LANARK COUNTY

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release
June 28, 2012

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

- **County Approves Sustainable Communities Official Plan:** After almost three years of work, Lanark County has approved its Sustainable Communities Official Plan. A required public meeting was held under the Planning Act on June 14 and public comments have been received and considered. "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 land-use framework that recognizes and supports local municipal official plans. The document will now be formally submitted to the provincial Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing for final review. Ministry comments and recommendations will be discussed with council. Once MMAH is satisfied the document meets requirements of the Provincial Policy Statements, it goes to the minister for final approval. "This was a comprehensive, transparent and inclusive process," said Councillor Sharon Mousseau (Beckwith Deputy Reeve). "We had great input from everyone around the table." For more information, contact Mary Kirkham, Planning Approvals Administrator, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1520.

- **CAO and Interim Treasurer Appointed:** Council passed bylaws officially appointing Kurt Greaves as the county's new chief administrative officer as Peter Wagland retires after nine years on June 29. Mr. Greaves is currently the county's director of finance/treasurer. He joined the county in 2007 as a financial analyst with 15 years of accounting experience, and has continued his municipal governance education over the last few years. Council also approved a bylaw to appoint financial services supervisor Jennie Bingley as the interim treasurer. Jennie has been employed at Lanark County since 1997, first in social services, then to provide administrative coordination for the disaster relief committees during the ice storm before moving to the administration and finance departments. She has recently completed her Certified Management Accountant designation requirements. The organization of the finance department will be reviewed at a later date. For more information, contact Kurt Greaves, Director of Finance/Treasurer, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1301.

- **Public Meeting Planned for Andrewsville Bridge:** Council accepted recommendations from the public works director regarding the proposed closure of the Andrewsville Bridge across the Rideau River in Montague Township. The 100-year-old bridge is jointly owned by Lanark County and the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville and provides access to the Parks Canada swing bridge, which crosses the Rideau Canal at the Nicholson's Locks. The bridge's future has been debated since 2005, when consulting engineers identified some significant structural deficiencies and noted it was at its service life end. Repairs were completed to extend its life; however, additional problems were identified after a loaded transport truck illegally used the bridge in May. The bridge was rendered unsafe for vehicles and has been closed since then. A decision on whether the bridge will be replaced, repaired or closed permanently has been deferred until after a joint public meeting is held on Aug. 30 between 5 and 7 p.m. at the Rosedale Hall in Montague Township. The issue will be discussed again at the public works committee of the whole meeting on Aug. 1. For more information, contact Jonathan Allen, Operations Manager, at 613-812-0097.

- **McNeely Avenue Extension to Proceed:** Council passed a motion to enter into a joint, cost-shared project with Carleton Place for the construction of a new four-lane arterial road, the extension of McNeely Avenue, between Hwy. 7 and Hwy. 15. The extension would eventually be assumed as a county road. The town completed an environmental assessment for the extension in 2009. It is to be constructed in two phases, the first being a two-lane road to be completed between 2013 and 2015, and the second a widening to four lanes, which the county would complete when traffic volumes warrant it. There is the potential for the development of up to 3,000 homes in the area. The extension meets the criteria to be designated as a county road and to be accepted into the county system once constructed. The town and the county have agreed on a cost-sharing framework that sees the county funding half of the cost of planning and building required intersections to an upset limit of $1.4 million, which would be funded by development charges. For more information, contact Jonathan Allen, Operations Manager, at 613-812-0097.

- **Perth Arterial Road Process Underway:** The county has agreed to enter into a joint, cost-shared project with the Town of Perth for the construction of a new arterial road between Hwy. 7 and County Road 43. The town received Ministry of Environment approval for an environmental study report for the construction of the two lane road in 2008. The town currently proposes to construct the road between 2025 and 2030, contingent upon the further expansion of the Perthmore subdivision, in two phases: the first from Hwy. 7 to Cty. Rd. 10, and the second from Cty. Rd. 10 to Cty. Rd. 43. The arterial road would meet the criteria to be designated as a county road and would be accepted into the county system when constructed. The town and the county have agreed on a cost-sharing framework that would see the county commit to funding up to $680,000 for the preliminary work on the project. Once the town has a developer agreement that includes contributions to the arterial road, the county will enter into negotiations to share costs for the balance of the road construction. As part of the agreement, portions of county roads within the town limits (Gore

Street, Sunset Boulevard and North Street) will be transferred to the town as of Jan. 1, 2013. The town has also been asked to act as the county's agent to facilitate the potential future disposal and redevelopment of the county's Perth garage property at no cost to the county. For more information, contact Jonathan Allen, Operations Manager, at 613-812-0097.

- **United Way Recognizes Contributions:** Representatives from the United Way of Lanark County were on hand to present three plaques to recognize contributions made by the corporation. Sarah Bridson, executive director, presented the first plaque to Warden John Gemmell (Perth Deputy Mayor) and past-Warden Sharon Mousseau (Beckwith Deputy Reeve) for the contribution to the United Way in 2011 from the Warden's Golf Tournament proceeds. A second plaque was presented to CAO Peter Wagland in recognition of the more than $10,000 contributed through Lanark County payroll deductions. The third plaque was presented to Deborah Pidgeon, Lanark Lodge director, in recognition of contributions from Lodge staff. United Way fund development officer Fraser Scantlebury extended his appreciation for the generosity, and also congratulated Mr. Wagland on his retirement and acknowledged his long-standing involvement and contributions to the United Way. "You represent a great organization," added Mr. Gemmell, "and on behalf of Lanark County and our residents I thank you so much for all you do." For more information, contact Leslie Drynan, Deputy Clerk, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1502. **Presentation photos available upon request.**

- **CAO Bids Farewell:** Current councillors and past wardens were on hand to mark CAO Peter Wagland's final county council meeting before retiring on Friday. Several councillors expressed their congratulations and gratitude to Mr. Wagland for his many contributions to Lanark County during his nine years here. Councillor Richard Kidd (Beckwith Reeve) highlighted Mr. Wagland's work to change the culture around the council table by promoting the notion of councillors "wearing their County hat." A motion was passed to acknowledge Mr. Wagland's promotion of this phrase during his time as CAO. The many successful projects completed during his tenure, his encouragement with staff development and his work with councillors and wardens was highly praised. Mr. Wagland expressed his thanks for all of the recognition as his 42-year career in municipal government comes to a close. He also praised county staff. "We have come a long way as a county. I am proud to say I am part of Lanark County and that I have been your CAO," he said, adding he had fun coming to work every day. "I can't think of a better way to end my career. Lanark County is now my home. Thank you – it has been a blast!" For more information, contact Peter Wagland, CAO, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1101. **Photos available upon request.**

- **Upcoming Meetings: Please note there are no meetings in July.** County Council, Wednesday, Aug. 29, 7 p.m. Community Development, Aug. 1, 5 p.m.; Public Works, Aug. 1 (following Community Development). Community Services, Aug. 8, 5 p.m.; Corporate Services, Aug. 8 (following Community Services). For more information, contact 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1501.

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