

County Council Summary

May 31, 2023

Below you will find highlights of the County of Renfrew County Council meeting from May 31, 2023. In the absence of Warden Peter Emon, the meeting was chaired by presiding officer Jennifer Murphy.

Please note that this summary does not constitute the official record of the meeting and approved minutes should be consulted for that purpose.

The full [County Council package](#) can be found on our website.

[May meeting](#) YouTube link.

Warden's Address

Key highlights

During the month of May, Warden Peter Emon attended 23 meetings on County business.

- On May 3, he attended the Economic Development Symposium sponsored by the Ontario Ministry of Food Agriculture and Rural Affairs held at the Cobden Agricultural Society.
- On May 4 and 5, he attended the Ending Homelessness Symposium sponsored by the Association of Municipalities Ontario held in Toronto.
- On May 9, he attended the Culinary Tourism Strategy launch event held in the Township of McNab/Braeside.
- On May 10, he presented the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus '7 in 7' housing initiative to the Councils of the County of Prescott and Russell and Lanark County, and on May 15, he presented to the Council of Hastings County.
- On May 12, he attended a meeting of the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus held near Burleigh Falls in Peterborough County. Topics on the agenda were an update to the Final Report on the Paramedic Services Partial Refresh, a review of the Province's current planning legislation changes, current priorities review, EORN and EOLC updates and a discussion surrounding EOWC delegations to the Association of Municipalities Ontario Conference.
- On May 12, acting as the Chair of EOWC, Warden Emon met with the Eastern Ontario Mayors' Caucus to discuss joint initiatives and share priorities, including a regional approach to the housing crisis.
- On May 15, he attended a meeting of the United Way Eastern Ontario regarding their caregiver strategy.
- The Warden also expressed sincere condolences to Councillor James Brose and his family, on the passing of his mother-in-law Fay Krieger.

Delegations

- Jade Nauman, Renfrew County Regional Director for United Way East Ontario, was on hand to accept a \$2,000 donation from the staff of the County of Renfrew. The funds were raised through payroll deductions and Jean Fridays. She was very appreciative of the generous support of the County of Renfrew and its staff. She noted the funds will be invested in Renfrew County to strategically tackle the greatest challenges in the community, where support is needed most and where it will have the greatest impact.
- Cyndy Phillips, Executive Director of Renfrew County Community Futures Development Corporation, provided an update on the organization, which is designed to support business enterprises, community-based development and employment in Renfrew County by offering small business financing, community economic development and business counselling and support. RCCFDC now has offices in Pembroke and Renfrew to serve residents across Renfrew County.
- The Renfrew County District School Board provided an update on activities within the District, highlighting the board's 2021-2025 Strategic Plan, Post-Pandemic Reset to Education, programs and partnerships. Taking part in the presentation were Susan Humphries, RCDSB Chair; Director of Education Dr. Pino Buffone; Kristin Riddell, Superintendent of Education – Program Services; and Meredith Caplan Jamieson, Executive Officer of Public Affairs.

Announcements

- Chief Administrative Officer Craig Kelley informed County Council that Rose Gruntz, Deputy Clerk for the County of Renfrew, has submitted her letter of retirement. The August session will be her last meeting of County Council. He noted Rose has been the glue that has held this corporation together for 25 years.
- In honour of the Stanley Cup playoffs, County Councillor David Mayville, a former hockey scout and executive, showed off a collection of rings he won during his career – Stanley Cup (Calgary Flames), Calder Cup (Hamilton Bulldogs) and Memorial Cup (Sault Ste. Marie Greyhounds and Halifax Mooseheads) as well as Ontario Hockey League champion rings, also won with the Greyhounds. He noted he was fortunate during his previous career being involved in great organizations. "This is what the players play for at this time of the year...everyone plays the game to get one of those rings," Councillor Mayville said.

Finance & Administration Committee

Presented by: Valerie Jahn, Vice-Chair

- County of Renfrew Directors, Managers and Supervisors attended a professional training session facilitated by Dr. JP Gedeon on the Art of Transformative Leadership. Dr. Gedeon focused the full-day session on teaching the fundamentals of how successful leaders can begin to enact change with their teams, the workforce, and the culture of the organization through a Model of Transformative Leadership.

