

---

Here are the highlights from the regular Lanark County Council meeting held Wednesday, Jan. 27.

- **Lanark County Owns the Podium!** – The Canadian Olympic Foundation announced Lanark County as the winner in its population category for fundraising for the Own the Podium campaign, which raised money to help Olympic athletes cover training expenses. Warden John Fenik (Perth Mayor) thanked councillors John Gemmell (Perth Deputy Mayor), Aubrey Churchill (Drummond-North Elmsley Reeve) and Keith Kerr (Tay Valley Reeve) and campaign coordinator Tony Hendriks for their role in the campaign. The county received an Olympic flag signed by Canada’s competing athletes, which will be displayed at various locations around the county. Mr. Fenik read a letter from the foundation thanking Lanark County for its efforts to put athletes in a better position to compete in the 2010 Games in Vancouver. For more information, contact Cathie Ritchie, Clerk, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1501.
- **County Set to Meet with Ministers** – Councillors have requested meetings with a number of provincial ministers at the annual Rural Ontario Municipal Association/Ontario Good Roads Association conference in Toronto Feb. 21 to 24. A number of issues are on the table, including the need for sustainable funding for rural youth centres as well as for the Best Start early learning program; recognition for the changes to the Mining Act and forest tenure in southern Ontario; the effects of the definition of “critical incident” in terms of labour; service sharing amongst hospitals and the funding model for health units; and concern over the possible discontinuation of the Ottawa Valley rail line. Appointments have been requested with the ministers of Children and Youth Services; Community and Social Services; Northern Development and Mines; Labour; Health and Long-Term Care; Transportation; Tourism; Economic Development and Trade; and Culture. “We are looking forward to bringing the county’s issues to the table,” said Warden John Fenik (Perth Mayor). For more information, contact Cathie Ritchie, Clerk, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1501.
- **Encouraging Rail Exploration** – In light of Canadian Pacific’s recent shutdown of more than 300 miles of track between Smiths Falls and Sudbury, county council is working to make sure the line is put to good use. Under the Canada Transportation Act there is a process to determine interest in leasing or buying the section of track before it is deemed discontinued. At that point the track could be removed, which is something council has indicated it does not want to see. “We’re coming full circle in our communities in terms of the importance of rail travel,” said Warden John Fenik (Perth Mayor). “This is a valuable asset and we’d like to capitalize on it somehow. We need to leave the infrastructure intact until we can explore all avenues.” County CAO Peter Wagland reported he is hoping to have more information from Ottawa Valley Railway, who leased the line from CP, for next month’s meeting. He and Mr. Fenik will be meeting with Renfrew County officials as well. Council passed a motion declaring its opposition to the line being discontinued and expressing its support for preserving the infrastructure for future use. For more information, contact Peter Wagland, County CAO, at 1-888-9LANARK, ext. 1101.
- **County Meets Accounting Standards** – Lanark County is getting closer to compliance with new accounting requirements established by the Public Sector Accounting Board (PSAB). The major change deals with the way municipalities report the value of “tangible” assets, such as land, buildings, machinery and equipment, vehicles, and computer hardware and software. All municipalities in Canada are required to meet these new standards for the 2009 fiscal year. In a bylaw passed Wednesday night, the county adopted a comprehensive policy to establish the accounting guidelines for tangible assets. The guidelines are designed to provide greater disclosure of financial information while enhancing decision making. The PSAB standard means for the first time municipalities will report the historical costs of assets and their depreciation on the financial statements. The county’s finance department has also calculated replacement costs and estimated useful life that will help councillors and staff to make more informed decisions regarding capital budgeting and better plan for future sustainability. For more information, contact Kurt Greaves, Director of Finance/Treasurer, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1301.
- **Upcoming Meetings** – County Council, Wednesday, Feb. 17, 7 p.m. Community Development, Feb. 3, 5 p.m.; Public Works, Feb. 3 (following Community Development). Community Services, Feb. 10, 5 p.m.; Corporate Services, Feb. 10 (following Community Services); Special County Council, Feb. 10 (following Corporate Services). For more information, call 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1501.