

# Smith uncontested after Kraemer drops out



Mike Smith

FROM PAGE 1

"It really should be spread around. I don't agree with the same municipalities having the warden every year. I think it goes back 60 years since Walkerton had a warden. There's something wrong with that. I don't understand it myself," Bagnato said.

He wants to see changes made to the selection process that would avert tie votes, something that's happened several times since amalgamation now that

there are only eight councillors.

He's recommending that the outgoing warden be barred from voting for the new warden, creating an odd number of eligible voters and avoiding tie votes. Last year it took three ballots to elect South Bruce Mayor Bill Goetz warden.

Smith is a 15-year veteran of municipal politics. This is his first term on county council.

"I admire Larry. I know how difficult that would be for him to do that and I appreciate what he did and will work to ensure his support for 2010," said Smith.

Later, during the inaugural meeting of council, Smith turned down a request by Kraemer to appoint him to head up the highways committee saying in all the years he'd been on county council he

had never held a senior portfolio.

His request followed Smith's appointment of Arran-Elderslie Mayor Ron Oswald to head up that committee.

Smith would not relent and the issue was put to a decision by council. Kraemer's bid was turned down by a vote of 5-3. He was appointed to represent the county on the Grey Bruce Health Unit board of directors.

In his inaugural speech Smith listed several projects that are underway for the coming year, including construction of several dozen public housing units in Port Elgin.

"On a personal level the affordable housing unit that is going on in Saugeen Shores is very important. It's something that we know we have an issue with, and if this project goes well, it's an example we can use in other municipalities," he said.

Smith said the biggest challenge facing council will be next year's budget, especially since infrastructure funding from senior levels of government appears to be coming to an end.

"The prime minister... said just yesterday, use that stimulus money or lose it. They are starting to look at ways of cutting back on those deficits. We won't be unaffected for sure," he said.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2009 IN THE HEART OF THE COMMUNITY WITH



## OLYMPIC SPIRIT AT SDSS

Photo by Patrick Baies

Area students were treated to a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity last Tuesday as former Olympian Kimberly Ribble-Orr, centre, spoke at SDSS about her trials and journeys as an amateur athlete. Before the assemblies she was joined by Saugeen Shores mayor Mike Smith, left, and Paralympian Rick Carr, donning the red mittens our local torch committee will be selling during the coming weeks. See story Page 3.

## Bruce seeks wind turbine health study

BY DON CROSBY  
SUN MEDIA

Bruce County is calling on the province to study the health effects of wind turbines.

"The province has stated that they are not going to do a health study. We're going to encourage them with a letter hoping that they will do an independent study for the health concerns that are out there now and possibly down the road," said Huron-Kinloss mayor Mitch Twolan.

Twolan's municipality has about three dozen wind turbines.

He's heard the concerns of some of the residents in his municipality.

"There are a lot of problems out there and something has got to be done. There's some pretty compelling evidence and I don't know who is going to do the study," said warden Bill Goetz.

should be paid for through taxes.

"I don't see why our taxpayers should pay for something that the province should pay for," Bagnato said.

Goetz said he would raise the issue at the next meeting of the wardens of southwestern Ontario to seek their support for Bruce County's request for a provincial study.

"It's a provincewide problem," he said.

Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound MPP Bill Murdoch put forward a resolution in the provincial legislature in late October calling for a moratorium on wind farm development until the province's chief medical officer of health could assure the government that turbines don't affect the health of people living nearby. It was voted down.

Councillors turned down a suggestion by Saugeen Shores mayor Mike Smith that the wind turbine industry be asked to share in the cost of a study, saying it could compromise the independence of any study.

Smith agrees with other councillors that there are a number of issues being raised by people who claim they are affected by wind turbines. But for him it's a question of who will pay for such a study.

Later he supported the rest of council in calling on the province to conduct an independent study.

"The province is setting the policy about where all wind energy should go through the Green Energy Act. I think they have some responsibility to see that these concerns are addressed," Smith said.

The only wind turbine in Saugeen Shores will belong to the CAW. Approval has been given to the CAW for a wind turbine for its education centre in Port Elgin.

Kincardine mayor Larry Kraemer, who is the chair of the Grey Bruce Health Unit board of directors, ruled out having a study done by the health unit. He said he's spoken with Dr. Hazel Lynn the medical officer of health and she told him there's no money in her budget for such a study.

The health unit receives 75 per cent of its funding from the province. The rest of its budget is provided for by Grey and Bruce county councils.

Brockton mayor Charlie Bagnato said he did not think a study in Bruce County