



# COUNTY CONNECTIONS

A NEWSLETTER FOR COUNTY OF LANARK EMPLOYEES

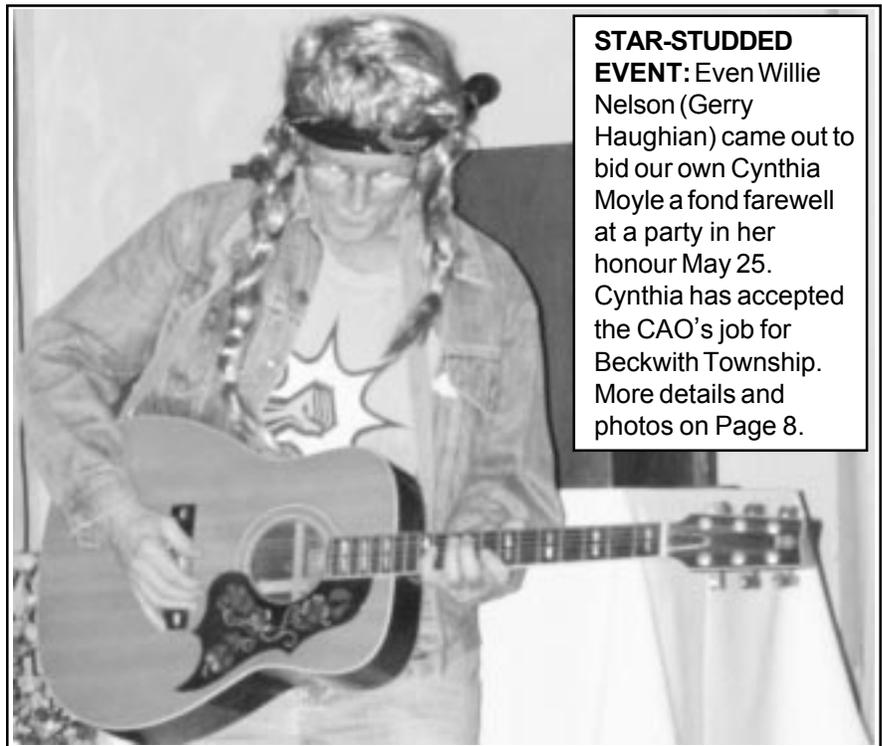
JULY 2005

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## PICTURES!

*County Connections* is always looking for PHOTOS for the next issue. Send digital images at ANY TIME to the contacts listed on Page 7.



### STAR-STUDED

**EVENT:** Even Willie Nelson (Gerry Haughian) came out to bid our own Cynthia Moyle a fond farewell at a party in her honour May 25. Cynthia has accepted the CAO's job for Beckwith Township. More details and photos on Page 8.

## A Message from the CAO

# Many projects planned for 2005

**By Peter Wagland**

May 25th was a celebration to recognize Cynthia Moyle's significant contribution to Lanark County. I trust those of you who were able to attend would agree Cynthia was recognized by Council and the employees of Lanark County for her leadership, professionalism and dedication. She has been a

terrific role model for all employees and a fabulous ambassador for Lanark County. She is already missed, but we know that our loss will be Beckwith's gain. Congratulations and best wishes from all of us.

There are a number of projects currently underway for the various Lanark County

buildings. At the Administration and Engineering buildings we are in the middle of a Space Study, HVAC (heating ventilation air conditioning), and assessing the need for an emergency generator. Lanark Lodge requires an air quality study, for which we are awaiting the final report, and we need to solve the

**Continued on Page 2**

## ***A Message from the CAO, Cont'd***

### ***Continued from Page 1***

exhaust challenges for the emergency generator. This study is just about to get underway. The Perth Public Works Operation Garage has been undergoing a site assessment for potential soil contamination as a result of its operations. Finally, the Salt Management Plan, depending upon its recommendations, may suggest a new strategy for the location of equipment for winter control purposes. These initiatives will be coming before Council in the fall in time for the 2006 budget process where required.

The Community Vision and County Strategic Plan are nearing completion for publication and distribution. Re-Think Group is preparing the final print version for approval. We anticipate distribution to the public and employees by summer's end. The Steering Committee will then reconvene to evaluate the role Council would like the County to play in laying the framework to implement the vision for 2025. This is not solely a County undertaking, but rather a partnership between us, local municipalities and the public. We look forward to developing plans around this

implementation.

