

County Council Summary

January 25, 2023

Below you will find highlights of the County of Renfrew County Council meeting from January 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 agenda](#) can be found here.

January meeting [YouTube](#) link

Warden's Address

Key highlights

The January 25, 2023 meeting was the first general meeting chaired by Warden Peter Emon.

- On December 21, he attended the OHTO Holiday Event, Sip and Sample for Good Cheer held at O’Kenny Craft Spirits in Pembroke.
- On January 12, he attended the Eastern Ontario Wardens’ Caucus Inaugural meeting held in Kingston. Warden Emon was acclaimed Chair and Peterborough County Warden Bonnie Clark was acclaimed Vice-Chair of the Caucus for 2023. During the meeting, the members reviewed the history and accomplishments of the caucus as well as a review of Eastern Ontario Paramedic Services Situational Overview Key Messages and the 2023 budget. The regional approach to housing proposal – “7 in 7” – was launched, with Minister Michael Parsa and other MPPs and MPs in attendance.
- On January 22 to 24, he attended, along with other members of County Council, the ROMA Annual Conference in Toronto. During the conference the following EOWC events were held:
 - Multi-Minister Delegation with the Ministers of Municipal Affairs and Housing and Children, Community and Social Services and Parliamentary Assistants with the Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade and Infrastructure.
 - Delegation with NDP Caucus
 - Delegation with Liberal Caucus
 - Delegation with Minister Paul Calandra, Ministry of Long-Term Care
 - Delegation with Minister Sylvia Jones, Ministry of Health.
- Warden Emon and Council congratulated Councillor Jennifer Murphy on being elected to the ROMA Board of Directors for 2023 to 2027.
- On January 26 and 27, Warden Emon attended AMO Board meetings. Topics for discussion will be housing and homelessness advocacy for 2023, collaborative waste management efforts, roadside zoos, Municipal support for independent Electricity System Operator procurement projects, and the Cannabis Act, 2018 Legislative review.

Delegations

Warden Emon presented the 2022 Warden's Community Service Awards as follows:

Individual Category - Darrel O'Shaughnessy, nominated by Mayor Lisa McGee, Town of Arnprior

- Darrel O'Shaughnessy was recognized for being a lifelong volunteer that is a constant force for positive change in the Greater Arnprior community. Darrel brings his passion for volunteerism to various causes including the Arnprior Dragon Boat Club, Greater Arnprior Seniors Council, Seniors Active Living Centre, Men's Shed and the Town's Corporate Services Advisory Committee (among many others).

Business Category - Eganville Leader, nominated by William Enright

- The Eganville Leader, under the leadership of Gerald Tracey, was recognized for sponsoring a successful fundraiser, which brought in \$110,000, for Ukraine relief efforts, donated by the Renfrew County community to help the local Ukrainian community and the people of Ukraine to build bridges between our two countries. The Leader has been positively impacting Renfrew County since 1902, and the Leader and publisher have unselfishly helped the community in fundraising tens of millions of dollars for community causes. Gerald Tracey and his team of volunteers brought the community together for a cause that had local and worldwide support.

Not-For-Profit - Ottawa Valley Cycling and Active Transportation Alliance (OVCATA), nominated by Mr. Gerry Morris of Pembroke and Deputy Mayor Lori Hoddinott, Township of McNab/Braeside

- OVCATA is a voice for cyclists and all active transportation enthusiasts in the Ottawa Valley, advocating for safety and good conditions, bringing people together, and encouraging participation. As a result, Ottawa Valley cycle tourism is growing rapidly and more people are cycling than ever. Some of the current directors are Patricia Krose, Whitewater Region; Ron Moss, Pembroke; Andy Kalnins, McNab/Braeside; Debbie Fiebig, Renfrew; Debbie Macdonald; Bob Peltzer, Bonnechere Valley; Ish Theilheimer, Golden Lake; and Michael Shulist, Round Lake.
- In addition to organizing or helping at local events throughout the Valley, OVCATA made a big impact with some big activities – the Trail Town Relay, the Tour de Bonnechere, the Tour de Whitewater, and its own unique Bike Bank of Renfrew County. Volunteers from across Renfrew County collected, refurbished and distributed 44 bikes to Valley residents who needed them via the Bike Bank, in its second year of operation.

Congratulations to all three successful nominees of the Warden's Community Service Awards.

