

County Council Summary

October 26, 2022

Below you will find highlights of the County of Renfrew County Council meeting from October 26, 2022.

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.

October meeting [YouTube](#) link

Warden's Address

Key highlights

- In her last address as Warden for the County of Renfrew, Debbie Robinson thanked Council, members of the senior leadership team and many other staff for the support she received during her three-year tenure as Warden. She called this term “tumultuous”, as Council faced its challenges together head on, but also enjoyed many successes. While COVID has dominated the last two years, she believes Council has put in place the building blocks for a solid future for the County of Renfrew. Council’s legacy will be projects like the Algonquin Trail, the Noojimokamig Garden, the many capital projects completed in the last four years, and the continued evolution of the County’s community paramedics program. She is also optimistic that before her last day, November 23, the County will receive a letter indicating it will receive funding for RC VTAC after March 31, 2023. She feels the timing is right to retire from municipal politics as her term as Warden is ending. Those members of Council not returning, should be proud of the many Council achievements. She encouraged the next council not to shy away from the many difficult decisions that it will face and added it’s worth fighting for issues which are good for the municipalities and good for the residents.
- On behalf of Council, Warden Robinson expressed sincere condolences to the family of former Reeve of the Township of South Algona, Rita Culhane, who passed away on September 25, 2022. Ms. Culhane was Reeve of the Township of Algona South from 1992 to 2000. The Township was amalgamated into the Township of Bonnechere Valley in 2001.

During the month of October, the Warden attended 17 meetings regarding County business, including, but not limited to:

- On October 6 and 7, she attended two AMO Board meetings in Toronto. One was an orientation session the other a fulsome board meeting led by Executive Director Brian Rosborough. One of the major topics was Bill 3, the Strong Mayors Building Homes Act, which gives some mayors extraordinary powers. Every municipal politician should have received a request from AMO to fill out a survey in regards to the Bill and the Warden urged elected officials to complete the questionnaire.

- On October 13, she chaired a meeting of the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus held in Northumberland County. Discussion was held on the 2023 budget and, at her request, the Caucus endorsed but did not pass the budget. That decision will be left to the new Caucus members in January. The EOWC also approved plans for the 2023 Inaugural meeting and ROMA 2023 delegation requests to various ministries which reflect the EOWC's current priorities: housing, health-care human resources and family physician recruitment. The Caucus also received a Housing Priority Update and discussed Bill 3.
- On October 18, she, along with Paramedic Chief Michael Nolan and Councillor Michael Donohue, met with MPP John Jordan regarding the continuation of the Community Paramedic Program for Long-term Care and Renfrew County Virtual Triage and Assessment Centre. In relation to RC VTAC, she also sent a letter to Minister of Health Sylvia Jones asking for an in-person meeting although she has not received a reply.
- On October 20 she, along with CAO Craig Kelley and Director of Development & Property Jason Davis, met with Community Futures Development Corporation Board Chair Ray Bonenberg and Executive Director Cyndy Phillips, to discuss partnerships and their ability to best serve the entrepreneurs.

Delegations

- Jerry Plante, manager of Financial Services, and Katherine Leonard, administrative assistant, from the Phoenix Centre for Children and Families attended the meeting to receive a cheque for nearly \$900. This was the proceeds from the second annual Emergency Services Race, organized by the County of Renfrew Paramedic Service and held in Renfrew on September 25, 2022. The organization was very appreciative to receive the funds, which will be used to support children and families with complex mental health needs.
- Primary Care Paramedics Jan Farrell and Gerry Slobodzian were recognized by County Council after they received the Governor General's Emergency Medical Service Exemplary Service Medal. The award recognizes those professionals who have performed their duties in an exemplary manner, characterized by the highest standards of good conduct, industry, and efficiency. The recipients are notable by their commitment and involvement to not only their profession, but their communities as well. Each recipient must have served the Canadian public for at least 20 years in a meritorious manner, including 10 years of street level duty involving potential risk to the individual.
- Bonnechere Manor Administrator Dean Quade and other staff members from the long-term care home in Renfrew attended the meeting virtually to receive congratulations from County Council on receiving the 2022 Local Hero Award from the Renfrew and Area Chamber of Commerce. The award recognized the resiliency shown by staff and administration at Bonnechere Manor throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite the challenges of addressing the ever-changing regulations and medical directives, and dealing with outbreaks at the facility, the staff worked tirelessly to ensure the 180 residents were well cared for.

