

County Council Summary

May 29, 2024

Below you will find highlights of the County of Renfrew County Council meeting from May 29, 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.

[May meeting](#) YouTube link.

Warden's Address

Key highlights

- Monday, May 27 was the [County of Renfrew Day at Queen's Park](#). Warden Peter Emon, other elected officials and senior staff spent time in the legislature to listen to Question Period, and formally met with Ministers Michael Parsa, Paul Calandra, Rob Flack, Lisa Thompson, Kinga Surma, Prabmeet Sakaria, Laura Smith and Michael Tibollo. The meetings were incredibly valuable as the group discussed the Mesa Program, the County's philosophy of Housing First, and concerns of infrastructure funding to the Province. He thanked MPP John Yakabuski for organizing the day.
- The [Mesa Gathering](#) was held on May 22 with more than 140 attendees from various agencies that have been affected by the recent surge of people experiencing homelessness, mental health issues and substance abuse. The County of Renfrew in conjunction with the Ottawa Valley Ontario Health Team and the Renfrew County and District Health Unit, hosted the event to officially launch Mesa highlighting the collaborative approach to compassionate care and building a healthier, more resilient community.
- On May 3 a [Ribbon Cutting Ceremony](#) was held at the new housing development at Lea and Douglas Streets in Pembroke. This is the first home constructed by the County of Renfrew to be added to the Renfrew County Housing Corporation portfolio. The Warden acknowledged and thanked MPP John Yakabuski and Associate Minister of Housing the Honorable Rob Flack for attending and speaking at the ceremony. He also acknowledged the financial contribution from the Province provided towards the new building.
- The Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus meeting was held in Picton on May 23, where the caucus approved the [2024-2027 Strategic Plan](#) which identifies three strategic priorities which will guide its decision-making and advocacy focus for the next three years - infrastructure investment, housing for all and health-care access.
- On May 10, the Warden attended the Community Service Department's 11th annual May Day event at the Petawawa Civic Centre. May Day provides an opportunity for professionals working in the childcare and early years sector across Renfrew County to come together for a professional development opportunity. Over 450 people attended this year's event.

- The Eastern Ontario Housing Summit was held in Ottawa on May 28. The Warden along with County staff and the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus, attended the event, which was a collaboration with several organizations, including the Ontario Home Builders' Association (OHAB). The summit delved into the coordination efforts among regions and agencies to ensure present and future residents have ample housing options that address affordability and needs that align with individual's lifestyles.
- On May 1, the Warden attended the rededication of Fred Blackstein Way along the Pembroke waterfront as it was renamed First Responders Way. The gathering included County of Renfrew Paramedics, along with other emergency service providers throughout Renfrew County, as they were honoured as part of First Responder Day, which has been recognized in Ontario since 2013.

Delegations

- Jade Nauman, Regional Director, United Way Eastern Ontario – Renfrew County, attended the meeting to receive a cheque for nearly \$1,250, which was raised through staff jean days and payroll deductions. She thanked staff for their generous and continued support of the organization's work in Renfrew County. She looks forward to continuing to partner with the County of Renfrew to help make a better Renfrew County for all.
- Kathryn Carruthers, Board Chair, Senior Women Living Together, presented about the non-profit organization which helps senior women (aged 55+) find compatible housemates and then creates successful shared living arrangements in rental housing. The group also helps arrange rentals through partnering with private landlords and real estate investors. Senior Women Living Together began as a Facebook group in February 2019 and grew to 1,700 members in the first year. To date, the group has helped more than 60 senior women find housemates and affordable housing.
- Derek Nighbor, President and CEO, Forest Products Association of Canada talked to County Council about strengthening the regional economy for forestry workers and businesses in the Ottawa Valley.

Announcements

- The [Silver Chain Challenge](#) is back for another year, but with a new twist. While residents of Renfrew County are still encouraged to get out and be active during the month of June, this time we want people to share photos of their cycling, hiking and walking adventures, including those using the Algonquin Trail and K & P Recreational Trail. This is a friendly competition with Lanark County so we would love residents and visitors help Renfrew County win by submitting the most photos to our [online collector](#) beginning June 1.

Finance & Administration Committee

Presented by: Jennifer Murphy, Chair

- Recruitment efforts for the Director of Corporate Services position have been paused while additional assessment is completed to determine the needs of the Corporate Services Department and the Corporation as a whole. In the interim, the Chief Administrative Officer

(CAO) will act as the Department Head, and the four managers of the department will report directly to the CAO.

