

County Council Summary

April 26, 2023

Below you will find highlights of the County of Renfrew County Council meeting from April 26, 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 here.

April meeting [YouTube](#) link.

Warden's Address

Key highlights

During the month of April, Warden Peter Emon attended 17 meetings on County business.

- On April 3, he met with the Chair of the Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus to discuss shared initiatives and priorities, including common advocacy topics for upcoming meetings with members of Federal and Provincial Parliament.
- On April 5, he presented the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus '7 in 7' housing initiative to the Council of the County of Leeds and Grenville, and on April 7, he made the same presentation to the Council of Frontenac County.
- On April 6, he attended the Annual General Meeting of the Eastern Ontario Regional Network via zoom.
- On April 14, he attended a ROMA Board of Directors meeting. Discussion was held on the 2023 budget review, LAS Cyber Insurance Program, and updates on broadband, housing, drainage action and Justice of the Peace vacancies.
- On April 14, the Warden also participated in the Ottawa Valley Tourist Association Tourism Awards judging panel. These awards were presented at the OVTA Annual General Meeting and Conference April 25 at Maplehaus in Harwood Lake in the Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan. See our media release highlighting the [award winners](#).
- On April 14, he attended an electronic meeting with the Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus and the MP and MPP from southwestern Ontario about EOWC priorities.
- On April 15, he attended the Hospice Renfrew 15-year anniversary held at St. Joseph's High School in Renfrew.
- On April 17, he attended a ROMA Board of Directors meeting via zoom (FCM Legal Counsel).
- On April 19, he attended an SVN Research Affordable Housing Seminar Planning Session Webinar.
- On April 24, the Warden, along with CAO Craig Kelley, met with Garrison Petawawa Commander Colonel J.C. Guiney. This was an opportunity to meet and discuss mutual interests. The Warden has invited Colonel Guiney to the May County Council meeting.

Delegations

- County of Renfrew Paramedic Service Chief Michael Nolan presented Chief's Commendations to Dr. Robert Cushman, former Acting Medical Officer of Health, Renfrew County and District Health Unit and Leah Levesque, President and CEO, Arnprior Regional Health, to recognize their contributions during the COVID-19 pandemic and throughout the development and early days of the Renfrew County Virtual Triage and Assessment Centre. The Chief's Commendation is an award which was created more than 10 years ago for exemplary service and going above and beyond in our community. It's been awarded to members of the public, paramedics, administrative staff and individuals to recognize their extraordinary efforts.
- Darrel O'Shaughnessy, founder of the Arnprior McNab/Braeside Men's Shed, spoke about his group, which he called a social healthcare innovation. Men's Sheds help senior men lead healthy, active lives and stay connected with their communities through companionship and fun. They provide a place to hang out, tinker on projects, connect and tell stories. They also help to form age-friendly communities. The Arnprior McNab/Braeside Men's Shed, which began with five members, now boasts about 50 regular members and is the fastest growing Men's Shed in Canada. He asked members of County Council to help promote the Men's Shed concept in their own communities and consider establishing new Men's Sheds across the County of Renfrew.
- Dr. Jason Morgenstern, the new Medical Officer of Health for the Renfrew County and District Health Unit, attended the meeting and introduced himself to members of County Council. This marks the first time since 2015 that the RCDHU has had a full-time and permanent MOH. Dr. Morgenstern was the Associate MOH for Halton Region and earlier in his career worked in Southern Ontario. This is a homecoming of sorts since Dr. Morgenstern spent his childhood in Renfrew and Lanark Counties.
On the job since April 3, 2023, Dr. Morgenstern indicated his focus is listening and learning, getting to know the community, getting to know the programs and partners better and introducing himself to County Council is an important part of that.
He is optimistic about the future of the RCDHU, which he said has been doing amazing work and he is eager to continue collaborating and working together to support optimal health for Renfrew County and District residents.