Announcements

- The departing County Councillors were recognized and thanked for their years of dedicated service to the County of Renfrew. Not returning for the next term of council are Janice Tiedje, Killaloe, Hagarty and Richards (34 years, and the longest serving current member of County

Council); Robert Sweet, Petawawa; Sheldon Keller, Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan; Tom Peckett, McNab/Braeside; Brian Hunt, Greater Madawaska; Jed Reinwald, Laurentian Hills; Cathy Regier, Whitewater Region; Debbie Robinson, Laurentian Valley and Kim Love, Madawaska Valley (not pictured).



Finance & Administration Committee

Presented by: Brian Hunt, Vice Chair

- CAO Craig Kelley shared information about important upcoming meeting dates, including the upcoming inaugural meeting (November 23rd), a Special Meeting to discuss Bill 109 (December 21st) and the Strategic Planning sessions in 2023 (January 16 & 17)
- Ashley Wilton, Provincial Offences Administration (POA) Manager attended the Municipal Court Managers' Association Annual Conference that was held in Blue Mountain, Ontario from September 27 to 29, 2022. The following items were overviewed as part of this Conference: Modernization of POA Technology and Courts Digital Transformation; Justice of the Peace Recruitment Process – Update from the Justice of the Peace Appointments Advisory Committee (JPAAC)
- County Council recognized staff who have achieved employment milestones. This year the County of Renfrew will be recognizing 73 service award recipients who have attained 10 to 40 years of service, as well as 27 retirees, representing a loss of 584 years of service to the corporation.
- The Municipal Benefits Committee (MBC) met with our benefits consultants, Cowan Insurance, on October 4, 2022 to conduct a review of the services and plans. The renewal period for these services is January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023. The MBC voted to continue with Cowan Benefits Consulting services, as well as to continue with Manulife Financial for the provision of a benefits insurance program for the period of January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023. As a result of plan design management and the efforts of our benefits consultants, Cowan Insurance Group, our renewal rates have been negotiated for 2023 with an overall increase of 8.9% or an annual premium adjustment of \$259,937.50.

Community Services Committee

Presented by: James Brose, Chair

- County Council passed a resolution to submit delegation requests for the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) Conference January 22-24, 2023 to meet with Associate Minister of Housing Michael Parsa on Affordable and Attainable Housing and Minister Merrilee Fullerton, Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services – Increasing Social Assistance Rates for the Ontario Works and Temporary Care Assistance Program.
- County Council passed a resolution approving an increase of the presently approved operating capacity of ten homes to the full licensed capacity of twenty-five homes.
- County Council passed a resolution authorizing the County of Renfrew to enter into an agreement with Licensed Home Child Care service providers, Kim Lair (Pembroke).

Development & Property Committee

Presented by: Robert Sweet, Chair

- As a result of the recent staffing changes within the Development and Property Department, current vacancies, and the 2020 Service Delivery Review recommendations and as part of the budget deliberations, staff will be completing a Departmental review with a focus on the Forestry and GIS Division. The proposed review would ensure an acceptable span of control and that the key Forestry, GIS and Trail deliverables are achieved or enhanced.
- A Taste of the Valley Holiday Edition is being planned in partnership with the Township of Laurentian Valley on November 26 at the Shady Nook Recreation Centre. Vendor registration and more information is available at www.TOTV.ca.
- Planning is underway for the County of Renfrew's day at Queen's Park on November 3, 2022. Local businesses representing key sectors and partnerships, including agriculture, forestry, manufacturing, nuclear/energy and tourism, have been invited to join our delegation. Representation of the Ontario Winter Games being held in Renfrew County in 2023 will also be included as part of the delegation.
- The Ottawa Valley was featured as a fall destination in the Great Taste of Ontario's Special Report released in the Globe and Mail on September 30. The article "[Delicious autumn: Three regions to visit for fun, fall colours and fantastic food](#)" highlights places to stay, where to eat and things to do with a special focus on culinary offerings and experiences. The Canadian Canoe Route, one of our key travel trade itineraries, was recently featured in the popular travel blog [Must Do Canada](#).
- The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) requested input on the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) [019-5595](tel:019-5595) for finalizing recovery strategies for five species at risk and initiating pre-consultation on government response statements and the Ontario [Black Ash Recovery Strategy](#). This strategy was prepared by a consultant and is a piece of advice to government, and not binding at this time. However, the strategy is being shared to allow for public input that could inform the government's development of its response.
- In January 2020, County Council passed a By-law approving the final lease agreement (Master Agreement) between Garrison Petawawa and TransCanada Pipeline (TCP). In 2021, the County

