

# County Council Summary

**March 1, 2023**

Below you will find highlights of the County of Renfrew County Council meeting from March 1, 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.

February meeting [YouTube](#) link

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## Warden's Address

### Key highlights

During the Month of February, Warden Peter Emon attended 12 meetings on County business.

- During the weekends of February 2 to 5, and 9 to 12, he attended the various events and ceremonies of the Ontario Winter Games in Renfrew County, as he served as Chair of the Games Organizing Committee.
- On January 3, as the Chair of the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus, he met with MPP John Yakabuski to discuss the EOWC's current priorities, including the regional housing initiative known as the "7 in 7" plan. He delivered the same message and presentation to the City of Belleville on February 27, along with Hastings County CAO Jim Pine and EOWC staff.
- On February 27, he attended, along with CAO Craig Kelley, a meeting with City of Pembroke Mayor Ron Gervais and CAO David Unrau. They talked about shared initiatives and a plan to commit to future meetings of the County/City Liaison Committee on a quarterly basis.
- On February 28, the Warden attended a presentation from the South Eastern Ontario Production Accelerator Fund in Toronto. This initiative – a regional film and television production initiative - aims to bring millions of potential economic development activity in Eastern Ontario.
- On February 22 and 23, the Warden and County Council, along with County staff attended the budget workshop sessions. The Warden acknowledged and thanked staff for the work that went into drafting the budget document and he thanked County Council for their attention and patience when it came to the budget process. County Council approved the 2023 budget at the end of the second day of budget discussions. See our [budget media release](#) here.

# Finance & Administration Committee

Presented by: Jennifer Murphy, Chair

- Following inquiries from members of County Council on the County's Weighted Voting System, staff reviewed the by-law which contains the schedule for the weighted vote for each municipality. The weighted vote is based on one vote per 500 electors for each municipality. After receiving the updated number of electors from (MPAC) the total number of votes increased to 221 votes from 208. Staff had calculated a total of 208 votes for two recorded votes in January but the correction to 221 weighted votes did not change the final outcome on those recorded votes. The weighted vote is updated in a municipal election year. Under the new calculations, 13 of 17 municipalities within the County of Renfrew increased by one vote. The exceptions were the Town of Renfrew, the Town of Arnprior, Township of McNab/Braeside, and Township of Killaloe, Hagarty and Richards.
- The Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission has issued a report which allows the Township of Greater Madawaska to remain in the newly named federal electoral district of Algonquin-Renfrew-Pembroke (formerly Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke). In September 2022, the Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission issued a similar report that changed the electoral district of Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke removing the Township of Greater Madawaska from Renfrew County. County Council supported a resolution from the Township of Greater Madawaska opposing the proposal of the Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission for the Province of Ontario.
- In January, the POA Manager completed and submitted a critical incident/issue report to the Ministry of Attorney General's POA Unit. This reporting process is used whenever there is a major event or issue to be relayed to the province. The report highlighted the impact that ongoing court closures and limited judicial resources are having in the County of Renfrew. Despite numerous requests to the Regional Senior Justice of the Peace to reallocate satellite court dates back to Pembroke, or provide additional trial dates, no resources have been made available. The concern is a mounting backlog and a defendant's ability to access justice in a timely manner.
- Property assessments are typically updated every four years and this process was paused during the height of the pandemic. With the Province's latest economic statement remaining silent on the assessment cycle, municipalities are eager to understand the government's intentions regarding the 2024 tax year and beyond. AMO is continuing to call on the government for urgent action as an up-to-date assessment system is the foundation of the municipal tax system that supports strong, vibrant and growing communities.
- Following the move of Ms. Jennifer Grant, former County of Renfrew municipal prosecutor, to the role of Justice of the Peace assigned to Pembroke, Tara-Lee Hay was the successful candidate in the competition and has begun her new duties as the Prosecutor for the County of Renfrew.

- County Council approved the [Strategic Plan](#) for 2023-2026, which sets out guiding principals for the County of Renfrew for the next four years. The plan was developed following two days of consultation sessions involving County Council, the Senior Leadership Team and departmental managers. Warden Emon called this a valuable document which recognizes the needs to build the capacity of the community, but also our corporation and the importance of the services delivered by the County.

## Community Services Committee

Presented by: Anne Giardini, Chair

- The Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus is ready to take a regional leadership role on finding supports and solutions for the housing crisis. It has developed a plan to reduce the wait list and build the supply of community rental housing by developing what is now referred to as the '7 in 7' plan. The '7 in 7' plan will deliver 7,000 affordable community rental units new over 7 years. The plan would also incent an additional 21,000 attainable market rate units from the private and non-profit sectors. This plan and presentation were launched during a multi-ministerial delegation at the recent ROMA conference in Toronto. The video is available at [Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus 7 in 7 Plan](#).
- County Council adopted a by-law to enter into an agreement with the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation for the National Housing Co-Investment Fund for \$5 million in capital for the renovation and repair of existing affordable and community housing units.
- County Council passed a resolution to enter into a Wage Enhancement Agreement for the purpose of receiving Wage Enhancement Grant Funding with Bamoonzhe Daycare, a licensed child-care centre which will operate out of Herman Street Public School in Petawawa.

## Development & Property Committee

Presented by: James Brose, Chair

- The County of Renfrew has been named the host community for the 2024 Municipal Agriculture Economic Development and Planning Forum. Economic development and planning staff will be shadowing this year's Host Organizing Committee to learn more about the planning and delivery, as well as attend the Fall event in Temiskaming Shores. Dates and location for the 2024 event will be decided in the coming months.
- The Ottawa Valley Tourist Association (OVTA) Tourism Conference and Annual General Meeting will be returning as an in-person event for the first time since 2019. Mark your calendars for Tuesday, April 25, 2023. More details including location, program and

registration information will be announced in the coming weeks via the OVTA's industry newsletter.

