

County Council Summary

May 25, 2022

Below you will find highlights of the County of Renfrew County Council meeting from May 25, 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.

[Meeting YouTube link](#)

Warden's Address

Key highlights

During the month of May, Warden Robinson attended 18 meetings regarding County business, including but not limited to:

- On May 4, she attended a council meeting as a delegation with the Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan. She thanked all municipalities for allowing the County to make its presentation and she thanked CAO Paul Moreau, Director of Development & Property Department Craig Kelley, Director of Corporate Services Jeff Foss and Human Resources Manager Greg Belmore for assisting with the presentations.
- On May 12 and 13, Renfrew County hosted the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus. During the EOWC meeting May 13, Mayor Robin Jones, Chair of the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) made a presentation on Affordable and Attainable Housing. The Warden noted housing is a priority across this province and lobbying by AMO, ROMA, the WOWC and EOWC is continuing in earnest in preparation for the delegation meetings at the AMO conference this August.
- While the EOWC has three priorities, the Caucus is focusing its work on Housing and preparing to offer insight to the newly elected provincial government regarding the housing needs of eastern Ontario as well as potential solutions. See the full [media release](#) on the EOWC meeting in Renfrew County.
- As requested by County Council, at the meeting Warden Robinson shared concerns regarding the regulations requiring council members to have criminal reference checks to be eligible to sit on LTC boards, provided the condensed Community Paramedic Chiefs report, and received support to send a letter to the Ministry of Transportation requesting a seat on its transportation task force.
- During the meeting, the caucus also confirmed the EOWC's nominees to the Eastern Ontario Leadership Council. The Warden congratulated Councillor Jennifer Murphy and Warden Roger Haley, from the County of Leeds and Grenville on their appointments.
- Attention was drawn to the weekend's severe storm which devastated parts of Eastern Ontario particularly in Greater Madawaska. She noted on May 22 Mayor Brian Hunt declared his municipality to be in a state of emergency. The storm caused two deaths and on behalf of County Council, she offered her condolences to the families. The hardest hit areas were

Matawatchan, Centennial Lake and Black Donald Lake. She noted Mr. Moreau has been monitoring the situation to ensure that the County is available to offer any assistance it can. The Warden also thanked public works staff, Paramedic Service and media relations coordinator Tina Peplinskie for all the work they did this weekend and continue to do in the aftermath of the storm.

- The Warden acknowledged Paramedic Services Week and thanked Paramedic Service members for the incredible work they do day in and day out to assist residents in so many ways. She said RC Paramedics are leaders amongst their peers. She highlighted paramedic contributions to the County including through RC VTAC, Clinical Assessment Centres, response to the flood of 2019 or the storm this past weekend. She added everyone is acutely aware of the lifesaving contributions of the Sierra Team; the value of Community Paramedics who support individuals to remain safely at home as they wait for long-term care admission; and simply the knowledge that when you call 911 for help a paramedic will respond. See the full [media release](#) about Paramedic Services Week.

Delegations

- Dr. Declan Rowan, co-chair, and Dr. Richard Johnson, clinical lead, of the Ottawa Valley Ontario Health Team (OVOHT) provided an update to council. Ontario Health Teams are a new way of organizing and delivering care that is more connected to patients, families and caregivers in their local communities. The OVOHT is one of 51 Ontario Health Teams approved by the Ministry of Health across the province, with the expectation it will take 5 to 10 years for the OHT to reach maturity. In this first year, the focus will include an integrated and coordinated approach to aging at home, access to quality mental health and addictions services, and attachment to primary care.
- Jim Pine, Indigenous Lead and Lisa Severson, Communications Director, Eastern Ontario Regional Network, along with Kyle McHenry, Senior Programs Manager Service Expansion with Rogers Communications Inc., provided an update on the Cell Gap Project. The goals of the project by 2025 in eastern Ontario are to achieve 99% coverage for cell phone calls, 95% coverage with standard definition for email, web browsing and social media and 85% coverage with high-definition service level which can support video conferencing, movie streaming and other more data intensive applications. The project includes an estimated 20 new tower builds in 2022 with site acquisitions continuing for additional towers. Through the Cell Gap Project, more than 300 5G towers will be built and approximately 300 existing towers will be upgraded to 5G. This is a \$300 million investment in eastern Ontario with the federal and provincial governments contributing approximately \$71 million each, in addition to \$10 million from the EOWC, approximately \$906,000 from the County of Renfrew and \$150 million from Rogers.

