

# United Counties of Leeds and Grenville



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 21, 2009

Here are the highlights from the regular United Counties of Leeds and Grenville Council meeting held May 21.

**Exploring Waste-to-Energy Technology:** Council has created a new ad hoc committee to examine waste-to-energy technologies for the counties and report back to the public works committee in six months. This follows a visit to the Plasco facility in Ottawa. North Grenville Mayor Bill Gooch noted the company is building a plant in Red Deer, Alberta, and representatives have indicated they will send information resulting from public consultation sessions. He added the Federation of Canadian Municipalities has up to \$50,000 in funding available for studies of waste management facilities, which could help in hiring consultants to determine the viability of this technology in Leeds and Grenville. Members of the committee include councillors Larry Dishaw, Bill Gooch, Ron Holman, Frank Kinsella and Bill Thake. Warden Mel Campbell will sit as an ex officio (non-voting) member and Christian Kroeger, landfill liaison committee chair, is invited to participate. For more information, contact Leslie Shepherd, Director of Works, Planning Services and Asset Management, at 613-342-3840, ext. 2412.

**Economic Development Summit Planned:** The counties is hosting an Economic Development Summit on June 12 in partnership with MP Gord Brown and MPP Bob Runciman in an effort to focus on economic development and build opportunities for the future. Counties economic development manager Bob Cheetham says the event is part of the economic development action plan and kicks off a series of one-day forums slated for this fall on a range of topics. "We're planning around economic corridors of opportunity and looking at how to consolidate and integrate those corridors." He encourages the public, municipal politicians and staff, and economic development partners to take part in the event, which features federal Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities John Baird as keynote speaker. More than 100 participants are expected at the North Grenville Municipal Centre in Kemptonville. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m., with activities taking place from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. There is a small fee for the summit and the registration deadline is June 4. For more information, contact Lisa Severson, Economic Development Office, at 613-342-3840, ext. 5362.

**Accessibility Plan Adopted:** Council has adopted the 2008 Leeds and Grenville Accessibility Advisory Plan, which is provincially mandated and identifies barriers to accessibility and outlines remediation efforts. Accessibility audits have been completed at counties buildings. Kevin Spencer, the counties health and safety, emergency planning and accessibility coordinator, has applied for a \$50,000 grant through Human Resources and Skills Development Canada to address issues with the council chambers. He is also working with social services to address accessibility issues in satellite offices. Athens Mayor John Conley noted the committee hopes to organize information centres at various events and a workshop this fall to make the public aware of accessibility requirements and deadlines under the new Ontarians with Disabilities Act. The plan will be made available on the counties website. For more information, contact Kevin Spencer, Health and Safety, Emergency Planning and Accessibility Coordinator, at 613-342-3840, ext. 2388.

**New Signage Policy Developed:** Council has adopted a policy regulating the placement of signage that formalizes the long-time practice of not permitting signage on county road rights-of-way. The policy permits real estate and directional signage under specific conditions. As well, residents can seek permission to erect signage related to promotion of services or events of public interest, as well as temporary signs for roadside stands during operating seasons. Election signs will be permitted as long as they are removed within two weeks of the election. All signs are subject to stated guidelines and those that do not conform will be removed by the counties' roads department staff. The new policy will be available on the counties website. For more information, contact Leslie Shepherd, Director of Works, Planning Services and Asset Management, at 613-342-3840, ext. 2412.

**Upcoming Meetings –** Joint Services Sub-committee, June 2; Public Works, June 3; Governance and Finance, June 4; Joint Services Committee, June 17; Counties Council, June 18. 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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