- Staff is working with Diligent Community (an updated version of iCompass Technologies) to set up report and meeting templates for the meeting management software which has been purchased by the Corporation. Training has begun with the anticipated soft launch in June and full implementation in August.
- The County of Renfrew welcomed 15 new and returning summer students across the various departments of the County. Supporting summer students is a valuable investment for the County of Renfrew. It provides students with practical experience, helping them bridge the gap between education and the professional world.
- County Council supported the resolution from Hastings County regarding sustainable infrastructure funding for small rural municipalities. The resolution calls on the Ontario and Federal Government to implement sustainable infrastructure funding for small rural municipalities. It also asks small rural municipalities not be overlooked and disregarded on future applications for funding; and that both the Federal and Ontario Governments begin by acknowledging that there is an insurmountable debt facing small rural municipalities. The upper levels of Government are called to immediately commission a Working Group that includes a member of the Eastern Ontario Wardens Caucus, to develop a plan on how to deal with the impending debt dilemma.
- County Council nominated County Councillor Peter Emon for the position of Rural Caucus Director on the AMO Board of Directors with the added responsibility of serving on the ROMA Board of Directors for the 2024-2026 term.
- County Council directed staff to submit delegation request(s) for the upcoming Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Conference, taking place August 18-21 in Ottawa, that are: consistent with the 2023-2026 County of Renfrew Strategic Plan, current initiatives that require further advocacy, and previous delegations that addressed funding shortfall(s).
- County Council adopted a By-Law to provide certain delegations of authority From County Council to the Warden and/pr Senior County Staff for the administration of the Corporation of the County of Renfrew.
- County Council approved amendments to several corporate police and procedures with respect to Human Resources.

Community Services Committee

Presented by: Anne Giardini, Chair

- The first meeting of the Renfrew County District Drug Strategy (RCDDS) Steering Committee was held on April 25, 2024, at the Pembroke Fire Hall. The purpose of the Steering Committee is to lead and guide the development and implementation of the RCDDS, which will aim to minimize substance use related harms in Renfrew County and District. Membership will consist of leaders from organizations representing the pillars of substance use prevention, treatment, harm reduction, and community safety. Meetings will be held quarterly or more frequently as required. The guiding principles for the Steering Committee are based upon the Canadian Public Health Association's Framework for a Public Health Approach to Substance Use.
- On May 10, 2024, the Child Care and Early Years Division hosted its annual Professional Learning Day, known within the sector as May Day. This event provided the opportunity for all professionals in the Child Care and Early Years sector within the County of Renfrew to come

together to learn, reflect and collaborate. May Day took place in person at the Petawawa Civic Centre and included over 450 participants.

- The Renfrew County Housing Corporation (RCHC) and Community Living Upper Ottawa Valley (CLUOV) have signed a memorandum of understanding in relation to housing. CLUOV agrees to a \$200,000 donation to RCHC in exchange for two affordable housing units being designated to CLUOV for a 15-year term. The RCHC values its ongoing partnership with CLUOV and recognizes the importance and stability derived from a consistent presence of both CLUOV tenants and support staff within community housing buildings.
- The Renfrew County Housing Corporation has engaged [OrgCode Consulting](#) to develop a comprehensive 10-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan. This initiative is part of the broader Mesa project, with its goals and strategies aligning with both Mesa and the County of Renfrew's Strategic Plan. There are several phases to preparing the plan – analyzing the housing stock; consulting County staff, non-profit housing providers, individuals with lived experience in housing, those with lived/living experience with homelessness, the business community, and the public; conducting a community survey and focusing on plan development, monitoring, evaluation, and implementation. It is anticipated the new 10-year housing and homelessness plan will be completed by September 2024.
- County Council approved the Affordable Housing Summit Report as presented, along with the 12 key recommendations. The Housing Summit was held on April 4 in Renfrew. It was a full day which opened a dialogue towards the development of critical relationships to grow affordable housing across the Renfrew County region. The full [Affordable Housing Summit Report](#) begins on page 232 of the County Council package.
- County Council supported the resolution from the Corporation of the City of Pembroke Council to lobby the Provincial Government to establish a mental health, drug addiction treatment and residential rehabilitation facility serving the County of Renfrew.

Development & Property Committee

Presented by: James Brose, Chair

- The County of Renfrew, in partnership with Renfrew County Community Futures Development Corporation (RCCFDC), is participating in the Rural Ontario Institute's (ROI) 2024 [Rural Change Makers Program](#). The Rural Change Makers Program welcomes applications from engaged young leaders aged 18-35 in rural and northern Ontario eager to become the next faces of change and mobilize action around issues important to their communities. [Applications](#) for the 2024 program close on July 1, 2024, with the selection process commencing in August 2024, when up to 36 motivated young adults will be selected to join the experience for a year. These leaders will participate in a series of developmental training sessions, come together for experiential gatherings, complete self-assessments, form planning committees for local activities, and lead entrepreneurial or community initiatives.
- On June 22, 2024, the [Valley Diversity Emporium](#) will take place at the Nick Smith Centre in Arnprior from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. With a focus on celebrating the crafts and creations of progressive makers and showcasing equity-deserving vendors from across the Ottawa Valley and beyond, the event is dedicated to the principles of anti-oppressive activism, with an emphasis on showcasing and uplifting the works and voices of those committed to feminism, 2SLGBTQIA+ rights, disability advocacy, racial justice, and the support of marginalized communities.

