

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

- **Support for Hydro Resolution:** Council has supported a resolution by Grey County asking the province to re-evaluate the structure of hydro in terms of access and delivery, and to implement structural changes “to address the unfair practice of charging more for delivery for rural residents.” The resolution pointed to an inequity between the cost of hydro for rural residents as compared to urban ones due to higher distribution charges, and noted the practice “targets and negatively affects rural residents, especially those who are unable to pay for the high cost of hydro.” The resolution is being circulated to all Ontario municipalities as well as Ontario Small Urban Municipalities and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario. For more information, contact Leslie Drynan, Clerk, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1502.
- **Trail Mapping Project Acknowledged:** At the economic development committee of the whole meeting last month, councillors were introduced to an interactive mapping project undertaken by the Lanark County Municipal Trails Corporation. Catherine Orfald was introduced by LCMTC Chair Reid Kilburn, who thanked her for her volunteer contributions to the project. Ms. Orfald demonstrated the www.trails.lanarkcountytourism.com site, where visitors can take a virtual tour of some of Lanark County’s trails, learn about trail etiquette and discover ways to get active on the trails. There are interactive maps that link to local attractions and include tours and histories. Ms. Orfald explained there is a focus on the benefits of physical activity and different ways to use the trails, including intensity. Council commended Ms. Orfald for the many hours she has devoted to the project and passed a motion to formally thank her. For more information, contact Marie White, Tourism Manager, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1530.
- **Rural Transportation Study Presented:** Consultants Nelson Rogers and Robert Leitch presented their “Rural Transportation: Issues and Options for Lanark County” report at the economic development committee meeting last month. They outlined their findings about the importance of rural transportation in terms of access to services, employment, quality of life, community investment and more. They conducted extensive research using provincial and national data, case study reviews, surveys and interviews. The consultants found transportation is provided in Lanark County formally and informally by many agencies and volunteers, but few options are available for people who are not clients of programs or agencies. They found some rural communities have developed transportation solutions that may be relevant to Lanark County. Some of their suggestions include reducing demand for transportation (e.g. by facilitating active transportation and bringing services to people), coordinating transportation information, creating a central transportation referral service and booking service, seeking collaboration or considering public transit. Council passed a motion to use provincial gas tax funding to create a centralized website to link all available transit information for Lanark County and to keep it updated, and staff will work with Lanark Transportation Association to establish the feasibility of developing more transit options with lower price points. It also approved a motion to establish a Transit Working Group to review the study findings and develop an action plan. Terms of reference will be drafted by the striking committee in December. For more information, contact Kurt Greaves, CAO, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1101.
- **Upcoming Meetings: Public Meeting – Development Charges, Wednesday, Nov. 16, 7 p.m. Special Corporate Services 2017 Budget Presentation: Friday, Nov. 18, 9 a.m. County**

Council, Wednesday, Nov. 23, 5 p.m.; Economic Development, Nov. 23 (following County Council); Public Works, Nov. 23 (following Economic Development). **Inaugural Meeting, Tuesday, Dec. 6, 11 a.m. County Council, Wednesday, Dec. 7, 5 p.m.;** Community Services, Dec. 7 (following County Council); Corporate Services, Dec. 7 (following Community Services). All meetings are in Council Chambers unless otherwise noted. For more information, contact 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1502. Like "LanarkCounty1" on Facebook and follow "@LanarkCounty1" on Twitter!

Please note: A media release about the 2016 Awards of Excellence has been issued separately.