

County Council Summary

August 30, 2023

Below you will find highlights of the County of Renfrew County Council meeting from August 30, 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.

[August meeting](#) YouTube link.

Warden's Address

Key highlights

- The 16th Annual Warden's Golf Tournament will be held on September 21, 2023 at the Dragonfly Golf Links in Renfrew with a shotgun start at 11 a.m. [Register](#) your team or as an individual. Proceeds from the event will go towards the Ontario Winter Games legacy fund and the newly created Housing and Homelessness fund.
- He expressed sincere condolences to former Warden and Mayor of the Township of Whitewater Region Don Rathwell and family, including former County Councillor Cathy Regier, on the passing of his sister Beatrice Wilson, who passed away on July 17, 2023.
- He also expressed sincere condolences to the family of former Councillor of the Township of Laurentian Valley George Hodgkinson, who passed away on July 17, 2023.

During the month of August, Warden Peter Emon attended 44 meetings on County business.

- From August 19-22, he attended the AMO Annual Conference held in London along with many members of County Council and County staff. More than 2,500 members of AMO were present at the conference. During the conference he attended the AMO Board of Directors Meeting, Topics of discussions included the upcoming conference and conference key messages. It was noted that this was the largest AMO conference on record. The County of Renfrew participated in 8 delegations during the conference. He noted all of these meetings were incredibly beneficial and added the County has begun to receive feedback on the requests already. Staff will be contacting the appropriate ministries for follow-up meetings in the very short term.
- As the Chair of the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus, he attended a number of delegations with various ministries, addressing the key priorities of housing, long-term care and paramedic services. Once again, the Caucus was held in high regard and will be working on next steps as it focuses its efforts on a Queen's Park Day and a Parliament Hill Day, both scheduled for October.

Delegations

- Byron Tan, Municipal Finance Manager, Watson & Associates, Economists Ltd., overviewed the background on Development Charges in Ontario and provided findings from the County of Renfrew Development Charges preliminary study.

Announcements

- County Council marked the retirement of Deputy Clerk/Executive Assistant Rose Gruntz, who has retired after 25 years with the County of Renfrew. Former CAO Paul Moreau and former Warden Debbie Robinson attended to wish her well in retirement, while former CAOs Norm Lemke and Jim Hutton sent video messages in their absence. Finance Committee Chair Jennifer Murphy spoke about how Rose supported her as Warden and Warden Peter Emon shared the same sentiment about how Rose kept him on track over the years. Current CAO/Craig Kelley also thanked Rose for her dedication over the years and presented her with an Employee Recognition Award.
- County Council supported a Notice of Motion from Councillor Jennifer Murphy which sought County of Renfrew support as the lower tier municipalities of Bonnechere Valley, Whitewater Region and North Algona Wilberforce seek to apply for funding for a pilot program that would include public charging stations and electronic ride share vehicles.
- County Council supported a Notice of Motion from Councillor Neil Nicholson directing staff to study and bring back options early in 2024 to create an organization (like Prince Edward County Affordable Housing Corporation) that can provide leadership and facilitation across upper and lower tiers, partners and developers to increase affordable housing in Renfrew County and Pembroke.

Finance & Administration Committee

Presented by: Jennifer Murphy, Chair

- The County of Renfrew has hired Gwen Dombroski, previously Deputy Clerk/Communications Coordinator at the Township of Madawaska Valley, as the new Deputy-Clerk/Executive Assistant. Ms. Dombroski began her duties with the County on August 14, shadowing the retiring Rosalyn Gruntz. County Council adopted a By-law to Appoint a Deputy Clerk for the County of Renfrew, with Ms. Dombroski officially taking over the role September 1, 2023.
- County Council approved a resolution that would direct staff to adjust the non-union salary grid annually based on the June 12-month average of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for Ontario (all items) as determined by Statistics Canada; with the adjustment effective for Pay Period #1 each year and to not be lower than any increase negotiated with any union collective agreement.
- County Council approved the amended Corporate Policy E-04 Vacation effective January 1, 2024. By enhancing vacation entitlement, the County demonstrates its commitment to supporting employees' personal and familial well-being, thus appealing to a broader and more diverse pool of talent.
- County Council adopted a By-law to Authorize the Submission of an Application to Ontario Infrastructure and Lands Corporation ("OILC") for Financing of Capital Work (County Road 512/Foymount Road Reconstruction); to Authorize Temporary Borrowing from OILC to Meet

Expenditures in Connection with such Capital Work; and to Authorize Long-Term Borrowing for such Capital Work Through the Issue of Debentures to OILC. The project is now projected to cost \$8,850,000 over two years and anticipated to be completed by October 2024.

