

County Council Summary

June 26, 2024

Below you will find highlights of the County of Renfrew County Council meeting June 26, 2024

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.

[June meeting](#) YouTube link.

Warden's Address

Key highlights

- On June 7, the 17th Annual Renfrew County [Warden's Golf Tournament](#) took place at the Dragonfly Golf Link, raising \$5,000 for two local charities – Autism Ontario - East Region, and the County of Renfrew's Housing and Homelessness Fund. The Warden thanked the generous sponsors and supporters that made the event so successful.
- On June 10, the Renfrew County 2023 Ontario Winter [Games Legacy Fund](#) was announced. The fund, which will see \$375,000 entrusted to the recently renamed Ottawa Valley Community Foundation, will open its first applications in early 2025. The granting areas will consist of a Youth Sport Grant, Sports Clubs Grant, and Major Sports Infrastructure Grant. This event would not have been successful without the hard, dedicated work of the County of Renfrew volunteers and sponsors.

During the month of June, Warden Peter Emon attended 16 meetings on County business.

- From June 12-14, the Warden and Councillor Jennifer Murphy attended the ROMA board meeting in Thunder Bay.
- On June 21, he attended an AMO Board Meeting in Barrie.

Delegations

- Lori Huber, Partner KPMG, reviewed the 2023 Audited Financial Statements for the County of Renfrew.
- Chairperson Keenan Stone and Jennifer Doelman made a presentation on behalf of the Renfrew County Agriculture Economic Development Committee. The Committee provides guidance and feedback on the state of the agriculture sector and to recommend and assist with possible initiatives in support of agricultural economic and business development.
- Saad El Kassab, Lead Consultant Ainsworth, provided an update on the County of Renfrew's Climate Action Plan.

Announcements

- MPP John Yakabuski was honoured for his more than 20 years of dedicated service representing Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke in the Ontario Legislature. He was joined by members of his family, current and former staff members, and former wardens who recognized his numerous achievements and contributions over the years.

Community Services Committee

Presented by: Anne Giardini, Chair

- Renfrew County and District Health Unit (RCDHU) has developed an interactive dashboard called Substance Use-Related Harms in Renfrew County and District (RCD). The purpose of this dashboard is to provide individuals and community partners with an overview of current substance use-related trends in RCD such as Opioid overdose-related emergency department (ED) visits to local hospitals; Opioid-related deaths; and Suspected drug poisoning deaths. The dashboard can be found on the [RCDHU website](#). This dashboard will be updated quarterly or as data becomes available. The most recent update was June 26, 2024.
- The Pembroke and Area Warming Centre Committee held its final meeting on June 5, 2024 marking the conclusion of its collaborative efforts. The Committee was established to ensure broad representation and input from a diverse range of organizations regarding the Centre's operations. The Warming Centre, which was open from December 1, 2023 to April 18, 2024, was funded through contributions from four municipal partners and fundraising efforts led by The Grind Pembroke. With the Centre now closed, the Committee has been dissolved, and a final report on its activities and future recommendations will be prepared and brought to Council in August.

Health Committee

Presented by: Michael Donohue, Chair

- Despite their pivotal contributions, community paramedics often operate in the shadows of traditional healthcare systems, with their expertise and capabilities frequently under recognized and underutilized. By elevating awareness of their unique skill set and scope of practice, this workshop seeks to catalyze a paradigm shift in how healthcare professionals perceive and integrate community paramedics into the broader healthcare ecosystem. Through knowledge exchange, collaborative discussions, and interactive engagement, this workshop serves as a platform for healthcare professionals to communicate, collaborate, and recognize the potential impact when physicians, nurses, and paramedics work together. (Excerpt from the abstract submission.)
The above titled abstract was accepted by the Canadian Cardiovascular Society as a workshop at the Canadian Cardiovascular Congress being held October 24-27, 2024. The panelists include Ms. Morgan Krauter, Chair, Presenter; County of Renfrew Paramedic Service Advanced Care Paramedic Matt Cruchet, Co-chair, Presenter; Chief Michael Nolan, Presenter; Dr. Aws Almufleh (Moderator); as well as planning committee members and panelists.