The Director of Finance and Treasurer gave you a brief overview of the budget deliberations. Council is evaluating the budget process in order to simplify and streamline the steps. Our budget is quite complex because of the provincial subsidies that apply to different programs. How this is communicated to Council, the public and County employees becomes the challenge when you have different audiences requiring different information. We anticipate refining the process further for 2006.

In the last month we have hosted a Health and Safety Week and lunch event and an Employee Appreciation Barbeque. In both instances most of us were able to enjoy being treated for lunch. I would like to specifically recognize and thank those individuals from Food Services at Lanark Lodge. They not only organized and served the rest of us, but were unable to be treated in the same way as the majority. I trust all of you will join me in thanking them for the good food and good time.

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## **FINANCE**

### ***2005 budget passed with 3.5 per cent increase***

Anyone reading the local newspapers over the winter and spring will know the 2005 County budget was a very hot topic.

All directors prepared and presented their own budgets within the guidelines set by Finance. The first presentation to Council indicated we have a growing infrastructure deficit. Our buildings, roads and bridges need work. Our technology infrastructure and applications must keep pace with trends to realize efficiencies, and provincial funding for downloaded programs is not keeping up with rising costs of delivering those programs.

Through several deliberations and late-night meetings, the directors, CAO and treasurer worked diligently to bring the proposed 29 per cent budget increase down to 3.5 per cent. We had to cut or delay some projects and look at various financing options. The budget was passed on April 13. Of, course this is only part of the process – on April 27 Council passed the new tax rates and tax ratios for the various property classes.

Some of the key projects that are going forward in 2005 include County Road 10 from Franktown to the Ottawa border, County Road 15, County Road 16, Ferguson Falls Bridge, Little Clyde River Bridge, the Geographic Information System, the space study and the generator for the Administration/Public Works buildings.

Shortly after the budget passed the province announced the replacement of the main funding formula, the Community Reinvestment Fund (CRF), with a new model entitled the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF). The CRF was intended to assist municipalities with stable funding for downloaded programs. That stabilization is now gone with the OMPF. By 2008, the County will receive \$1.5 million less than it did in 2005, representing a 5.2 per cent tax increase. It will be difficult to manage, but Council took a conservative approach to some one-time funding we received this year by putting it into reserves to minimize the impact in the next few years.

## *A Message from the Warden* **Expressing appreciation for hard work**

**By Susan Freeman**

It seems as though the time since I was sworn in as Warden has flown by. As I have over the past four years, I continue to be so impressed by the diligence and hard work that County staff put into their jobs. It has been my pleasure to meet as many of you as possible and to get a better idea of the diversity of your responsibilities as you serve the people of Lanark County. I look forward to continuing as we progress throughout the year.

I, as were my colleagues who were recent Wardens, am struck by the increasing demands of this position. I am honoured and grateful for the confidence Council has in me and I take the responsibility seriously. I truly appreciate the support of staff as they assist me. I look forward to continuing to work together for the good of all of Lanark County this year.

Communicating who we are and what we do is important to me. We all work for the public and I think they should know what we are doing, contemplating and fighting for on behalf of Lanark County. Earlier this year I worked with the Eastern Ontario Warden's Caucus to lobby the province to pay their share of what we think is owed to us for providing shared services. We were partially successful and will continue to fight for what we think is right for us and our neighbours.

With the 2005 budget passing, \$52.4 million dollars will be spent to deliver services and capital projects. Budget time is always stressful for both staff and Council as we all take the obligation of fiscal responsibility seriously. On behalf of Council I would like to say thank you to all staff involved in the budget process, as we know it involves long hours and takes a toll on family life.

I look forward to many new initiatives this year, such as our new website. This has been a particular interest of mine since I arrived on County Council. I am thrilled with the new appearance and look forward to seeing the content grow. It is our responsibility to ensure residents and visitors can get the information they need from this site. For all those working with Chris Empey on this initiative, well done. I know your contributions will be valued and appreciated.

