

Here are the highlights from the regular Lanark County Council meeting held Wednesday, June 10.

- **Community Safety Zones Addressed:** Council has approved a by-law to establish a new community safety zone in Pakenham, and to remove two zones in Tay Valley and Perth. The new zone is located on County Road 29 North in the Village of Pakenham between the Ottawa Valley Recreational Trail and County Road 20 (Waba Road). Director of Public Works, Terry McCann indicated the section of road meets the county's criteria for a community safety zone and includes two signalized pedestrian crossings and the entrance to Pakenham Public School. The public works department also reviewed existing community safety zones and determined two no longer meet the county's criteria criteria. One, in Tay Valley Township, is located in the Hamlet of Glen Tay on County Road 6 (Christie Lake Road), from 1,120 metres east of the Glen Tay Side Road to 800 metres west of it. It was determined it is not close enough to a location of special concern, such as a school or retirement residence, to meet the criteria for a community safety zone. The affected zone in Perth is on Sunset Boulevard from Inverness Avenue to Wilson Street West. That section of road was transferred to the town and is no longer a county road. For more information, contact Terry McCann, Director of Public Works, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 3190.
- **County to Apply for Asset Management Funds:** Following a presentation by Treasurer Kevin Wills, council passed a motion directing staff to apply for a grant opportunity from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Municipal Asset Management Program to help cover the cost of updating the county's asset management plan. Funding for the remaining portion of the county's plan would come from the county's budget for the costs of the initiative, upon grant approval. For more information, contact Kevin Wills, Treasurer, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1323.
- **Council Supports Lowry AMO Nomination:** Council has supported the nomination of Councillor Christa Lowry (Mississippi Mills Mayor) for director to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Board of Directors Rural Caucus for the 2020-2022 term. Ms. Lowry expressed an interest in the nomination for the board, which encourages candidates reflecting Ontario's diversity to seek election. AMO's membership consists of 444 municipalities across Ontario. Clerk Leslie Drynan provided an overview of the nomination process, which requires candidates to have a resolution of support from their respective council. Costs of the nominee's participation on the board would be paid by the county if elected. Councillors expressed their support for the nomination and wished Ms. Lowry good luck. For more information, contact Leslie Drynan, Clerk/Deputy CAO, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1502.
- **Vegetation Management Plan Update Received:** Council received an update on vegetation management activities for this year, as presented by Vegetation Management Intern Michelle Vala at the public works committee meeting last month. In 2016, the county adopted the Integrated Pest Management Vegetation Management Plan, which is a long-term, multi-faceted approach to managing vegetation in order to maintain safe roadsides. While combatting noxious weeds, such as wild parsnip, the vision of the plan is to reduce reliance on mowing, brushing and spraying while restoring pollinator habitat. Vala explained that in 2020 the number of kilometres of county roads to be boom sprayed has declined by 68 percent from 2019 and spot spraying has dropped by 17 percent, while hand removals will increase by 54 per cent." Since 2016, herbicide quantities have been reduced by 82 percent," Ms. Vala said. "Eighty-five percent of roads declined in wild parsnip

infestations between 2016 and 2019.” Savings from spraying have been reallocated into restoration. “More funds for restoration helps improve the roadside habitat for pollinators and saves money in the long-term by naturally controlling undesirable vegetation.” In continuing efforts to find alternatives for wild parsnip control, the county is participating in a trial in an agricultural area to use Rinksor, which Ms. Vala indicated has been recognized as having low application rates that reduce herbicide, and lower health and environmental risks. She also provided an overview of information sessions/workshops held in 2019 and the monarch butterfly recovery project launched by the Canadian Wildlife Federation, which is testing if native meadows along roadsides could successfully control wild parsnip, restore monarch habitat and reduce management costs. Results in the first year were promising. Other initiatives include reseeding disturbed areas with pollinator-friendly native plants to help prevent invasive plants, developing a pollinator patch at the administration building, the proposed adopt-a-bridge program and the county’s involvement in the Mayor’s Monarch Pledge, which requires members to commit to implementing at least three action items within a year of taking the pledge. “Since Lanark County implemented 14 actions last year, it was recognized as part of the National Wildlife Federation’s Mayors’ Monarch Leadership Circle,” Ms. Vala said, adding more actions will be planned this year. Because of the vegetation management plan, Lanark County was also the first in Canada to receive the Pollinator Roadside Managers Award for Counties from the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign (NAPPC). Warden Brian Campbell (Tay Valley Reeve) thanked Ms. Vala, as well as Public Works Director Terry McCann and Public Works Business Manager Janet Tysick, for their work on this plan over the years. For more information, contact Michelle Vala, Vegetation Management Intern, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 3114.

- **Upcoming Meetings: County Council, Wednesday, June 24, 5 p.m.;** Public Works, June 24 (following County Council); Economic Development, June 24 (following Public Works). **County Council, Wednesday, Aug. 12, 5 p.m.;** Community Services, Aug. 12 (following County Council); Corporate Services, Aug. 12 (following Community Services). Virtual meetings to be conducted until further notice; watch for access details on agendas and through online notifications. For more information, contact 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1502. Like "LanarkCounty1" on Facebook and follow "@LanarkCounty1" on Twitter!