

New Warden for Bruce County

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By John Divinski

South Bruce Peninsula Mayor John Close acclaimed to Warden's job.

The Mayor of South Bruce Peninsula, John Close, has been acclaimed as Bruce County Warden for 2014.

At a ceremony on Thursday with friends and family looking on, Close was presented the chain of office by outgoing Warden, Brockton Mayor David Inglis.

Close is the first mayor since amalgamation from the municipality of South Bruce Peninsula to serve in that position.

In Close's acceptance speech, he says the world of politics is in turmoil and many people have lost hope in their elected officials.

Close did not indicate if he was referring to federal government issues, the Rob Ford fiasco in Toronto or to the issues that have befallen his home municipality but he did say he has stayed to the ethics of the job and he's proud to represent South Bruce Peninsula at the county chair.

He says his first priority is communication, internally and externally.

Close says they need to take advantage of social media to get their message out but most importantly on his list, is to open a two-way communication with First Nations.

He says too much time and energy has been lost in this area in the past.

Past Warden Dave Inglis says Warden Close will do a great job, being well organized and he works well with people.

As his term came to an end, Inglis says one of the most important projects completed during his term was the recent strategic plan.

He called it a milestone since the county had not had one for some time.

He says now they have that roadmap towards the future.