I enjoyed meeting most of the employees in

Public Works at the recent training session and at the Truck Rodeo. Congratulations to Percy Grainger of the Almonte Garage, who won that day, and best of luck when you represent Lanark County in the Provincial Rodeo in Minden. Thanks also to the organizing committee for planning and delivering a very successful Health and Safety Week event schedule for all County staff.

Soon we will be announcing a GIS supplier for the County and partnerships with our constituent municipalities to provide this great mapping and information tool for staff and the public. It will make jobs easier and lead to more accuracy, safety and faster response times.

Visioning and Strategic Planning are another theme of 2005, with an in-depth process at Lanark Lodge and the continuation of the County's strategic planning. I look forward to the unveiling of the Lodge's new vision statement and plan and commend the staff, residents, families and volunteers for all their work.

Another big change is in Social Services, where intake has been returned here from Hastings County. I am confident Gerry and his team will rise to the challenge and provide sensitive and much-needed services to our clients.

Many of you have spoken to the consultants hired to assess our space needs and offer solutions to our changing requirements as CAS leaves us. While the County's administration building is attractive, it does have its challenges. I am curious to see, as I am sure you are too, what the consultants can suggest to us.

It is with regret we must say goodbye to Cynthia Moyle as she takes on the challenge of being the CAO of Beckwith Township. Cynthia has been with the County for 19 years and has been an invaluable public servant with many responsibilities landing on her shoulders. She has always worked hard, with professionalism, cheerfulness and caring. Cynthia, on behalf of all of Council, our sincere thanks and we wish you every success in your new position.

To each and every member of our staff, I wish you a very pleasant summer. I hope you are able to take time to relax with family and friends and forget about work!

## PUBLIC WORKS

### TRAINING

This winter Terry McCann, Design Draftsperson, completed a one-week training session on soils technology to assist in determining the correct design and procedure to achieve a smooth-riding, long-lasting county road.

All full-time employees of the Public Works Department participated in a six-hour defensive driving course by Crossroads Driving Academy at the Spring Department Meeting held on April 14.

Tom Guindon has successfully completed the Ontario Pesticide Training and Certification for Extermination of Mosquito-Biting Flies.

### PERSONNEL

We welcome back Art Paul, who has returned to fill the Construction Inspector position for this construction season.

Again this year, the department has hired summer students to assist in road construction and road maintenance in the Perth and Almonte Patrols. Starting in May, Vanessa Sugar and Patricia Creighton joined the maintenance crew at the Almonte Patrol, and April Folkard and Troy Hurdis have returned for a second summer. Alex Leeftang and Jamie Popplewell are working with the maintenance crew in Perth, and Amy MacGregor and Megan Nolan have returned for a second summer. Sarah Kehoe, Jason Papke and MeloraLyn VanDusen are working in construction.



**WINTER MAINTENANCE:** Once again the Public Works Department kept the county roads in good condition this winter for your driving safety. Above, Percy Grainger, Charlie Quinn and Wayne McNicol from the Almonte Patrol are in front of one of the winter plow trucks used to clear the roads. Below, from the Perth Patrol, are Steven HERNs, Eric Labelle, Graydon Hull, Blair Devlin and Andy Emon standing with the plow truck.



In addition to the summer students, the Public Works Department hosted a student work placement from the Algonquin College Office Administration - Executive Program. Melissa Dunn worked Mondays and Fridays until mid June.

### TRUCK RODEO

On Thursday, April 28 the County Public Works Department hosted the Lanark County Road Supervisors Association Truck Rodeo at the Almonte Patrol Yard. Twenty-three DZ-qualified equipment operators from the

## PUBLIC WORKS, CONT'D

County and seven local municipalities participated in the event.

The Rodeo consisted of three scored elements: a written test, an operator's pre-start (circle check) test and a practical tandem truck-driving course.

Percy Grainger of the County's Almonte Patrol finished first and he will go on to represent the County at the Provincial Rodeo in September.

Five of the top 10 scores in the rodeo were garnered by members of the County Public Works Department: Percy Grainger took first place, Wayne McNichol came in third, Graydon Hull and Charlie Quinn tied for fifth place, and Garry Switzer captured eighth place. Other County participants included Dave Bowes, Blair Devlin, Jim Brydges, Tim Millar, Reg Cooper and Andy Emon. Warden Susan Freeman presented prizes and certificates to the participants at the conclusion of the competition. Peter Wagland, Chief Administrative Officer, also attended.

