

Here are the highlights from the regular Lanark County Council meeting held Wednesday, Oct. 10.

- **Andrewsville Bridge to Temporarily Close in Winter:** Council has approved a by-law authorizing an annual, temporary closure of the Andrewsville Bridge from Dec. 1 to March 31, during which time necessary repairs will be completed. The bridge has a five-tonne weight limit and crosses the Rideau River in Montague Township in the hamlet of Andrewsville. It is jointly owned by Lanark County and the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville (UCLG). It is one of three crossings on the eight-kilometre stretch of the Rideau River between Merrickville and Burritt's Rapids and it provides access to the Parks Canada swing bridge at the Nicholson's Locks, which also has a five-tonne load limit. The condition of the century-old bridge has been an issue for several years. At the public works committee meeting earlier this month, Director Terry McCann presented the findings of the consulting engineer's 2018 wading inspection report, which concluded further deterioration of the bridge had occurred and repair costs are estimated to be between \$75,000 and \$100,000. An agreement between the two counties to fund repairs for a period ending April 2028 and has about \$110,000 remaining, which should cover the current repairs. Quotations will be brought back to council prior to repairs being completed. Mr. McCann indicated the estimated cost of a complete bridge replacement is \$3.3 million. In its wading inspection report, Keystone Bridge Management found corrosion issues in the main trusses, with the stringers being a principal concern. It noted de-icing salts penetrating the timber deck and wetting the floor system is a main cause of corrosion, and the deck will have to be replaced in five to 10 years at the current rate. Keystone recommended the winter closure to prevent more salt corrosion, as well as pressure cleaning key parts of the bridge each spring, immediate replacement of certain stringers and the timber deck curbs, and in five to 10 years coating the floor system, painting parts of the bridge and replacing the deck of the main truss. "If the counties and local municipalities truly want to save the Andrewsville Bridge, they should support any measures that reduce the amount of salt tracked onto the bridge during winter maintenance operations," the report noted. "The only effective way to prevent salt tracking onto the bridge is to prevent vehicle traffic on the bridge during the winter months." Mr. McCann noted the bridge is a landmark for the local communities and public interest is high, especially with members of the Friends of the Andrewsville Bridge. Council will work with UCLG on decisions regarding the bridge. For more information, contact Terry McCann, Director of Public Works, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 3190.
- **Council Approves By-law to Regulate and Govern OVRT:** Council has approved a by-law that outlines regulations and governance of the use of the Ottawa Valley Recreational Trail (OVRT). The county has adopted a management plan for the OVRT that addresses issues such as use, control and liability on the trail. The by-law outlines permitted uses of the OVRT, for example walking, running, hiking, dog walking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, nature appreciation, dog sledding, cycling (including e-bikes) and horseback riding. Prohibited uses include (but are not limited to) tampering with or removing signage; littering or failing to pick up after pets; failing to control a pet (including horses); camping; hunting; discharging or operating weapons or firearms; vandalizing; having open-air fires; and operation of a motor vehicle (except those with approved permits obtained from the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs and Ontario Federation of All Terrain Vehicle Clubs as authorized by the county). The by-law also outlines speed limits on the trail and operating hours. Trail users will be subject to all municipal by-laws and provincial and federal laws and regulations. The by-law also outlines offences and set fines for breaches of the provisions of the by-law. For a complete list of rules and additional information about the trail, please visit

www.ottawavalleytrail.com. For questions or to report issues on the trail, e-mail trails@lanarkcounty.ca. For more information, contact Kurt Greaves, CAO, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1101.

- **Upcoming Meetings: County Council, Wednesday, Oct. 24, 5 p.m.;** Public Works, Oct. 24 (following County Council); Economic Development, Oct. 24 (following Public Works). **County Council, Wednesday, Nov. 14, 5 p.m.;** Community Services, Nov. 14 (following County Council); Corporate Services, Nov. 14 (following Community Services). All meetings are in Council Chambers unless otherwise noted. For more information, contact 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1502. Like "LanarkCounty1" on Facebook and follow "@LanarkCounty1" on Twitter!

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