

Here are the highlights from the regular Lanark County Council meetings held Wednesday, Feb. 19.

- **Retiring Paramedic Chief Recognized:** Council recognized one of their own, Councillor Ed McPherson (Perth Deputy Mayor), upon his upcoming retirement as Lanark County Paramedic Service Chief. Warden Brian Campbell (Tay Valley Reeve) provided an outline of Chief McPherson's career, which began in May 1981 as a part-time driver/attendant for the GWM Hospital Ambulance Service. He then attended Algonquin College for the Ambulance Program, and upon his graduation in 1983 was hired by the Ottawa Carleton Regional Ambulance Service and part time at the GWM service. He held various positions before settling to work full time for the GWM service in Perth. In 2000 he was hired by the Lanark County Paramedic Service as the Perth Base Manager, while continuing as a training facilitator for the Ministry of Health. He was promoted to Deputy Chief-Manager of Quality Assurance and Professional Development in 2003, Acting Chief in 2012 and Chief in 2013. "Throughout his tenure, Chief McPherson has been an admirable advocate for the service and, most importantly, his staff. He has led change, championed decisions, and introduced many notable programs since 2013," Warden Campbell said, adding he has been the recipient of numerous awards. "Chief McPherson has built strong relationships throughout his career and has been a true ally for those he represents. His passion to the service is all assuming and he continually strives to make sure that connections and partnerships are a priority. He is known to go above and beyond and will always help anyone in need," Warden Campbell said. On behalf of council, he thanked Chief McPherson for "his vision and encouragement, for building a strong foundation and the fact that Lanark County Paramedics have become a role model for other communities in the province." For more information, contact Leslie Drynan, Clerk/Deputy CAO, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1502.

Presentation photo available at

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/fkmwcdx4if92hqq/Warden%20Brian%20Campbell%20and%20Chief%20Ed%20McPherson.jpg?dl=0>

- **Ambulance Service Receives Certification:** Council accepted a report indicating a Certificate to Operate a Land Ambulance Service has been renewed for the period of Jan. 7, 2020 to Jan. 7, 2023. Lanark County Paramedic Service Chief Ed McPherson reviewed the certification process at the corporate services committee of the whole meeting earlier this month. The certificate must be renewed every three years and covers legislated standards such as advanced life support, communicable disease, basic life support, documentation, vehicle standards, patient care and transportation, and equipment. "In Ontario, the patient care standards legislated under the Ambulance Act are designed to ensure that the highest levels of safety are in place for every patient being treated and transported by paramedics," Chief McPherson said. The Lanark County Paramedic Service has operated since September 2000 and has successfully renewed the certificate since then. The review program is conducted by a special team from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, which conducted an onsite audit on July 17 and 18, 2019. "The review team leader commended the paramedic service on their preparation for the review and the level of service it provides to the citizens of Lanark County," Chief McPherson said. "The findings of the audit demonstrate the Lanark County Paramedic Service provides an exemplary level of service to the citizens of Lanark County." For more information, contact Kurt Greaves, CAO, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1101.

- **Funds Approved for Planet Youth Lanark County:** Council passed a motion to provide United Way East Ontario (UWEO) with \$10,000 to support the Planet Youth Lanark County initiative using funds from the 2019 surplus. This follows a presentation by UWEO Regional Director Fraser Scantlebury and Planet Youth Lanark County Steering Committee Chair David Somppi at the community services committee of the whole meeting earlier this month. Planet Youth Lanark County is a community-driven initiative to bring a proven problematic substance-use prevention model to Canada, also known as the Icelandic Model. Lanark County has become the first community in Canada to adopt the evidence-based model. In December, Planet Youth and the Upper Canada District School Board and Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario signed a memorandum of understanding to conduct surveys in Grade 10 classes in Lanark County and Smiths Falls. The project officially launched in January with representatives from Iceland on hand. Planet Youth Lanark County has signed a five-year service agreement with the Icelandic Centre for Social Research and Analysis and aims to conduct the survey this spring. UWEO is providing interim financing until donations are received to fund the process, which costs \$116,000 over five years. Mr. Somppi indicated a contribution of \$10,000 by the county would assist in “efficiently developing and providing services for youth in all municipalities to improve their well being, that of the community and save lives.” For more information, contact Kurt Greaves, CAO, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1101.
- **Housing Initiative Fund Plans Approved:** Council has approved investment plans required by the province for funding related to housing and homelessness initiatives. The first is a total of \$1.3 million for the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) in 2020-21, which is allocated to five different service categories: \$37,116 for emergency shelter (e.g. hotel stays), \$620,000 for housing with related supports (e.g. domiciliary hostels and deposits for rent and utilities), \$185,000 for services and supports (e.g. community and housing outreach case management, education and awareness, emergency needs), \$335,000 for homelessness prevention (e.g. eviction prevention/arrears and emergency repairs) and \$130,791 for administration. Housing Manager Shawna Stone explained the CHPI program is 100 per cent provincially funded and aims to prevent, address and reduce homelessness by improving access to adequate and affordable housing and support services for those experiencing or at risk of homelessness. The funds must be used in the four categories but are prioritized based on the county’s 10-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan, recommendations from the 2018 Housing Study and a review of previous spending. The second investment plan is for the Community Housing Renewal Strategy for 2020-21 and 2021-22. This includes the Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative (COCHI) and is an allocation of \$159,973 in 2020-21 and \$239,897 the following year to be distributed among eligible housing providers on a per unit basis. For the Ontario Priorities Housing Initiative (OPHI), \$278,300 is allocated in 2020-21 and \$433,300 the following year for four programs: Homeownership, Ontario Renovates, Housing Support Services and Administration. Ms. Stone explained COCHI and OPHI are multi-year programs to help stabilize and enhance existing housing and help with future growth and expansion of affordable housing options. These allocations represent years two and three of a three-year program, which is fully funded by the provincial and federal governments. For more information, contact Shawna Stone, Housing Manager, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 2401.
- **County to Participate in One Million Trees Project:** Council accepted a report by CAO Kurt Greaves outlining the county’s participation in a tree-planting program in collaboration with the local conservation authorities. The “One Million Trees Project” was identified as part of the county’s Climate Action Plan. Mr. Greaves indicated the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority manages tree-

planting programs for itself and Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority. “The county’s plan is to promote the program, replant county forests and host annual tree sales for small quantities, with a goal to plant at least 1 million trees in Lanark County in the next 10 years,” he explained. He said in light of the spread of the invasive emerald ash borer, suitable diversified species would be planted. RVCA currently has programs offering larger projects and subsidies for landowners. The county’s budget for trees and advertising is \$2,500. “Lanark County is blessed with an expansive forest canopy. This project is designed to enhance that canopy and realize all the myriad positive benefits associated with it,” Mr. Greaves said. Tree sales are planned for May 2 from 9 a.m. to noon at the County Administration Building, and May 9 from 9 a.m. to noon at Beckwith Park. For more information, contact Kurt Greaves, CAO, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1101.

- **Upcoming Meetings: County Council, Wednesday, March 11, 5 p.m.;** Community Services, March 11 (following County Council); Corporate Services, March 11 (following Community Services). **County Council, Wednesday, March 25, 5 p.m.;** Public Works, March 25 (following County Council); Economic Development, March 25 (following Public Works). 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!