Many thanks to Tom Guindon, Almonte Patrol Operations Supervisor, for organizing the event!

### CONSTRUCTION

During this construction season there will be 25 kilometres of county roads rehabilitated, as well as two bridges (Ferguson Falls Bridge on County Road 15 and Little Clyde River Bridge on County Road 16). Construction is scheduled to start in the middle of May and finish in early October.



**TRUCK RODEO:** Lanark County Public Works members had a great showing at the Lanark County Road Supervisors Association Truck Rodeo held at the Almonte Patrol Yard on April 28. Above, operators test their knowledge during the written test component of the competition. Below, they take part in the practical tandem truck-driving course. The County's Percy Grainger placed first overall and will represent the County at the provincials.



### NEW HEAVY EQUIPMENT

A "state of the art" 2005 International Truck equipped with anti-icing and pre-wetting equipment will enable the County to improve winter road maintenance operations. Delivery of the new truck is expected in October.

## LONG-TERM CARE

### THE LADIES AND GENTLEMEN OF THE LODGE

*By Karen Nagle, PSW*

Lanark Lodge in Perth is a good place to live at any time, but right now the residents have taken on a new and exciting adventure: “The Ladies and Gentlemen of the Lodge” has been born.

Our project is a 2006 calendar featuring residents in seasonal poses for each month of the year. If there isn't an event happening, we invent one. Not only does this make a great addition to the already busy social calendar the residents enjoy, but it is also going to be a fundraiser for the Lanark County Children's Aid Society Snowsuit Campaign.

Having volunteered with the campaign for several years I have seen the need we have in Lanark County and decided to have some fun with the residents by helping them do what they have always done. Many people feel that when you go into a long-term care facility your life is over. Well, our residents are proving this is just not so. They have always been contributing members of their communities and were raised to help neighbours. They are doing this on a little different scale; their neighbourhood kids aren't just next door, they're throughout the county.

Taking my idea first to Wynn Turner and gaining her enthusiastic support, and then to Dale Smith and Ruth Carson of our Recreation Department, it was a go from the start. The residents thought it was a great idea. So, of course, we had to get a photographer. I approached Wayne and Maida McGarvey of Memory Lane Photography. Maida was telling me “yes” even as she explained the idea to Wayne. They are donating their time and expertise – their support for this project has been unbelievable. We have already done six of our pictures and, believe me, Wayne's patience is truly amazing.

We are having a blast. We show what teamwork is all about, since not only residents are involved. Cynthia Barr from Dietary and Eleanor McLellan and Susan Manion from Nursing come to help on their days off or before shifts. Audrey Baker has advice and suggestions and Linda Horne and Pat Duffy wrap gifts for Christmas (imagine explaining that to your husband). Even

our retired staff have come back to help. Lorne Hollywood arrived for our December photo in full velvet Santa costume and beard in May! Then he stuck around after he was done and helped out with our next shot; all staff have been making an extra effort to assist our models as they don their costumes. Some family of residents have been there to help as well.

Each picture has been an event, but none more so than our November one, which featured 10 of our veterans posing with their medals, pictures and memorabilia. There wasn't a person there who wasn't impressed. The residents look forward to each photo shoot and come to watch even if they're not involved. Some of our pictures are serious and some are just fun. We are having a pool party in August, complete with wading pools and tacky lawn ornaments, and we can be assured there will be lots of laughs.

To make this a true fundraiser, we are accepting sponsors for each calendar page. We still have some spaces available, so please feel free to contact me if interested.

The calendars will be ready by mid November and will be available at Loeb Perth, Giant Tiger and, of course, Lanark Lodge. For only \$10 you can support the CAS Snowsuit Campaign and see our residents' happy faces smiling with the satisfaction of a job well done!

### ACCREDITATION PREPARATION

*By Wynn Turner, Director*

Lanark Lodge has enjoyed the status of a Canadian Council on Health Services Association AIM program accreditation for close to six years, and this is the year to conduct a self-assessment of our last three years.

