

## **Board of Health Meeting January 21, 2021**

### **Summary**

#### **Election of Officers**

- Doug Malanka, Mayor of Augusta Township and a representative from the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville, will continue as Chair of the Board of Health for 2021.
- Anne Warren, Board of Health member from the Town of Gananoque will continue as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair.
- Peter McKenna, Board of Health member and Councillor from the Town of Smiths Falls will continue as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair.

Doug Malanka thanked Dr. Stewart, the Directors, Managers and all the staff for exemplary service for the COVID-19 response during this challenging year.

#### **COVID-19 Update**

After an increase in early January in the number of people diagnosed with COVID-19 in Leeds, Grenville and Lanark mostly from social gatherings, our numbers have settled down. Thank you to all who are following the COVID-SMART precautions and the Stay at Home Regulation, and to the businesses and services who have had to adjust to the provincial Shut Down Regulation requirements.

The Health Unit is working with health care providers on the first phase of the COVID-19 immunization program and the immunization of residents of long-term care and high risk retirement homes. Additional planning is underway for a broader public immunization campaign in the spring and summer. Municipalities have been generous in their offers of space for immunization clinics and staff to support the clinics. The Health Unit Website has information on the vaccine itself and our plans for the immunization program roll out in six phases and is aligned with the provincial immunization plan. [Leeds, Grenville and Lanark COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution and Administration Roll Out Plan.](#)

#### **Land Control Budget**

As of January 1, 2020 the Health Unit has a formal arrangement with 19 of the 22 municipalities in Lanark and the United Counties to provide Land Control services (Part VIII under the Ontario Building Code Act). The Land Control Program is entirely self-funded through revenue generated by the program.

The Land Control Program is projected to have a significant surplus due to a large increase in service requests in 2020 compared to 2019, with an associated increase in revenue. The service requests came from several sources, and are predicted to continue into 2021 given they are driven in part by the response to the COVID-19 pandemic. For example:

- addition of income apartments with increase in septic system requirements;
- addition of suites for the older and other members of the family with increase in septic system requirements; and
- movement from urban to rural areas with new construction of homes.

The Board of Health approved the 2021 Land Control Budget in the amount of \$631,214. An additional Certified Public Health Inspector will be added to the program in 2021 to respond to the increased service requests.

### **Public Health Programs and Services: 2020 Review**

Dr. Stewart advised that this year has been a very different and challenging year and the strategic plan has guided the work on the COVID-19 response. Each director presented on the work being done in their department/program on the COVID-19 response and other essential services. See presentation at [https://healthunit.org/wp-content/uploads/2020\\_Strategic\\_Plan\\_in\\_Review\\_Presentation.pdf](https://healthunit.org/wp-content/uploads/2020_Strategic_Plan_in_Review_Presentation.pdf)