Development & Property Committee

Presented by: James Brose, Chair

- As part of the marketing efforts for Renfrew County's BDO Zone 'AA' Rating, a webinar will be held on August 1, 2024 from 2-3:00 p.m. to a targeted audience of bio-based industry stakeholders, project developers, technology partners, capital markets and investors. Facilitated and hosted by EcoStrat, the webinar will include Business Development Officer David Wybou and County Forester Lacey Rose who will speak to the rating and availability of woody biomass.
- Vendor applications for the 2024 Taste of the Valley event series opened on May 17, 2024. To date, more than 160 applications have been received compared to 66 submitted during the same application period in 2023. Dates and locations for the 2024 event series include: August 10 – Railway Station Park, Barry's Bay; September 7 – Township of Killaloe, Hagarty and Richards Municipal Office, Killaloe; September 28 – Civic Centre, Petawawa; October 19 – Cobden Fairgrounds and December 14 – Renfrew Armouries.
- Ontario By Bike has announced the winners of the annual Bicycle-Friendly Business Awards which celebrate businesses that have taken the extra steps to welcome customers arriving on two wheels. The 2024 recipients for Ontario's Highlands region (RTO11) are two businesses located in the Ottawa Valley – [Ottawa Valley Coffee](#) (located in Renfrew, Arnprior, and Almonte) and [Valley Cycle Tours](#) (located at The Whitewater Inn, Beachburg). The awards are open to businesses certified by Ontario By Bike as bicycle-friendly. There are now more than 1,685 certified bicycle-friendly businesses across Ontario, including 95 from Ontario's Highlands region and [35 from the Ottawa Valley](#).
- Intake for the 2024 Summer Company program closed on May 17, 2024 with a total of 15 applications received.
A committee reviewed all applications and selected seven individuals who demonstrated exceptional potential and readiness for entrepreneurial success to fill the eligible spots. The 2024 Summer Company program participants are: Cayden McKinnon (Renfrew): car detailing service; Haley Vanderzwaag (Westmeath): care box subscription; Is Ameen O'Brien Jilani (Barry's Bay): lawn game rentals; Katie White (McNab/Braeside): animal balloon business; Ki Myra (Pembroke): clay art; Kyle Radford (Eganville): barbeque cleaning business and Scarlytte Merrill (Deep River): mobile babysitting service.
The number of eligible spots in the 2024 Summer Company program increased from five to seven due to increased funding from the Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade (MEDJCT). Participants will each receive a \$1,500 grant to assist with business start-up costs, including equipment purchases, setting up online platforms, etc. To successfully complete the program and receive a second grant of \$1,500, students must log 280 operational hours, complete training, attend bi-weekly meetings and provide proof of sales.
- Air photography (DRAPE4) for the County of Renfrew, was successfully conducted in May, with the final flying day recorded on May 16, 2024. The County was flown with mostly leaf off. The County anticipates receiving the digital air photo files within the first quarter of 2025.
- Renewal work continues at the Beachburg Tract in the natural white pine area that was harvested in 2022/23, with a possible chemical site preparation treatment later this summer and 45,000 trees already growing to be planted in 2025. A public information tour will be hosted by County Forestry staff on July 31, 2024 at 4:30 p.m.

Operations Committee

Presented by: Glenn Doncaster, Chair

- Summer Operations in the Public Works and Engineering Department are well underway. These include street sweeping in urban areas only, hole and catch basin cleaning, pavement marking, bridge cleaning and inspection, shoulder grading, trail maintenance, brushing and ditching program, roadside safety device program and hazardous weed program.
- County Council approved several contracts/agreements as submitted:
 - Rehabilitation of County Road 512 (Foymount Road), from Hubers Road to County Road 515 (Quadeville Road), a distance of 3.44 km, in the Townships of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan, and Bonnechere Valley, Greenwood Paving (Pembroke) Ltd., Pembroke, Ontario, in the amount of \$1,318,940.64, plus applicable taxes.
 - Rehabilitation of County Road 515 (Palmer Road), from County Road 62 (Combermere Road) to Finch Road, a distance of 6.67 km, Township of Madawaska Valley, Bonnechere Excavating Inc., Renfrew, Ontario, in the amount of \$1,720,067.61, plus applicable taxes.
 - Rehabilitation of County Road 30 (Lake Dore Road), from Sperberg Road to Trailblazers Road, a distance of 2.28 km, Township of North Algona/Wilberforce, Bonnechere Excavating Inc., Renfrew, Ontario, in the amount of \$1,372,377.04, plus applicable taxes.

Finance & Administration Committee

Presented by: Jennifer Murphy, Chair

- Plans are underway for a Renfrew County Municipal Day on Thursday, September 26, 2024 at the County Administration Building in Pembroke. The day will consist of presentations from all County departments, focusing on key initiatives, new innovative activities, and opportunities for collaboration, while discussing the operational aspects of each department.
- County Council approved the revised Policy for the Procurement of Goods and Services bringing it in line with the recently approved Delegated Authority By-law. The last update to purchasing authority limits was in May 2013 and the increases were felt warranted to address the impacts of inflation.
- County Council approved several new and amended Human Resources corporate policies and procedures, including Flexible Work Arrangements, Use of County-owned vehicles, and Pregnancy/Parental Leave. For a full list or a copy of the revisions, consult with the HR team.
- The following delegation requests have been submitted for the AMO Conference in Ottawa, August 18-21, 2024:
 - Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing and Associate Minister of Housing to discuss additional funding opportunities with regards to proposed solutions to housing, including a modular seniors' village project and a transitional home for seniors.
 - Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and Associate Minister of Housing to discuss additional funding opportunities for transitional and supportive housing.
 - Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addiction to discuss additional funding opportunities for transitional and supportive housing.

- Ministry of Colleges and Universities to discuss the need for the learn and stay grant eligibility to be expanded beyond Northern Ontario and to include Advanced Care Paramedics in the grant eligibility consistent with other health professions.
- Ministry of Long-Term Care to discuss and advocate for permanent base funding for the Community Paramedic Long Term Care program.
- President of the Treasury Board / Minister Mulroney and Associate Minister of Emergency Preparedness and Response to discuss the need for sustainable funding for the Emergency Management Program and the need for a coordinated volunteer corps to assist municipalities establish a surge capacity for civil protection.
- Ministry of Finance and/or the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing to discuss the impact of reassessment.
- Ministry of Education to discuss the need for an increase in child-care spaces in Renfrew County.

Additional Information

Craig Kelley, Chief Administrative Officer/Deputy Clerk

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