Teams are hard at work conducting this self-assessment, which has to be submitted with supporting information by Aug. 30. The teams are Leadership and Partnership, Long-Term Care Program, Human Resources, and Environment and Information. In late November the CCHSA surveyors will visit Lanark Lodge to meet with focus groups, tour the home and meet with each accreditation team. Staff have been exceptional in their efforts over the past three years to grow our services, and many have constructively

## LONG-TERM CARE, CONT'D

participated in the various self-assessment teams. We have also been fortunate to have County Warden Susan Freeman and Beckwith Deputy-Reeve Sharon Mousseau actively participating on the Leadership and Partnership Team, giving support and a real contribution to this submission. Together, what a team!

### FIGHTING OUTBREAK *By Wynn Turner, Director*

Over the past two years, considerable efforts have been made to improve our infection control program and practices. In the spring of 2004 all staff received infection control training to ensure their knowledge and skills were

refreshed. Staff reported any infectious illnesses they experienced.

In February, almost all long-term care homes in the area experienced an Influenza A outbreak. We kept it out for quite a while, but it finally made its way in. The staff donned their gowns and masks and sick residents cooperated by staying in isolation. The staff of Lanark Lodge are to be commended for their efforts, and we were able to finally end the outbreak.

The experience made us notice how quiet it is when volunteers, students and family and friends are not coming in except under certain circumstances. It reminded all

of us how actively involved our communities and families are!

### NAMING OUR NEIGHBOURHOODS

*By Wynn Turner, Director*

The Residents' Councils of each care area in Lanark Lodge were asked to name their Neighbourhood. Here are the wonderful results:

A1 Oak Ridge  
CD2 Honeysuckle Haven  
AB2 The Evergreens

The Residents' Councils are now in the process of naming their corridors and, as we are a municipal home, will use local geographic names.

Thank you to all the residents who participated in this truly wonderful venture!

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

### A NEW LEADER FOR THE I.T. DEPARTMENT

On June 20, Richard Morris will have joined the County as the new Information Technology Manager. Richard comes to the County with a wealth of experience in the federal government and the private sector. He has managed some very large projects and information technology departments at the director and director general levels at the Canadian International Development Agency, Foreign Affairs and International Trade. As the IT Director at Elections Canada, Richard implemented the new voter registration process in Canada through income tax returns. Richard's most recent position was Vice President and Chief Information Officer with the Civil Service CO-OP Credit Union, where he implemented a new Internet banking system and developed a strategic plan, resulting in the approval of a major infrastructure upgrade.

Richard's first projects with the County will be to oversee the implementation of the new Geographic Information System and to develop and issue a Request for Proposal for new

systems at Lanark Lodge (scheduling, care planning, call bell, etc.).

Richard and his wife currently live in Ottawa but have plans to relocate to Perth this summer.

Please join the I.T. Team in welcoming Richard to the County of Lanark!

### **COUNTY CONNECTIONS**

is a publication of Employee Services and the CAO's Office, Lanark County Administration Building, Sunset Blvd., Box 37, Perth, ON, K7H 3E2.

Submit articles about awards, achievements, announcements, etc. at any time to:

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**Striving to build unity through communication.**

# LANARK COUNTY IN PICTURES!



## ***Farewell, Cynthia!***

County staff, former and current councillors, colleagues, families and friends gathered on May 25 at Code's Mill for an evening to honour Cynthia Moyle, Director of Administrative Services/Clerk, as she embarks upon a new adventure as CAO of Beckwith Township. Cynthia leaves the County after a 19-year career. She was showered with appreciation and gifts to remind her of her days with the County of Lanark. Good luck, Cynthia – your many talents, kindness and helpfulness will be missed!



Photos, clockwise, from top left: Cynthia's Corporate Services colleagues (Amanda Strickland, Garry Welsh, Janet Box, Susan Truelove) make a presentation as CAO Peter Wagland and Warden Susan Freeman look on; Cynthia admires one of the Sparky dolls presented to her by Montague Chief Ron Haskins on behalf of the County



Fire Chiefs; Lorry Sheldon presents a "vacation bank" planter on behalf of the Finance Department; Cynthia poses in full "Miss Washroom Management" regalia; Cynthia with daughters Morgan and Whitney; the street sign presented by the Public Works Department; Garry Welsh hams it up. *Photos by Susan Truelove and Stephanie Gray*

## TOURISM

### ***Municipal stakeholders launch County Tourism Guide***

Partners representing 10 Lanark County municipalities joined in an effort to promote the local tourism industry by producing a high-quality tourism guide.