- County Council approved the following submission for delegation requests for the Association of Municipalities Ontario Conference, taking place in London, Ontario from August 20-23, with the appropriate Ministers:
 - Solicitor General – To discuss the financial challenges with respect to changes in the Provincial Offences Act policies;
 - Minister of the Attorney General – To discuss the ongoing shortage of Justices of the Peace and the availability of Justices of the Peace physically within the County of Renfrew;
 - Minister of Municipal Affairs – A discussion and request to continue funding the Municipal Modernization Fund to address challenges and opportunities related to the shift in workplace demands resulting from a post-pandemic workplace/ workforce;
 - Minister of Long-Term Care to address the County of Renfrew concerns with the current model of Case Mix Index (CMI) funding;
 - Minister of Health and/or Premier for sustainable funding for RC VTAC;
 - Minister of Health and/or Premier for the Province to fund all WSIB presumptive claim related costs - move from 50/50 to 100% funding model;
 - Minister of Long-Term Care for sustainable Funding for Community Paramedicine and support for regulatory reform of the Ambulance Act and establishing Paramedics in the Regulated Health Professions Act;
 - Minister of Colleges and Universities to address the paramedic shortage in Ontario;
 - Minister of Children, Community and Social Services (MCSS) to advocate for a funding review of social assistance programs that have a tremendous impact on our resources in 2024 and beyond;
 - Minister of Education to advocate for a greater emphasis on rural child care spaces, including a review of the workforce crisis in rural areas;
 - Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) for funding design and policy should transparently and easily allow for the stacking of multiple types of funding and years of funding (the multiple funding guides between MMAH and Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) do not line up);
 - Minister of Infrastructure to discuss funding opportunities for County Road 51 (Petawawa Boulevard); and
 - Minister of Natural Resources/Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to address the issues of accurate and current flood mapping for the major rivers and tributaries in the region.
 - Minister of Health to address Renfrew County and District Health Unit costs and mitigation funding.
- County Council approved that \$145,562.50 be transferred to the Ottawa Valley Ontario Health Team (OVOHT) Reserve for use of the OVOHT Steering Committee consistent with the provisions outlined in the Transfer Payment Agreement. In March 2022, County Council authorized the County of Renfrew to sign an Ontario Transfer Payment Agreement with the Province for the OVOHT whereby, the Province has provided a provincial subsidy from October 2021 to March 2023 to the Ottawa Valley Ontario Health Team to be administered through the County of Renfrew.
- County Council adopted a by-law amending Corporate Policy E-11 Flexible Work Arrangements effective July 1, 2023. The Flexible Work Arrangements will be implemented on a one-year trial basis with the intention that a report will be provided to Council at that time summarizing the merits of the program along with a recommendation regarding continuation.

- County Council adopted a revised user fee by-law and schedule. As part of our annual budget process, the County of Renfrew User Fee By-law was reviewed and changes have been made to a number of areas:
 - Corporate Services - Provincial Offences
 - Corporate Services – Information Technology
 - Emergency Services - Paramedic Service
 - Public Works
 - Bonnechere Manor

Community Services Committee

Presented by: Anne Giardini, Chair

- The Community Services office in Arnprior is moving from 80 McGonigal Street, into the Renfrew County Housing Corporation (RCHC) building on Albert Street. To facilitate this change, Arnprior staff will temporarily transfer to the Renfrew County Place office as of the end of May/early June. Services will continue to be provided in Arnprior and staff has made arrangements with local agencies to utilize common room space when an in-person meeting is needed. It is anticipated that the new office will be ready late August.
- The Grand Opening of the Renfrew and Area Connection Centre was held on April 4, 2023. The Connection Centre is an initiative launched by the Renfrew OPP Detachment, in collaboration with the Renfrew Police Services Board, and is funded through a Community Safety and Policing Grant. Located at 161 Raglan Street South in Renfrew, the Connection Centre is a space where residents can connect with whatever services they need. Local agencies, including Community Services, will have a staff presence at the hub to seamlessly connect individuals with services. The centre will also work closely with the Mobile Crisis Response Team (MCRT), a unit comprised of an OPP officer and a crisis worker who jointly respond to calls for service in relation to mental health, addictions, and individuals in crisis.
- County Council adopted a by-law authorizing the County of Renfrew to enter into a Recreation Agreement with the Town of Arnprior – Arnprior & District Museum Summer Experimentation Station to provide subsidies or special needs resource funding for children aged 6 to 12 years who are enrolled in an authorized recreational and skill building program. The Town of Arnprior is offering an eight-week camp through the Arnprior and District Museum for the summer.

