervision and follow-up [but] Dan was busy doing large projects, doing this, doing that," as well as filling in for Alexander whenever she was away.

He also looked after bylaw

enforcement for a while, he added.

The additional workload came at the expense of road maintenance.

"We've had a lot of issues for years with the amount of work that needs to be done" on township roads, Coombs said. "You don't maintain them properly they end up costing us so much more money in the long run, so we really need to be doing that," using equipment the township had purchased for that purpose.

"We want to be satisfied that it's being used to its potential," he said.

Treasurer Mora Chatterson had asked that a financial analyst be hired to take on some of her responsibilities but council ultimately rejected that request because of the projected cost, between \$50,000 and \$66,000.

The receptionist at the Keeler

Centre will relocate to the municipal office and report to the treasurer to provide some help. The switch will take place when O'Brien moves, and a person will be hired part-time at Keeler to handle reception as well as events.

Last Friday the township said farewell to its deputy-clerk, who was hired by Trent Hills, and it has begun advertising for a clerk.

In replacing Alexander, Coombs said "it's a lot better to be able to promote from within," to lessen the wage burden and to make the changeover easier.

You don't want to go out to "the open market to try to find somebody because they're so hard to find [and] despite what everybody may think, our wages are not near the top, so it's very competitive," he said.

# Brighton-Cramahe Chamber moving west

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**News - Brighton** - The Brighton-Cramahe Chamber of Commerce (BCCC) Board of Directors has just learned that there will be no further funding for tourism from the Municipality of Brighton, states a press release

from BCCC executive director Sherry Hamilton on behalf of her board.

It would appear that the current council clearly does not have economic development or tourism as priorities. Attempts to

negotiate a contract have proved futile. The tremendous amount of time spent by the board and the executive director on trying to deal with the current council is distracting and taking away from time that should be spent on sup-

porting our business community and engaging with other partners on strategic opportunities that build a strong economic base.

The BCCC strongly feels that economic development and tourism are vitally important to the long-term well-being of our area and we should be focused on supporting our local businesses to thrive and grow, as well as working to attract new businesses. This creates jobs and helps increase the tax base to take the burden off the residential taxpayer.

"It is disappointing that these goals aren't shared by at least a majority of the current council, but we recognize that they are duly elected and respect their deci-

sions," President Burke Friedrichkeit said in the release. "We feel it is important to get back to business and move forward on a number of strategic projects that we are working on."

In order to fulfill the tourism contract, the BCCC currently leases space at 74 Main Street in Brighton. This space serves the community and local businesses as an information hub where visitors can access local information and advice. It also provides public washrooms. As a direct result of the municipality passing a motion to end funding immediately, the BCCC has been forced to make an early exit from their existing lease and find other suitable office space.

This is an unfortunate turn of events but without the tourism contract there is no need or financial capability to remain at the current address, states the release.

"Along with Agriculture, Tourism is one of the top two largest industries in Northumberland County and that's especially true here in Brighton," said Hamilton in the release. "There are countless small businesses such as B&B's, restaurants, campgrounds, retail and specialty shops and others relying on a strong tourism economy. We can only hope that Brighton Council will have a plan moving forward to provide the proper level of support."

Engagements

Engagements



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AND  
TYLER MILITELLO

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