

# United Counties of Leeds and Grenville



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AUG. 26, 2010

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Here are the highlights from the regular United Counties of Leeds and Grenville Council meeting held Aug. 26.

**Support for Children's Initiative:** Councillors pledged to back up words with action after supporting the Spark Together for Healthy Kids program. The Heart and Stroke Foundation initiative strives to create social change that has a sustainable effect on health and well-being of children, particularly in light of growing childhood obesity rates. The foundation is seeking partners from key sectors to support the Spark Promise to the Children. Public education is a key strategy. Council discussed numerous ways to put the sentiment into action, such as considering how to improve access to recreation programs and by becoming adult role models for healthy eating and exercise. For more information, contact Lesley Todd, Clerk, at 613-342-3840, ext. 2304.

**Contract Awarded:** Council awarded a contract to AECOM Canada Ltd. for consulting services to plan for the rehabilitation of four county road structures for an estimated \$84,398. The structures are Cranberry Creek Bridge on County Road 15, Jasper Bridge on County Road 16 and Cochrane and Townline bridges on County Road 20. The work will include various levels of engineering and project management. For more information, contact Leslie Shepherd, Director of Works, Planning Services and Asset Management, at 613-342-3840, ext. 2412.

**Regeneration Planning:** Council passed a bylaw authorizing the purchase of 4.28 acres in Prescott for \$60,000. This is an approach taken by the Joint Services Committee, which includes counties and separated municipalities, to address future needs for social housing as part of a housing regeneration program. Options such as housing at market value, affordable housing or social housing will be considered over the longer term as needs are examined. For more information, contact Alison Tutak, Director of Human Services, at 613-342-3840, ext. 2305.

**Launching New Brand:** The counties will be launching its new brand and economic development website at the 2010 Future Directions Economic Development Summit to be held on Sept. 10 from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the North Grenville Municipal Centre in Kemptville. Gary Goodyear, Minister of State (Science and Technology), is the keynote speaker and there will be an introduction to the upcoming integrated community sustainability plan process. For more information, contact Ann Weir, Economic Development Manager, at 613-342-3840, ext. 5365.

**Announcement Planned:** The Eastern Ontario Regional Broadband Network project will be officially announced by the Eastern Ontario Warden's Caucus on Aug. 31 at 11 a.m. Caucus members, along with MP Chuck Strahl and MPP Carol Mitchell will be on hand at the Trillium Woods Golf Course in Corbyville, where there will be an opportunity to learn how the project will benefit eastern Ontario residents. Attendees can also meet the proponents for technical aspects of the project and see how the network building will proceed over the next two years. For more information, contact Steven Silver, CAO, at 613-342-3840, ext. 2301.

**Defending Standards:** Council approved a \$6,800 contribution to the Ontario Good Roads Association's Minimum Maintenance Standards Litigation Fund in support of efforts to defend municipalities in a legal proceeding. A suit has been filed in southern Ontario regarding a winter-related accident, and the same individuals have applied to the Superior Court to have minimum maintenance standards declared void. The municipality is attempting to defend the action, in part, by proving they were in compliance with the standards. OGRA, which has requested intervenor status in the case, maintains the standards are critical for municipalities when mounting a defence against spurious lawsuits stemming from accidents on municipal roads. The association has asked municipalities for a contribution to cover legal expenses. 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, Sept. 7; Public Works, Sept. 8; Governance and Finance, Sept. 9; Joint Services Committee, Sept. 22; Counties Council, Sept. 23. 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 Lesley Todd, Clerk, at 613-342-3840, ext. 2304.