



## OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

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### NEWS RELEASE

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

For Immediate Release

### **Council Highlights**

**Wyoming, ON** – At its regular meeting on Wednesday, January 16, 2008 at 12:30 p.m., Lambton County Council:

- Heard a presentation from Mr. Stacey Nahdee, a member of the Sarnia Native Friendship Centre Committee, who spoke to Council regarding the establishment of a Friendship Centre.
- Noted that work continues on several Affordable Housing Projects throughout Lambton County. The Conditional Letter of Commitment has been received from the Assistant Deputy Minister of Housing for 12 units in Petrolia developed by Bratanek Enterprises Ltd.; Lambton County Developmental Services continues to work on the development of six units in Petrolia; the County of Lambton is awaiting Ministerial consent to develop property on Kathleen Avenue in Sarnia for two additional units; and architects are working on options for 16 units on Cathcart Boulevard in Sarnia.
- Noted that the Housing Services Department continues to accept applications for the Home Ownership Program, which provides down payment assistance for first time homebuyers.
- Deferred a request for a one-time \$150,000 increase to the Oil Museum of Canada's budget for preparations related to "2008 Celebrate" – the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Discovery of the First Commercial Oil Well in North America. Council requested staff provide more detailed information concerning the budget.
- Approved eligibility criteria for new units, to be available in the near future through the Affordable Housing Program.
- Noted the revised 2008 Council Budget Review Schedule.
  - February 20, 2008 – 12 pm – Draft Combined Operating, Recurrent and Capital Budget Released. Community Organizations receiving Council grants on a contractual basis will make presentations. Deliberations regarding and approval of Council Grants to be funded in 2008.
  - March 5, 2008 – 9 am – Review of Draft Budgets for: General Government, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer, Infrastructure and Development Services Division, and Corporate Services Division.

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- March 19, 2008 – 9 am – Review of Deliberations and Decisions to Date and Draft Budgets for: Community Services Division and Social & Health Services Division.
  - March 27, 2008 – 9 am – TENTATIVE – This meeting will take place only if deliberations did not conclude on March 19<sup>th</sup>. This meeting will allow additional time to: review budget deliberations and decisions to date; conduct additional reviews and discussions; and approve the 2008 combined operating, recurring, and capital budget.
  - April 16, 2008 – 12 pm – Presentation of Report and Recommendations for 2008 Tax Policy: Review and Debate the 2008 Tax Policy Report and approve by-laws necessary to implement 2008 Tax Policy.
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- Supported a resolution from the City of Waterloo, calling upon the provincial and federal governments to re-examine how municipalities are funded in regards to infrastructure and work together with a view to providing long-term sustainable infrastructure funding programs to assist all upper, lower and single tier municipalities in addressing their infrastructure roles and responsibilities.
  - Supported a resolution from the City of Waterloo, requesting the province of Ontario fully exempt all Ontario municipalities from paying PST, with the understanding that the savings realized be mandated to fund existing infrastructure renewal in local municipalities.
  - Supported the Ontario Medical Association in its work advocating for a ban on smoking in cars transporting children to help protect them from the negative health impacts of second-hand smoke.
  - Deferred discussion on the following motion: “That, given significant budgetary pressures at the lower tier municipalities within the County of Lambton, and given the commitment of the Province of Ontario to upload various Social Services program costs, that as a gesture of the County’s commitment to pass these cost savings to the lower tier, that grants be provided based on proportionate levy assessments, equaling the amount received from the Province of Ontario in 2008.”
  - Directed staff to prepare a report concerning the possibility of a County-wide Truck By-law.
  - Directed staff to issue an invitation to Cogeco Cable, requesting that they once again consider broadcasting County Council meetings.
  - Directed staff in the Social & Health Services Division to prepare a report outlining caseload projections for 2008 relating to Ontario Works caseloads.
  - Tabled a By-Law to Amend By-law No. 45 of 2003, a By-Law to Prohibit or Regulate the Destruction or Injuring of Trees. Council directed staff to provide a report discussing the background behind the amendments for a future meeting.

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- Noted it had received a staff report discussing the recent media coverage surrounding the living conditions within an area hotel used to house homeless individuals. The report outlined the steps undertaken by public health officials and noted that no one was occupying the damaged rooms, the property owner had already engaged the work of a contractor to repair the water damage, and inspections were conducted on the property within minutes of receiving the complaint. It was also noted officials from the Inn of the Good Shepherd had visited individuals in their rooms as recent as December 27<sup>th</sup> and no problems were identified within those units.

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