

County Council Summary

October 25, 2023

Below you will find highlights of the County of Renfrew County Council meeting from October 25, 2023.

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.

[October meeting](#) YouTube link.

Warden's Address

Key highlights

- On behalf of County Council, Warden Emon expressed sincere condolences to Wendy Jocko, the former Chief of the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation, on the death of her son, James Scott McMullin, who passed away on October 14.
- On November 11, we will commemorate the men and women who have served Canada's military during Remembrance Day events throughout the County. The Warden encouraged everyone to take part in a local event.

During the month of October, Warden Peter Emon attended 11 meetings on County business.

- On September 28 the Warden attended a meeting with the Ontario Homebuilders Association of Canada to discuss the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus' regional housing plan, 7 in 7.
- On October 3, he attended a City of Pembroke council meeting, along with EORN representative Jim Pine and CAO Craig Kelley, to discuss the same housing strategy.
- Recently, the installation of new barriers on the Algonquin Trail's MTO Overpass in the United Townships of Head, Clara and Maria was completed. On October 6, he along with other elected officials and staff celebrated the partnership with a photo opportunity with representatives of the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs (OFSC), which contributed \$50,000 to the project.
- He participated in a research project on October 9 with Queen's University regarding the governance model of EORN. The goal was to understand how the governance model has enabled EORN to grow and whether this model could be used in other economic sectors beyond broadband.
- On October 12, Councillor Anne Giardini represented the Warden at the ribbon cutting ceremony at l'école élémentaire catholique des Deux Rivières in Arnprior and delivered a welcome message to the new Child Care Centre.
- On October 13, the Warden joined a meeting with the Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus with Western Ontario MPs and MPPs to discuss mutual priorities and collaboration opportunities between levels of government.
- On October 16 and 17, the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus met on Parliament Hill with the Members of Parliament that represent many of the Counties across the region; members of the

Senate were also in attendance. The roundtable discussion concentrated on the regional strategies for Long-Term Care, Paramedic Services, and providing affordable and attainable housing for workers and most vulnerable. Meetings were also held with MP Scott Aitchison and NDP Housing Critic Jenny Kwan to discuss the regional housing plan. The Warden felt the two days were very rewarding, offering an excellent opportunity to showcase eastern Ontario to Federal representatives.

- October 18 and October 20, the Warden attended the Bonnechere Manor and Miramichi Lodge Volunteer Appreciation events. The attendance at both events was a testimony to the value of the volunteers who have provided dedication and time to ensure there is a warm, caring environment, which creates a sense of community for the residents of both long-term care homes.
- As part of Nuclear Science Week, the Chalk River Laboratories celebrated the new Science Collaboration Centre (SCC) and hosted a fascinating documentary on nuclear energy on October 19.

Delegations

- Sarah Hall, Dean, and Jamie Bramburger, Manager of Community and Student Affairs, at the Algonquin College Pembroke Campus, provided an update on enrolment, college priorities and strategic initiatives, Students' Association priorities, Labour Market Trends, and partnership opportunities, including the recent Memorandum of Collaboration with Garrison Petawawa.
- Colonel Jason Guiney, Commander of Garrison Petawawa, and Chief Warrant Officer Jimmy Cote, Formation Sergeant Major, provided an update on Garrison activities. Colonel Guiney shared his three priorities – people, relationships and innovation. The Garrison currently employs 5,500 Canadian Armed Forces personnel in addition to 1,000 civilians. Col Guiney also address recruitment challenges and the focus on recruiting members from all sectors of Canadian society, including more women, and about the challenges facing military families including access to affordable housing due to frequent postings, access to family medical care and access to childcare. The importance of relationships with local municipalities and key community partners was also stressed.
- Pembroke Mayor Ron Gervais and Councillor Troy Purcell appeared before County Council to discuss a warming centre in the City to provide a safe place for vulnerable members of the community during the winter months for 2023/24. They asked Council to consider a significant financial contribution from the County towards the initiative.

