

Here are the highlights from the regular Lanark County Council meeting held Wednesday, Feb. 17.

- **Support for Habitat for Humanity:** Council has approved a Home Ownership forgivable loan of \$20,000 for a Habitat for Humanity build in Carleton Place this year and one for Perth in 2016/2017. The funds come from the Investment in Affordable Housing Home Ownership component and the loan amounts are to be registered on title and be the responsibility of the homeowner. In a report to the community services committee, Social Housing Manager Sandy Grey explained Habitat for Humanity Greater Ottawa (Habitat GO) is a not-for-profit home builder that aims to provide safe, decent, affordable homes through no-interest, no-profit mortgages to selected partner families. They promote home ownership as a tool to break the cycle of poverty and work with volunteers, donations and community partners to reduce the cost of building. She said homebuyers are provided with affordable, interest-free loans with no downpayment, and monthly payments are based on about 25 per cent of their gross monthly household income. Family selection takes into account housing need, ability to pay a mortgage and willingness to partner with Habitat. Since 1993, Habitat Go has helped more than 55 families purchase a home. A family has been selected for the opportunity to purchase the Carleton Place home, which is expected to have a fair market value of \$250,000. Ms. Grey said the Habitat for Humanity model meets all Investment in Affordable Housing criteria. The committee also heard a presentation by Habitat GO CEO Alexis Ashworth about local partnerships and the benefits of forming local Habitat chapters. For more information, contact Sandy Grey, Social Housing Manager, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 2401.
- **Supplementing Care at Lodge:** Council has authorized Lanark Lodge Director Deborah Pidgeon to create a four-hour shift for one of the “neighbourhoods” at the long-term-care home. In a report to the community services committee, Ms. Pidgeon explained the system used to assess resident care needs and how that corresponds to funding for nursing and personal care. Ms. Pidgeon explained Lanark Lodge was successful in securing additional funding for 2016/17 despite the data pertaining to resident abilities utilized to determine funding for nursing and personal care being up to two years old at the end of the funding cycle. “The lag results in limited funding to provide care and services to our vulnerable elder population in the long-term care home sector.” The request for a four-hour personal care worker shift will help to supplement staffing in area that needs it, she said. For more information, contact Deborah Pidgeon, Director of Lanark Lodge, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 7101.
- **Upcoming Meetings: County Council, Wednesday, March 9, 5 p.m.;** Community Services, March 9 (following County Council); Corporate Services, March 9 (following Community Services). **County Council, Wednesday, March 23, 5 p.m.;** Economic Development, March 23 (following County Council); Public Works, March 23 (following Economic Development). For more information, contact 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1502. Like "LanarkCounty1" on Facebook and follow "@LanarkCounty1" on Twitter!