



December 13, 2011

For immediate release

Walters new Elgin County Warden

CENTRAL ELGIN – Bill Walters was acclaimed Warden of Elgin County at a session of Elgin County Council tonight.

Walters, the Mayor of Central Elgin, was unopposed in his bid for the one-year position. He had previously declared his intention to seek the office.

In his inaugural speech, he thanked outgoing warden Dave Mennill for “leading County Council this past year and for setting a good example of how to fulfill the warden’s position.”

Walters was elected Central Elgin Mayor in the October 2010 election. He served previously as mayor from 1997-2000, as deputy mayor from 1994-1997 and as councillor for the previous term. He has served seven years on Elgin County Council.

“Elgin County Council faces some serious challenges, not only for 2012 but for many years ahead,” he said, listing these as reviewing options about Terrace Lodge Home for Seniors, finalizing a roads maintenance agreement between the county and partner municipalities, addressing space needs at the county’s administration building, and reviewing the county’s commitment to the St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital.

He also stressed the great opportunities in Elgin.

“We have wonderful natural assets that have economic development and tourism potential due to our proximity to huge markets,” he said.

Other opportunities include the introduction of a new Official Plan, the entrepreneurial spirit evident in Elgin and the creative economy, Walters said.

As warden, the head of county council, Walters will serve on the Dispute Resolution committee and the Elgin St. Thomas Public Health board.

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Committee appointments for the rest of council were also approved, as follows:

Dispute Resolution-Councillors Mennill and Jim McIntyre; CEEDTAC-Councillors Dave Marr and Jack Couckuyt; Elgin County Museum-Councillor Jim Jenkins; Elgin St. Thomas Public Health-Councillors Bernie Wiehle and Couckuyt; Official Plan committee-Councillors Mennill, Marr and Wiehle; Rural Initiatives committee-Councillors Cameron McWilliam, McIntyre and Mennill; SCOR-Councillors Couckuyt and Paul Ens; County Social/Entertainment committee-Councillors Marr and McWilliam; St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital appointee-Tom Marks; St. Thomas Elgin Public Arts Centre-Councillor Jenkins; Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital-Councillor Ens; and, Health Recruitment Partnership-Councillor McWilliam.

The first meeting of council under Walters' guidance will be the final meeting of the year, Thursday, December 15 at 9 a.m.

For additional information, please contact:

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