

United Counties of Leeds and Grenville



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 22, 2009

Here are the highlights from the regular United Counties of Leeds and Grenville Council meeting held June 18.

Construction Season Ongoing: The public works committee reports tendering has been competitive and numerous road projects are underway. Work has begun on the Pinehill Road Roundabout and County Roads 15 and 22. Micro-surfacing work on County Roads 29 and 27 has been awarded to Duncor Enterprises Inc. for \$671,660. A joint contract between the counties and Rideau Lakes and Augusta townships for rehabilitation projects on various counties' roads has been awarded to G. Tackaberry and Sons Const. Co. Ltd. for \$4.03 million. The counties portion is \$3.5 million. For more information, contact Leslie Shepherd, Director of Works, Planning Services and Asset Management, at 613-342-3840, ext. 2412.

Developing Paved Shoulder Policy: Council plans to develop a consistent policy regarding paved shoulders on its roads. The move comes as cycling grows in popularity in the tourism market. Cost, safety, liabilities and space along roadways have been highlighted as key considerations, along with standards adopted by neighbouring counties and the Transportation Association of Canada. At a recent public works committee meeting, councillors agreed Leslie Shepherd, director of works, planning services and asset management, should meet with economic development personnel to discuss and identify strategic roads that could be considered for cycling, as well as the cost estimates. Member municipalities would be polled to help with identifying potential roads. For more information, contact Leslie Shepherd, Director of Works, Planning Services and Asset Management, at 613-342-3840, ext. 2412.

Customer Service Policy Approved: Council has approved the Accessible Customer Service Policy and Procedures as required under the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005*. The policy aims to provide goods and services to people with disabilities, with particular consideration for exclusion, communication, assistive devices, correspondence, service animals and support persons, and notices of disruption in service. It addresses training and encourages feedback regarding the execution of components of the policy. The counties' accessibility coordinator, Kevin Spencer, has been working with local staff on policies and procedures and other municipal clerks regarding training. The counties' is sharing material with local municipalities, which must also have these items in place by January. Councillor Frank Kinsella expressed congratulations from his township staff on the policy, which he says will be used as a template for their policy. For more information, contact Kevin Spencer, Health and Safety, Emergency Planning and Accessibility Coordinator, at 613-342-3840, ext. 2388.

New Procedural By-Law Approved: After months of work by an ad hoc committee, council has approved a new procedural by-law to govern proceedings of council and its committees and outline the weighted voting procedure, including occasions when a weighted vote can be called. The committee extended thanks to staff for their help and guidance, particularly Lorraine Crotty, special projects coordinator. Council also extended the ad hoc committee's term to Nov. 30 so it can address other by-laws that need to be created, reviewed or updated. For more information, contact Lorraine Crotty, Special Projects Coordinator, at 613-342-3840, ext. 2307.

Successful Summit Held: Warden Mel Campbell complimented organizers on the success of the Economic Development Summit held June 12 in Kemptville. "The undertaking was aptly organized and will now allow the counties to pursue new ventures," he said. Held in cooperation with MP Gord Brown and MPP Bob Runciman, it served as a kick-off to series of seven roundtable sessions that will run from October through April. More than 200 regional participants were on hand to identify future opportunities in three strategic economic corridors. For more information, contact Ann Weir, Economic Development Coordinator, at 613-342-3840, ext. 5365.

Upcoming Meetings – Joint Services Sub-committee, July 7; Public Works, July 8; Governance and Finance, July 9; Joint Services Committee, Aug. 26; Counties Council, Aug. 27. All meetings begin at 9 a.m. in the council chambers, 25 Central Ave. W., Brockville, unless otherwise noted. *Please note: Non-emergency delegations are heard at committee meetings.* For more information contact 613-342-3840, ext. 2304.

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