Finance & Administration Committee

Presented by: Jennifer Murphy, Chair

- On Thursday, October 5, 2023, senior staff from many lower tier municipalities met to discuss shared service opportunities. The County of Renfrew is experiencing ongoing challenges with respect to recruitment and retention, resource capacity, the pace of information and it is not alone; the same challenges are being felt in the local municipalities. In an effort to determine shared synergies, this meeting was facilitated at the County of Renfrew offices as an adjunct to a municipal treasurers meeting being held on the same day. This meeting aimed to discuss the

progress, challenges, and future prospects of shared services within our municipalities, and provided a valuable platform for collaboration and information sharing. While challenges exist, there is a strong commitment to overcoming them and continuing to reap the benefits of shared services for our municipality. The group has committed to meeting regularly to discuss opportunities, and we look forward to your guidance and support in implementing the recommendations that will be forthcoming.

- County staff deferred the Development Charges Question/Answer Summary until the October Finance and Administration Committee meeting to allow adequate time for all municipalities to provide their input. A document summarizing questions, comments and points for consideration, as well as the resulting responses from Watson & Associates, was presented as an information item this month with staff seeking Council direction at a future meeting.
- Following the approval of the 2024 Budget Schedule at the September session of County Council, Corporate Services staff has initiated the 2024 Budget process and is meeting with each department throughout the months of October and November to develop 2024 budgets. Provisions will also be made for the outcome of the Special Meeting of County Council on November 9, which will discuss the Asset Management Plan and resulting pressures to the Long-Term Financial Plan. Each Committee will review the detailed budget in January prior to the Consolidated Budget Workshop.
- The Finance Division held a Tax Policy Working Group/RCCTA Finance Sub-Committee meeting on October 5, 2023, with all the local municipal treasurers invited to attend. Common issues discussed included 2024 budget challenges, asset management plans – policy changes, asset retirement obligations, optional small on-farm business subclass and a brief discussion on development charges.
- The Municipal Benefits Committee (MBC) met with benefits consultants, Cowan Insurance, on September 27, 2023 to review disability cases and met in late October to review the 2024 Manulife renewal documents. The renewal period for these services is January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024. By-laws will be brought forward at the November meeting for renewal of the Manulife and Cowan agreements.
- The County of Renfrew is introducing a different format for this year's County of Renfrew Service Awards and Staff Appreciation, which is taking place November 30, 2023 at 7 p.m. at Pembroke's Festival Hall. This year the County will recognize 61 service award recipients who have attained 10 to 40 years of service, as well as 16 retirees. Information is being sent out to all staff and recent retirees for this night of comedy, music, and entertainment.
- County Council approved the following submission for delegation requests for the 2024 Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) conference, taking place in Toronto from January 21-23, 2024, with the appropriate Ministers:
 - Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing / Minister of Finance – To discuss additional funding opportunities with regards to continuous improvements and modernization (i.e. the Municipal Modernization Fund);
 - Solicitor General – Providing an update and possible funding opportunities to align communication systems amongst emergency services (Fire, Paramedic Services, Police);
 - Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing – Discussion and proposed solutions to housing, including the modular seniors' village project and proposed Habitat for Humanity partnership;
 - Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing – Discussion regarding continued and sustainable funding for housing projects in areas outside of the designated urban areas, and to assist community housing Service Managers plan for growth and revitalization;

- Ministry of Health – To showcase our mobile wellness hub proposal, and the need for specific pilot project funding;
- Ministry of Infrastructure / Ministry of Transportation – A discussion and proposal for an interim solution with regards to Highway 17 widening and traffic calming beyond Renfrew; and
- Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport – To advocate for a more accurate funding model and provide support as necessary for Ontario’s Highlands Tourism Organization partners, which include the counties of Renfrew, Haliburton, Lanark, Frontenac, Hastings, and Lennox and Addington.
- County Council adopted a by-law to appoint Finance Manager Daniel Burke as the Acting Treasurer for the County of Renfrew effective November 20, 2023 following the retirement of Jeffrey Foss, Director of Corporate Services/Treasurer.
- County Council adopted a by-law to establish Corporate Policies and Procedures for Tangible Capital Assets for the County of Renfrew. Effective for the year ending December 31, 2023, under Public Sector Accounting Standard 3280, municipalities must account for Asset Retirement Obligations (ARO’s). The work to meet this new accounting standard is well under way by staff members and they foresee no difficulties in complying with this required obligation. As part of the work plan, staff is bringing a new asset retirement obligation policy forward for approval.
- County Council adopted a revised Employment By-law #1 to reflect changes to the student minimum wage announced by the Ontario government, effective October 1, 2023.
- County Council approved a number of amendments to Human Resources Corporate Policies and Procedures: Criminal Record Check Policy for All Prospective County of Renfrew Volunteers and RCHC Contractors; Photograph Identification for Employees; Termination and Resignation; Retirement and Early Retirement; Code of Ethical Conduct; Personal Use of Social Networking; Promotion; Establishment of New Positions; Payroll; Uniform and Safety Footwear Allowance; Hours of Work and Overtime; and Vacation effective January 1, 2024.