The Municipal Tourism Stakeholders' Group has been working diligently, along with Motion Creative Printing of Carleton Place and Commonwealth Historic Management of Perth, to compile an attractive tourist publication.

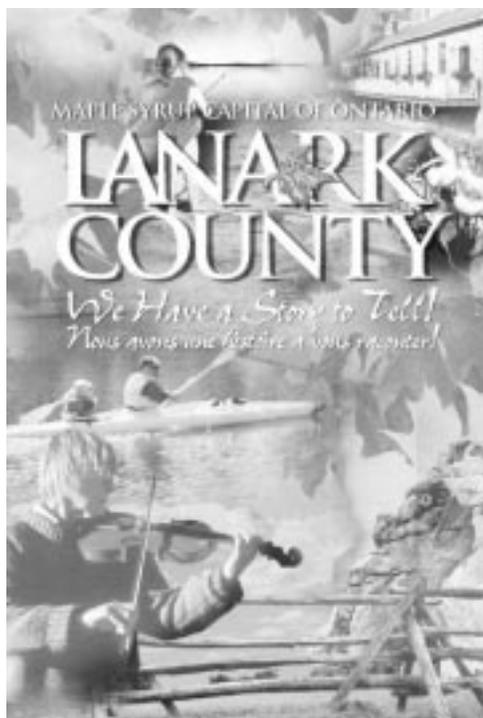
"All of the partners, including Lanark County Tourism, are very excited about this release," says Christopher Empey, Tourism Manager for the County. "This project is something we're all very proud of, as each municipality has invested a lot of work in the tourism guide."

The group was

successful in securing funding through Valley Heartland's Community Capacity Building Fund to produce the county-wide travel guide brochure. The funding has provided the group with seed money to make this a feasible project. The group's regional perspective was a great fit for the funding requirements.

On April 7, the Municipal Stakeholders' Group officially launched the tourism guide to the public. The digest-style guide promotes Lanark County as a whole and complements other publications currently produced by various groups throughout the county.

In an effort to promote local events to the citizens of Lanark County, an estimated 25 per cent of the brochures will be distributed at area locations. This will encourage citizens to visit the many amazing local attractions and events available close to home.



### **UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE COUNTY**

*For info, contact the Tourism Office at (613) 267-4200, ext. 145 or [www.LanarkCountyTourism.ca](http://www.LanarkCountyTourism.ca).*

#### **JULY**

- Canada Day 3-on-3 Basketball Festival, July 1, Perth
- Tyco Electronics Scottish Heritage Band Tattoo, July 10, Carleton Place
- Celtfest, July 17, Almonte
- Stewart Park Festival, July 15-17, Perth
- Almonte Agricultural Fair, July 22-24
- Art of Being Green Festival, July 23-24, Lanark Highlands
- Gospelfest, July 24, Almonte
- Heritage Weekend, July 30-31, Almonte
- Riverside Jam on the Mississippi, July 29-Aug. 1, Carleton Place

#### **AUGUST**

- Naismith 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament, Aug.

13, Almonte

- Perth Garlic Festival, Aug. 13-14
- Harvest Dance Black's Corners, Aug. 20
- North Lanark Highland Games, Aug. 20, Almonte
- Pakenham Fall Fair, Aug. 20
- 123rd Maberly Fair, Aug. 27

#### **SEPTEMBER**

- 160th Perth Fall Fair, Sept. 2-5
- 13th Annual Inroads Studio Tour, Sept. 3-5
- Almonte Fair, Sept. 9-11
- Dragon Boat Festival, Sept. 10, Carleton Place
- Morphy's Falls Heritage Festival, Sept. 17, Carleton Place

#### **OCTOBER**

- Fibrefest, Oct. 1-2, Almonte

## HEALTH & SAFETY

### HEALTH & SAFETY NEWS

*By Denis Myers*

As you recall, May 2 to 6 was Health and Safety Week and this year there were several events offered to employees at different locations in the county. The County of Lanark is certainly very pleased with the staff participation and I have to say this was one of our most successful Health and Safety weeks.

