

Here are the highlights from the regular Lanark County Council meeting held Wednesday, Aug. 31.

- **2015 Youth Centre Report Received:** Council accepted a report received earlier this month summarizing youth centre activities in 2015. The coalition of youth centres includes the Youth Action Committee in Perth, Carleton Place and District Youth Centre, Lanark Highlands Youth Centre, Smiths Falls and District Club for Youth and the Mississippi Mills Youth Program (summer 2015). The county has been providing funding to Lanark County youth centres for 12 years to support full-time positions for the executive director/coordinator positions for the centres with a goal to stabilize programs/services and strengthen the coalition. The report is part of the county's ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the funding allocated, which amounted to \$175,000 in 2015. "A process has been established whereby the youth centres submit an annual evaluation along with their annual financial statement," explained Mary Lou White, Lanark County's children's services manager. She outlined the many benefits of the centres and the range of services they provide, including homework services, nutrition programs, after-school clubs, life skills programs, employment readiness skills, culture and recreation programs and volunteerism. "The coalition continues to support one another in mutually beneficial funding requests, further lobbying efforts for sustainable provincial funding and overall programming efforts that will address all youth across the county." Ms. White also noted all youth centres are fully utilized across Lanark County, with the number of registered members increasing in each centre from 2014 to 2015. "The overall numbers continue to increase, as do the needs of the youth." For more information, contact Mary Lou White, Children's Services Manager, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 2301.
  
- **Support for Work of EORN:** Council passed a resolution supporting the development of a full business case proposal entitled "The Eastern Ontario Regional Cellular Mobile Broadband Project" as a major regional economic development priority. The resolution follows a presentation earlier in the month by Jim Pine, Chief Administrative Officer for Hastings County and co-lead on the Eastern Ontario Regional Network (EORN) project. The Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus (EOWC) and EORN are continuing efforts to improve mobile broadband and cellular networks in eastern Ontario following a massive project that saw expanded broadband availability for 423,000 homes and businesses, the creation of 63 fibered business parks and other enhancements over a 50,000 square kilometre coverage area. The revitalization of eastern Ontario's economy is one of the EOWC's objectives and the necessity of improving broadband and cellular networks has been identified in its economic development strategy as "critical to propelling innovation and economic growth in all sectors of the regional economy including manufacturing, agriculture and transportation services." The EOWC and EORN have undertaken a comprehensive engineering analysis of the gaps in cellular coverage and capacity across the region that shows significant gaps affecting public safety, economic growth and quality of life for residents. Consequently, EORN, on behalf of the wardens' caucus, is preparing a full business case to support improving an expansion of cellular networks and mobile broadband services across eastern Ontario. The resolution notes establishing a public safety broadcast network for first responders is a national imperative and that EORN's related pilot project covering eastern Ontario would support a national network. The resolution also requests that MP Scott Reid and MPP Randy Hillier work closely with EOWC and EORN on the project. For more information, contact Kurt Greaves, CAO, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1101.
  
- **Upcoming Meetings: County Council, Wednesday, Sept. 7, 5 p.m.;** Community Services, Sept. 7 (following County Council); Corporate Services, Sept. 7 (following Community Services). **County**

**Council, Wednesday, Sept. 21, 5 p.m.;** Economic Development, Sept. 21 (following County Council); Public Works, Sept. 21 (following Economic Development). For more information, contact 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1502. Like "LanarkCounty1" on Facebook and follow "@LanarkCounty1" on Twitter!

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