
New combined ambulance base/administration centre opens

The official opening ceremony for the new Lanark County Paramedic Service (LCPS) Administration Headquarters and Smiths Falls and Area Ambulance base was held Tuesday afternoon.

The new base, built and owned by Guy Saumure & Sons Construction Ltd., is located at 84 Lorne St. at the corner of Rideau Avenue South in Montague Township on the boundary with Smiths Falls. The leased base features a new training centre for paramedics, a large drive-through garage that houses five ambulances and a special decontamination garage that will allow for vehicles to be properly cleaned. It has a large, open floor plan that provides crews with a bright spacious work area, and the administration centre houses the entire management team in one location.

“Each of these features allows the service to operate more efficiently,” said LCPS Chief Ed McPherson. “The county recognized a need for a building and has provided the paramedic service with a facility that will serve our needs for the next 20-plus years.”

LCPS is operated by the Almonte General Hospital through an authorized service agreement with the county. It is the sole provider of emergency medical response within Lanark County and has a service district encompassing almost 3,000 square kilometres with a population of 65,000 people. LCPS responds to more than 8,000 patient-carrying calls each year.

“This new, state-of-the-art facility will allow the Lanark County Paramedic Service to provide an even higher level of service to citizens,” said outgoing Lanark County Warden Gail Code (Drummond/North Elmsley Deputy Reeve).

“Congratulations to everyone involved in this project,” added newly elected Warden Bill Dobson (Montague Reeve). “A great deal of hard work went into bringing the new facility to fruition and a welcome addition to Montague Township.”

“Call volume is increasing substantially every year,” explained Kurt Greaves, Lanark County CAO. “County Council has ensured the LCPS has the tools and facilities to respond to this challenge.”

“Working with Lanark County Council and the Saumure Group has been an exceptional experience,” added Chief McPherson. “All of our needs have been met or exceeded in this process and the accommodations are a huge morale booster for our Smiths Falls staff. We are very proud of our new home.”

Numerous special guests were on hand for the opening ceremonies, including David A. Gemmill, Frontenac County Deputy Chief-Operations, who performed an opening ceremony pipe. Lanark County Councillor Klaas Van Der Meer (Montague Township Deputy Reeve) led O Canada during the flag raising.

Members of the working group for the new base were Warden Gail Code and Councillors Keith Kerr, John Hall and Klaas Van Der Meer.

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For more information, contact:

Kurt Greaves

CAO

Lanark County

1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1101