

Feast For Colton's Problems?

Candidate Says Good Meal Can Heal Community Divide

By LARRY ROBINSON
COLTON - Retired Methodist minister Ed Wright thinks a community dinner is a good starting point for helping solve some of the personality disputes and political divides that now separate this foothill community.

Wright, a Republican candidate for a council seat on the Colton Town Board, suggests his training as a minister taught him long ago that breaking bread together and talking about similarities and differences is always a good way to start solving problems.

"My number one priority would be to enhance community dialogue," Wright said

when asked what he would do if elected to the town council. "I don't know why the board and their spouses couldn't go out together and have a meal. We need to have that freedom to sit around the dinner table and talk."

Wright is one of four people in the town of Colton currently vying for two seats on the town board. There is one seat that is vacant and the other seat is now controlled by Republican incumbent Mary Jane Watson.

Running for those two seats are Watson and fellow Republican Wright as well as Democrats Joe Zelinski and Kathy Hayes.

All of the newcomers seeking a town council seat are running for office on a similar theme of bridging the political divide in the town of Colton, where politics have been less than amicable since the unexpected resignation earlier this year of Conservative Supervisor Hank Ford.

Watson, a long-serving Republican, has so far not commented publicly about her bid for another term in office.

Wright, who ran for supervisor against Ford two years ago and lost by 77 votes, said he is running for office again because he feels compelled to try and better the community.

He feels recent political

squabbles and infighting on the town board are overshadowing the fact that the town of Colton is one of the most beautiful places to live in St. Lawrence County.

"We have the river, we have the mountains and we have good honest qualified people in this community," according to Wright.

Wright said in addition to helping solve what he viewed as "deep seeded personality" conflicts on the town board he would also like to help start a housing council in the town of Colton as well as work actively to help realize the goal of building a new community center.



ED WRIGHT