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MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 14, 2023

Highlights from the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville Counties Council Meeting held on Thursday, December 14, 2023, and other announcements are listed below.

Counties Council Acknowledged Passing of Former Warden, Betty Weedmark:

At the meeting of December 14th, Council held a moment of silence to honour the late Mrs. Weedmark. In a statement from Warden Nancy Peckford, she said "I was deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Mrs. Betty Weedmark, a community leader and local politician who held office from 1980 to 2000. In 1989, Mrs. Weedmark was the first female to hold the position of Warden of the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville. I have great admiration for Mrs. Weedmark's indelible contributions to the region and recognize how widely she was respected by her Counties' colleagues, community and business leaders. Given her long tenure as Reeve of the Village of Merrickville and Mayor of the Village of Merrickville-Wolford, in addition to her role as Warden and her lasting impact on those who knew her, I have ordered the flags at the Counties' office be lowered to half-mast to honour the remarkable life of Mrs. Weedmark." Mayor of Merrickville-Wolford, Michael Cameron, added, "Our community is all the better for what she accomplished."

Council Awards Tender for County Road 43 Rehabilitation Project:

Council awarded the tender for the County Road 43 Rehabilitation Project to R.W. Tomlinson, at the cost of \$38,899,756.00, plus a \$3,500,000.00 contingency. The total cost of the project, including the Municipality of North Grenville's share, is projected to be \$50,851,002.98. The joint project between the Counties and the Municipality of North Grenville, will ensure better traffic flows, enable major commercial activity and provide a much safer road experience for drivers, pedestrians, and cyclists in the Town of Kemptville. The project was also successful in securing an \$8,000,000 grant under Improving Canada's Infrastructure Project (ICIP) funding. The unwavering support of MPP Steve Clark played a key role in securing the joint federal-provincial grant.

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Warden Peckford stated "The plans for the County Road 43 Rehabilitation Project are a reflection of the shared dedication of the United Counties and the Municipality of North Grenville to crucial improvements to our joint infrastructure, not just in North Grenville but throughout the Counties. The significant improvement and expansion of this extremely busy regional thoroughfare between Colonnade and County Road 44 in the Town of Kemptville has been a Counties' priority for many years. The replacement of the current bridge with a four-lane one is also necessary given excessive wear and tear due to exceedingly high traffic volumes. Collectively, these improvements will contribute to strong economic development in North Grenville and the Counties for the decades ahead."

For more information, contact Manager of Director of Public Works, Rick Kester, at 613-342-3840 ext. 2412 or by email at Rick.Kester@uclg.on.ca.

Council Approves Strategic Initiatives Framework: This Strategic Initiatives Framework serves as a first step in the Counties' long-term strategic journey and will act as a roadmap for the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville in providing a clear direction for decision-making and action. This is the first time in the history of the Counties that Council has undertaken such an exercise. The Strategic Initiatives Framework includes the following three pillars:

- Pillar 1: Invest in roads, bridges, infrastructure, and sustainable growth;
- Pillar 2: Support key investments in the well-being of our residents; and
- Pillar 3: Facilitate and promote the increase in supply of accommodation of all types.

The three pillars are based upon the foundation to operate a responsible government built upon the strength of our employees.

For more information, contact CAO, Ray Callery, at 613-342-3840 ext. 2301 or by email at Ray.Callery@uclg.on.ca.

Counties Climate Action Plan Progresses through Collaborative Partnership: The Counties had a unique opportunity to partner with Queens University - Smith School of Business on progressing the Counties' Climate Action Plan, which was

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adopted by Council in March. Over the past 3 months, students at the Smith School of Business worked with the Leeds Grenville CAO Group to create a dashboard tracking tool for climate action to help establish emissions baselines. Counties staff will be working with member and partner municipalities to deploy the tool.

For more information, please contact Project Management Specialist, Krystin Stitt, at 613-342-3840 ext. 2458 or by email at Krystin.Stitt@uclg.on.ca

Upcoming meetings: The next Joint Services Committee (JSC) meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 9th where the JSC Operating and Capital Budgets will be presented. The next Committee of the Whole meeting will take place on Wednesday, January 10th. The Maple View Lodge Committee of Management will meet on Thursday, January 11th. Counties Council will take place on Thursday, January 25th.

There are three Special Committee of the Whole meetings scheduled in January to discuss the 2024 Capital and Operating Budgets:

- Wednesday, January 17th – Capital Budget;
- Thursday, January 25th (following Counties Council) – Operating Budget; and
- Monday, January 29th – Capital and Operating Budget discussions.

All regular meetings start at 9:00 a.m. in the Council Chambers at 25 Central Avenue West, Brockville. If you require more information, please contact County Clerk/Manager of Legislative Services, Christina Conklin, at 613-342-3840 ext. 2456 or by email at Christina.Conklin@uclg.on.ca

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