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New Project Helps Immigrant Women in Northumberland

On February 19, Dr. Kellie Leitch, federal Minister of Labour and Minister of Status of Women, was joined by local MP Rick Norlock at Northumberland County's 555 Courthouse Road building to announce funding for a project to enhance economic prosperity among immigrant women in Northumberland County.

This project, spearheaded by the Northumberland United Way, will bring together local women and partners to evaluate how well services in the seven municipalities of the County meet the needs of immigrant women, with the aim of enhancing their economic prosperity. The organization will develop a community action plan and form an Immigrant Women's Council to continue the project's work over the longer term.

"Immigrant women in our community face unique barriers as they strive to establish themselves and achieve financial security," indicated Northumberland United Way CEO Lynda Kay. "This Government of Canada

funding will allow us to examine the services now available in Northumberland County and to invest strategically where needs exist."

The federal government will provide \$165,730 over two years for this project.

"We are very pleased that the government has provided funding support for this important initiative," stated Warden Linda Thompson. "The County has placed a strategic focus on enhancing the immigration experience in Northumberland. At the centre of these efforts is the understanding that attracting new Canadians to live, work and play in Northumberland – and supporting these newcomers to achieve economic prosperity – is a key contributor to economic development for the entire County."

To learn more about resources and activities designed to support newcomers to Northumberland County, visit the County's Immigration Portal at: <http://welcometonorthumberland.ca/en/index.asp>



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Dorette Carter Recognized for Contribution to Arts

Northumberland County Council recently recognized Ms. Dorette Carter on the occasion of her retirement as Director and Curator of the Art Gallery of Northumberland. Council presented Ms. Carter with a plaque acknowledging her significant contributions to the local arts community.

"On behalf of Council and all residents of Northumberland County, we thank Dorette for her history of commitment to

enriching the lives of others by making artwork more accessible to the general public," stated Warden Linda Thompson. "Her contributions continue to have a significant impact that can be felt throughout our communities."

Ms. Carter retired from the Art Gallery on February 14 after more than 13 years. She continues to Chair the Town of Cobourg's Committee for Art in Public Spaces.



County Official Plan Development on Track

Council has received an update on the status of the development of the County's first Official Plan, from Project Manager Bryan Weir.

Required by the Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Official Plan will be a policy framework that guides local municipalities and the County in planning land development and use, in support of long-term economic growth and sustainability.

The update to Council confirms that Stage 1 of the project is complete, with

a number of significant tasks having been accomplished, including:

- Population and employment allocations completed;
- General agreement on policy approaches and mapping;
- General agreement on overall vision, goals and objectives;
- General agreement on next steps on the location of employment lands;
- Two open houses held to gather public input on initial development stages.

Public consultation is a vital component of the creation of this Plan. On the heels of a first round of open houses in October, two additional open houses are taking place this month, where public input is being sought on work that has been completed to date.

This project is currently on track with established timeframes. Adoption of the completed Official Plan is anticipated for September. For more information, visit the County website at www.northumberlandcounty.ca/official-plan.

Committee Launching for Transportation Master Plan

Northumberland County is embarking on the development of a Transportation Master Plan to guide Council and staff in determining how to improve transportation services and address

infrastructure needs over the long-term.

Because of the significant social and economic impacts that transportation management solutions can have on communities, the County is asking local residents and business: how do you get around? And how will you get around in the next 10, 20...50 years?

In order to generate input, the County will be establishing an Advisory Committee. The

committee will consist of staff representatives from the County and each of the seven member municipalities, as well members of the general public.

Information, including Terms of Reference for the Committee and how members of the public can apply to participate, will be available by mid-March in the Transportation section of the County website at: www.northumberlandcounty.ca/transportation.



Presentations & Correspondence

County provides status report on accessibility plan

Northumberland County is committed to complying with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act of 2005 (AODA). In keeping with requirements to prepare and maintain a multi-year accessibility plan, and to report yearly on the progress of measures taken to implement this plan, staff recently submitted a status report to Council, which was subsequently approved. This plan, which serves as a road map to help the County meet legislative requirements and remove accessibility barriers, is available on the County website at <http://tinyurl.com/mal4ja6>.

Cobourg Non Profit reinvests surplus in capital repairs

A financial review recently identified a funding surplus owing to the County from Cobourg Non Profit in the amount of \$128,459. The County is currently developing a policy for surplus reinvestment for specific capital repairs for nonprofit housing providers. In light of this, Council has approved that Cobourg Non Profit apply these surplus funds towards the cost of recent capital repair projects, as approved by the County Finance Department. Between 2008 and 2012, this organization completed repair projects totaling \$165,589.