Announcements



Renfrew County
2022

Ontario
Winter Games
Jeux d'hiver de
l'Ontario

February 2 – 5, 2023 and February 9 – 12, 2023

Finance & Administration Committee

Presented by: Jennifer Murphy, Chair

- County received a letter dated December 9, 2022 from Ms. Ann Aikens, Chair, Board of Health, Renfrew County and District Health Unit (RCDHU) in response to former Warden Debbie Robinson's letter dated November 1, 2022 regarding their lease of space at Renfrew County Place. The RCDHU provided the County with notice of their intent to terminate their lease at Renfrew County Place. The County wanted to ensure that the services provided through the Renfrew office would continue to be accessible in a location-based and effective manner within the same geography. The response from the RCDHU assures County Council of their commitment to public health service delivery in Renfrew and area and will be unaffected by the decision not to renew their lease at Renfrew County Place.
- The County of Renfrew was successful in obtaining five delegations at the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) Annual Conference held from January 22 to 24, 2023 as follows:
 - Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services, the Honourable Merrilee Fullerton, regarding the County of Renfrew's concerns over the recent budget announcement increasing the rates for the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) and Assistance for Children with Severe Disabilities Program by 5% but not to Ontario Works or Temporary Care Allowance creating undue hardship for those in receipt of these financial assistance programs.
 - Ministry of Housing, the Associate Minister Parsa, regarding the County of Renfrew's concerns with affordable and attainable housing. While the County of Renfrew is on track to build affordable and supportive housing in the City of Pembroke, more affordable housing is needed in areas across the County. Increasing the number of affordable and attainable housing units is critical in attracting economic growth, sustaining healthy communities, and reducing pressure on the fragile infrastructures and services currently in place.
 - Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, Parliamentary Assistant Rob Flack to discuss the Line Fences Act as it relates to costs of municipal ownership of abandoned rail corridors.
 - Ministry of Infrastructure, Parliamentary Assistant Amarjat Sandhu asking the Province of Ontario to continue with the doubling of the Ontario Community

Infrastructure Fund allocations to municipalities, and commit to a long-term funding formula that would allow municipalities to align funding with their long-term financial plans and asset management plans, while also preparing for anticipated future growth

- Ministry of Health, Parliamentary Assistant Dawn Gallagher-Murphy to emphasize that the Renfrew County Virtual Triage and Assessment Centre (RCVTAC) is continuing to work extremely well and is a good local solution to ensure all residents across our expansive, rural geography have easy, safe access to primary care, with the ongoing physician shortage in Renfrew County, and residents will only need to visit the Emergency Department for true emergencies. The County of Renfrew would like to continue providing the service of RCVTAC, but requires the support and financial resources from the Province.
- The Canada Revenue Agency Automobile Allowance rates for 2023 have increased to 68 cents per kilometer for the first 5,000 kilometers and 62 cents over 5,000 kilometers.
- The County of Renfrew received an email dated December 21, 2022 from the Court Services Division, Ministry of the Attorney General advising that Attorney General Doug Downey announced the appointment of 28 Justices of the Peace to the Ontario Court of Justice, effective December 29, 2022. This email indicated that Justice of the Peace Jennifer Grant has been a provincial offences prosecutor and a licensed paralegal for 11 years. Justice of the Peace Grant has been assigned to Pembroke. Ms. Grant has been operating as the County of Renfrew's municipal prosecutor under contract since 2019 and as a result of this new appointment, the County of Renfrew is currently recruiting for a permanent part-time Prosecutor for our Provincial Offences Division.
- MIS Municipal Insurance Services has advised that our annual renewal premium for the County of Renfrew for 2023 is \$821,566, which is an increase of 16.8% or \$118,099 more than 2022. Cyber insurance has also increased significantly over the past year due to the increase in the number and size of claims therefore, our premium is up 22% over 2022. This increase is a result of insurers working to adjust premiums to align with the new and growing exposure.
- MPAC provided details of the 2023 funding requirements and advising that there is no overall increase to the municipal levy. Based on preliminary assessment data, the charge for the County of Renfrew will be approximately \$1,540,414.86 compared to the 2022 funding requirement for the County of Renfrew of \$1,541,699.83 representing a decrease of 0.08% for the County.
- The Renfrew County and District Health Unit provided notice to the County of Renfrew that pursuant to Section 72 (5) of the Health Protection and Promotion Act (H.P.P.A.) the amount that the Board of Health estimates will be required to defray its expenses under Section 72(1) for the year 2023 is \$1,767,955, which is an increase of 2% from 2022.
- County Council directed the Warden to send a letter to the Honourable Michael Kerzner, Solicitor General seeking clarification on the number of fines being dispensed in the County of Renfrew during 2022. There was a 13% increase in charges received in

2022 compared to 2021, but charges received are still well below the pre-COVID charges received.