Community Services Committee

Presented by: Anne Giardini, Chair

- The County of Renfrew was recognized by Build for Zero Canada for reducing chronic homelessness. As of September 2022, the average record for chronic homelessness was 17 households. Since then, there has been a reduction of at least 10% since March 2023. The [Active Chronic Homelessness & Baseline Reductions](#) chart provides a summary of the Built for Zero data. The data reflects households registered on the County’s By-Name List, which is an enumeration tool that reflects active and reported chronic homelessness. People who are registered with the County’s Built for Zero initiative are prioritized for wrap-around supports and financial benefits through the Homelessness Prevention Program. Chronic is defined as more than six months of homelessness or a repeat period of homelessness within a 12-month period.
- County Council approved a resolution stating any changes to Ontario Works Administration components of the upcoming Ontario Works budget that exceed the budgeted amounts be funded from the Social Services Fiscal Pressure Reserve.

- County Council adopted a By-law authorizing the Warden and CAO/Clerk to execute the amended Transfer Payment Agreement for the Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative (COCHI), the Ontario Priorities Housing Initiative (OPHI) and the Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit (COHB) programs between the County of Renfrew and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

Development & Property Committee

Presented by: James Brose, Chair

- Nominations are being accepted for the 2023 Warden’s Community Service Awards until November 3, 2023. There are three categories to recognize community contributions, including individual, not-for-profit organization, and for-profit business. The awards will be presented at the November 29, 2023, session of County Council. More information, including application forms, is available at <https://bit.ly/3ZJu1Yd>.
- Enterprise Renfrew County (ERC) is celebrating 25 years of assisting entrepreneurs with business start-up and development. In honour of this landmark year, and long overdue on a brand refresh, staff are pleased to present Enterprise Renfrew County’s new logo and [website](#).
- The harvest tenders for 2024 operations on the Renfrew County Forest are currently being advertised. Five tracts have an area available for harvest totalling 153 hectares. Bids close on November 9, 2023, at 3:00 p.m.
- Two postings were recently made to the Environmental Registry of Ontario by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks regarding Black Ash as an endangered species as follows:
 - [ERO # 019-7378](#): Protecting Black Ash and its habitat under the Endangered Species Act, 2007.
 - [ERO # 019-6990](#): Developing the government response statement for Black Ash under the Endangered Species Act, 2007.

The County of Renfrew has submitted comments on several previous stages of consultation on this topic.

- The County of Renfrew provided approval for the Town of Deep River’s adopted OPA 4, an amendment to modify the text of the Deep River Official Plan to implement changes that have been made to the Planning Act, resulting from the introduction of the Provincial Policy Statement, 2020, Bill 108-More Homes, More Choice Act, 2019, Bill 109-More Homes for Everyone Act, 2022, and Bill 23-More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022, as well as general housekeeping changes.
- The County of Renfrew provided approval for the Town of Deep River’s adopted OPA 5, an amendment to modify the text and map schedule of the Deep River Official Plan to add the “Deep River West End Secondary Plan”. The Deep River West End Secondary Plan will provide additional policies that any future development within the West End Secondary Plan area will have to comply with, in addition to the policies of the Official Plan. The goal of the plan is to provide a policy framework that guides development and provides opportunities for new investment within the Town while remaining conscious and sensitive to the existing community, natural environment, and existing recreation amenities.
- On September 26, 2023, draft approval was issued for two subdivisions on the east and west sides of Norton Road in the Township of Greater Madawaska. These two subdivisions will create

52 lots and will include blocks for stormwater management and parkland. The developer will have three years to satisfy the conditions of approval.

