

Reeve Blair has strong words for County of Hastings planning



By Jim Eadie

Following their swearing in, Wollaston's new council divvied up the committee responsibilities for the coming months or longer as follows:

Reeve Graham Blair: North Hastings Economic Development Committee

Deputy Reeve Marilyn Brickles: Fire Department, and Bancroft Area Community Policing Committee

Councillor Michael Fuerth: Recreation Committee, Large Animal Vet Committee, Committee of Adjustments, and Property Standards Committee

Councillor Bob Ireland: Crowe Valley Conservation Authority

Councillor Lynn Kruger: Library Board, North Hastings Family Health Team

Jennifer Cohen ? clerk: Dog Pound Committee

Council decided to dispense with appointing a weed inspector.

First, the subject of upcoming Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing training for new councillors came up, and Blair was quick to notice the agenda did not include looking at the relationships between county governments and their lower tier municipal governments. The new Reeve didn't waste any time putting the County of Hastings Planning Department on notice that northern communities still have a bone to pick with them.

Wollaston and other northern municipalities have consistently expressed their concern that official plans presently being prepared by the County planning do not reflect the northern remote reality, and will seriously hinder their hopes of development and sustainability.