

Here are the highlights from the regular and special Lanark County Council meetings held Wednesday, June 24.

- **Housing and Homelessness Report Card Accepted:** Council received the 2019 Report Card for the 10-Year Housing and Homelessness Report, which was presented by Housing Services Manager Shawna Stone at the community services committee meeting earlier this month. The 2019 report showed the wait list for community housing increased by 10 per cent last year, with the greatest need in Carleton Place, Perth and Smiths Falls. Longest wait times are in Carleton Place and Smiths Falls. The report outlined efforts related to energy efficiency and fire safety initiatives, as well as the hoarding support program, pest control, unit makeovers, and community gardens. County programs under the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative, such as the Housing Options Program and homelessness supports, after-hours services and partnerships with various community agencies were highlighted. It also presented results from the homeownership, Renovate Lanark, portable housing benefit, rent support, homemakers', rent supplement and domiciliary hostels programs, as well as the Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative. Future initiatives include a new social housing build in Carleton Place starting this year, as well as the Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit Program, a new portable housing benefit. The 2019 Report Card will be posted in the Housing Services section of the Lanark County website at [www.lanarkcounty.ca](http://www.lanarkcounty.ca). For more information, contact Shawna Stone, Housing Services Manager, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 2401.
  
- **Update for Housing and Homelessness Plan Adopted:** Council has adopted an update for the 10-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan - Foundations for the Future – which was presented by Housing Services Manager Shawna Stone at the community services committee meeting earlier this month. The county's first housing and homelessness plan spans 2014 to 2024, and service managers are required by the province to complete a five-year review and to update their priorities and strategies if necessary to address issues. Lanark County's review process began in 2018, with the final update submitted to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing in December 2019. Stone explained plans must assess current and future housing needs in the service area, objectives and targets related to those needs, proposed activities to meet the objectives and targets, and a description of how this will be measured. Information for the updates included the 2016 Census, the 2018 Housing Study, the 2018 Homelessness Enumeration, community and stakeholder consultations, and surveys. Strategic directions include increasing the supply of affordable housing; planning for a range of housing choices; stabilizing and revitalizing current social housing stock; ensuring an adequate supply of appropriate, supportive and universal housing; and educating the community on local housing needs and offering incentives to developers building affordable housing. "It is important to note the plan is a living document, shifting and evolving as needs in the community change" Stone said, noting the pandemic is a current example of this. "In the present state of emergency, the focus is on responding to increased homelessness, food insecurity, infection control and prevention and additional related support services." The plan does not include financial commitments, as it is meant to guide decision making. Future financial allocations and commitments would be brought back to council. The plan update will be posted in the Housing Services section of the Lanark County website at [www.lanarkcounty.ca](http://www.lanarkcounty.ca). For more information, contact Shawna Stone, Housing Services Manager, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 2401.

- **Surplus Lands on County Road 1 Dispersed:** Council has approved by-laws allowing for the road closings and dispersal of surplus land on two sections of County Road 1 (Rideau Ferry Road) following a public notice process and hearings held during the public works committee meeting. The first is located at Part Lot 25, Con. 8, North Elmsley and consists of about six acres that were acquired from a family during the realignment and reconstruction of the road in 1966-67. Portions of the former road were stopped up and closed and transferred back to the family between 1989 and 1993, but the parcel in question was not closed at the same time. It is being transferred as part of a severance and is not required by the county. The second surplus property is part of the road allowance between Con. 6 and 7 near the intersection of County Road 1 and 18 (Port Elmsley Road). During the same realignment/reconstruction, the intersection left the entrances to what is now Coutts Country Flavours and the Bethel United Church and manse to remain from the former county road. The church owners are in the process of severing the manse from their property, and the former county road has been a topic of concern for the landowners for some time as it is still open and used, although not regularly maintained. A report to the public works committee indicated drivers sometimes use the section of former road as a slip-around to avoid traffic at the intersection, which has resulted in minor collisions. This closure will allow the church and manse to gain access from County Road 1 from its existing entrance, and Coutts Country Flavours will retain its entrance on County Road 18. A portion of the former road will be used for church parking, and a fence with gates may be placed at the property line between the business and the church to prevent it from being used as a slip-around. For more information, contact Terry McCann, Director of Public Works, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 3190.
  
- **Land Division Annual Report Received:** Council has received the Land Division Committee's Annual Report following a presentation by County Planner Julie Stewart, on behalf of the chair, Bob Strachan, at the public works committee meeting. In 2019, 153 consent applications were started, up from 129 the year before, with non-farm rural residential lots continuing to be the majority of all applications received. The report outlined a five-year comparison of application dispositions in total and by month. In 2019, the most consent applications were in Tay Valley, at 37. That township has had the most applications over the last five years. The report also outlines a five-year review of development activity in each local municipality, including new lots, lot additions, other (i.e. easements, rights-of-way, charge or lease, correction of title), subdivisions and condominiums. "Our total number of applications continues to be high, however, the complexity of the applications is getting higher as time goes on," Strachan noted in the report, adding the number of applications for lot additions and reconfiguration of properties, as well as rights-of-way, have increased. "It is apparent that most landowners want to maximize their severances by asking for three lots at the same time." Strachan noted the committee strives to help keep applicants informed and to keep costs down while meeting required standards, and he thanked local municipalities and staff for their input and help to ensure applicants are aware of issues that may arise with their application. For more information, contact Julie Stewart, County Planner, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1520.
  
- **Upcoming Meetings: Please note there are no meetings in July. County Council, Wednesday, Aug. 12, 5 p.m.;** Community Services, Aug. 12 (following County Council); Corporate Services, Aug. 12 (following Community Services). **County Council, Wednesday, Aug. 26, 5 p.m.;** Public Works, Aug. 26 (following County Council); Economic Development, Aug. 26 (following Public Works). 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!

– 30 –