

## **John Fenik elected as 2018 Lanark County Warden**

Councillor John Fenik (Perth Mayor) was elected as Lanark County's 2018 warden at the inaugural meeting on Tuesday morning.

Mr. Fenik was nominated by Councillor Aubrey Churchill (Drummond/North Elmsley Reeve), who pointed to Mr. Fenik's 20 years' experience as an elected official and his involvement with countless boards and committees. "At the county he always works for what he believes is best for the county. He is a man of deep convictions and always respects the process."

His seconder, Councillor Richard Kidd (Beckwith Reeve), said Mr. Fenik's strengths include professionalism and fair debate. "He has a thirst for education and new ideas, and he is a team player."

Mr. Fenik served as warden in 2010. He says he believes in this last year of the current term of municipal government, much can be done. "I see it as a time when we can do the most and lay the groundwork for the council that is coming in. The most effective form of government is municipal government; we are closest to the people."

Among the priorities he highlighted for 2018 are to finish the Ottawa Valley Recreation Trail project. "We need to complete this project. It will be an asset for recreation and an economic driver."

He also highlighted the work of the Eastern Ontario Regional Network to increase connectivity in eastern Ontario and the need to invest in this, as well as the review of the county's official plan and growth study, the development of a long-term plan for housing and to make strides to improve transportation in Lanark County, which has been highlighted as a number one issue affecting quality of life.

"There's no crystal ball; there are going to be bumps in the road, as well as challenges and opportunities," he said.

Mr. Fenik thanked his nominator, seconder and supporters, as well as the other candidate who contended for the position: Councillor Jane Torrance (Mississippi Mills).

Past Warden Bill Dobson (Montague Reeve) said some of the highlights of his year as warden included the opening of the new ambulance facility in Montague Township, museum events celebrating Canada's 150th, the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Civitan, the Lanark County Harvest Festival, the Pride parade in Perth, the long-service awards for employees and curating the Lanark County history display at the Federation of Canadian Municipalities conference.

"It has sincerely been a true honour for me to represent Lanark County for the last year," he said. "I worked with a fantastic team that includes councillors, staff and people of Lanark County.... I believe this has been the year of engagement and grass roots democracy. The public has had considerable input that has added to the democratic process."

Committee chairpersons were selected at the meeting as well, including Bill Dobson (Montague Reeve) for corporate services, Brian Stewart (Lanark Highlands Mayor) for community services, Richard Kidd (Beckwith Reeve) for economic development, and Brian Campbell (Tay Valley Deputy Reeve) for public works. Mr. Fenik also named a striking committee, which appoints members to various committees and boards. Council reconvenes Wednesday at 5 p.m. for its regular meeting.

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For more information, contact:  
Leslie Drynan, Clerk  
Lanark County  
1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1502

***Photos of this event are available at***

***[https://www.dropbox.com/sh/goi8p1on0kgfz9v/AACx7SUrSmjD-GtFT64E6Ha\\_a?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/goi8p1on0kgfz9v/AACx7SUrSmjD-GtFT64E6Ha_a?dl=0)***

**Captions:**

1. 2018 Warden John Fenik (Perth Mayor) takes the oath of office from Clerk Leslie Drynan.
2. (as above)
3. Outgoing Warden Bill Dobson (Montague Reeve) with 2018 Warden John Fenik (Perth Mayor) after exchanging the chains of office.