



December 1, 2011

MEDIA RELEASE

New Warden outlines 2012 Priorities

NEWS

Newly elected Warden Terry Clemens, Reeve of the Municipality of Marmora and Lake, today outlined in his Inaugural speech his key priorities for the County in the coming year many of which have an economic development focus. This is Warden Clemens second term as Warden having been elected previously in 2007.

QUOTES

“Since the re-establishment of the economic development department in 2008-9 we have helped launch 112 new businesses creating more than 200 jobs”.

“While we should be proud of those achievements, ensuring the County of Hastings and its fourteen member municipalities continue to grow and prosper in these uncertain times must remain a key priority in 2012”.

“In addition to supporting economic development activities, the CAO has been asked to recruit another candidate under our Family Doctor Recruitment Program. This will fulfill our commitment to attract 12 family physicians to the County. Currently four are now practicing, four more will set up in 2012 and the remainder will join us in the coming few years”.

HIGHLIGHTS

Supporting Economic Development:

- A detailed inventory of development ready properties across the County will be created to support investment opportunities quickly and efficiently wherever they may occur.

- A working committee lead by the County and made up of a representative of all 14 member municipalities will be created, whose mandate will be to provide advice and recommendations directly to the Planning and Development Standing Committee.
- Working with representatives of the \$660 million dollar Marmora Pump Storage project to bring it to fruition.

Family Doctor Recruitment Program:

- The County will work to add another candidate to its family physician recruitment program. This will complete the County's compliment of 12 spots. Currently four are now practicing, four more will begin offering their medical services to County residents in 2012 and the remaining four will be coming to the County over the next few years.

Long Term Care:

- The County is concerned about the amount of time and effort being expended on completing mandatory reports for the Province. New rules recently introduced, without any financial compensation, resulted in 33 days of staff time filling out these reports. The County will work with other long term care providers across Ontario to raise these concerns with the Provincial Government.

Planning:

- The County, working with member municipalities, will monitor the costs to local governments related to the implementation of new source water protection rules and regulations coming from the Province. The County shares local concerns about the possible new financial burden that may be placed on member municipalities.

Emergency Medical Services:

- The County continues to be concerned about the growing pressure on its service caused by both the demand for ambulances in the community at large as well as the need to respond to non-urgent patient transfers between hospital locations. An assessment of the impacts will be undertaken as part of the 2012 annual budget process.

For more information contact:

Terry Clemens, Warden
(613) 966-1319

or

Jim Pine, CAO
(613) 966-1319