

# United Counties of Leeds and Grenville



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sept. 24, 2009

Here are the highlights from the regular United Counties of Leeds and Grenville Council meeting held Sept. 23.

**Transportation Issues Discussed:** Council has expressed concern regarding the lack of service centres along Hwy. 401 between Mallorytown and the Quebec border. The problem arose as leases on the facilities expired at once and the provincial government began a major renovation process that has moved slowly. Local officials have been communicating with provincial Ministry of Transportation on this issue, and Kathryn Moore, MTO's regional director for the eastern region, has been invited to address members at the Public Works meeting on Oct. 7 regarding this and other issues. Council passed a motion urging MTO to recognize 730 Truck Stop on Cty. Rd. 22 in Cardinal and Angelo's on Cty. Rd. 44 as locations available for fuel for the travelling public. Council also passed a motion relating to a provincial pilot project to study the feasibility of allowing double-length tractor trailers to use the 400 series highways. This private-sector initiative led by the Ontario Trucking Association and Private Motor Truck Council of Canada is identifying suitable highways and possible rest/emergency stop locations for the vehicles. Council has agreed to designate the 730 Truck Stop as a Long Combination Vehicle rest/emergency stop location. For more information, contact Leslie Shepherd, Director of Works, Planning Services and Asset Management, at 613-342-3840, ext. 2412.

**New Planning System Deemed a Success:** Staff and councillors were congratulated for the successful transition to a new planning system in February, which is working well. Under the new system, which came into effect Feb. 1 with no break in service, the former land division committee has been replaced by a staff approval-based system. For complex files, the Counties planner consults with a group of professional planners from local municipalities. Sandy Hay, Counties Planner, indicated the new system has been well received by the public and the legal system. Warden Mel Campbell was asked to write a letter expressing gratitude to municipalities with participating planners, indicating their valuable contributions have helped to ensure the continued success of the new system. "This was a great undertaking and I congratulate staff on this new system that is working very well." For more information, contact Sandy Hay, Counties Planner, at 613-342-3840, ext. 2419.

**Council Pushes for Park Renaming:** Council has passed a motion supporting an initiative by Leeds and Grenville MP Gord Brown to change the name of the St. Lawrence Islands National Park to the Thousand Islands National Park. The motion notes the park is contained almost exclusively in the Thousands Islands and is confused with the St. Lawrence Parks Commission. Because the region in which the park lies seeks to brand itself as the Thousand Islands Region, which is considered to be a strategic tourism and economic move, the counties is petitioning Mr. Brown and the federal government to rename the park. For more information, contact Lesley Todd, Clerk, at 613-342-3840, ext. 2304.

**Fees for Trip Permits Adjusted:** In an attempt to standardize requirements, the Counties will be revising its oversize and overweight moving permits for the first time since the early 1990s. These permits are required when the dimensions or weight of a vehicle exceed the normal limits permitted by legislation on County roads. Companies and/or individuals should apply for and purchase a permit prior to a trip. The Counties have asked the Ministry of Transportation to alert applicants that the provincial moving permit does not have jurisdiction on County or Municipal roadways. The moving permits for the Counties are screened thoroughly for narrow bridges, heavy traffic areas, etc. Council passed a bylaw amending and updating the fee schedule for single and annual trip permits. Details will be posted at [www.uclg.ca](http://www.uclg.ca). 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, Oct. 6; Public Works, Oct. 7; Governance and Finance, Oct. 8; Joint Services Committee, Oct. 21; Counties Council, Oct. 22. 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.