Development & Property Committee

Presented by: James Brose, Chair

- Expressions of Interest were received from a number of municipalities to host a Taste of the Valley event in their respective community in 2023 and 2024. Following a review of expressions of interest received, the Economic Development team announced the dates and locations for 2023 and 2024. See our full [Taste of the Valley media release](#) here.
2023 Dates & Locations:
 - August 12: Eganville Arena
 - September 9: Community Rink & Hall, Calabogie

- September 30: Town Hall Parking Lot, Deep River
- October 14: Cobden Fairgrounds
- December 16: Germania Club, Pembroke

2024 Dates & Locations:

- August 10: The Railway Station, Barry's Bay
- September 7: Municipal Office Parking Lot, Killaloe
- September 28: Civic Centre, Petawawa
- October 12: Cobden Fairgrounds
- 2024 Holiday Edition location to be determined following 2023 event
- The Ottawa Valley Tourist Association (OVTA) held its tourism conference and Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Tuesday, April 25 at Maplehaus Banquet and Events in Hardwood Lake in the Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan. The OVTA announced the 2023-24 [Board of Directors](#), elected during the AGM on April 25. The event wrapped up with presentation of the [Ottawa Valley Tourism Awards](#) and the winners were:
 - Tourism Champion – Teresa Hebb, Renfrew County ATV Club
 - Business/Organization – Madawaska Kanu Centre
 - Event – Pembroke Multicultural Festival
 - Sustainability Champion – Somewhere Inn Calabogie
 - New Tourism Product – RIO Tap and Grill's Rooftop Patio
 - Tourism Marketing – Oh-el-la Café
- The County of Renfrew has received the building permit from the City of Pembroke and construction started May 11, 2023 on the new affordable housing project located at Lea and Douglas Streets in Pembroke. The contractor, Brawn Construction, has started delivering equipment and will commence site preparation. Staff looks forward to working with the architects and contractors during the various phases as the project progresses. The anticipated completion date for the project is May 13, 2024.
- County Council passed a resolution requesting a letter be sent under the Warden's signature to Canadian Nuclear Laboratories (CNL) in support of their proposal to construct a Near Surface Disposal Facility (NSDF) in Chalk River.
- County Council approved the Ottawa Valley Tourist Association 2023 Budget. Ottawa Valley Tourist Association, the City of Pembroke and the County of Renfrew are partners in the delivery of tourism marketing and tourism business development for the City of Pembroke, Renfrew County and the Ottawa Valley. This marketing relationship and the financial support provided by the County of Renfrew and the City of Pembroke is guided by an Agreement which was approved by by-law at the April meeting of County Council for a five-year term from 2023-2027.
- County Council approved a contract for new barriers on Algonquin Trail over Highway 17, 0.16km east of Menet Lake Road, United Townships of Head, Clara and Maria, in the amount of \$313,350 plus applicable taxes as submitted by Bonnechere Excavating Inc. (BEI), Renfrew, Ontario.
- County Council approved a contract for the construction of one equipment storage unit at Renfrew County Place, 450 O'Brien Road, Renfrew, Ontario, in the amount of \$215,350 plus applicable taxes as submitted by TSG Contracting, Pembroke, Ontario.
- County Council adopted Official Plan Amendment No. 34, which was initiated by the Township of Whitewater Region to adjust the settlement boundary of Cobden. There are two components of the amendment:

- The expansion of the Cobden Village Community designation (settlement area boundary) by 10.91 gross hectares to the southeast (along Astrolabe Road and Highway 17) to accommodate future employment uses. These lands will be placed in a Village Community Exception designation to only permit employment uses.
- The adjustment of the Cobden Community Village designation (settlement area boundary) through the relocation of 39.57 gross hectares to better accommodate future residential development.