Community Services Committee

Presented by: Anne Giardini, Chair

- In accordance with the Residential Tenancies Act, Ontario has set the maximum rent increase for 2024 at 2.5%. The rent increase guideline is the maximum amount a landlord can increase rent for most tenants without the approval of the Landlord and Tenant Board. Section 116 of the Residential Tenancies Act prescribes that landlords must provide tenants at least 90 days written notice of the landlord's intention to increase rent. The Renfrew County Housing Corporation Board of Directors at their meeting on August 16, 2023 approved a 2.5% rent increase to the maximum rents of all units effective January 1, 2024.
- The Renfrew County Housing Corporation Board of Directors approved an increase to rent in the amount of \$10 per month above the annual rent increase guideline for all units within the Renfrew County Housing Corporation portfolio except for units at the following locations: Albert Street, Arnprior; Burwash Street, Arnprior; Russell Street, Arnprior; Francis Street, Renfrew, McLean Street, Renfrew; George Avenue, Renfrew; Allan Avenue, Renfrew; and Archibald Avenue, Renfrew (the referred to Renfrew addresses are also known as Moran Heights).
- The Conseil des écoles catholiques du Centre-Est has built a Francophone Catholic elementary school in Arnprior named l'École élémentaire catholique des Deux-Rivières. The school will have a Francophone licensed child-care centre named Centre éducatif Coeur des Jeunes des Deux-Rivières. This is an agency that the County of Renfrew Child Care and Early Years Division already has service agreements with, for its location in Pembroke at l'école élémentaire et secondaire publique L'Équinoxe. The new centre in Arnprior is looking to be licensed for 140 child-care spaces.
- On March 28, 2023, the County of Renfrew passed a resolution declaring intimate partner violence and violence against women an epidemic in response to the coroner's inquest into the murders of Carol Culleton, Anastasia Kuzyk and Nathalie Warmerdam. At that time, County Council asked the Community Services Committee to indicate which jury recommendations could be implemented by the County of Renfrew. County Council has endorsed the following recommendations resulting from the Culleton, Kuzyk & Warmerdam Inquest Jury Recommendations of June 28, 2022:
 - Community Services set up a She C.A.N fund utilizing the Homelessness Prevention Program Funding (HPP) allowing for grants per year of up to \$5,000. This fund and the funding source to be reviewed annually.
 - Community Services introduce annual staff training regarding Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) and that this training be offered to other County of Renfrew departments to enhance their skill set when working with the community.
 - Community Services create a routine screening process for applicants by asking people if they are currently or have recently experienced IPV, entering through Housing, Ontario Works or Child Care service entry points in order to streamline supports and services.
 - Community Services management participate on local boards/committees that focus on IPV activities in the community.

- Community Services strike an in-house committee consisting of staff from Ontario Works, Community Housing, and Child Care and Early Years to review how IPV applicants access our services to ensure a seamless IPV focussed approach.
- County Council passed a by-law authorizing a policy amendment to recommend the eligible maximum for funeral benefits for Ontario Works clients in the County of Renfrew be increased from \$4,000 to \$4,500.

Development & Property Committee

Presented by: James Brose, Chair

- The County of Renfrew was successful in a co-application with the County of Lanark for their Ontario Rural Economic Development (RED) funding application for a Rural Community Inclusion Pilot Project to a maximum of \$131,719.50. The Pilot Project will be spearheaded by the County of Lanark with the development of a Marketing Strategy and Implementation of the Plan for Rural Community Inclusion. The Pilot Project will span over three years from 2023-2026.
- In order to address the critical need for housing in Renfrew County, the County has an opportunity to engage in a collaborative effort with housing providers to utilize Renfrew County Housing Corporation (RCHC) lands for the development of affordable housing projects within the Town of Arnprior. Staff will review opportunities and report back to committee and County Council.
- The first Taste of the Valley event for 2023 was held in Eganville on Saturday, August 12, with more than 45 vendors in attendance and approximately 1,000 visitors. Vendor attendance for all 2023 locations has exceeded previous years registration with two locations already sold out of space:
 - Calabogie (September 9) – 57 vendors registered (new location for 2023)
 - Deep River (September 30) – 58 vendors registered (sold out)
 - Cobden (October 14) – 118 vendors registered
 - Pembroke (December 16, Holiday edition) – 68 vendors registered (sold out)All events are held from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. More information is available at www.TOTV.ca.
- The Economic Development Division has launched a digital quarterly newsletter for the local business community. The goal is to inform, engage and educate the Ottawa Valley business community about government announcements, legislative changes, funding opportunities, market intelligence, research and relevant business information. The newsletter also aims to put a spotlight on the enterprising spirit in Renfrew County by featuring two to three businesses from a variety of sectors in each issue. Businesses are encouraged to complete the content repository form at <https://investrenfrewcounty.ca/BizSpotlight>. Businesses, organizations, municipalities and entrepreneurs are encouraged to sign-up to receive the digital newsletter at <https://investrenfrewcounty.ca/Newsletter>. The first issue was released in August.
- In collaboration with Ontario's Highlands Tourism Organization (OHTO), the Ottawa Valley Tourist Association (OVTA) and county destination partners in the Ontario's Highlands region participated in a pilot geo-fencing data collection project in order to obtain more timely statistics about the local visitor economy. For this pilot project, data was collected in three areas including:
 - The Ottawa River: specifically, OWL Rafting, Wilderness Tours, Whitewater Village, Whitewater Cottage and RV Resort
 - K&P Calabogie Trailhead to Millenium Trail

- Downtown Pembroke and Waterfront Marina

For more details on the geo-fencing data project visit page 106 of the [County Council report](#).