Announcements

- The Development and Property Committee provides the option for local municipalities to host one of its regular meetings at the offices of local municipalities. In response to this, the Township of McNab/Braeside has requested to host the Development and Property and Operations Committees in June in their municipal Council Chambers. The objective with hosting in the local municipality is to enable the staff and local municipal Councils to meet with the Development and Property Committee and Operations Committee to discuss any matters of common interest or concern.
- County Councillor Dan Lynch made a special presentation to Warden Peter Emon, Chair of the Renfrew County 2023 Ontario Winter Games Organizing Committee and Councillor Jennifer Murphy, Finance Chair for the OWG committee. He had a vision and he took some of the wooden stumps used as benches by the athletes during the Opening Ceremony on Feb. 2, 2023. He commissioned Arnprior artist Bonnie Giles to paint the sport logos from the Games on the log, along with the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan logo and the Renfrew County side of the medals

on top. He also presented wooden cookies with the same medal logo to Warden Emon, Councillor Murphy and one for Games Manager Cindy Burwell. Councillor Lynch offered his thanks and congratulations for leading such a successful event.

Finance & Administration Committee

Presented by: Jennifer Murphy, Chair

- The 2023 Warden's Golf Tournament is scheduled for Thursday, September 21, 2023 at the Dragonfly Golf Course in Renfrew. Further details will follow.
- The annual Service Award dinner for County of Renfrew staff will be held on Thursday, November 23, 2023. Further details will follow.
- On November 23, 2022, proposed amendments to the POA aimed at modernizing and streamlining processes in POA courts were introduced in the Ontario Legislature as Schedule 8 under Bill 46, the *Less Red Tape, Stronger Ontario Act, 2023*. Bill 46 received Royal Assent on March 22, 2023.
As a result, the following change to the POA have been approved:
 - Clerks of the court will grant, but not deny, applications to strike a conviction on a ticket, if satisfied that the defendant, through no fault of their own, missed a notice or was unable to attend a meeting or hearing related to the ticket. If the clerk is not able to grant the application and strike the conviction, the clerk must forward the application to a justice of the peace to make the determination whether to grant or deny the request for a reopening.
- At the request of the Chief Administrative Officer, in consultation with the Senior Leadership Team, the Human Resources division created and launched a survey designed to capture feedback on the experiences of County employees in a number of key areas. Among the proposals to come out of the survey are implementing alternative work arrangements; offering management training curriculum; launching recognition and referral programs; and implementing quarterly all-staff meetings. County Council approved Corporate Policies J-04 – Employee Referral Bonus Program and J-05 – Employee Recognition Program.
- County Council passed a resolution approving changes to the September Standing Committee schedule to allow elected officials the opportunity to attend the rescheduled Ontario East Municipal Conference in Ottawa. The September meeting schedule is as follows:
 - September 12, 2023 (9:30 a.m.) Development and Property Committee
 - September 12, 2023 (1:00 p.m.) Operations Committee
 - September 13, 2023 (9:30 a.m.) Health Committee
 - September 13, 2023 (1:00 p.m.) Community Services Committee
 - September 14, 2023 (9:30 a.m.) Finance and Administration Committee
- County Council passed a resolution approving the 2023 membership fee to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) in the amount of \$23,093.95 including HST.
- County Council passed a resolution approving the use of \$112,879.25 from the existing Community Paramedic Reserve to cover the operating deficit within the Community Paramedic Long-Term Care Program as of December 31, 2022.
- Several by-laws were passed in relation to the 2023 Tax Policy:

- A by-law to set tax ratios for County and lower-tier purposes.
- A by-law to include a revenue neutral ratio for the Landfill class at 1.189066.
- A by-law to approve a final reduction in the Broad Industrial Ratio down to the Provincial Threshold of 2.63, which was phased in over a 2-year period beginning with the 2022 taxation cycle.
- County Council adopted a by-law to establish the 2023 Tax Rates for County of Renfrew purposes.

