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Media Release

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MIDDLESEX COUNTY WARDEN CATHY BURGHARDT-JESSON

During the Middlesex County Council Inaugural meeting this afternoon, Mrs. Cathy Burghardt-Jesson, the Mayor of Lucan Biddulph was acclaimed as the 2020 Warden.

The Warden of Middlesex County is elected on an annual basis by members of County Council.

Immediate Past Warden Kurtis Smith (2019) commented, "I am very proud to pass the chain of office and gavel to Cathy. The combination of Cathy's community service, municipal leadership and business experience will be extremely valuable to Middlesex County in 2020."

As a small business owner for the past 20 years and member of the Lucan Economic Development Committee, Warden Burghardt-Jesson is well known to the business communities of Middlesex and London. However, she is likely best known for her decades of community development work with Baconfest, the Lucan Minor Hockey Association and most recently, the Kraft Hockeyville campaign.

In addition to community and business development, Cathy has also given back to her community through extensive public service as a multi-term Mayor of Lucan Biddulph and County Council member. Cathy also serves as the Chair of the Lake Huron Water System, a member of the Western University Board of Governors, and is a board member of the Middlesex-London EMS Authority.

Warden Burghardt-Jesson resides in Lucan Biddulph with her husband Kirk and is the proud mother of four adult boys.

In her acceptance speech, Warden Burghardt-Jesson was humbled by the trust and support that she received from her County Council colleagues while at the same time recognizing the challenges that face Middlesex County in the coming year.

“While the Province has promised to work with us, they have expectations that we must continue to find efficiencies. They have made it clear that government service offerings will be smaller and in some cases there will be fewer offerings. As more of the platform is rolled out, we must adapt to the changes and challenges as they are presented. It will mean strengthening our relationship with the government to ensure Middlesex County continues to have a voice of consideration at the table. With the challenge of finding efficiencies, the work and conversations that started this year with our lower tier partners must continue. Working with our lower tiers will prove beneficial to all at the table. Together we can find cost savings, enhance service offerings for our smaller municipalities and improve the important relationships between the County and the lower tier.”

Cathy also addressed the importance of the recent decision to sell the Middlesex properties as a catalyst for improving the communication and relationship with our residents through a smaller administrative and governance “footprint” in the city of London.

“This time of change is of extreme importance to the county. The question of how and where to govern must be addressed. I believe this change will allow us to move deeper into the county; to have the presence in the community that in many ways has been lacking, to deepen and in some cases create relationships with our residents...so that they can love and appreciate Middlesex County as all of us that govern do.”

Warden Burghardt-Jesson will preside over her first regular meeting of Council on December 17th at 1PM.

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