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NEWS RELEASE

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

For Immediate Release

Council Highlights

Wyoming, ON – At its regular meeting on Wednesday, February 6, 2008 at 12:30 p.m., Lambton County Council:

- Heard a presentation from Ms. Betty Lou Snetselaar, member of the 2008 Celebrate Committee, who spoke to Council about the events taking place in Lambton County to support '2008 Celebrate' – the 150th anniversary of the discovery of the first commercial oil well in North America.
- Noted that expired marine distress flares are not to be disposed of in landfill sites, or in hazardous landfill sites. Safe disposal of expired flares can be arranged with the Lambton OPP's Petrolia detachment office and Sarnia Police Services Headquarters.
- Was informed that the Public Works Department has completed its initial evaluation of extending the operating hours of the Dawn Landfill site. Results of the evaluation were favourable and the Department has included the estimated costs to operate the landfill three days per week (Tuesday, Friday, Saturday) in the 2008 Waste Management Site Operations Budget.
- Noted that staff from the Public Works Department will proceed with reinstalling transverse rumble strips on Confederation Line for eastbound traffic approaching County Road 8 (Forest Road). Installation will take place in the spring / summer of 2008.
- Noted that the development of an 'immigration portal website' is under development and will be completed in June, 2008 followed by a period of testing. It is scheduled for public accessibility in July, 2008.
- Directed staff to submit an application for funding from the Municipal Infrastructure Investment Initiative (MIII) and that the County's highest priority, construction-ready project be designated as the rehabilitation and widening of County Road 22 (London Line) from Modeland Road east through Blackwell Sideroad for a distance of 1.6 km. at a gross project cost of \$1,500,000.

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- Accepted an action plan concerning the development of a report examining the restriction of trucks on County roads. In the development of the report, the Public Works Department plans to: forward correspondence to local municipalities soliciting input; compile a historic log of Ministry of Transportation highway transfers; compile a log of petitions to County Council that pertain to the use of County roads by heavy truck traffic; perform additional data collection to supplement existing traffic information; establish a sub-committee of Council comprised of the Warden, Deputy Warden and three Councillors to review and provide comment throughout the process; review submissions from local municipalities; present a draft report to Council for its consideration; present findings of the report to stakeholders for input; review public comments and submissions with the sub-committee; present the finalized report to County Council.
- Agreed to utilize sections of County Road 8 (Forest Road), County Road 21 (Oil Heritage Road), County Road 22 (London Line / Egremont Road), County Road 26 (Mandaumin Road), County Road 29 (Indian Road), County Road 30 (Oil Heritage Road), County Road 33 (Front Street), and County Road 79 (Nauvoo Road) as Emergency Detour Routes for any unexpected closure of Highway 402.
- Determined that the County of Lambton will not take an active role in the preparation of the Source Water Protection Plan for the Ausable Bayfield and Maitland Valley Partnership and will defer to the Municipality of Lambton Shores to represent its interest in participating.
- Amended the County of Lambton Woodlands Conservation By-law which protects the woodlots found in Lambton County. The changes bring the County's by-law into conformity with new provisions of the Municipal Act.
- Amended Council's Procedural By-law.
- Reviewed a business plan for the 2008 Celebrate event which acknowledges the 150th anniversary of the discovery of the first commercial oil well in North America. Council approved a one-time expenditure of \$150,000 for the Oil Museum of Canada which will be used for the celebrations.
- Ratified a tentative agreement with CUPE 1291, representing public health workers at the Community Health Services Department (excluding Registered Nurses).
- Supported a resolution from the Township of St. Clair to have the Canada Coast Guard reconsider its current position and cancel the annual levy of \$56,000 to provide ice breaking services for which the ferry service receives no benefit and is actually detrimental to the ferry crossings.

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- Endorsed the City of Port Colborne's resolution supporting the findings of the 2007 FCM-McGill Infrastructure Survey and petition the federal and provincial governments to establish a national plan to eliminate the municipal infrastructure deficit through the provision of equitable long-term funding strategies, to prepare the groundwork for effective management in the future and to undertake a comprehensive national study, involving all three orders of government to determine the size, scope and geographic characteristics of the municipal infrastructure deficit.
- Noted that Council will receive the Corporation's draft budget on Wednesday, February 20th at 12:00pm. Council's next regular meeting will take place on Wednesday, February 20th at 12:30 p.m.

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