Community Services Committee

Presented by: Anne Giardini, Chair

- The Renfrew County Housing Corporation has demolished a single-family unit structure located at 202 Cecil Street, Pembroke, Ontario as it was deemed to be uninhabitable due to significant structural deficiencies and evidence of mold. The Renfrew County Housing Corporation Board of Directors approved a proposal to construct a new two-unit structure at the location, prioritizing energy efficiency and accessibility. The cost for the contract to replace the original home and add an additional unit, which will be an increase to the RCHC portfolio, is covered under the Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative (COCHI) program funding through the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. The approved budget for design and build is \$545,471.
- County Council approved the transition of the two Licensed Home Visitor positions within the Child Care and Early Years Division from full-time equivalent (FTE) contract to full-time permanent with benefits.
- County Council approved an additional full-time permanent Inclusion Coordinator position with benefits within the Child Care and Early Years Division.
- County Council approved a by-law authorizing the County of Renfrew to enter into an agreement with child-care agencies and recreation programs for special needs resourcing funding be amended to enter into a special needs resourcing agreement with Wise Owl Child Care Centre.
- County Council approved a by-law authorizing the County of Renfrew to enter into an agreement with Tiffany Ploughman (Pembroke), to provide Licensed Home Child Care services.

Development & Property Committee

Presented by: James Brose, Chair

- In partnership with the Township of Whitewater Region, the Economic Development Division is hosting the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs' (OMAFRA) [Community Economic Development 101 workshop](#) on Wednesday, May 3 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Cobden Legion. Presented by Economic and Business Advisors from OMAFRA, the Community Economic Development 101 workshop aims to share the basics about economic development in a community and how the concepts can be applied in a municipal environment. Elected officials, economic development boards/committees, municipal staff and community leaders from across Renfrew County and the Ottawa Valley are encouraged to attend the free workshop.

- The Ontario East Municipal Conference will be held in Ottawa this year from September 6-8, 2023 at the Ottawa Conference and Events Centre and Courtyard Marriott Hotel. Register at: [Home - Ontario East Municipal Conference \(oemc.ca\)](https://www.oemc.ca)
- The Ottawa Valley Tourist Association (OVTA) engaged the services of the Culinary Tourism Alliance to develop the strategy, which was completed between August and December 2022. The strategy contains research and data, as well as a three-year action plan aimed to support the development, growth and awareness of the Ottawa Valley’s culinary tourism offerings by focusing on four areas of opportunity including:
 - Improve stakeholder awareness and appreciation for regional food identities and foodways;
 - Increase business and marketing literacy, to grow the number of market-ready businesses within the culinary tourism value chain;
 - Support the development of new and/or enhanced culinary and agri-tourism experiences;
 - Increase awareness of the Ottawa Valley as a culinary destination through marketing efforts.

The [culinary tourism strategy](#) (Appendix II of the Development and Property Report) was presented to members and stakeholders at the OVTA tourism conference on April 25.

- County Council adopted a by-law authorizing the Warden and Clerk to enter into a formal agreement with the City of Pembroke and the Ottawa Valley Tourist Association with respect to ongoing financial and program participation in a Destination Marketing Organization (DMO) for a five-year term commencing on January 1, 2023.
- County Council adopted a by-law approving Official Plan Amendment No. 35 (OPA 35). OPA 35 was drafted as a result of Provincial amendments to the Planning Act under Bill 109 “More Homes for Everyone Act, 2022” and Bill 23 “More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022”. Among many changes, Bill 109 would implement financial penalties on municipalities in the form of application refunds if applications (Zoning, Official Plan, and Site Plan) were not processed within specific time periods.

Bill 109 did not change the municipalities’ responsibility for the review of planning applications, however, did change the timeframe that municipalities have to make a decision on a complete application. The proposed revised process is already implemented in many municipalities across Ontario and will likely become “industry standard” moving forward. While staff understands that a few of the proposed amendments implementing Bill 109 have been appealed to the Ontario Land Tribunal, the majority have not been appealed and are in effect including the Town of Petawawa and the Township of Laurentian Valley. The amendment was circulated and provided to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. The Ministry did not indicate any concerns with the enhanced or “front-ended” pre-consultation review proposed in OPA 35.