of Renfrew signed an Overlap Agreement with TCP as part of the Master Agreement. The Overlap Agreement specified that only the westerly 5 metres of the TCP right-of-way lands could be used for the Algonquin Trail. During the 2021 preparation of the trail build, it became evident to County staff that the 5 metres requirement would be too onerous and cost prohibitive to complete the 16 kilometres section of the Algonquin Trail through Garrison Petawawa lands. Staff engaged the legal counsel of Borden Ladner Gervais of Ottawa to modify the Overlap Agreement with TCP to allow up to 13 metres westerly of the pipeline for the Algonquin Trail. Staff is satisfied that the amended terms of the agreement have the same intent as the original that was adopted by By-law and the County's Chief Administrative Officer has the authority to sign the revised document once finalized.

- The Development and Property Department received formal notifications from the Renfrew County and District Health Unit (RCDHU) and the Community Futures Development Corporation (CFDC) of their intentions to vacate the premises leased at 450 O'Brien Road, Renfrew, Ontario. RCDHU has advised that it will vacate at the end of the current lease term which is the last day of June 2023. CFDC's current lease expires on January 31, 2023. CFDC has requested to continue on a month-to-month agreement for the months of February and March of 2023, with a move out date of April 1, 2023. Staff will review the financial implications and consider alternative solutions to fill the vacancies.
- As a result of multiple factors, the Planning Division had a backlog of severance and general inquiries with approximately a four to five-month delay to receive a response for general inquiries. While there is still a backlog and staff are working towards providing responses to general inquiries within 30 days, the four to five-month delay has been reduced to 60 days. There is also still a backlog of consent applications as the County is still on pace to exceed the 200 applications submitted in 2021 (the County received 106 files in 2020). Staff is making progress in reducing the backlog; however, the pace of applications being submitted has been significant. So far this year the County has received more than 170 applications for consent. Planning staff has prioritized applications for subdivisions, official plan amendments, zoning amendments, minor variances, and site plans. There is no backlog for these applications.
- County Council passed a resolution recommending that the Warden send a letter to the Federal Government reminding them of the County of Renfrew's role in the previous Request for Expressions of Interest to manage and operate Canadian Nuclear Laboratories (CNL) to ensure the needs of the residents of the County of Renfrew continue to be met.
- County Council passed a resolution approving the trail pass requirement for All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) on the Algonquin and K & P Recreational Trails starting in the 2023 season, directing staff to modify the existing lease agreement with the Renfrew County ATV Club to reflect the trail pass requirements; and requiring the K & P Recreational Management Advisory Committee be informed of this direction.
- County Council passed a resolution approving a delegation request at the 2023 Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) Annual Conference with the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs to discuss the Line Fences Act as it relates to the costs of municipal ownership of abandoned rail corridors.
- County Council passed a resolution making a formal request of the City of Pembroke that all municipal fees and charges be waived as they relate to the building of Integrated Community Housing units at Lea/Douglas Streets.
- County Council passed a resolution declining the request of Mr. Ernie Villeneuve to be reimbursed for costs related to the severance process.

