

Here are the highlights from the regular Lanark County Council meeting held Wednesday, May 25.

- **Funds Approved for Mississippi Mills Youth Centre:** Council has approved the release of \$40,000 that was included in the 2016 approved budget towards a youth centre in Mississippi Mills. This follows a presentation by Diane Smithson, Mississippi Mills CAO, at a community services committee of the whole meeting earlier this month. The Take Young People Seriously youth centre in Almonte closed in October 2014, with no long-term youth program set up to replace it. Processes in the Spring and Fall of 2015 identified opportunities for youth projects, including a new youth centre. Ms. Smithson indicated the projects work to address municipal concerns and unmet needs for youth around LGBTQ, addictions, mental health and more. She said an interim committee has been established to begin planning the Mississippi Mills Youth Centre and funding applications are underway. First steps would be to hire an executive director and summer staff, apply for grants, recruit board members and complete the incorporation process. A temporary centre will be located at the Almonte Curling Lounge, with a permanent location identified over the summer months with an anticipated September opening. Mississippi Mills is allocating its full budgeted amount to summer staffing, materials and supplies, initial start-up costs and rent. This year, as in past years, the county has allocated \$40,000 to each of the five youth centres (Perth, Lanark Highlands, Carleton Place, Smiths Falls and Mississippi Mills). For more information, contact Mary Lou White, Children's Services Manager, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 2301.
- **2015 Auditor's Report Received:** Council accepted the 2015 auditor's report, which was presented by Howard Allan of Allan and Partners LLP Chartered Professional Accountants at the corporate services committee of the whole meeting earlier this month. "All in all, 2015 was a good year for the county," he said. "I generally conclude the operations of the county are sound and well managed." He noted the county drew down from reserves to budget for capital projects, which he saw as a good thing. "Net financial assets are up a little for the year, and I think that is prudent budgeting." Mr. Allan also noted tax increases have been modest over the last five years in consideration of the fact there has also been growth. "Lanark County is in a low-risk position in terms of the financial indicators that are published by the province." He noted the importance of having a long-term plan and maintaining electronic records. "I have no significant comments in terms of county systems or operations." Mr. Allan thanked Lanark County staff for their cooperation and work during the audit process. For more information, contact Jennie Bingley, Deputy Treasurer, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1320.
- **Upcoming Meetings: County Council, Wednesday, June 8, 5 p.m.;** Community Services, June 8 (following County Council); Corporate Services, June 8 (following Community Services). **County Council, Wednesday, June 22, 5 p.m.;** Economic Development, June 22 (following County Council); Public Works, June 22 (following Economic Development). For more information, contact 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1502. Like "LanarkCounty1" on Facebook and follow "@LanarkCounty1" on Twitter!