

Here are the highlights from the regular Lanark County Council meeting held Wednesday, Nov. 14.

- **Entering Partnership with OFATV:** Council has passed a motion to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the local Ontario Federation of All Terrain Vehicle (OFATV) clubs for use of the Glen Tay-Havelock Trail. At the economic development committee meeting earlier this month, Research Assistant Casey Whitarcar explained the partnership with OFATV is expected to ensure all trails will be well promoted and used and it does not restrict use of the Glen Tay-Havelock Trail to only ATVs. Regular patrols by OFATV groups will aim to ensure trails are used safely and responsibly. “Additionally, the one-pass system used by the OFATV simplifies the permitting process for trail users, and money raised through the system will go back into the maintenance of our local trails, as the local ATV groups perform regular inspections and monitor conditions of the trail,” she said. The agreement follows the snowmobile club agreements already in place, as well as the proposed agreement between the county and the OFATV to serve the Ottawa Valley Recreational Trail. From 2000 to 2010, the county had a license agreement with the Eastern Ontario Trails Association for its portion of the Glen Tay-Havelock Trail, which included a more complex pass system and funds were used for management and development of trails across eastern Ontario. The county thanks the EOTA for its past support on the trail and looks forward to working with them on future trails projects. For more information, contact Casey Whitarcar, Research Assistant, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1102.

- **Rural Fibre to the Home Pilot Project Approved:** Council has approved the development of a municipal access agreement with Storm Internet for a pilot project designed to help bring high-speed Internet to rural residents of Lanark County. It involves burying fibre for about 5 kilometres between Union Hall and Clayton on County Road 9. Across Canada, many rural areas do not have the infrastructure needed to support minimal service levels identified by the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission for broadband Internet access, and bringing fibre to rural homes over long distances has been slow because rural projects do not have the economies of scale seen in urban areas. The county is working with the Eastern Ontario Rural Network to address these issues, but was also approached by local service providers for support. At the economic development committee meeting earlier this month, CAO Kurt Greaves explained communications carriers require the consent of the municipality that has jurisdiction over the roadway before proceeding. A fee cannot be charged, but costs can be recovered. “The best way to bring fibre in to rural areas is by using existing hydro or telephone poles. Unfortunately, the economics of using existing hydro poles can be cost prohibitive,” he said. A potential issue, he added, relates to broken fibre lines and determining who covers repair costs. “In order to minimize this potential, the agreement would require the Internet service provider to use tracer wire and supply the county with two hand-held detectors.” The county has been working on a draft agreement with input from public works and Storm. Mississippi Mills is taking the lead on the project and is getting advice from insurance and legal counsel. “If this trial project is successful, there is potential for other areas in Lanark County to follow this model,” Mr. Greaves said. For more information, contact Kurt Greaves, CAO, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1101.

- **Upcoming Meetings: County Council, Wednesday, Nov. 28, 5 p.m.;** Public Works, Nov. 28 (following County Council); Economic Development, Nov. 28 (following Public Works). **Inaugural Meeting, Tuesday, Dec. 4, 11 a.m. County Council, Wednesday, Dec. 5, 5 p.m.;** Community Services, Dec. 5 (following County Council); Corporate Services, Dec. 5 (following Community

Services). All meetings are in Council Chambers unless otherwise noted. For more information, contact 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1502. Like "LanarkCounty1" on Facebook and follow "@LanarkCounty1" on Twitter!

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Please note: A media release about the 2018 Awards of Excellence has been issued separately.