

# Colborne Chronicle

## 2015 Council, municipal board expenses reported

MANDY MARTIN  
FOR NORTHUMBERLAND TODAY

**CRAMAHE TOWNSHIP** —In 2015, Marc Coombs was paid \$30,743.52 in salaries as mayor and representative of Cramahe Township. The mayor salary was \$22,743.52, plus \$5,000 for sitting on the board of Lakefront Utility Services Inc. (LUSI) which oversees Colborne water, sewer and electricity services, and another \$3,500 for his board membership on LUSI's parent company, Town of Cobourg Holding Inc.

Deputy-mayor Sandra Arthur was paid a salary of \$14,556.02 plus conference/seminar expenses of \$3,584.14 for a total \$18,140.16.

Councillor Don Clark was paid \$15,125.54 — \$12,473.01 in salary, \$1,578.55 for conference/seminar attendance and \$433.61 in mileage. An additional \$640.40 remuneration was paid for representing Cramahe Township on the Lower Trent Conservation authority.

Councillor Tim Gilligan was paid \$15,040.49 — \$12,273.01 in salary and \$2,567.48 for conference/seminar expenses.

Councillor Ed Van Egmond was paid \$13,748.33 — \$12,473.01 as salary and \$1,275.32 for conference/seminar expenses.

Council appointees to the Community Policing Committee, Clair Breton and Dawn Foster, were paid \$15.45 and \$19.20 respectively for mileage.

Police Service Board appointee Melenie Killman was paid a total \$1,963.08 (\$640 salary, \$1,183.54 for conference/seminar costs and \$139.54 mileage.



Julie Oram

Police Service Board appointee Rick Saunders was paid \$1,242.82 (\$1,100 in salary and \$142.82 for mileage).

The expenses cover all costs for Council members, including meals and mileage, Clerk Julie Oram said March 8.

## Trucker pleads guilty in drug smuggling case

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POSTMEDIA NETWORK

**WINDSOR** - A trucker with the slogan, "Don't test your luck," adorning his trailer took his own advice March 1 when he pre-empted his drug smuggling trial by pleading guilty.

Wayne Douglas Rutherford, 63, of Colborne was caught Aug. 4, 2013, trying to smuggle more than \$6 million worth of cocaine and methamphetamine into Canada over the Ambassador Bridge. Rutherford had bricks of the drugs hidden behind a false panel in the nose of his trailer.

Rutherford Tuesday pleaded guilty to importing nearly 47 kilograms of cocaine, importing 17 kilograms of methamphetamine, possessing the cocaine for the purpose of trafficking and possessing the methamphetamine for the purpose of trafficking.

Rutherford is facing drug conspiracy charges in Quebec and says he intends to plead guilty there as well.

Superior Court in Windsor has yet to consider sentence, but a trucker last year was sent to the federal penitentiary for 16 years for a similar crime here.

Court heard Rutherford had driven to California with a long-time friend, of St. Catharines. They were carrying a load of PVC pipes manufactured in Ontario. Court heard the drugs were loaded onto the truck in Sacramento after the

pipes were delivered. The pair picked up a load of Montreal-bound tomatoes on Aug. 2 and headed to the border.

Rutherford dropped his friend off in Michigan as he headed to the Ambassador Bridge.

Border officers x-rayed the truck and spotted an anomaly. They off-loaded the skids of tomatoes and found the suspicious panel. The caulking was broken around the panel and it had shiny screws unlike any others on the truck.

Officers removed the panel and found the drugs hidden in a secret cavity.

Last month, with his five-week trial to begin, Rutherford signed an affidavit admitting to being a drug trafficker. He said his friend was unaware of the drugs.

"I was very careful to ensure that he at no time would become aware... as I was well aware that he would have absolutely no part in this," Rutherford said in the written statement to the court.

Rutherford, who remains free on bail, returns to court in June. Rutherford's Toronto lawyer, Joseph Caprara, said he and federal prosecutor Richard Pollock do not agree on what sentence Rutherford should receive.

Justice Christopher Bondy will sentence Rutherford at a date yet to be set. Charges against Rutherford's driving partner are expected to be withdrawn. [ssacheli@postmedia.com](mailto:ssacheli@postmedia.com)