

Here are the highlights from the regular Lanark County Council meeting held Wednesday, Nov. 15.

- **Council Supports Ongoing Implementation of Vegetation Management Plan:** Following numerous delegations and presentations at the public works committee meeting last month, council received a detailed report and directed staff to include funds in the 2018 budget to support the ongoing implementation of the county's Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Vegetation Management Plan. Delegations included Shelley McPhail regarding Wild Parsnip Management: An Agricultural Perspective; David Overholt of White Lake regarding Invasive Phragmites; Dr. Meg Sears, Chair of Prevent Cancer Now, regarding toxins in our environment; and Tim Poupore regarding the Lanark County Adopt-A-Road Program. Presentations included Medical Officer of Health Dr. Paula Stewart on the Human Health Aspect of Wild Parsnip and Herbicide; Lindsay Hanson of Health Canada on the Regulatory Process for Herbicides; and Kellie Sherman, Coordinator of the Ontario Invasive Plant Council, on the ecological impact and threat of invasive species in the natural environment. Janet Tysick, Public Works Business Manager, presented a detailed report on the activities undertaken last year and the effectiveness of the roadside spraying program to date, as well as challenges of controlling invasive species. Spraying occurred in 2016 and 2017, and the long-term IPM Vegetation Management Plan was adopted last year. The plan uses a combination of management methods with monitoring and evaluation, including prevention activities, increased education, inventories of invasive species, best management practices for weed management, enhancing the Adopt-a-Road program, boom and targeted spot spraying, hand removals, mowing and reseeding/planting. Ms. Tysick provided information about the effect of the spraying program, showing decreases in the level of wild parsnip infestation in targeted areas. She indicated the locations for spraying in 2018 will be determined after an audit in the spring, and only areas of medium to heavy infestation will require boom spraying. Other areas will be treated by targeted spot spraying or alternative methods, with no-spray alternatives continuing to be available. Information will be forwarded to local municipalities for inclusion in the spring tax bill inserts to communicate details of the 2018 roadside spraying program. For more information, Janet Tysick, Public Works Business Manager, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 3110.

- **Rideau Corridor Recognition Awards Program Winners Congratulated:** Doug Struthers, chair of the Rideau Corridor Landscape Strategy, made a presentation to the economic development committee last month to announce the recipients of their recognition awards program. The awards were conceived as a way to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Rideau Canal's inscription as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and in honour of Canada's 150th birthday. The goal was to "recognize, honour and promote good design, environmental stewardship and economic development, through public and youth engagement, that serves to protect, enhance, promote and celebrate the heritage value and sustainability of the Rideau Canal Corridor," Mr. Struthers noted. A gala celebration was held on Oct. 6 at the Smiths Falls Railway Museum to recognize recipients in numerous categories all along the canal. Local winners in various categories included: Community Building Category: Excellence, Scott Cameron, community champion for Rideau Ferry. Environmental Stewardship Category: Perth Wildlife Reserve, Excellence, model for environment and heritage; Murphys Point Provincial Park and the Friends of Murphys Point, honourable mention, Adopt-a-Gray Ratsnake program. Design Category: Excellence, Township of Drummond/North Elmsley, Rideau Ferry Public Docks. Heritage Conservation and Promotion Category: Excellence, Murphys Point Provincial Park and the Friends of Murphys Point, Silver Queen Mine Interpretation program; Merit, Friends of Andrewsville Bridge, steward for conservation of historic bridge. Mr.

Struthers thanked the county for its support for the gala to recognize the projects and expressed congratulations to all nominees and award winners. Warden Bill Dobson (Montague Reeve) thanked Mr. Struthers for his long-term service as chair and his “passion for the landscape strategy.” More details can be found at <https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/lhn-nhs/on/rideau/info/sacr-rcls/prix-2017-awards>. For more information, contact Leslie Drynan, Clerk, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1502.

- **Upcoming Meetings:** Special Corporate Services (Budget), Friday, Nov. 17, 9 a.m. **County Council, Wednesday, Nov. 22, 5 p.m.**; Economic Development, Nov. 22 (following County Council). Public Works cancelled in November. **Inaugural County Council, Tuesday, Dec. 5, 11 a.m. County Council, Wednesday, Dec. 6, 5 p.m.**; Community Services, Dec. 6 (following County Council); Corporate Services, Dec. 6 (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!