

## ***Kerr acclaimed 2015 Lanark County Warden***

At the inaugural meeting of Lanark County Council on Tuesday morning, Tay Valley Reeve Keith Kerr was acclaimed as warden for 2015.

Mr. Kerr was nominated by Perth Mayor John Fenik and Beckwith Deputy-Reeve Sharon Mousseau. "I am looking forward to leading this council in 2015 and to have a cohesive council," he said.

He was first elected in 1994 to North Burgess Council and was appointed to the deputy reeve position soon after when his father, Charles, passed away while holding the office of reeve. Mr. Kerr was elected deputy reeve in 1998 before being elected mayor of the newly formed Tay Valley Township in 2003 and again in 2006. He was acclaimed in 2010 and 2014. He has been a Lanark County Councillor throughout and has served as a volunteer firefighter for 26 years.

Mr. Fenik described Mr. Kerr as a quiet gentleman, noting he served in the Armed Forces and has had a long involvement with helping young people. "You won't find a finer individual to head up our council for the next year."

Mrs. Mousseau said Mr. Kerr "truly is here for all the right reasons. His goal is to make Tay Valley and Lanark County a better place to live, work and play. He exudes quiet wisdom."

Mr. Kerr has been married to his wife Margaret for 37 years and they have two sons. "The most important things in my life are my family," he said, adding he doesn't call himself a politician. "Thank you for the privilege and honour of serving as Lanark County Warden in 2015."

As he relinquished the chair, outgoing warden Richard Kidd (Beckwith Reeve) thanked all of council and staff for making his year as warden a very good one. He highlighted several accomplishments in 2014, including the successful Warden's Golf Tournament and the Lanark County Harvest Festival, the hiring of a new public works director, choosing the location for the new county garage and negotiating agreements with unions.

"The people around this table are all here for the right reasons," he said. "We are here to make Lanark County a better place to live, work and play."

Mr. Kidd, whose wife Roxanne passed away in 2012, noted several councillors lost family members in the last term. "The support that our fellow colleagues and staff have given us over time has been very comforting. It helped me through that and I thank everyone for that." He also acknowledged Ed Sonnenburg, Carleton Place Deputy Mayor, who passed away earlier this year.

A number of special guests attended the meeting, including MP Scott Reid, MPP Randy Hillier, MPP Jack McLaren, several past wardens, municipal politicians and staff, friends and family members.

Committee chairpersons were selected at the meeting as well, including Richard Kidd (Beckwith Reeve) for corporate services, Sharon Mousseau (Beckwith Deputy Reeve) for community services, Bill Dobson (Montague Reeve) for economic development, and Gail Code (Drummond/North Elmsley Deputy Reeve) for public works. Mr. Kerr named a striking committee, which appoints members to various committees and boards. Council reconvenes Wednesday at 5 p.m. for its regular meeting.

For more information, contact:  
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***Photos of this event are available at***

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/eb2w7gfnl5i3wu/AABWDNADJUGC8hZzSFjiXfV3a?dl=0>

**Captions:**

1. 2015 Warden Keith Kerr (Tay Valley Reeve) accepts the chain of office from outgoing Warden Richard Kidd (Beckwith Reeve)
2. & 3. County councillors for the 2014 to 2018 term recite the oath of office during the inaugural meeting.
4. 2015 Warden Keith Kerr (Tay Valley Reeve) is escorted by one of his nominators, Councillor John Fenik (Perth Mayor), to take the oath of office.
5. 2014 Warden Richard Kidd (Beckwith Reeve) congratulates 2015 Warden Keith Kerr (Tay Valley Reeve).
6. 2015 Warden Keith Kerr (Tay Valley Reeve) takes the oath of office from Deputy Clerk Leslie Drynan while 2014 Warden Richard Kidd (Beckwith Reeve) and CAO Kurt Greaves (seated) look on.
7. 2015 Warden Keith Kerr (Tay Valley Reeve) presents Richard Kidd (Beckwith Reeve) with the Past Warden's Pin.