

Here are the highlights from the regular Lanark County Council meeting held Wednesday, Sept. 9.

- **Public Information on Gypsy Moths Provided:** Council accepted an information report about the current gypsy moth infestation in the area, highlighting ongoing public education and assessment efforts undertaken by the county. The report was presented at the public works committee meeting last month by Hillary Fleming, Climate/Environment Intern, who provided an update on current activities and recommendations to reduce impacts. Fleming explained the invasive species is known to defoliate hardwood and conifer trees, and it begins its life cycle in the spring as caterpillars, which is when the greatest level of defoliation occurs. The caterpillars turn into moths in the summer and lay egg sacs that hatch the following year. “These species pose a great risk to both public and private lands, especially tree life,” she said, noting it can affect biodiversity by degrading the forests and can negatively impact farming and forestry as orchards and forests are weakened by defoliation and eventually die. Fleming noted climate change has created more suitable living conditions for gypsy moths due to warmer winters and more humid summers. The last major invasion here was about 30 years ago, and outbreak levels peak every 7 to 10 years. The county has been providing education and awareness resources to the public and is urging the public and stakeholders to assist by removing egg masses by hand throughout the season and disposing in a soap and water mixture. Other control methods include banding trees with burlap to trap caterpillars and, with high larvae levels, aerial spraying with *Bacillus thuringiensis* (BTK), which is a biological insecticide that is most effective in the spring. “An aerial survey conducted this year by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) will provide us with the current defoliation levels and health status of our community forests in Lanark County,” she said. MNRF is in the process of verifying the data and collecting samples and will provide mapping and a forest health report, which will be available through the Land Information Ontario database this fall. Fleming said MNRF does not conduct an aerial spray program but encourages landowners with high infestations to consider BTK spraying. “Zimmer Air Services offers aerial spraying to control high infestations on both private and public lands.” BTK is approved by Health Canada and is a soil bacterium that is only activated in certain insect digestive systems, with no known effect on fish, birds or mammals, she said. “Best management practices include multiple eradication methods and holistic approaches.” Resources are available on the county website at www.lanarkcounty.ca under “What’s New” on the main page, and the public can also take part in the county’s “Gypsy Moth Challenge” until Sept. 28 – details are available on the Lanark County Facebook page. For more information, contact Hillary Fleming, Climate/Environment Intern, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 3202.

- **Council Supports Additional Features for Alameda:** Council has approved in principle the addition of benches, picnic tables and signage as part of the Alameda project on the Ottawa Valley Recreational Trail in Almonte. The Alameda is a public trail lined with trees and was spearheaded by a group of Mississippi Mills residents interested in planting maples along the route. Project volunteers will work with the county and town staff to determine the ideal location for all future enhancements to the project. In an update to the economic development committee last month, CAO Kurt Greaves noted the project continues to receive donations and volunteers watered the trees three times per week during the drought. “On behalf of county council, I thank the volunteer coordinator for their group’s community engagement in the enhancement and beautification of the OVRT,” said Warden Brian Campbell (Tay Valley Reeve). The official opening ceremony for the Alameda is planned for this Saturday, Sept. 12 at 10:30 a.m., just prior to the Lanark County Warden’s Slow Roll for the United Way event, which is a bicycle ride down the trail from the

Alameda (123 Reserve St., Almonte) to Carleton Junction (Carleton Place). Proceeds will support the United Way. For info or to register for the Slow Roll, visit <http://www.lanarkcounty.ca/AboutLanark/NewsMedia/WardenSlowRoll.htm>. The OVRT officially opened on Oct. 5, 2018, and the CAO is currently working on a report for council regarding the two-year review. For more information, contact Leslie Drynan, Clerk/Deputy CAO, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1502.

- **Upcoming Meetings: County Council, Wednesday, Sept. 23, 5 p.m.;** Public Works, Sept. 23 (following County Council); Economic Development, Sept. 23 (following Public Works). **County Council, Wednesday, Oct. 14, 5 p.m.;** Community Services, Oct. 14 (following County Council); Corporate Services, Oct. 14 (following Community Services). Watch for details about public access to meetings 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!

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