Speaking of successful events, the winners of the Health and Safety Week Children's Poster Contest are as follows:

Age 5 > 6 years

First Prize - Kelsey Lapensee  
(daughter of Carol Cordick,  
Lanark Lodge Dietary)

Second Prize – Lauren  
Donaldson (daughter of Tammy  
Kealey-Donaldson, Social  
Services)

Third Prize – Cameron Barr  
(son of Susan Barr, Lanark  
Lodge Dietary)

Age 7 > 8 years

First Prize – Brady McGlade  
(son of Nancy McGlade, Lanark  
Lodge Dietary)

Second Prize – Shamus  
Hennessy (son of Yvonne  
Hennessy, Lanark Lodge  
Nursing)

Age 9 > 10 years

First Prize – Jenna Barr  
(daughter of Susan Barr, Lanark  
Lodge Dietary)

Second Prize – Andrew  
Donaldson (son of Tammy  
Kealey-Donaldson, Social  
Services)

Age 11 > 12 years

First Prize – Rebecca Crain  
(daughter of Sylvia Crain,  
Lanark Lodge Dietary)



**HEALTH AND SAFETY WEEK FLAG RAISING:** This group marked the occasion of Health and Safety Week during a flag-raising ceremony in front of Lanark Lodge. Pictured are, from left, Charlie MacGregor, Maintenance Department; Audrey Baker, Manager, Support Services; Lanark Lodge Director Wynn Turner; Lanark Lodge resident Shirley Rogers; County Warden Susan Freeman; County CAO Peter Wagland and Lanark Lodge resident Edna Miller.

Second Prize – Julie McGlade  
(daughter of Nancy McGlade,  
Lanark Lodge Dietary)

Finally, we would like to acknowledge the hard work of the organizing committee for Health and Safety Week. A heartfelt thank you goes to Marie Tysick (Public Works), Diane Pearen (Social Services), Marg Cope (Lanark Lodge), Audrey Baker (Lanark Lodge),

Dale Halladay (Social Services) and Sally Volk (Employee Services).

Health and safety committees are composed of worker members and management and meet regularly. The minutes are posted in each of the County's worksites. The Joint Health and Safety Committees wish all employees a safe and happy summer.

## SOCIAL SERVICES

### AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The federal and provincial governments have signed a revised Affordable Housing Agreement, which will provide increased funding for new units of Social Housing. The agreement will provide financing for a variety of rental and home ownership programs.

The program includes: 1) A new rental housing supply program to encourage building or rehabilitation of deteriorated properties into new rental

affordable housing for moderate- to low-income households. 2) A program to assist households that are currently renting to purchase affordable homes. 3) A housing allowance program to assist low-income households to afford existing rental units available in the community.

Details of the program will be provided over the summer, but it is based on federal funds being matched by contributions from the province,

municipalities and other private and non-profit partners.

Hopefully, the increased funding will mean you will be seeing local construction of housing units, which will make Lanark County a more affordable place to live.

### CLOSURE OF TRENTON ISU

As a result of the December 15, 2004 announcement by Sandra Pupatello, Minister of Community and Social

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## ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### DOORWAYS TO OPPORTUNITY

*By Linda Schmidt, Carleton Place Deputy Mayor*

Have you ever thought you were generally informed on a subject and then visited a tradeshow or attended an event only to find out you know something about a lot of things but had no way of stringing your information together?

As a member of the board of the Lanark County Accessibility Advisory Committee and Chair of the Community Liaison Sub-Committee, it seemed prudent to start investigating events planned and implemented by other communities.

The Joint Accessibility Committee of Lennox and Addington County held its event, celebrating the International Day of the Disabled, on April 28. The venue was the Strathcona Paper Centre in Napanee. EMS vehicles and ambulances were available to explore, and personnel were on hand to respond to questions.

Information was available for every age group and included organizations available to help, government aid and retailers with amazing ability aids. A great deal of the information for seniors was preventive in nature. "Twelve Tips to Prevent Falls" and "Are You in Jeopardy?" were two pamphlets available. The "12 Tips" included general health guidelines to avoid dizziness, loneliness and an unsafe environment, while the other pamphlet, funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation, is a home safety checklist.

Magazines, pamphlets and brochures provided helpful information for all family members.