- A new plan of subdivision application has been submitted in the Town of Deep River. The plan of subdivision consists of five blocks and has a total area of 0.476 hectares. The subdivision lands have road frontage along Frontenac Crescent and Avon Crescent. The subdivision proposes to create 12 townhouse units. The submitted subdivision and supporting information on the project is available for viewing on [Zencity](#).
- The plan of subdivision for King's Landing, Township of Madawaska Valley, in the village of Barry's Bay, was draft approved on July 7, 2023. The plan of subdivision consists of lots/blocks for a total of 78 residential lots including blocks/Lots for semi-detached dwellings, blocks for multiple attached dwellings, lots for single detached dwellings, a block for a 42-unit apartment building or 44 stacked townhouses, and blocks of land for water access, stormwater management, and a pumping station.
- Final approval was given on July 20, 2023 for the plan of subdivision for Petawawa Town Centre, Town of Petawawa. The plan of subdivision consists of 96 multiple attached units, parkland to be dedicated to the Town, and land for utilities including a Stormwater Management area.
- Staff at the County and some local municipalities have been working with members of both the Province and Federal Governments to update Flood Plain hazard mapping. The County was successful in obtaining a grant from the federal government under the Flood Hazard Identification and Mapping Program (FHIMP). The grant would cover 50% of this first stage. A Request for Proposal was issued for the Flood Hazard Identification and Priority Setting Exercise to qualified Engineering Consultant firms to conduct a flood hazard identification and priority setting exercise for the jurisdiction. The objective of this project is to determine priority areas where new or updated flood mapping is needed, and what data will need to be acquired, to complete the mapping. A total of six proposals were received. The proposal submitted by Ahydtech Geomorphic Ltd. was evaluated as the best combination of all factors included in the assignment.
- County Council awarded a Request for Proposal for the Climate Change Action Plan to Ainsworth Inc., Toronto, Ontario in the amount of \$72,522 plus applicable taxes. The proposal is to develop a Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) outlining short-term targets and actions required to improve energy efficiency, reduce energy consumption, scale up renewable energy generation, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The scope of the Plan will consider all County of Renfrew green-house gas emission sources, including natural gas consumption, vehicle fuel sources, and indirect electrical consumption.
- County Council adopted a by-law to execute a Memorandum of Understanding between the County of Renfrew and the Town of Deep River on a shared opportunity to purchase the discontinued Keys Public School located at 167 Brockhouse Way, Town of Deep River for a potential future housing initiative and community hub.
- County Council approved Official Plan Amendment No. 41 (OPA 41). This amendment re-designates a 1.4-hectare property from Agriculture to Agriculture – Exception Three. The change in designation would facilitate the severance of one new residential lot.
- County Council adopted a By-law authorizing execution of a contract for the replacement of the Wylie Creek Bridge, on the Algonquin Trail, in the Town of Laurentian Hills as submitted by Bonnechere Excavating Inc., Renfrew, Ontario in the amount of \$540,345 plus applicable taxes.

Health Committee

Presented by: Michael Donohue, Chair

- On July 25, 2023 the Renfrew County Virtual Triage and Assessment Centre opened its doors at 80 McGonigal Street West in Arnprior. The new location serves patients who require an assessment and treatment by a paramedic, physician and or a hybrid appointment with a paramedic in person and a physician via video. The central location features two exam rooms, a waiting room, and a staff workspace.
- County Council adopted By-laws authorizing the Warden and the Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk to engage in an agreement with staffing agencies for the provision of frontline care services at Bonnechere Manor.

Operations Committee

Presented by: Glenn Doncaster, Chair

- Lee Perkins, Director of Public Works and Engineering, has been appointed to the American Public Works Association (APWA) to a two-year term – President-Elect for 2023-2024 and President for 2024-2025 of the Canadian Public Works Association (CPWA) Board of Directors
- County Council approved the cost of the Fire Radio Dispatch System be split amongst the following 17 participating user agencies: the Towns of Deep River, Laurentian Hills, Petawawa, and 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, and Whitewater Region; the City of Pembroke, and the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation, with the Weighted Value Assessment share being used for the calculation.
- County Council adopted a By-law authorizing a contribution of \$210,244.11 to the Township of McNab/Braeside for the County of Renfrew's portion of road works to be completed over County Structure C137 (Hanson Creek Culverts).
- County Council authorized the execution of a contract for a Fuel Inventory Management System in the amount of \$194,969 plus applicable taxes as submitted by Triangle Pump Service Limited, Gloucester, Ontario.

Additional Information

Craig Kelley, Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk

613-735-7288