

# Rideau Lakes CAO the second among upper management to resign in the past month

By John Fenik  
*The Review-Mirror*

Rideau Lakes Township Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Michael Dwyer, has given his notice.

He will be resigning as the township CAO at the end of September.

"He was the best CAO I ever worked with," said Rideau Lakes Mayor Arië Hoogenboom.

Dwyer's departure is a blow to the township as the Chief Administrative Officer is one of the most important roles within a municipality.

The CAO is responsible for the leadership and general management of the Corporation.

This includes the allocation of resources, maintain-

ing service levels, recommending policy and providing long-range strategic planning guidance.

The CAO coordinates and works with the Management Team in developing, implementing, and administering the objectives and policies, as approved by Council.

None of the sources The Review-Mirror spoke to would confirm on the record that the departure can be attributed to the negative interactions by some members of township council.

Dwyer was contacted but told The Review-Mirror he didn't wish to comment on the resignation.

The Elgin native joined the staff in the summer of 2010 as an associate planner while completing

his Masters' studies in planning at the University of Waterloo.

He was the township planner in 2014 when he was named acting CAO after the departure of Bob Maddocks.

He was made permanent CAO in January 2015.

Dwyer's departure follows the departure of Fire Chief Scott Granahan July 16. He went to Bracebridge to lead that department.

Bracebridge made the announcement June 30.

Granahan brings over 17 years of experience in fire services with Rideau Lakes.

Granahan's career began with the Brock Township Fire Department in 2006 followed by roles with the

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# Fire chief moved on to Bracebridge

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Town of Georgina, Meaford, Mississippi Mills and then Rideau Lakes in the spring of 2019.

Virginia Bourget, who was chair of the Portland Community Enhancement Committee, says the municipality is losing out.

Bourget was among the enhancement committee members who resigned after the municipal hub was cancelled earlier this year.

"I do not know why these valued staff have chosen to move on and I am sure they would not want me to speculate. I can say, however, that I wish as a community we had made greater efforts to encourage them to stay.

"At recent council meetings I have witnessed both disrespect and misinformation from some councillors towards these two people.

"I fear that the behaviour of these councillors reflects the attitudes of some members of the public," she writes in a letter on page 4 this week.

Granahan was in the middle of overseeing the re-building of a new fire station, which also became a contentious issue.

In June 2022 the township decided the new location for the Portland Fire

Station 2, lost to a fire in December 2021, will be near Lombardy.

The township entered into an agreement to purchase a 5-acre parcel near the corner of Highway 15 and Otter Lake Road near Lombard Manor.

After the location decision was made, Council and staff have received feedback, primarily from residents of the Portland area over what they see as a loss of service.

A June 2022 report by CAO Dwyer indicated Fire Chief Granahan and his family have been harassed.

"While recent methods utilized by a select few to express their opinion – such as harassment of the Fire Chief and his family at their home and business – are completely inappropriate, the sentiment shared by those who have concerns is certainly valid.



Scott Granahan

Granahan and his partner opened a café in Portland.

"The new location does represent change. As outlined above, it is a policy decision believed to be in the best long-term public interest of the community and the municipality," Dwyer wrote.