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NEWS RELEASE

Wednesday, April 16, 2008

For Immediate Release

Council Highlights

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

- Heard a presentation from Mr. Joel Adams, Executive Director, University of Western Ontario Research Park (London) (Sarnia-Lambton). Mr. Adams spoke to Council about recent grants received from senior levels of government and the proposed development of the Research Park, Sarnia-Lambton Campus.
- Reviewed a presentation from Lambton County Councillor Jim Foubister, and Mr. Doug Ball, Manager, Social Planning and Program Support. As Chair of the Child Poverty Task Force, Councillor Foubister spoke to Council about a community based model that the County of Lambton could adopt to reduce the number of children living in poverty in the community, known as the Circles™ Model. Council tabled the Task Force's proposed recommendations until a further report can be provided that more closely examines the Model.
- Heard a presentation from Ms. Pamela Bodkin, Community Investment and Finance Director, United Way of Sarnia-Lambton, who spoke to County Council regarding the Sarnia-Lambton Drug Strategy – Approach to Alcohol and Other Drugs in Our Community. County Council endorsed the Sarnia-Lambton Drug Strategy, dated September, 2007.
- Amended the eligibility criteria for the Homeownership Program. Applicants seeking financial assistance for a downpayment on a home (maximum of \$9,000) will be permitted to have a total household income not exceeding \$56,200. Additionally, applicants will not be required to reside in Lambton County at time of application. This will allow applicants from outside the County who wish to relocate to Lambton County, to apply for the program. Other conditions apply to qualify for the program. To learn more or to review other criteria, visit www.lambtononline.ca/homeownership.
- Requested that the Province of Ontario issue the Back to School and Winter Clothing Allowances to recipients of Ontario Works in 2008 and that these allowances be paid 100% by the Province of Ontario.

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- Made no change in property class ratios for the 2008 taxation year; eliminated the discount rate for new construction; maintained existing discounts for land under development but continuing to be used for agricultural purposes; and continued to employ the available capping options/tools to accelerate progress towards full CVA tax for property in the multi-residential, commercial and industrial classes.
- Approved an authorizing by-law accepting \$3,032,820 in provincial infrastructure funding for the County's municipal road and bridge capital investment program.
- Directed staff to have consultants prepare a report regarding education tax rates for commercial and industrial classes of property in the County.
- Directed staff to provide a report to Lambton County Council concerning the re-zoning of County-owned property on Cathcart Blvd. in Sarnia known as Jubilee Gardens. Specifically, the report is to address the access points to the property.
- Noted the next meeting of Lambton County Council will be held on May 7, 2008 at 12:30 p.m.

For more information about Lambton County, visit www.lambtononline.ca.

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