

New Deputy Mayor and Alternate Chair Elected to Council

At a Council meeting on October 25th, Councillor Geoff Stewart of District 3 was elected by fellow Councillors as Deputy Mayor of the Municipality of Colchester. District 2 Councillor Bill Masters, who held the position since 2012, chose not to reoffer to allow another member of Council to broaden their knowledge and gain valuable experience in the role of Deputy Mayor.

“Councillor Masters has done a wonderful job for us as Deputy Mayor over the past number of years. Although they will be tough shoes to fill, I believe Councillor Stewart is up for the challenge,” says Colchester County Mayor, Christine Blair.

Following a 30-year career at Lafarge, Stewart is now a small business owner in Brookfield. Prior to being elected to Council, Stewart served over 25 years with the Fire Service, serving as Fire Chief and was recognized twice as Officer of the Year. Among other committees, he was also involved in Minor and Junior Hockey as President.

Since being elected to Council, Stewart has served as Chair of the Palliser Re-development Committee, Vice Chair of the Library Construction Committee, a member on the Library Board, Tourism Committee, Dangerous and Unsightly Committee, and the Truro and Colchester Chamber of Commerce. Stewart is also finishing up a term as President of the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities.

Councillor Eric Boutilier of District 1 was elected Alternate Chair at the October 25th meeting – a role held by Councillor Mike Cooper of District 4 for the past ten years. Boutilier is serving his first term on Council following a career with the Chignecto-Central Regional Centre for Education where he had been both a teacher and guidance counsellor for many years.

Elected every two years, the Deputy Mayor chairs all Council Committee meetings and chairs Council meetings when the Mayor is absent. The Alternate Chair is renewed on an annual basis and fills in for the Deputy Mayor when absent. All three positions are members of the Municipality’s Executive and Audit Committees while the Mayor and Deputy Mayor are members of several other committees of Council as well.