- County of Renfrew staff attended a kick-off meeting to participate and acquire updated DRAPE (Digital Raster Acquisition Project Eastern Ontario) air photography. This project, led by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, is a collaborative funding partnership to acquire air photography for Eastern Ontario. The County of Renfrew has historically participated in this project and has acquired air photos since 2008. The air photography acquired by the County is available to be viewed internally by both the County and local municipalities using the Enterprise ESRI GIS software. The imagery for 2014 and 2020 is also made available to be used/viewed by the general public on the County GIS website. The imagery has been used to support programs and services at both the County and local level including emergency response, planning, economic development, forestry, and public works.
- In August, the County of Renfrew awarded the Request for Proposal for Floodplain Hazard Mapping to Ahydtech Geomorphic, Guelph, Ontario. Staff continues to work towards the completion of phase one of the project. The awarded amount for the project is \$37,138. The County of Renfrew was successful in obtaining a grant for 50% of the cost, leaving an outstanding amount of \$18,569. The County proposed to cover 50% of that amount leaving \$9,284 to be received from local municipal/County contributions. Staff is proposing a contribution that is tied to the amount of shoreline along major rivers that would benefit from the floodplain mapping. At this time, the majority of local municipalities have indicated support and have agreed to the proposed cost sharing. The following have either not responded or declined to participate: the Township of Killaloe, Hagarty and Richards and the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan. The total remaining amount to be funded due to the non-participation of these municipalities is \$790.62.
- County Council approved a contract as submitted by McCrea Excavation Ltd., Pembroke, Ontario in the amount of \$499,301.35 plus applicable taxes for the supply, delivery, and placement of Granular 'A' on the Algonquin Trail from County Road 55 (Paquette Road) approximately 12.33 kilometres north, in the Towns of Petawawa and Laurentian Hills.

Health Committee

Presented by: Michael Donohue, Chair

- Council reviewed the draft Terms of Reference for a proposed mobile Mental Health, Addictions and Homelessness Health Hub for Renfrew County. The Terms of Reference included an analysis of the current state of mental health, addictions, and homelessness in Renfrew County with further statistical information sought on opioid-related deaths and emergency department visits related to mental health and addictions. Next steps will be to collaborate with community partners to complete a needs analysis to design a program and test the methodology for community engagement.
- Every municipality must form a committee responsible for overseeing the development and implementation of its Emergency Management (EM) Program. The formation of a Municipal Emergency Management Program Committee (EMPC) is a key organizational step toward making the EM process more effective at the local level. The EMPC completed a tabletop exercise to review the County of Renfrew Emergency Plan on October 11, 2023, as a requirement to maintain emergency management compliance.

Operations Committee

Presented by: **Glenn Doncaster, Chair**

- The Public Works and Engineering Department is required to be 50% operational by November 1, 2023, and 100% operational by November 15, 2023. Night patrol shifts are scheduled to commence on November 15, 2023, and will continue until April 1, 2024.
- County Council requested a letter be sent under the Warden's signature to the Honourable Prabmeet Singh Sarkaria, Minister of Transportation, in support of the resolutions from Cramahe Township and the City of Cambridge in regard to amending s.205.1 of the Highway Traffic Act to allow Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE) systems to operate permanently or temporarily on any roadway under the jurisdiction of the municipality.
- County Council authorized a letter be sent under the Warden's signature to the Honourable Prabmeet Singh Sarkaria, Minister of Transportation, requesting updated traffic counts for specific sections of Highway 17, including the current Highway 417, Arnprior to Renfrew Twinning, Storyland Road to Greenwood Road, Meath Hill to Deep River, and west of Deep River.
- County Council recommended that the posted speed limit remain unchanged at this time for County Road 2 (White Lake Road) between Robertson Line and Green Meadow Road.
- County Council approved the assumption of Lynch Road culvert, on Lynch Road, 0.1km west of Dragonfly Way, in the Township of Admaston/Bromley be approved; with the costs for the design and construction of Lynch Road Culvert being shared equally between the County of Renfrew and the Township of Admaston/Bromley. Staff has been directed to complete the design for the replacement of Lynch Road Culvert and plan for replacement in 2024.
- County Council adopted a By-law authorizing the designation of a Community Safety Zone (CSZ) along Queen Street (County Road 512) between 87 Queen Street and Boland Street in the Township of Killaloe, Hagarty and Richards.
- County Council approved the bid submitted by Gincor, Mattawa, Ontario, for the acquisition of three tandem truck and plow units, in the amount of \$1,254,975, plus applicable taxes. County Council also approved reassigning the sum of capital funds in the amount of \$175,593 from the offset roller and the road shouldering machine to the purchase of the three tandem plow trucks and plow units.

Additional Information

Craig Kelley, Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk

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