- County Council passed a by-law to enter into a Contribution Agreement for the Rural Economic Development (RED) funding program for the Economic Development Division to assist with Newcomer and Workforce Attraction and Development Initiatives.
- County Council passed a by-law to enter into a lease agreement with the West Carleton Snowmobile Trails Association of the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs (OFSC) District 1 for a period of five years commencing on December 1, 2022 and expiring on April 30, 2027.
- County Council passed a by-law to enter into an agreement with Glacier Maintenance Inc., Belleville, Ontario for the provision of janitorial services for the County Administration Building at 7 and 9 International Drive, Pembroke, in the amount of \$267,300 plus HST for the three-year period effective November 1, 2022 to October 31, 2025.
- County Council passed a by-law to enter into an agreement with Lloyd Hisko Snowplowing, Renfrew, for the provision of snow removal services at 410 and 450 O'Brien Road for \$183,000 plus HST for the period of three-year period from November 1, 2022 to October 31, 2025.
- County Council passed a by-law to adopt and approve Amendment No. 36 to the Official Plan of the County of Renfrew, pertaining to the Township of McNab/Braeside. This extends and amends the Settlement Area designation for the Village of Braeside with the intent to increase the supply of vacant land within a built-up settlement area to accommodate a portion of the Township's projected population growth and facilitate a future plan of subdivision.

Health Committee

Presented by: Michael Donohue, Chair

- The committee reviewed revisions to the COVID Containment Guidance Document for Long-Term Care Homes in Ontario as announced by the Ministry of Health, and effective October 14.
- The Ministry of Long-Term Care recently announced new funding to recruit and retain 225 nurse practitioners (NP) in the long-term care sector. Funding totalling \$57,593,900 is available over the next three years ending March 31, 2025. Funding for each NP position includes \$123,340 for salary and benefits and \$8,513 for overhead costs.
- Commander Amber Hultink virtually presented "Community Paramedicine in Canada", at the German Rescue Service Symposium.
- On Saturday, September 24, 2022, the County of Renfrew received the 2022 Community Impact Award at the Upper Ottawa Valley (UOV) Chamber of Commerce Business Excellence Award Gala for Renfrew County VTAC. This award is recognized as further acknowledgement of the tremendous service that RCVTAC provides to the residents of the County of Renfrew. This year the awards were judged by Chamber of Commerce executives from across Canada who were not UOV chamber members.
- Two County of Renfrew Paramedics received the Governor General's Emergency Medical Service Exemplary Service Awards for 2022 at the Ontario Association of Paramedic Chiefs (OAPC), fall meeting. Jan Farrell, and Gerry Slobodzian, both Primary Care Paramedics, received the honour from Canada's Surgeon General, Major General Marc Bilodeau, serving as the official representative of The Governor General of Canada, Her Excellency the Right Honourable Mary Simon.
- County Council passed a resolution approving the that the Full-Time Registered Nurse complement at Bonnechere Manor be increased by one (1) position of 1,950 hours from existing part-time hours effective November 6, 2022 in an effort to facilitate recruitment and retention.

- County Council passed a resolution approving that Policy G-010 Vaccination Policy for the Long-Term Care Homes remain applicable until March 1, 2023.
- County Council passed a resolution approving approve the submission of a delegation request for the ROMA Conference with the Minister of Health for the Renfrew County Virtual Triage and Assessment Centre (RC VTAC).
- County Council passed a resolution requesting the Warden write a letter to the Renfrew County and District Health Unit to determine if and how the decision not to renew the lease at Renfrew County Place will affect the Health Unit services in the County of Renfrew.
- County Council adopted a by-law authorizing the Warden and Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk to sign the Educational Affiliation Agreement between the County of Renfrew Paramedic Service and the Justice Institute of British Columbia for preceptorship ride outs for Canadian Military Search and Rescue Technicians (SARTech) with County of Renfrew Sierra/CPRU Paramedics.

Operations Committee

Presented by: Tom Peckett, Chair

- County Council received a presentation from Taylor Hanrath, Infrastructure Coordinator, who provided an overview of the 2022 Capital Projects.
- Staff is preparing for the upcoming winter season and the Department is required to be 50% operational by November 1, 2022 and 100% operational by November 15, 2022. Night Patrol shifts are scheduled to commence on November 15, 2022 and will continue until April 1, 2023.
- County Council passed a resolution approving a delegation request at the 2023 Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) Annual Conference with the Minister of Infrastructure to discuss growth related and shovel ready construction projects.
- County Council passed a by-law approving Corporate Policy PW-18 – Decorative Crosswalks on County Roads which outlines the procedure for the request and approval of the installation of a decorative crosswalk.

Additional Information

Craig Kelley, Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk

613-735-7288