
Dobson elected as 2017 Lanark County Warden

Councillor Bill Dobson (Montague Reeve) was elected as Lanark County's 2017 warden at the inaugural meeting on Tuesday morning.

Mr. Dobson was nominated by Councillor Aubrey Churchill (Drummond/North Elmsley Reeve), who highlighted his previous experience as warden and his knowledge of history considering 2017 is the 150th birthday for Canada. "I look to the best candidate who will represent us in the very best possible way....he has the expertise and will work tirelessly."

His seconder, Klaas Van Der Meer (Montague Deputy Reeve), echoed Mr. Churchill's comments. "I trust he will do an excellent job for the coming year."

Mr. Dobson served as warden in 2013 and was instrumental in the development of the Lanark County Harvest Festival. He has a background in teaching, antiques dealing, organic beef farming and publishing and operates a heritage farm and antiques museum (Montague House). He has been involved in numerous committees at the county.

Mr. Dobson said "avidly promoting" Lanark County will be his priority. Among his goals are enticing newcomers, celebrating history, sustainability, fiscal responsibility and long-term vision, balancing infrastructure spending with inflation rates and support for the housing and homelessness plan and the future of Lanark Lodge. He also noted the importance of other projects, including a solution for Lanark County archives, development of the Ottawa Valley Recreational Trail, the county's paved shoulder program, road projects and energy conservation.

"I would like to thank everyone who supported me," he said. "I appreciate the trust you put in me and accept the responsibility. We are still 16 members of a team who work diligently for Lanark County...Let's all look forward to a great year and be proud to be Canadian."

Mr. Dobson acknowledged and thanked the other candidates who contended for the position: Councillor John Fenik (Perth Mayor), Councillor Sharon Mousseau (Beckwith Deputy Reeve) and Councillor Louis Antonakos (Carleton Place Mayor). He also thanked past Warden Gail Code, saying she has left "big shoes to fill."

Mrs. Code acknowledged some of the highlights of her year as warden, including the 150th anniversary of Lanark County and the 200th anniversary of the Perth Military Settlement (Beckwith, Drummond/North Elmsley, Perth and Tay Valley), the completion of a state-of-the-art ambulance facility, finalization of the purchase of the former CP Rail line and the banning of plastic water bottles at county council meetings.

"It has been an honour to represent you," Mrs. Code said. "I thank you for your support. Your passion for Lanark County is always evident at this table."

Committee chairpersons were selected at the meeting as well, including Gail Code (Drummond/North Elmsley Deputy Reeve) for corporate services, Brian Stewart (Lanark Highlands Mayor) for community services, Jane Torrance (Mississippi Mills Councillor) for economic development, and Brian Campbell (Tay Valley Deputy Reeve) for public works. Mr. Dobson also named a striking committee, which appoints members to various committees and boards. Council reconvenes Wednesday at 5 p.m. for its regular meeting.

– 30 –

For more information, contact:
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1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1502

Photos of this event are available at

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/g6awdzgidehyka7/AAB-MGXiV5VUHlvYo6q9w5Wpa?dl=0>

Captions:

1. 2017 Warden Bill Dobson (Montague Reeve), centre, is escorted by his nominator and seconder (Montague Deputy Reeve Klaas Van Der Meer, left, and D/NE Reeve Aubrey Churchill) to the chair.
2. Outgoing Warden Gail Code (Drummond/North Elmsley Deputy Reeve) gives the chains of office to 2017 Warden Bill Dobson (Montague Reeve).
3. Warden Bill Dobson (Montague Reeve) presents the past warden's pin to outgoing Warden Gail Code (Drummond/North Elmsley Deputy Reeve).
4. 2017 Warden Bill Dobson (Montague Reeve) takes the oath of office from Clerk Leslie Drynan.