
Here are the highlights from the regular Lanark County Council meeting held Wednesday, Feb. 17.

- **County Part of New Tourism Region** – Following an Ontario Ministry of Tourism-funded initiative to see new tourism regions established across the province, Lanark County will be one of eight groups participating in a submission to form, with partners, a regional organization. The county is part of region 11, which includes parts of Renfrew, Frontenac, Lennox & Addington, Hastings and Haliburton counties. The submission, led by the Ottawa Valley Tourist Association, will propose an operational structure for the new organization, which will be accountable to the ministry. Council passed a motion offering to host a satellite office with space for up to four staff. The new organization would be responsible for associated costs. The county will also provide \$3,000 to the Lanark County Tourism Association for expenses related to the development of the new organization, which is to be 100 per cent industry led. For more information, contact Marie White, County Tourism Manager, at 1-888-4-LANARK, ext. 1530.
- **Rail Line Meeting Planned** – The county plans to participate in a meeting hosted by Renfrew County on March 11 concerning the recent proposed shutdown announced by Canadian Pacific of more than 300 miles of track between Smiths Falls and Sudbury. Representatives from municipalities along the line have been invited to discuss options under the Canada Transportation Act as well as municipal issues concerning continuing railway operations or abandoning the line. Lanark County Council has indicated it would like to see the line put to good use, but has learned there is a tight timeframe for negotiations. As required under the act, CP advertised its intent to sell the line in early February. If no interest is expressed by another railway to lease or buy the section by April 5, then it is offered to various levels of government. If there is no deal, CP could dismantle the line and sell the real estate as early as this fall. County councillors will meet with the provincial tourism and culture ministry on this issue at the Rural Ontario Municipal Association/Ontario Good Roads Association conference next week. For more information, contact Peter Wagland, County CAO, at 1-888-9LANARK, ext. 1101.
- **County Coordinating Defibrillator Program** – Council passed a motion approving the development of a public access defibrillator program in the county that would coordinate the placement of automated external defibrillators in public locations and provide consistent training. The program will help to coordinate efforts regardless of what organization is providing funding for the machines. It will also minimize duplication and allow for the tracking of maintenance on the defibrillators. Using remaining funds from 2009 from the Ontario Heart and Stroke Foundation, county staff have been directed to place defibrillators in the Almonte Old Town Hall and the Tay Valley ABC Hall in Bolingbroke based on a priority list. Several other locations already have installed defibrillators under this and other programs. Municipal CAOs make recommendations regarding priority for defibrillator placement in public facilities. For more information, contact Rick Hannah, Emergency Services Coordinator, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1701.
- **Funds for Signage** – Councillor Susan Freeman (Tay Valley Deputy Reeve) announced the Perth and District Community Foundation has awarded \$2,000 to the Lanark County Accessible Trail subcommittee for signage for the new accessible pathway behind the county building on Sunset Boulevard. The trail winds around the Round Garden, nearby garden plots and fields and has been developed through contributions from Crains Construction Ltd., Omya (Canada) Inc. and Geosynthetic Systems Ltd. It is expected to be completed this year. “Thank you so much to the Perth and District Community Foundation for this gift,” Ms. Freeman said. “We will be trying to match these funds in order to put up signage in time for the opening.” For more information, contact Cathie Ritchie, Clerk, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1501.
- **Meetings Set with Ministers** – Meetings with provincial ministers as part of the annual Rural Ontario Municipal Association/Ontario Good Roads Association conference in Toronto next week have been confirmed. Councillors will be meeting with ministers for Northern Development, Mines and Forestry; Children and Youth Services; Tourism and Culture; and Labour. For more information, contact Cathie Ritchie, Clerk, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1501.
- **Upcoming Meetings** – County Council, Wednesday, March, 24 p.m. Community Development, March 3, 5 p.m.; Public Works, March 3 (following Community Development). Community Services, March 10, 5 p.m.; Corporate Services, March 10 (following Community Services). For more information, call 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1501.