

Here are the highlights from the regular Lanark County Council meeting held Wednesday, March 11.

- **Update on Abandoned Rail Property:** CAO Kurt Greaves updated councillors on the status of negotiations about the abandoned CP Rail corridor between Smiths Falls and Mattawa. The corridor passes through Montague, Beckwith, Carleton Place and Mississippi Mills and has not been used for rail traffic since 2009. The county signed a Memorandum of Understanding with partners Renfrew County and the Township of Papineau-Cameron to establish procedures for the negotiations with CP Rail, and this partnership committee has been in talks since 2010. The rail infrastructure has been removed and the committee had the property appraised. The committee has also secured a grant from Trans Canada Pipeline to be used in relation to the corridor acquisition, including the hiring of an environmental engineering firm to evaluate environmental records. The committee also has information about which portions require surveys and which have clear title for transfer, and it is getting an estimate of the cost of required surveys. The nine bridges in Lanark County have been inspected and estimated repair costs provided. “We are still at the stage of information gathering and negotiating,” Mr. Greaves explained. “Once a draft agreement is finalized, the terms will be brought back to county council to decide if the purchase is approved.” He noted council will need to determine if the rail corridor should be purchased and, if so, what should be done with it.” The costs of acquisition and converting the corridor to a multi-use trail are still to come. “Acquiring the intact rail corridor across Lanark County is an historic opportunity that will never come again. It makes sense to actively pursue the acquisition of this asset to ensure it remains in the public domain.” For more information, contact Kurt Greaves, County CAO, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1101.
- **SCOP Public Meeting for Source Water:** A public meeting has been set for March 25 at 5:30 p.m. in the Lanark County Administration Building regarding a proposed amendment to the county’s Sustainable Communities Official Plan. The amendment provides updated mapping for wellhead protection areas and intake protection zones in Lanark County and policies to reflect new source water protection information. It applies throughout the entire county with the exception of Lanark Highlands. The amendment identifies the affected areas and proposes policy modifications to help guide development in those areas as identified in the Mississippi-Rideau Source Water Protection Plan that was approved in August 2014. Local municipalities will be required to identify the areas in their own official plans. Information about the proposed official plan amendment and related materials is available from the county’s planning administrator at 613-267-4200, ext. 1520 or by e-mail at plan@lanarkcounty.ca. For more information, contact Mary Kirkham, Planning Administrator, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1520.
- **Weed Inspector Appointed:** Council passed a bylaw appointing Ken Gilpin as the Lanark County Weed Inspector for 2015. Under the Weed Control Act, the county must appoint a person to perform duties related to controlling the infestation of noxious weeds, which impact lands used for agricultural or horticultural purposes. Mr. Gilpin served in this position last year. In 2014, no site visits were warranted and, therefore, no work orders issued. A report to council from public works indicated having an active weed inspector ensures services are undertaken in a timely manner with state-of-the-art principles and taking current legislation into account. Calls related to weeds are received by public works administrative staff, who then use work order software to track relevant information and, if needed, issue the work order to the weed inspector to conduct a site visit and take necessary actions. For more information, contact Terry McCann, Director of Public Works, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 3190.

- **Upcoming Meetings: County Council, Wednesday, March 25, 5 p.m.;** Economic Development, March 25 (following County Council); Public Works, March 25 (following Economic Development); **Special County Council, March 25 (following Public Works). County Council, Wednesday, April 8, 5 p.m.;** Community Services, April 8 (following County Council); Corporate Services, April 8 (following Community Services). For more information, contact 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1502. Like "LanarkCounty1" on Facebook and follow "@LanarkCounty1" on Twitter!

– 30 –