- County Council passed a resolution requesting a letter be sent under the Warden’s signature expressing the County of Renfrew’s support to Videotron | Freedom Mobile in their intent to submit a request for funding to build and upgrade fibre transport network in Renfrew County through the CRTC Broadband fund.
- County Council passed a resolution directing staff to continue engagement with local municipalities regarding potential impacts as a result of the proposed Bill 97 “Helping Homebuyers, Protecting Tenants Act” and the changes to Provincial Policy Statement.

Health Committee

Presented by: Michael Donohue, Chair

- On Friday, March 24, 2023 at the Renfrew Paramedic Base, Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke MPP John Yakabuski announced that the Renfrew County Virtual Triage and Assessment Centre (RC VTAC) will become a permanent service in the County of Renfrew, with an initial annual investment by the provincial government of \$3.2 million in 2023-24. Council reviewed a letter from Mr. Evan Mills, Director, Digital Health Program Branch, Digital and Analytics Strategy Division, confirming the operational funding for 2023-24.
- County Council reviewed a letter and funding schedule from Assistant Deputy Minister Susan Picarello, providing funding details for COVID-19 response in the emergency health services sector. The County of Renfrew Paramedic Service will receive one-time funding of up to \$1.2 for 2022 calendar year and \$357,470 for January to March 2023.
- County of Renfrew Long Care Homes will undergo the Accreditation Canada Survey process June 26 to June 29, 2023. Members of the Health Committee recently completed the Renfrew County Long Term Care Homes Accreditation Canada Governance survey. The results were reviewed by Council along with an action plan setting out how compliance will be achieved.
- County Council adopted a by-law authorizing the Warden and CAO/Clerk to sign the Lease Agreement and letter of agreement between the County of Renfrew and Carefor Health and Community Services to lease office space at 425 Cecelia Street, Pembroke for tenancy of the Renfrew County Virtual Triage and Assessment Centre for a term of one year: April 1, 2023 - March 31, 2024.
- County Council adopted a by-law authorizing the Warden and Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk to sign the Long-Term Care Service Accountability Agreements from April 1, 2023 until March 31, 2024 between Ontario Health and Bonnechere Manor and Miramichi Lodge for submission by April 27, 2023.
- County Council adopted a by-law authorizing the Warden and Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk to sign the Multi-Sector Service Accountability Agreement from April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024 between Ontario Health and Bonnechere Manor Senior/Adult Day Program for submission by April 27, 2023.

Operations Committee

Presented by: Glenn Doncaster, Chair

- The Fire Dispatch System for the County of Renfrew located at the Central Ambulance Communications Centre (CACC) in the Town of Renfrew is at its end of life and requires upgrading. The system is used to dispatch 18 Fire Departments within the County of Renfrew (with the exception of Arnprior) and includes the City of Pembroke and the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation. BearCom, which maintains the equipment, has provided a quote in the amount of \$318,710 plus taxes to replace the equipment. As this purchase is unbudgeted for in 2023, staff has been directed to develop a business case and explore options for the County of Renfrew's Fire Dispatch System for Council consideration.
- The reconstruction of County Road 512 (Foymount Road) is being impacted due to the delays in the relocation of utility poles on the road. The Design Consultant has recommended that the

tender for the road works in 2023 include both Part 1 [from Harrington Creek (B257) to Buelow Road (2.88km long)] and Part 2 [from Buelow Road to Miller Road (3.96km long)], but specify a completion date in 2024. The tender would note the operational constraints as follows:

- Utility relocations for Part 2 will not be complete until October 1, 2023 (this is a conservative date to make sure utilities will be done);
- No section of roadway shall be left without base course asphalt over any winter shutdown period;
- All paving shall be completed prior to November 15, 2023.

Staff has requested that the consultant proceed with tender preparation on this basis; and is continuing discussions with Hydro One and Bell to attempt to move up the October 1 utility date to complete as much road works as possible in 2023.

