

Here are the highlights from the regular Lanark County Council meeting held Wednesday, Sept. 4.

- **Remote-Control Mower to Help Combat Invasive Weeds:** Council approved an amendment to the public works department's fleet capital budget for 2019 in order to purchase a remote-control mower. At the committee meeting last week, Public Works Business Manager Janet Tysick reported all budgeted large capital fleet items have been purchased for this year except a chipper and a 3-tonne compactor. Director Terry McCann has recommended not proceeding with those two items and, instead, using the funds to purchase the mower. Ms. Tysick explained the existing chipper was satisfactorily refurbished and should remain in service for another five to six years, and there was no suitable compactor available at the budgeted amount. "With the increased focus on vegetation management, additional resources are required to complete roadside brushing, vegetation control behind guide rails and steel beams, along county trails and to assist with cutting of invasive and noxious weeds, such as phragmites and wild parsnip, in areas that are unmanageable with other equipment due to their location or terrain." She added it is crucial to control phragmites while cells are small, and the county currently does not have any equipment to assist with this in wet areas. This mower can work in wet areas and on steep slopes and uneven terrain where a regular mower or brushing unit cannot be used. Ms. Tysick said it can also be used in urban areas, such as McNeely Avenue in Carleton Place, where wild parsnip is becoming an increasing concern. The estimated cost for the mower is \$87,000, and funds not covered by the savings will come from the public works fleet reserve. Ms. Tysick added some local municipalities have expressed interest in having the county do specialized cutting for them with the mower on a cost-recovery basis. For more information, contact Janet Tysick, Public Works Business Manager, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 3110.
- **Carleton Place Featured at Harvest Festival:** As it celebrates its 200th anniversary this year, the Town of Carleton Place will be the featured municipality at the 2019 Lanark County Harvest Festival, which takes place this Sunday, Sept. 8 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The festival is held at Beckwith Park (1319 9th Line, Beckwith), but a different Lanark County municipality is featured each year. The sixth annual event gives visitors a chance to "get fresh with a local farmer" and celebrates the bounty of the harvest, featuring local producers, food seminars, cooking demonstrations, children's activities, local musicians, historical displays and more. Carleton Place will showcase its people, products and projects in celebration of its 200th anniversary. "The Lanark County Harvest Festival is an opportunity for people to meet our local farmers and purchase local food and other locally made products. The county has a unique blend of producers, passions and food," said Warden Richard Kidd (Beckwith Reeve). The festival runs rain or shine. For details, visit www.harvestfestival.ca. For more information, contact Marie White, Tourism Manager, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1530.
- **Upcoming Meetings: County Council, Wednesday, Sept. 25, 5 p.m.;** Public Works, Sept. 25 (following County Council); Economic Development, Sept. 25 (following Public Works). **County Council, Wednesday, Oct. 9, 5 p.m.;** Community Services, Oct. 9 (following County Council); Services, Oct. 9 (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!