

Paid less than other twtps.

Cramahe road crew seeks pay increase, benefits

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Roads bookkeeper Clarence McKague, left, and roads worker Gerald Quinn. McKague gave a detailed job description to Cramahe council and Quinn presented the roads crews contract demands.

In the absence of Art Moore, roads superintendent of Cramahe township, Gerald Quinn appeared before Cramahe council last Monday evening, Dec. 15, on behalf of the roads employees. Moore was in Cobourg hospital recuperating from a recent heart attack.

Quinn stated that the roads crew will be seeking a pay raise in the coming year. Based on his own research, he felt that the Cramahe men were underpaid, compared to those in other townships. Haldimand, he said, pays \$7 an hour to roads men, while Cramahe's wages run from \$5.50 to \$5.80 per hour, with no overtime. Haldimand's workers are paid time and a half for every hour over 96 worked in one pay period. There are 24 pay periods in a year.

Quinn said the crew would request \$7 per hour wages across the board, cumulative and continuous sick leave guaranteed by contract, half of their OHIP paid by the township, a pension plan, a drug assistance plan, and a life insurance plan. Presently, the only benefit received by the workmen is the mandatory Canada Pension Plan.

Councillor Morris Tait suggested that the present un-ratified contract between the municipalities and the recreation employees be used by the roads men as a guide to establish their own demands.

Nearly 1/2 million spent on Cramahe roads in '80

Roads bookkeeper Clarence McKague appeared before the last meeting of Cramahe council last Monday evening, Dec. 15, at the request of the newly-elected reeve George Blyth. Blyth had suggested at the inaugural meeting on Friday, Dec. 5 that all township business, including the roads accounts, be brought under the jurisdiction of the clerk-treasurer Rosemary Rutledge. McKague has kept the roads accounts for 40 years. Last year, his salary was \$1,100.

McKague gave an eloquent and lengthy presentation to council detailing the various responsibilities he assumes as roads bookkeeper. Last year in Cramahe, \$458,600 was spent in the roads department, McKague stated. His job is to keep records of salaries, equipment maintenance, capital expenditures, workmen's compensation, etc.

He also sees that Cramahe gets the government subsidies it is entitled to. Last year, these amounted to over \$344,000.

Council allowed as how McKague's job was much more demanding and complicated than many councillors had realized. Still, it was felt that McKague's books should gradually be phased in with the general township accounts. Clerk-treasurer Rosemary Rutledge indicated that she was willing to learn the system, but McKague will be retained for 1981 at a salary of \$1,200.