

Here are the highlights from the regular Lanark County Council meeting held Wednesday, May 23.

- **Next Stage for Sustainable Communities Official Plan Underway:** County council will be moving forward with the next steps in the Sustainable Communities Official Plan process, including a required public meeting under the Planning Act to be held on June 14 at 7 p.m. in the council chambers. “Sustainable Lanark” combines an integrated community sustainability plan with an official plan, a first in Ontario. It has been developed to meet the requirement of the Federal Gas Tax Transfer Agreement and includes a vision statement, theme statements and strategic objectives. It aims to balance the implementation of land-use policies with direct actions designed to ensure integration of sustainable practices, with local priorities taken into account. The SCOP is intended to provide a high level land-use framework that recognizes and supports local municipal official plans. The latest revised document, which includes numerous amendments based on comments received, will be reviewed with councillors at their community development committee meeting on June 6. Local municipal councils will have an opportunity to review the document as well. Following the public meeting, comments will be reviewed at a special community development meeting on June 20. The revised document will be available for public review on the county’s website at www.lanarkcounty.ca by the end of May. Once adopted by county council, the document will be formally submitted to the provincial Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing for final review followed by another public comment period. For more information, contact Mary Kirkham, Planning Approvals Administrator, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1520.
- **Council Supports AMO Nomination:** Council passed a motion to support the nomination of Tay Valley Deputy Reeve Susan Freeman to the office of “Director County Caucus” on the 2012-2014 Association of Municipalities of Ontario board of directors. There are six such positions on the board, three of which are elected officials. Ms. Freeman thanked council for its support. “I encourage delegates to register and vote so we can have representation for this part of Ontario,” she said. CAO Peter Wagland indicated he and the warden would bring the nomination to the Eastern Ontario Wardens’ Caucus for support. “A finer candidate there could not be,” added Warden John Gemmell (Perth Deputy Mayor). For more information, contact Cathie Ritchie, Director of Clerk’s Services/Clerk, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1501.
- **Rideau Canal Resolution Supported:** Council has supported a resolution by the City of Kingston related to the operation of the Rideau Canal in light of federal budget cuts and the intent to “align the length of its season, hours of operation and personal service at locks on canals to focus investments on the periods of highest requirements.” The resolution notes the canal is a UNESCO World Heritage Site that is an important cultural, recreational and economic asset within the county, and that reducing hours or service will negatively affect local tourism and recreation. Federal Environment Minister and Minister Responsible for Parks Canada Peter Kent recently announced the current levels of service and operation would be maintained on the canal this year; however, the 13 local municipalities around the waterway have met and are united in their mutual concern for the future. The county is asking Parks Canada and the federal government to maintain the status quo for the next four years and to consult with the 13 municipalities regarding any potential changes to service and operation of the canal beyond 2012. The resolution will be widely circulated. For more information, contact Cathie Ritchie, Director of Clerk’s Services/Clerk, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1501.
- **Please also see separate media releases regarding the hiring of the new CAO for Lanark County, as well as the proclamation of National Access Awareness Week.**
- **Upcoming Meetings:** County Council, Wednesday, June 27, 7 p.m. Community Development, June 6, 5 p.m.; Public Works, June 6 (following Community Development). Community Services, June 13, 5 p.m.; Corporate Services, June 13 (following Community Services). SCOP Public Meeting, June 14, 7 p.m. Special Community Development, June 20. For more information, call 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1501.