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NEWS RELEASE

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

For Immediate Release

Council Highlights

Wyoming, ON – At its regular meeting on Wednesday, November 19, 2008 at 12:30 p.m., Lambton County Council:

- Heard a presentation from Ms. Brenda Petro, Municipal Relations Representative, MPAC, who spoke to Council concerning the assessment notices that were mailed on November 17, 2008.
- Heard a presentation from Mr. Garry McDonald, President, Sarnia-Lambton Chamber of Commerce, who spoke to Council concerning the future of Tourism Sarnia-Lambton.
- Heard a presentation from Mr. John Dickson, Interim General Manager, Tourism Sarnia-Lambton, who spoke to Council regarding the feasibility of a Destination Marketing Fee in Sarnia-Lambton and the future of Tourism Sarnia-Lambton.
- Agreed to a two (2) year contract with Tourism Sarnia-Lambton from April 1, 2009 to March 31, 2011, with annual funding changes to be referred to budget each year, and with a further review of services being done in the summer of 2010.
- Noted that the 2008 Ontario budget announced a 2% rate increase for Ontario Works and the Ontario Disability Support Program.
- Reviewed a staff report outlining options for the former site of Marshall Gowland Manor on 1000 London Road, Sarnia, including its demolition, and the construction of a 'green' building for additional uses by the County. Council referred the report to the budget process and it will be considered at that time.
- Permitted the Community Health Services Department to utilize 100% funding from the Ministry of Health and Long-term Care to recruit an additional employee to support the Infection Control Program.
- Approved changes to a number of discretionary benefits offered through the Ontario Works program including costs related to indigent funerals, dentures, hearing aids and vision care.

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- Directed the Manager of the Children's Services Department to review the supervisory structure of the Healthy Babies Healthy Children program and report back to Council in January, 2009.
- Directed staff to alter the high demand book circulation loan period from seven days to two weeks.
- Approved a number of funding allocations under the Canada-Ontario Affordable Housing Program.
- Approved a change to the Procedural Manual to alter the start times of Council. The in-camera portion of Council meetings will now begin at 12:30 pm followed by the open session of Council beginning at 12:45pm.
- Noted the Warden's Election will take place on Wednesday, December 3, 2008 at 1 pm in the Council Chambers, 789 Broadway Street, Wyoming.
- Approved a motion asking the province to freeze the assessment rates across the province as they have recently done in British Columbia.
- Adopted a motion supporting St. Clair Township in its efforts to appeal the assessment by MPAC of Lambton Generating Station.

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