Finance & Administration Committee

Presented by: Jennifer Murphy, Chair

- The County of Renfrew will be distributing a Request for Proposal (RFP) in June to appropriate service providers for Employee and Family Assistance Program services. The last time an RFP was done for this service was in August 2016. There are currently no concerns with the services that are being provided by the current provider, LifeWorks (formerly known as Morneau

Shepell), however the current contract completion date is January 1, 2023. This RFP is open to local municipalities who are interested in partnering with the County of Renfrew on providing an EFAP before this process begins. The manager of Human Resources will be reaching out to all local municipalities to determine their interest in participating in this opportunity.

- County Council passed a resolution approving the submission of delegation requests for the AMO Conference, to be held in-person in Ottawa from August 14-17, with the appropriate ministers as follows:
 - Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing - Affordable/Attainable Housing - Capital Project Funding;
 - Minister of Health - Public Health;
 - Minister of Health - VTAC;
 - Minister of Infrastructure - County Road 51; and
 - Minister of Transportation - County Road 51.

- County Council passed a resolution in support of Councillor Emon’s run for re-election to the Rural Caucus, and AMO Board of Directors and by extension to the ROMA Board of Directors. Councillor Emon has been a member of the AMO Board of Directors since 2016. County Council also approved the funds be included in the budget (2023 and 2024) for the term of the position for Councillor Emon’s attendance at the AMO Board meetings for the period from August 2022 to August 2024.
- County Council passed a resolution approving the reinstatement of Convention Expenses for Elected Officials to \$3,900 per member as conventions return to in-person. During the 2021 and 2022 budget workshops, the Convention Expenses were reduced to \$1,875 amidst COVID and electronic meetings/events.
- County Council passed a resolution to approve the use of funding received from the Municipal Modernization Program (Intake 2 and Intake 3) on the projects identified in the Digital Strategy Review by the Perry Group and recommended by the Senior Leadership Team. The background is within the County’s Strategic Plan 2019-2022, Council established four Strategic priorities: Strong Engagement and Relations with Federal and Provincial Government; Fiscal Sustainability; Service Delivery Review and Technology Acceleration. The Technology Acceleration priority required the development of a technology strategy in 2021 to highlight efficiencies through technology.
- County Council approved a resolution to adopt Corporate Policy E-12 Disconnect from Work. The Employment Standards Act, 2000 (ESA) was amended and Ontario received royal assent on December 2, 2021 which required all employers with 25 employees or more to have a disconnect from work policy. That policy needs to be in place by June 2, 2022 (the law states that the deadline for a policy is six months after the law receives royal assent). Employers that employ 25 or more employees are required to have a written policy on disconnecting from work in place for all employees. They are also required to provide a copy of the written policy to all employees. A copy can be obtained by contacting our HR Division.

Community Services Committee

Presented by: James Brose, Chair

- Judy Mulvihill, Manager of the Child Care and Early Years Division, will retire effective June 30 after more than 16 years with the County of Renfrew, leading the Child Care and Early Years Department through significant growth and changes.
- The Consolidated Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI), originally implemented in 2013, is a 100% provincially funded, outcomes-based program that aims to prevent and end homelessness by improving access to adequate, suitable, and affordable housing and homelessness services for people experiencing homelessness and for people at-risk of homelessness. The County of Renfrew's CHPI allocation for 2021-2022 is \$1,447,608. This funding is used to deliver local programs that help with housing security: Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP), Rent Allowance, and Emergency Minor Home Repairs.
 - Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP) is an emergency program that helps people to keep their current housing or secure new housing. Details about approved expenses and eligibility requirements can be found on the County's website on the [Homelessness Prevention Program webpage](#). In the first quarter, 332 applications were approved with a first quarter expenditure of \$242,240.77.
 - The CHPI Rental Allowance Program is a monthly supplement paid to the landlord on behalf of a household in need of rental assistance; \$275/month for single people or couples with no dependents or \$375/month for families or sole support parents with children. This supplement is meant to bridge the gap between affordable rent and the actual market rent charged by the landlord. Households can remain eligible for up to three years and eligibility is verified annually.
 - Emergency Minor Home Repairs is a program which helps low-income homeowners stay safely housed within their home by covering essential minor home repairs up to \$5,000. One application was approved in the first quarter with an expenditure of \$4,972.
- Investment in Affordable Housing (IAH) was an initiative where the province cost-matched federal funding to help service managers (municipalities) in deploying affordable housing strategies. Funding was provided from 2011 to 2019 and through this the County of Renfrew was able to offer two programs: Affordable Homeownership and Ontario Renovates. Funding was provided to eligible homeowners through a forgivable loan. The County of Renfrew last offered the Affordable Homeownership and Ontario Renovates Programs during 2019. Intake to these programs was paused during 2020 and 2021 due to limited amounts within the revolving loan funds, but fund balances are now sufficient to launch the programs again. The Affordable Homeownership and Ontario Renovates programs will be offered to eligible homeowners starting June 6, 2022.
- The federal government has created a new immigration stream for Ukrainian individuals and families fleeing the conflict in Ukraine called the Canada-Ukraine Authorization for Emergency Travel (CUAET). To provide support and assistance to individuals who have come to Canada through CUAET, the Ministry of Children Community and Social Services (MCCSS) has expanded access to the Ontario Works Emergency Assistance program to enable individuals to receive emergency financial support for up to six months.
- County Council passed a resolution to renew the Action Plan under the National Housing Strategy for 2022-23 and authorized the Warden and Clerk to execute the amended Transfer

