



OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

789 Broadway Street, Box 3000
Wyoming, ON N0N 1T0
Telephone: 519 845-0801
Toll-free: 1-866-324-6912
Fax: 519 845-3160
www.lambtononline.ca

NEWS RELEASE

Wednesday, May 21, 2008

For Immediate Release

Council Highlights

Wyoming, ON – At its regular meeting on Wednesday, May 21, 2008 at 12:30 p.m., Lambton County Council:

- Heard a presentation from officials representing the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC), who spoke to County Council concerning issues raised previously by Council. MPAC noted it has implemented 13 of the 20 recommendations made by the Ombudsman. It is making progress related to the remaining seven recommendations.
- Decided that Council will take no action regarding the payment of MPAC for services until it is determined what the response of Queen's Park is to be.
- Noted that visitors at Gallery Lambton exhibitions have increased more than 40% over last year, with school tour participants up almost 600%. Attendance at the Oil Museum, both general entry and for special events has increased considerably this year.
- Directed the Community Health Services Department to utilize up to \$13,600 of one-time funding from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care to prepare for the start-up and delivery of the Small Drinking Water Systems program.
- Approved Station Park Townhomes for funding under the Rental and Supportive component of the Canada-Ontario Affordable Housing Program (AHP) in the amount of \$1,936,000 for 28 units.
- Supported the Brain Injury Association of Sarnia-Lambton in its proposal to the LHINS for funding for a Clubhouse.
- Adopted in principle the Circles™ Model of poverty reduction as the strategy to reduce the number of children living in poverty in the County of Lambton and directed staff to prepare a report by the summer of 2008 regarding the implementation of the model along with a funding strategy.
- Directed staff to provide the "CAO's Goals and Priorities" report each year in Open Session.

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- Noted that seven farms in Lambton County were recently honoured with the Premier's Agri-Food Innovation Excellence Award. Congratulations are extended to: Brier Run Alpacas / Edys Mills Fine Fibres; Char-Creek Farms; Cornelissen Farms Inc.; Fairwind Farms; Fields Farm Ltd.; Twin Pines Orchards; and VanEngelen Dairy Farms and Hog Tied Farms.
- Noted that the Point Edward Library is currently undergoing renovations and the bookmobile is serving the community in the interim.

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Contact:

Darlene Coke

Communications & Marketing Coordinator

County of Lambton

Telephone: 519 845-0801 ext. 5214

Cell: 519 383-2101

email: darlene.coke@county-lambton.on.ca