- County Council passed a resolution requesting the Warden write a letter to Garrison Petawawa endorsing the construction of a roundabout on County Road 51 (Petawawa Boulevard) at the gate leading into Garrison Petawawa and that a second letter be written advising that the County of Renfrew will be responsible for the asset once completed, however, indicating it is not in a position to provide financial contributions to this project.
- County Council approved removing County Road 24 (White Water Road) from Stafford Third Line to Highway 17 at a budget of \$1,309,911 from the 2023 Capital Budget and further adding County Road 4 (Storyland Road) from County Road 653 (Chenau Road) to Alex Lane to the 2023 Capital Budget in the amount of \$1,309,911.
- County Council approved a reduction of the 2023 Capital Budget allocation for County Structure C325 (Neilson Creek Culvert) from \$450,000 to \$31,000 and the addition of County Structure C168 (Lake Clear Tri Culverts) to the 2023 Capital Budget in the amount of \$419,000.
- County Council approved the fees associated with signage permits be altered from their existing values to \$450 for a three-year permit. This fee structure is for private advertising signage within a County Road allowance. The change would require a greater level of commitment from businesses when considering placing signage within a County Road allowance, however, would also reduce the level of burden placed on staff in administering the program.
- County Council adopted a by-law appointing Mr. Richard Bolduc as Weed Inspector for the County of Renfrew.
- County Council approved a number of contracts as submitted:
 - For the rehabilitation of County Structure B310 (Ski Hill Bridge) located on County Road 58 (Round Lake Road) in the Township of Laurentian Valley, to Bonnechere Excavating Inc. (BEI), Renfrew, Ontario in the amount of \$847,082 plus HST.
 - For the manufacture, supply, and delivery of a single glass reinforced plastic pipe liner for County Structure C197 (Etmanskie Swamp Culvert) located on County Road 62 (John Street), Township of Madawaska Valley, to Channeline International Fiber Glass Manufacturing LLC, Dubai in the amount of \$332,408 plus applicable taxes.
 - For rehabilitation of County Structure B044 (Douglas Bridge) located on County Road 5 (Stone Road), Township of Admaston/Bromley, to Bonnechere Excavating Inc. (BEI), Renfrew, Ontario in the amount of \$741,223 plus HST.
 - For rehabilitation of County Road 37 (Murphy Road) from Portage Road to Woodland Crescent, a distance of 1.20 km in the Town of Petawawa, to H&H Construction Inc., Petawawa, Ontario in the amount of \$710,091.74 plus HST.
 - For pavement markings in the amount of \$650,117.40 plus HST to Trillium Pavement Marking, Carleton Place, Ontario.

- County Council adopted a by-law restricting the weight of vehicles passing over bridges in the County of Renfrew. Since a by-law was initially passed in 2021 setting out bridges requiring load postings, major rehabilitation or reconstruction has taken place to bring some of the structures into compliance.
- County Council adopted a by-law approving Corporate Policy PW-02 Bridges which outlines the criteria for new, existing or replaced bridges to be considered for County of Renfrew structures. Amendments to Policy PW-02 Bridges include the removal of the requirement for County structures to be located on maintained roads; a stipulation that the design for County structures on seasonal roads include a review of potential removal for Council's consideration; and greater description of design, construction, and maintenance responsibilities on County Structures. Comments received from the local municipalities have been incorporated into the Policy.
- County Council adopted a by-law authorizing the execution of a Road Access Agreement to County Road 56 (Woito Station Road) in the Township of North Algona Wilberforce between Tera Dojczman and Jacob Dojczman and the County of Renfrew.
- County Council adopted a by-law to Amend By-law No. 7-21, being a by-law to Regulate the Operation of Off-Road Vehicles on County of Renfrew Roads to remove restrictions for Off-Road Vehicles from County Road 72 (Ridge Road) and County Road 73 (Deep River Road). This is in response to a request from the Town of Deep River.
- County Council adopted a by-law approving the 'Class A' estimate by Hydro One for the relocation of the lines along the corridor of County Road 512 (Foymount Road), between Buelow Road and Miller Road, Township of Bonnechere Valley, in the amount of \$423,740.13 plus applicable taxes.

Additional Information

Craig Kelley, Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk

613-735-7288