Health Committee

Presented by: Michael Donohue, Chair

- County Council approved a resolution directing the Warden and Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk to enter into an agreement with Contak Staffing Solutions to coordinate recruitment of up to twenty (20) International Personal Support Worker staff, at an average per candidate cost of \$7,800 subject to variance in airfare charges, equating to an approximate cost of \$156,000, through the Temporary Foreign Worker Program. Fees include completion of Labour Market Impact Assessment Application per Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC).
- County Council adopted a by-law authorizing the Warden and Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk to sign the 2023/24 Ontario Health Team Continued Implementation Supports Agreement for the Ottawa Valley Ontario Health Team (OVOHT). The County of Renfrew is the lead on the Transfer Payment Agreement for the OVOHT and Ontario Health/Province of Ontario. The Ottawa Valley Ontario Health Team (OVOHT) was officially launched in October 2021, and is made up of more than 50 local health professionals, health care providers, organizations, and community members who are working together to improve our health system and connect patients to the services they need in a more consistent and timely way.

Operations Committee

Presented by: Glenn Doncaster, Chair

- A full day 'Road Tour' with County Council to review this year's road and bridge construction projects is planned for August 10, 2023. This Road Tour will provide an opportunity for Council to witness the wide expanse of projects undertaken annually on roads, bridges, and structure culverts. With the guidance of the Asset Management Plan, approximately \$25 million of improvements will be completed in 2023.
- County Council approved a one (1.0) metre hardened shoulder be placed on all eligible County Roads as part of the annual Capital Program Road Rehabilitation projects. The cost of hardened shoulders is approximately \$31,200 per kilometre. For 2023 budget for road projects, \$1,326,312 of the \$21,310,490, or 6% of the total value, has been set aside for hardened shoulders. Though 1-metre hardened shoulders will be budgeted for in all road projects, they would continue to only be applied where the existing road platform is already wide enough to facilitate it. Where the existing road platform is not wide enough to facilitate 1-metre hardening, a narrower hardened shoulder would be considered.

- County Council approved a new console and radio system for the Fire Radio Dispatch be purchased from BearCom in the amount of \$318,710 plus applicable taxes. A cost-sharing agreement between the following 17 user agencies will be finalized at a later date: Towns of Deep River, Laurentian Hills, Petawawa, Renfrew, the Townships of Admaston/Bromley, Bonnechere Valley, Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan, Greater Madawaska, Horton, Killaloe, Hagarty and Richards, Laurentian Valley, Madawaska Valley, McNab/Braeside, North Algona Wilberforce, Whitewater Region, the City of Pembroke, and the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation. The system will be placed in the County of Renfrew Asset Management Plan.
- County Council recommended no adjustment in speed is required at this time for County Road 2 (White Lake Road) or County Road 23 (Highland Road), within the Township of McNab/Braeside, as a result of the data collected during a speed study.
- County Council approved Public Works and Engineering Policies PW-01 Roadway Classification and Design and PW-10 Road Occupancy Permits. No comments or concerns were received with regards to the Roadway Classification and Design Policy. County of Renfrew requires that a Road Occupancy Permit be obtained by all persons, companies, utilities, agencies and municipalities prior to commencing any work within the County's Road Allowances.
- County Council approved a contract for the rehabilitation of County Road 1 (River Road), from Lochwinnoch Road to the Algonquin Trail, Townships of McNab/Braeside and Horton, in the amount of \$804,530.75 plus applicable taxes as submitted by McCrea Excavation Ltd., Pembroke, Ontario.
- County Council approved a contract for the rehabilitation of County Road 515 (Palmer Road), from 200m West of Southwest Patrol Yard to County Road 514 (Schutt Road), Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan, in the amount of \$1,536,287.76 plus applicable taxes as submitted by Bonnechere Excavating Incorporated (BEI), Renfrew, Ontario.
- County Council approved a quotation for Supply, Delivery, and Installation of Steel Beam Guiderail for County Structure C115 (Dunlop Crescent Culvert) and County Road 635 (Swisha Road), in the Township of Head, Clara and Maria and Township of Laurentian Hills, respectively, as submitted by Peninsula Construction Incorporated, Thorold, ON, in the amount of \$108,398.04, plus HST.
- County Council passed a by-law amendment to permit Off-Road Vehicles on some sections of County Roads in the Town of Petawawa.

Additional Information

Craig Kelley, Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk

613-735-7288