- At the April 16, 2024 annual general meeting, the membership elected a new board of directors for the 2024-25 term. The Chair and Vice-Chair positions were appointed at the first board meeting of the new term on April 29, 2024. The board members are as follows: Stefani Van Wijk, Madawaska Kanu Centre – Chair; Meghan James, Somewhere Inn Calabogie – Vice-Chair; Councillor David Bennett, County Council/Horton Township; Councillor Rob Weir, County Council/Greater Madawaska Township; Chris Hinsperger, Bonnechere Caves; Julia Klimack, Upper Ottawa Valley Heritage Centre; Joel Kowalski, Wilderness Tours; Michelle Logan, Comfort Inn Pembroke; Jill McLellan, End of the Leash Pet Boutique & Watch My 6; Elijah McKeown, City of Pembroke; Jolene Meloche, Renfrew County ATV Club; Emily Stovel, Arnprior & District Museum; and Rachel Worth-Cappell, Braiding Rivers.
- A plan of subdivision for Baskin Drive in the Town of Arnprior received final approval on April 29, 2024, and creates an additional 24 row-house units and 64 apartment units.
- A plan of subdivision for Pinnacle View in the Town of Renfrew was draft approved on May 7, 2024. The plan will create 62 single detached units, 70 semi-detached units, and 72 row house units for a total of 204 units. The developer has three years to meet the conditions of draft approval to finalize the subdivision.
- County Council approved the terms of reference for the Renfrew County Agriculture Economic Development Committee as presented. On March 4, 2024, the Renfrew County Agricultural Economic Development and Renfrew County Agricultural Leadership Advisory Committees approved the terms of reference, previously two separate committees which began to duplicate efforts over time, for the amalgamated committees, now referred to as the Renfrew County Agricultural Economic Development Committee. Keanan Stone, co-owner of Valley Bio Ltd. from the Township of Whitewater Region, is the Committee Chair for the 2024 term. The Committee is scheduled to be a delegation at County Council on June 26, 2024.
- County Council passed a lengthy resolution in relation to the International Student Cap. The resolution came about following discussions with the Algonquin College Waterfront Campus which has more than 240 international students currently studying on campus. County Council requests the Federal Government reconsider its decisions, reinstate the programs, reconsider the cap on the total hours permitted to work per week by returning to the pandemic level of 40 hours per week, and confer with the college and university representatives to ensure all students receive quality education experiences.
- County Council approved an additional amount of \$140,000 to complete the renovations to the rear structure of the new Eganville Paramedic Base.
- County Council recommended a letter under the Warden’s signature be sent to the Premier of Ontario and the Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, recognizing the positive items introduced in Bill 185, Cutting Red Tape to Build More Homes Act, 2024, to simplify home construction and approvals.
- County Council adopted a By-Law to Prohibit Certain Activities on County of Renfrew-Owned Forests. As a result of the implementation of a By-law to Regulate and Govern the Use of the Lands Identified as County of Renfrew Recreational Trails as Linear Parks, to align all trail related permitted and prohibited activities, a review of the 2009 Forest By-law was undertaken. The changes reflect the higher costs associated with dealing with issues on the Renfrew County Forest after reviewing similar by-laws in other counties and adding prohibited activities that have become problematic in our land base.

Health Committee

Presented by: Michael Donohue, Chair

- Mesa Community Paramedics are working with Public Health to help assist and distribute anti-stigma campaign information bulletins and harm reduction and prevention information for clients at the Grind. The Mesa team is also expanding their outreach with the OPP Mobile Crisis Rapid Response Team at the Arnprior and Renfrew locations. From March 22 to April 22, 2024, the Mesa team had 147 client encounters. There were 69 new clients on boarded to the Paramedic Service electronic medical records system. The top four reasons for the Mesa paramedic encounters were community outreach, hospital diversion, wellness check/concern, and clinical intervention.
- Miramichi Lodge has received “Outstanding” Butterfly Accreditation status from Meaningful Care Matters from the audit completed by Nurse Consultant Mary Kneale of 1A Resident Home Area (RHA) on February 27, 2024. Miramichi Lodge is one of only four Homes in Canada awarded “Outstanding” status, the highest level of accreditation that can be achieved.
- County Council adopted a By-law authorizing the Warden and CAO/Deputy Clerk to execute a Memorandum of Understanding between Ontario 211 Services (O211S) and the County of Renfrew to provide 211 contact centre (telephony system) access and support the Renfrew County Virtual Triage and Assessment Centre team.
- County Council adopt a By-law authorizing the Warden and CAO/Deputy Clerk to sign the Lease Agreement between the County of Renfrew and Carefor Health and Community Services for a one-year term for the Renfrew County Virtual Triage and Assessment Centre (RC VTAC).
- County Council adopted a By-law authorizing the Warden and CAO/Deputy Clerk to execute an agreement with the Ministry of Long-Term Care (MLTC) for the 2024-25 Level-of-Care funding increases to Long-Term Care Homes effective April 1, 2024. The funding increased by 6.6 per cent.