- County Council approved changes to Section 6.1 Electronic Participation in Municipal Meetings of By-law 85-10, as amended, a By-law to Govern the Proceedings of the Council and Committees of the County of Renfrew as follows:

“Preamble: The preference for meeting attendance will continue to be in-person, however there are circumstances that may prevent a Member of Council from physically attending the meeting. Where those situations occur, the following shall be the guiding principles:

- Item (a) (iii) a member is ill or injured, or has other health-related concerns (e.g. a significant rise in airborne viruses).
- Item (a) (iv) a scheduling conflict that would not allow a member to attend at the meeting location.
- Item (j) In the physical absence of the Chair at Committee, Section 74 (g) of the Procedural By-law will apply.
- Item (n) In the event of a limited agenda, or for Special Meeting (single issue) requirements, a Standing Committee or an Ad-hoc Committee may choose to meet virtually, at the call of the Chair, in consultation with the Clerk and/or appropriate Department Head.

Section 74. COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- Item (g) The Committee Chair shall preside, or alternatively the Vice-Chair upon request of the Chair. In the physical absence of the Committee Chair, the Vice-Chair shall preside, or in the physical absence of both, such other Member of the Committee as may be appointed by the concurring vote of a majority of the Members of the Committee present.”
- County Council approved the revised Corporate Policies A-07 - Criminal Record Check for Prospective Employees, A-10 - Staffing, B-10 - Acting Pay, E-01 - Hours of Work and Overtime and J-01 - Service Awards Program.
- County Council adopted a By-Law to Enter into a Service Agreement with Nortek Solutions Inc. doing business as Workzoom for a three-year period from February 1, 2023 to January 31, 2026 for a Human Resources Information System (HRIS).

Community Services Committee

Presented by: Anne Giardini, Chair

- The Grind Pembroke has launched a new “Out of the Cold” initiative commencing on December 1, 2022 and will continue until March 31, 2023 and extending their hours of operation between 10 p.m. to 8 a.m. seven days per week. This is to provide a warm, safe place for our community’s homeless members to help them overcome the hardships of winter.

- The Youth Wellness Hub in Pembroke provides services to help support a variety of needs related to mental health, substance abuse, primary care, education, and housing for individuals between 12-25 years of age.
- County Council adopted a by-law authorizing the Child Care and Early Years Division in the County of Renfrew to enter a 2023 Child Care, EarlyON and Canada Wide Early Learning and Child Care Transfer Payment Agreement with the Minister of Education, providing the 2023-2027 Early Years and Child Care Funding allocations for the County of Renfrew for 2023.

Development & Property Committee

Presented by: James Brose, Chair

- Using funding received from the Municipal Modernization Program (Intake 2 and Intake 3) the County has engaged with Zencity Engage to create a one stop program for all County departments and local municipalities to track projects and initiatives. The web-based program will be available to all County departments and local municipalities for public engagement through the sharing of information and data and provide transparency to the public for County projects and initiatives. The County will roll out the application and training to staff and local municipalities throughout the year.
- County staff are working with OMAFRA to host a Selling Food to Ontario workshop in late March 2023, which caters to the learning needs of local farmers and food entrepreneurs and provides a “one-stop-shop” for information that is often challenging for food entrepreneurs to navigate. Workshop topics include: Market Channel Opportunities; Understanding the Basics of Food Regulation; Costing and Pricing for Profit; Getting Your Product Listed/On the Shelf; Food Labelling Requirements; Food Trends; and Commercial Kitchens and Food Hubs/Processing Facilities.
- Economic Development staff will be reaching out to municipalities across Renfrew County with a request to be a delegation at a future Council meeting, to share information about the Economic Development Division, including Enterprise Renfrew County and the Ottawa Valley Tourist Association, and the services and support the County provides. The delegation will be comprised of the Director of Development and Property, Jason Davis and Manager of Economic Development, Melissa Marquardt.
- The [2022 State of the Ontario Tourism Industry Report](#) released by the Tourism Industry Association of Ontario (TIAO) and the Ontario Chamber of Commerce outlines the obstacles that the tourism industry still faces on the road to economic recovery, anticipated opportunities for the future and a comprehensive multi-pronged strategy, involving all three levels of government. The key issues and recommendations are grouped under four broad sections: Economy, Labour, Infrastructure, and the Future of Tourism in Ontario.
- At the Ontario Tourism Summit in Deerhurst in October 2022, the presentation of the annual Ontario Tourism Awards included a number of winners from across the region:
 - Joe Kowalski, owner of Wilderness Tours – Lifetime Achievement Award
 - Somewhere Inn Calabogie – Sustainable Tourism Award

- Ontario’s Highlands Tourism Organization – Marketing Campaign Award for the Connection Series Campaign.
- Enterprise Renfrew County has been approved for a \$10,000 French Language Services Grant from the Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade (MEDJCT). The funding is to provide entrepreneurship services in the French language to local Francophone businesses, including translation of resources, virtual workshops and an in-person networking event.