Payment Agreement for the Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative (COCHI) and the Ontario Priorities Housing Initiative (OPHI) between the County of Renfrew and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

- County Council passed a by-law authorizing the County of Renfrew to enter into an agreement with Licensed Home Child Care service providers, including a new provider in Pembroke and remove providers that are no longer operating under the County of Renfrew Licensed Home Child Care Agency.

Development & Property Committee

Presented by: Robert Sweet, Chair

- Alastair Baird, Manager of Economic Development Services, Ottawa Valley Tourist Association (OVTA) and Enterprise Renfrew County (ERC) will retire from the County of Renfrew effective June 30, 2022. Alastair has been with the County for 20 years and is recognized throughout the region for providing businesses with very professional, educated, and sage economic development advice.
- The Province of Ontario has released its plan to build a better transportation system in eastern Ontario, the [“Connecting the East: A draft transportation plan for eastern Ontario”](#) which gives the details of the current governments’ accomplishments and plans for expansion to all forms of transportation, trails, transit and cycling. No new funding opportunities have been identified, but the document will be an additional reference when applying for transportation initiatives within the County of Renfrew.
- Economic Development Services, per County Council direction, prepared and submitted an intervention document in support of the Near Surface Disposal Facility (NSDF) being proposed for Chalk River Laboratories (CRL). Nearby host communities and the Canadian Nuclear Laboratories (CNL) leadership team had requested County of Renfrew and municipal support with this project which will facilitate continued site renewal at CRL and long-term management of low-level nuclear waste materials. In this written intervention County Council also requested to participate in the public hearings on this matter and is scheduled to present on June 3, 2022 at the Best Western Pembroke Inn and Conference Centre.
- Continuing the 2022 marketing program with Ottawa Business Journal (OBJ) and Great River Media, staff has provided content for the broadly distributed [Eastern Ontario Business Journal](#) Spring issue. Staff continues to highlight career opportunities, lifestyle amenities and examples of local entrepreneurs, manufacturers, business leaders and investment opportunities.
- Taste of the Valley is returning with in-person events. Confirmed dates are Barry’s Bay on Friday, August 19; Eganville on Friday, August 26; Renfrew on Saturday, September 24; Deep River on Saturday, October 1; Arnprior on Sunday, October 2; and in Cobden on October 15. Previous and new vendors have been notified and are now invited to apply for a booth at the various Taste of the Valley events for 2022.
- On Tuesday, April 26, 2022 members of the Ottawa Valley Tourist Association (OVTA) gathered for the virtual Annual General Meeting (AGM) to take care of official business, learn about sustainable tourism and announce the winners of the Ottawa Valley [Tourism Awards](#).
- Following several requests from local municipalities, staff scheduled a planning workshop for Wednesday, May 18, 2022, and an invitation was circulated to all local municipalities. As many local municipalities have employees who are new to planning, a “Planning 101” was provided a give a broad overview. More than 50 people attended the workshop. There have been recent

changes to the Planning Act which provides an opportunity to discuss Bill 109 as well and the next steps for the County and local municipalities. The following topics were included in the workshop: Planning 101, GIS Services, Bill 109, and a Roundtable Discussion.