AccertaClaim to administer OW programs for County

Following an assessment of the processes and costs associated with administration of Ontario Works Discretionary Benefits, Northumberland County Department of Community and Social Services has been authorized by Council to have AccertaClaim Servcorp Inc. assume administration of Ontario Works dental and vision programs on its behalf. The selection of AccertaClaim as the provider will create efficiencies in administrative processes and service to local clients. This is part of the Department's continual efforts to identify best practice cost savings and streamline service improvements.

Asset Management Plan Presented to Council



Northumberland County has a diverse inventory of assets that must be in good working order to provide the quality services County residents have come to expect.

On February 19, County staff presented to Council a draft Asset Management Plan designed to prioritize the rehabilitation and replacement of County assets in a way that is consistent, objective and transparent.

"This document will be an important planning tool for the County," stated Finance Director Jennifer Moore. "It will really help us to maximize the use of our assets for the benefit of the communities we serve."

The County initiated development of the Asset Management Plan in 2013 based on requirements from the provincial government. The Plan addresses a 60-year horizon, which was considered to be long enough to allow for all of the life cycle treatments needed to achieve the maximum useful life of the asset.

This first Plan covers six major asset groups, including roads; bridges and other transportation structures; equipment at the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF); corporate facilities; social housing; and the Golden Plough Lodge. The Plan will be updated regularly, with additional asset groups to be added in the future such as transportation and

paramedic fleets and equipment; and equipment at County landfills and transfer stations.

A combination of reserve and debt strategies, along with tax impacts, will be proposed in future-year budgets in order to address the financial requirements outlined in the Plan.

"As an evergreen document, the process for updating this Plan will be about learning, reviewing and revising as we achieve better and stronger data to inform our projections into the future," said Ms. Moore.

Following a period of review, Council will vote on whether to approve the Asset Management Plan at the next Council meeting on March 19. Upon approval, the Plan will be available in the Finance section of the County website at www.northumberlandcounty.ca/finance.

Doors Still Open for ParaSport Games Volunteers as Deadline Nears



Photo credit: Northumberland View

With the March 11 deadline approaching for volunteers to sign up for the 2014 Ontario ParaSport Games, organizers believe their target of 400 behind-the-scenes workers is now in sight.

"We're heartened by the public response," said Games Chair Paul Macklin. "This is a real opportunity for

people across Northumberland to join the team and have fun helping a worthy cause."

Zac Andrus, whose vision led to the construction of a fully accessible playground in Port Hope, became the first official volunteer for the Games when registration opened on February 11.

Andrus, who has cerebral palsy and uses a wheelchair, told a news conference at Northumberland County Council chambers that the Games are a chance "for everyone to support the hopes and dreams of ParaSport athletes.

"We can be a better community, a place where all athletes are celebrated. A place that's accessible to everyone. A place where everyone has a chance to play."

Approximately 400 volunteers are needed for the Games. Positions include welcoming and helping athletes register when they check in. Some volunteers will serve meals. The list also includes event photographers, score- and time-keepers, penalty box guardians, announcers, and set-up and tear-down volunteers. Regardless of their duties, all volunteers will be important community ambassadors.

Macklin, himself a volunteer, stressed the Games are community-driven. "Without volunteers, there is absolutely no way we could stage a sporting event of this magnitude in Northumberland."

Individuals interested in supporting the ParaSport Games by volunteering are invited to register by visiting the ParaSport Games website at www.2014parasportgames.ca.

Northumberland County Council News

Connect with
Council

555 Courthouse Road
Cobourg, ON K9A 5J6

- **County Council Meetings:** Council meetings are open to the public, and take place on the third Wednesday of each month (*Note: subject to change. Visit the events calendar on the County website to confirm, or call 905-372-3329*). **The next Northumberland County Council meeting is March 19, 2014.**
- **Public Notices:** information about community consultations, tenders, and job opportunities is regularly posted in Northumberland community newspapers, and can also be found on the County website under 'News and Notices' at www.northumberlandcounty.ca.
- **Questions and Comments:** councillors welcome and appreciate your feedback. You can share your comments by calling 905-372-3329 or by mailing to 555 Courthouse Road, Cobourg, ON K9A 5J6.