Operations Committee

Presented by: Glenn Doncaster, Chair

- County Council adopted a By-law to Regulate and Govern the Use of the Lands Identified as County of Renfrew Recreational Trails as Linear Parks for the Algonquin Trail and K & P Recreational Trail.
- County Council adopted a By-law to Regulate the Operation of Off-Road Vehicles on County of Renfrew Roads to update restrictions for Off-Road Vehicles. The amendment would permit Off-Road Vehicles on sections of County Roads in the Town of Petawawa, following a request from the town to allow greater access to the Algonquin Trail.
- County Council approved a By-Law to Acquire Lands on County Road 512 (Foymount Road): Parts 1 and 2 on Plan 49R-20185 from Robert and Cecilia Buelow in the sum of \$2,259.53 and Parts 1 and 2 on Plan 49R-20183 from David Hoey in the sum of 2,000.
- County Council approved several contracts/agreements, amounting to approximately \$9 million, as submitted:
 - Rehabilitation of County Road 1 (River Road), from Poole Street to Dochart Street, a distance of 2.3km, Township of McNab/Braeside, and from Algonquin Trail to

- Bonnechere River, a distance of 1.88km, Township of Horton, Bonnechere Excavating Inc., Renfrew, Ontario, in the amount of \$1,564,525.20, plus applicable taxes.
- Rehabilitation of county Road 19 (Mud Lake Road), from County Road 24 (White Water Road) to Pembroke South City limit, a distance of 5km, Township of Laurentian Valley, Walker Construction, Niagara Falls, Ontario, in the amount of \$747,507, plus applicable taxes.
 - Rehabilitation of County Road 30 (Lake Dore Road), from Sperberg Road to Trailblazers Road, a distance of 2.28km, Township of North Algona/Wilberforce, Bonnechere Excavating Inc., Renfrew, Ontario, in the amount of \$1,372,377.04, plus applicable taxes.
 - Contract Administration and Construction Supervision Services to WSP Canada Incorporated (WSP) for Structure B181 (Peter Black Bridge) located on County Road 24 (White Water Road), approximately 1.5km east of Highway 41, Township of Laurentian Valley and County Structure C204 (Bellows Creek Culvert), located on County Road 12 (Westmeath Road), approximately 4.5km east of County Road 21 (Beachburg Road) in the Township of Whitewater Region, in the amounts of \$125,881.70 and \$108,598.45, plus applicable taxes, respectively.
 - For the rehabilitation of County Road 64 (Opeongo Road), an extension to the project limits, to a maximum amount of \$1,400,000.
 - Rehabilitation of County Road 65 (Centennial Lake Road), from Brougham/Matawatchan Township Line to Civic Address 2872, a distance of 2.23km, Township of Greater Madawaska, JWK Contracting, Pembroke, Ontario, in the amount of \$867,248.63, plus applicable taxes.
 - Rehabilitation of County Road 70 (Ruby Road), from County Road 512 (Brudenell Road) to Gorman Road, a distance of 4.28km, Township of Killaloe, Hagarty and Richards, JWK Contracting, Pembroke, Ontario, in the amount of \$1,192,373.78, plus applicable taxes.
 - Rehabilitation of County Road 508 (Calabogie Road), from Stacey Drive to Goshen Road, a distance of 4.02km, Township of McNab/Braeside, McCrea Excavating Ltd., Pembroke, Ontario, in the amount of \$1,338,036, plus applicable taxes.
 - Rehabilitation of Country Structure B108 (Tramore Bridge), located on Tramore Road, approximately 350m north of County Road 58 (Round Lake Road), Township of Killaloe, Hagarty and Richards, DW Building Restoration Services Inc., Ottawa, Ontario, in the amount of \$467,748, plus applicable taxes.
 - Rehabilitation of Country Structure C268 (St. Columbkille's Culvert), located on County Road 58 (Round Lake Road), approximately 50m south of TV Tower Road, Township of Laurentian Valley, Dalcon Constructors Ltd., Ottawa, Ontario, in the amount of \$262,712, plus applicable taxes.

Additional Information

Craig Kelley, Chief Administrative Officer

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