- The province gave Royal Assent to Bill 109 “Ontario’s More Homes for Everyone Act, 2022” on April 14, 2022 less than halfway through the consultation period provided through Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) platform. On April 20, 2022, Planning staff attended a Bill 109 Question and Answer session hosted by the province. As directed by County Council on April 29, 2022, the Warden submitted a response on behalf of the County of Renfrew to the provincial request for comments on Bill 109. County staff continue to review this new legislation and will be discussing implications and next steps with local municipal partners.
- At the direction of County Council, Planning staff sent a reminder to the local municipalities for which the County provides support for local planning approvals that a Planning Service Agreement is required. These agreements are intended to provide formality, stability, and predictability so that the County can manage its resources effectively and efficiently. To date the County has received agreements from two municipalities.
- The Town of Arnprior adopted Official Plan Amendment No. 3 (OPA No. 3) to the Town’s Official Plan. The County of Renfrew approved the amendment which proposed to re-designate lands from a commercial/employment designation to a “Low/Medium Density Residential Area”. The re-designation would facilitate the development of a future plan of subdivision on the property which is located off of White Lake Road and abuts the Arnprior airport and the Antrim Truck Stop. The County received an appeal to the amendment from a private resident. The Ontario Land Tribunal has scheduled a case management conference for May 30, 2022.
- County Council passed a resolution to approve a one-year contract position of a Capital Projects Administrator. The Renfrew County Housing portfolio is currently dealing with a large number of capital works projects, along with an impending capital build of new housing units in Pembroke.
- County Council passed a resolution to award the contract for the creation of the County of Renfrew Reconciliation Garden to William Sons, Petawawa, Ontario with a budget of \$100,000. County of Renfrew staff along with the Warden, have been presented with a design of the proposed Reconciliation Garden at the County Administration Building in Pembroke. The proponent is engaged with a member of the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation on the design and has shown his desire to obtain local supplies, labour, and artists wherever possible. There will be a consistent mix of stone, rock, wood, trees, and indigenous plantings, accompanied by artistic representations and interpretative signage.
- County Council passed a resolution approving the Ottawa Valley Tourist Association 2022 Budget. The OVTA, City of Pembroke and County of Renfrew are partners in the delivery of tourism marketing and tourism business development for Pembroke, Renfrew County, and the Ottawa Valley. This marketing relationship and the financial support provided by the County of Renfrew and the City of Pembroke is guided by a five-year agreement that came into force February 20, 2018.
- County Council passed a resolution approving the trail pass requirement for All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) on the Algonquin and K&P Recreational Trails, in principle, pending a successful negotiation. County Council further directed staff to negotiate the existing agreement with the Renfrew County ATV Club to include an annual contribution to the County of Renfrew Trails and inform the K & P Recreational Management Advisory Committee of this direction.
- Several Requests for Proposals were issued during the month of April:
 - County Council passed a resolution to approve the proposal submitted by Lair’s Construction, Pembroke, Ontario for the building envelope (exterior foundation

- insulation, membrane sealing and flashings) repairs at the County Administration Building in the amount of \$99,400 plus HST.
- County Council passed a resolution to approve the quotation from The Security Company for security system upgrades to supply and install video surveillance cameras in the amount of \$25,740 plus HST.
 - County Council passed a resolution to approve the proposal submitted by 1000187812 Ontario Inc., Petawawa, Ontario for the window sealant replacement at 450 O'Brien Road, Renfrew, Ontario in the amount of \$75,788 plus HST. Additional funds in the amount of \$29,933 will be allocated from the Building Reserve Fund to finance the project above the original budget allocation.
 - County Council passed a by-law to execute a Transfer Payment Agreement for the provision of financial support for Enterprise Renfrew County from the Province of Ontario for a two-year period from April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2024. The 2022 to 2024 Enterprise Renfrew County business plan and budget has been approved by the Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade (MEDJCT).
 - County Council deferred the adoption of a by-law to amend By-Law 59-02 Corporate Policies and Procedures for the County of Renfrew to enact Policy GA-13 – Land Use Agreement – County of Renfrew Owned Trails pending a legal review.
 - County Council passed a resolution, following a joint Development and Property Committee and Community Services Committee meeting earlier in the day, to award a request for proposal to +VG Architects, Ottawa, Ontario at a bid price of \$24,738 for Phase 1 and at a rate of 4.24% for future phases, plus HST for the architectural and construction administration services for the construction of the community housing units at Lea Street/Douglas Street in the City of Pembroke.

Health Committee

Presented by: Michael Donohue, Chair

- County Council reviewed a number of provincial funding announcements:
 - 2022-23 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and COVID-19 Prevention and Containment Funding
 - 1.75% Level of Care Increases for 2022-23
 - 2022-23 Funding for Infection Prevention and Control Minor Capital, Long-Term Care Minor Capital, Clinical Decision Support Tools & Infection Prevention and Control Professionals
 - Resident Food Funding Increase of 15%
- In-person volunteer recognition events will return to Miramichi Lodge and Bonnechere Manor with garden parties being held at both homes on June 8.
- Following the expansion of Community Paramedicine for Long-Term Care throughout the Province of Ontario, the County of Renfrew, recognized as a leader in Community Paramedicine, has received requests for visits from surrounding services eager to learn more about the program.
- Clinical Assessment Centres at Pembroke/Laurentian Valley (Shady Nook) and Arnprior have now been in operation for more than one month. The centres have been welcomed to the communities as operations and services expand to full potential.