Health Committee

Presented by: Michael Donohue, Chair

- In a letter authored by Eastern Ontario Wardens’ Caucus (EOWC) 2022 Chair, Debbie Robinson asserted a number of concerns detrimental to long-term care home operations among Eastern Ontario Municipal Long-Term Care Homes. Key areas of concern include the opportunistic rise of staffing agency use and the deleterious effects on the ability to maintain and fund adequate staffing levels. The need for Capital program that is reflective of increased costs for new long-term care (LTC) home builds and challenges securing contractors in rural environments is emphasized. Current annual repayment limits as set by the province are identified as a significant barrier to LTC redevelopment where there is potential to have interest costs alone for new builds exceed the annual repayment limit. The reliance on Case Mix Index (CMI) as a funding model is pointed out to be a poor use of much needed frontline resources. A per bed funding model is suggested given the increased care acuity province wide. In concluding, Chair Robinson put forth to the Minister five key recommendations as presented in the January 2021 EOWC review of Eastern Ontario Municipal LTC homes identifying:
 1. Increase direct care funding to achieve the Provincial benchmark of the four hours of care model;
 2. Transition to a per bed funding model to increase clarity, efficiency, and transparency of the funding process;
 3. Increase Provincial capital funding predictability and provide on-going support for capital maintenance;
 4. Promote and support resource sharing between long-term care homes; and
 5. Improvement in LTC processes to increase efficiency and effectiveness.EOWC secured an in-person delegation with Minister Callandra at the ROMA conference in the spirit of collaboration to address the aforementioned concerns.
- The Ministry of Long-Term Care announced top-up funding for the remainder of the 2022-23 fiscal year ending March 31, 2023 for the following:
 - Registered Nurses (RNs), Registered Practical Nurses (RPNs), Personal Support Workers (PSWs)
 - Allied Health Professional
 - Professional Support Growth Fund

The adjustment is made based on reserved funding identified from data on bed counts and ward bed occupancy that Ministry received in September 2022. The Ministry is providing the sector an additional \$33.3M to be used towards homes achieving four hours of direct care and a one-time \$1,316,600 for the Professional Support Growth Fund (PSGF).

Operations Committee

Presented by: Glenn Doncaster, Chair

- The Town of Petawawa has endorsed the placement of a decorative crosswalk within the Town of Petawawa at the intersection of County Road 51 (Petawawa Boulevard), Portage Road and County Road 16 (Victoria Street) in accordance with County of Renfrew Corporate Policy PW-18 Decorative Crosswalks on County Roads. Staff are in the process of consulting with the proponent regarding the design, cost and maintenance of the crosswalk, with the intention to have a decorative crosswalk installed in 2023.
- The County received an e-mail from Terry Vaudry, District Manager of Snow Country Snowmobile Region – Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs (OFSC) District 6 requesting a re-route of the snowmobile trail along County Road 58 (Round Lake Road) due to issues with the Ministry of Transportation removing all snowmobile trails within their right-of-way (ROW). Currently within the County of Renfrew there are several areas where the snowmobile trail is within the ROW of a County Road. With snowmobile routes on County Road 58 (Round Lake Road) being an important connection to the local hotels and fueling station, Public Works staff have no issues with completing the standard agreement with the snowmobile club for the upcoming season. As there is no policy in place for the use of snowmobile trails along County Road rights-of-way, the Operations Committee directed the Public Works and Engineering Department to research and develop a policy.
- County staff are in the process of preparing tenders for a variety of procurements relative to the maintenance of the road system. A letter has been circulated to the local municipalities advising of the planned tenders and providing them with an opportunity to participate. Responses are to be received from the municipalities by February 16, 2023.
- The following items were offered to the local municipalities with no bids received and will now proceed to public auction as soon as practical.

○ 2012 Dodge RAM, 1500 Crew Cab 4WD	\$1,500
○ 2007 Chevrolet Express, Motorized Cutaway Turbo Diesel	\$1,000
○ 1990 International F-2574, Conventional Cab Water Truck	\$5,000
○ 2002 Massey Ferguson Tractor	\$15,000
○ 2012 Diamond C Trailer	\$8,000

Additional Information

Craig Kelley, Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk

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