School boards, colleges and government agencies provided tactile, visual and mobility displays, making clear physical, emotional, psychological, learning and social disorders are measurable disabilities to surviving in a world geared to "normal" living. This event, by virtue of lining up exhibitors to stand beside each other, made clear how difficult it can be to recognize and respond to disabilities.

Speakers ranged from volunteers on the Accessibility Committee to municipal politicians and provincial representatives.

An obstacle course and wheelchairs were available to test drive. Manoeuvring the pylons was difficult, but the speed with which the sport wheelchairs moved proved incredible.

What did I learn? Well, when speeches are given and special devices for the "hard of hearing" are available to those with special needs but microphones are not used, the world of the hard of hearing is muffled at best. When an obstacle course seems to provide little challenge to the walking and plenty of challenge to those who are wheelchair bound, try walking on wheels controlled by hands. What was most clear was that with appropriate supports, with environmental consideration and community recognition and acceptance, "disabilities can become abilities" and when that happens, we all win.

## 2005 SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS

This year's Service Award recipients, below, were honoured on June 17 at the Perth Golf Club. *Congratulations and thanks to everyone!*

**35 YEARS** Jane Mathews, Lanark Lodge.

**30 YEARS** Janice Bron, Lanark Lodge; Marie Kerr, Lanark Lodge; Shirley Code, Lanark Lodge.

**25 YEARS** Mary Lou White, Social Services; Clayton Gogo, Lanark Lodge.

**20 YEARS** Dale Smith, Lanark Lodge; Jeffrey Nault, Social Services; Janet Hill, Lanark Lodge; Barbara Stackhouse, Social Services; Tracy Deforge, Lanark Lodge; Susan Barr, Lanark Lodge; Norma Slack, Lanark Lodge; Susan Coutts, Lanark Lodge.

**15 YEARS** Kathy Baker, Social Services; Sally Rathwell, Lanark Lodge; Gwen Hanson, Lanark Lodge; Adele Harding, Lanark Lodge; Sandra Evoy, Social Services.

**10 YEARS** Pamela McVeigh, Lanark Lodge; Lisa Crosbie-Larmon, Employee Services; Sherrie Wheeler, Lanark Lodge; Joyce Box, Clerk's Office; Brenda J. Ferrier, Social Services; Rhonda McParland, Lanark Lodge; Karen Tysick, Lanark Lodge; Audrey McLaren, Lanark Lodge; Linda Walters, Lanark Lodge; Tim Millar, Public Works; Percy Grainger, Public Works; Connie Harvey, Lanark Lodge; Carole Harvey, Lanark Lodge; Yvonne Nagle, Lanark Lodge.

## SOCIAL SERVICES, CONT'D

### *Continued from Page 11*

Services, Ontario Works will move from a two-stage to a one-step application process, eliminating all seven of the Intake Screening Units across the province.

Local offices were to submit business plans outlining how intake would be delivered and in place no later than June 16, 2005. The County of Lanark was served by the Trenton Intake Screening Unit, which provided excellent service to the Southeast Region.

Effective June 10 the initial intake services are taking place at local offices. Residents living in Lanark County who wish to apply for Ontario Works assistance may call **1-866-878-9588**, Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The management and Ontario Works teams worked together to come up with a local model that would meet all the requirements of the ministry and serve the needs of residents in Lanark County.

### **ADDICTION SERVICES INITIATIVE**

Since its inception in 1996, the Ontario Works Program has ensured that a range of employment assistance measures is available to help individuals and families relying on social

assistance to become self-sufficient through employment. Since 1996, Ontario Works has been committed to expanding the range of opportunities available to participants in order to keep the program up to date with the employment needs of those on the caseload (e.g., expanded placements, Learning, Earning and Parenting). There were pilot sites across the province and by December 31 all Consolidated Municipal Service Manager's will have their plan implemented.

Ontario Works has specific employment assistance measures designed to help participants whose substance abuse presents a barrier to employment – referred to collectively as "Ontario Works Addiction Services." The three main components are:

- A screening test for substance abuse
- Participation in an assessment of substance abuse
- Participation in a program for the treatment of substance abuse.

The County is currently working with Tri-County Addiction Services in preparation of the implementation planned for December 1.

It looks as though 2005 will be another busy year with additional programs and many changes for the Social Services Department.