- MacLean’s Magazine wrote an article entitled [Canadian Paramedics are in Crisis](#), about PTSD, burnout, and a pandemic. How COVID pushed the country's overworked first responders into emergency territory.
- Commander Amber Hultink is a co-author on a manuscript entitled "Palliative Paramedicine: Comparing Clinical Practice through Guideline Quality Appraisal and Qualitative Content Analysis" that has been successfully submitted online to be presented at the World Cancer Congress in Geneva Switzerland, October 2022. It is further being considered for publication in the Journal of Palliative Medicine.
- County Council passed a resolution requesting the warden send a letter to the Minister of Long-Term Care asking the Fixing Long-Term Care Act, 2021, new regulation pertaining to screening measure requirements be re-examined through broad consultation with the municipal sector. Of particular concern the requirement for elected officials to have police records checks in order to sit on a long-term care home’s board of directors, board of management or committee of management.
- County Council passed a resolution approving that Policy G-010 Vaccination Policy for the Long-Term Care Homes remain applicable.
- County Council passed a resolution requesting the warden send a letter in support of a proposal by ConnectWell Community Health (previously known as the Whitewater Bromley Community Health Centre) in Renfrew County for a capital project to develop a Health Hub in Cobden.

Operations Committee

Presented by: Tom Peckett, Chair

- Summer operations update:
 - Street Sweeping – Urban Areas: The awarded Contractor, 535276 Ontario Inc., Hughson Fencing & Guiderail, Glenburnie, Ontario commenced work on May 12, 2022. It is anticipated the work will be completed by the end of May.
 - Street Sweeping – Intersections: Staff is proceeding with the sweeping operations throughout the County to ensure that all debris remaining from the winter season is removed from pavement surfaces as weather conditions allow.
 - Manhole and Catch Basin Cleaning: The awarded Contractor, Clean Water Works Inc., Ottawa, Ontario is anticipated to commence work prior to the end of May and have the work complete by June 24, 2022.
- WSP Canada, which completed the design for the rehabilitation of County Structure B203 (Petawawa River Bridge), has been awarded the Contract Administration and Supervision services, in the amount of \$124,309.67, plus HST.
- County Council approved the contract as submitted by Greenwood Paving (Pembroke) Ltd., Pembroke, Ontario for the rehabilitation of County Road 62 (John Street/Combermere Road) in the amount of \$116,949 plus HST.
- County Council approved the contract as submitted by Cecil C. Elliott Farm Equipment Ltd., Pembroke, Ontario for the purchase of one tractor and attachment in the amount of \$101,444 excluding applicable taxes.
- County Council passed a resolution to update the speed limit by-law to change the posted speed limit along County Road 1 (Madawaska Boulevard) between Connifer Lane (Renfrew County Boundary) and 600 metres north of the Renfrew County Boundary to 60km/hr.

- County Council approved a contract as submitted by DW Building Restoration Services Incorporated, Ottawa, Ontario for the rehabilitation of County Structure B022 (Indian River Bridge) in the amount of \$1,145,953.30 plus HST.
- County Council approved a contract as submitted by Thomas Cavanagh Construction Limited, Ashton, Ontario for the rehabilitation of County Road 508 (Calabogie Road) in the amount of \$678,400 plus HST.
- County Council approved a contract as submitted by R.G.T. Clouthier Construction Limited, Pembroke, Ontario for the rehabilitation of County Road 67 (Simpson Pit Road) in the amount of \$788,500 plus HST.
- County Council approved a contract as submitted by Thomas Cavanagh Construction Ltd., Ashton, Ontario for the rehabilitation of County Roads 2 (White Lake Road) and 23 (Highland Road) in the amount of \$1,623,208.43 plus HST.
- County Council approved a contract as submitted by H&H Construction Inc., Petawawa, Ontario for the rehabilitation of County Road 13 (Mountain Road) in the amount of \$595,746.50 plus HST.
- County Council approved a contract as submitted by Bonnechere Excavating Inc., Renfrew, Ontario for Asphalt Patching and Scratch Coat Paving in the amount of \$690,530.44 plus HST.

Additional Information

Paul Moreau, Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk

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