

## 2014 Warden's Closing Address

*This will be my final chance to address this fine body of legislators, so as this term of council comes to a close, I think a few reflections are in order.*

*It has been an eventful year. Good people continue to come and go but the important work of the County goes on. Asset management, economic development strategic plan, poverty and homelessness reduction plans and a rural transit review are a tip of the iceberg.*

*Our new CAO, Derik Brandt, is in place and settling in nicely. I think the directors are relieved to have someone back in the big chair!*

*Our understanding of Aboriginal issues continues to grow through the building of relationships. Having regard for treaty rights and outstanding land claims is imperative and is ongoing.*

November 25, 2014

Grey Roots is an absolute gem that more people need to know about. The enthusiasm and skill of staff and volunteers makes it a joy to be there to see the exhibits and Moreston village.

The high speed broadband SWIFT project continues forward. The only comment our economic development consultants had on the need for high-speed broadband was "get it!" So.....let's get on with it.

The Transportation Master Plan Review and Action Plan is ready for consideration by stakeholders and Council. It is a huge piece of work and will NOT go quietly.

Providing services to the vulnerable people amongst us is what truly sets Grey County apart. We have a heart and without judgment, folks in need are provided with a measure of help, be it medical, housing, transportation, financial or directional, to

November 25, 2014

allow them the ability to participate in our community. We are all richer for it.

A safe, healthy and productive work environment for every employee is what every employer strives for; Grey County is no different. This Council has made recommendations for expansion of this building to the new Council. My hope is that they will act on them. Our employees deserve better.

The thread through all of this is the high quality of the good people who come to work every day for Grey County. As Warden I have had the privilege to get to know many of them very well and my regard for them has grown immensely. There is not a more dedicated and harder working bunch. For many of them Grey County is a life's work of which they can be rightly proud. Thank you to all of the kind and helpful staff who have made my time as Warden rewarding and enjoyable.

Grey County is diverse in many ways. Geography, demographics, economy and even weather are but a few of the ways that areas can differ. We Councillors

November 25, 2014

are all a part of Grey County and sitting as a Council for the betterment of Grey we come together for the benefit of all our residents. It is not easy to

think of the greater good when there are specific needs being advocated for locally. I pray that the new Council will think big and do what is right for ALL of Grey County.

Final thoughts.

Being a political figure has never been easy and it certainly isn't now but contributing to the community is hugely satisfying despite the freely given criticism.

A good friend sent me the following quote of Theodore Roosevelt recently, and I think it is appropriate to recite it here today.

“Most criticism is not constructive unless it is with solutions.

November 25, 2014

It is not the critic who counts, not the person who points out how badly the person stumbles, or where the doer of the deeds could have done better.

The credit belongs to the person, or team, (or in this case Council) who is actually in the arena, whose faces are marred by the dust and sweat and blood, who strive valiantly, who errs and comes short again and again;

Because there is not an effort without error and short comings;

But who actually strives to do the deed, who knows the great enthusiasm, the great devotion, who spends him or herself in the worthy cause, who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement and who at the worst knows, if we failed at least we failed while daring greatly.

So, these places at this Council table shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither

Page 6

November 25, 2014

success nor defeat through their decisions and actions'.

I will miss this work, this place and these people.

Best wishes and good luck to the new Council.

Thank you.