- The 2023 Summer Company program is now open and accepting applications. Students aged 15-29 interested in pursuing self-employment throughout the summer are encouraged to apply. The Summer Company program provides training and support for individuals to open and run their own business during the summer months. Successful applicants can also receive up to \$3,000 in grant funding to support operations. See our [Summer Company media release](#).
- Program delivery is underway as part of the Francophone Language funding grant. Programming includes a series of virtual marketing workshops. Sessions were held in February and two further sessions are scheduled for March 21 and 29. A Networking Breakfast is scheduled for March 6 where the Francophone Entrepreneur Award will be presented. Enterprise Renfrew County has partnered with le Centre Culturel Francophone de Pembroke, Renfrew County Community Futures Development Corporation and the City of Pembroke to deliver these events.
- County Council received the 2022 Annual Report for Renfrew County Forest activities. In 2022, 58 hectares of forest were harvested, producing \$163,151.23 in revenue. This is slightly lower than budgeted, since several operations were extended into 2023 due to delays caused by the May 2022 windstorm. As a result, 2023 revenue will be higher than normal.
- Hemlock Woolly Adelgid is an invasive species, which was found within 200 km of Renfrew County in 2022. To date, monitoring by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) has been very limited geographically for this pest. The Ontario Woodlot Association and other community forests in Central Ontario have requested MNRF to increase involvement and funding to monitor, research, educate and control existing populations. A letter has been sent to the Honourable Graydon Smith, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, requesting the Province take action to support ongoing efforts to address the threat of Hemlock Woolly Adelgid.
- County Council approved a resolution requesting a letter be sent to Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke MPP John Yakabuski under the Warden's signature in support of the request for increased core funding to all Small Business Enterprise Centres across Ontario, including Enterprise Renfrew County.
- County Council approved a resolution recommending staff discontinue holding a public meeting for plans of subdivision. Recent changes to the Planning Act have removed the requirement to hold public meetings for plan of subdivision applications. New plan of subdivision applications will no longer include the public meeting component as part of the application review.
- County Council approved a resolution recommending staff amend the Consent Delegation Approval By-law to delegate to staff the decision on "contested" applications and bring back in March for adoption.

- County Council passed a By-law to adopt and approve Official Plan Amendment No. 37 in relation to the Calabogie Motorsport Track, to allow additional uses on the property which are usually permitted within rural areas – including residential uses.
- County Council passed a By-law to adopt and approve Official Plan Amendment No. 38 to change the designation of a parcel of land from Rural to Mineral Aggregate to facilitate the expansion of the Selle Quarry in the Township of Bonnechere Valley.
- County Council passed a By-law to adopt and approve Official Plan Amendment No. 39 in relation to Voyageur Bay (Whitewater Region Township) which would redesignate approximately 7.69 hectares of land to a site-specific Waterfront – Exception Five designation.
- County Council passed a By-law to execute an agreement with Rogers Telecommunications Inc. to erect a 90-metre wireless radio communication tower on the County of Renfrew owned property, the Little Ireland Tract, located at Highway 28 and Little Ireland Road in the Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan.

## Health Committee

### Presented by: Michael Donohue, Chair

- County Council passed a resolution approving the continuation of the Advanced Care Paramedic Tuition Loan Program be through the 2023 calendar year. This covers tuition for six Primary Care Paramedics per year to take the Advanced Care Paramedic Education Program.
- County Council passed 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 the Renfrew County Virtual Triage and Assessment Centre.
- County Council adopt a by-law rescinding the Vaccination Policy for County of Renfrew Long-Term Care Homes effective March 1, 2023.
- County Council passed a resolution to amend By-law 84-09 to revise Long-Term Care Homes Policy G-009 that removes ‘residents of Bonnechere Manor and Miramichi Lodge’ from the policy. This change, in the interest of resident safety and recognition that Bonnechere Manor and Miramichi Lodge are homes to their respective residents, allows residents be permitted to smoke on the property no closer than nine metres from the entrance to each Home. This policy be reviewed in six months and again in twelve months.
- County Council passed a resolution to extend the funding for Renfrew County Virtual Triage and Assessment Centre (RC VTAC) for 30 days using funds from the Community Paramedic Reserve and/or through Arnprior Regional Health. A report will be brought back to the March 29 meeting of County Council. RC VTAC has currently secured funding from the Ministry of Health until March 31. The Ontario government is set to introduce its budget for the next fiscal year on March 23.

## Operations Committee

**Presented by: Glenn Doncaster, Chair**

- Staff will be monitoring the spring weather conditions to determine the optimum time to impose the spring load restrictions. County of Renfrew By-law 11-12 is a By-law to Designate a Reduced Load Period on County Roads and pertains to spring load restrictions which may be imposed commencing March 1 and extend to May 31.
- County Council passed a by-law approving the alterations to County Roads and Structures. The Municipal Act allows a municipality to pass By-laws removing or restricting the common law right-of-passage by the public over a highway and the common law right-of-access to the highway by an owner of land abutting a highway. For several of our 2023 capital projects, the work may include temporary or permanent changes, alterations or restrictions to the use of the highway, or to private entrances.
- County Council passed a resolution to award the contract for the rehabilitation of County Structure C025 (Borne Road Culvert) to 1956466 Ontario Inc. (JWK Contracting), Pembroke, Ontario, in the amount of \$613,882.20, plus HST.
- County Council passed a resolution to award the contract for rehabilitation of County Structure B064 (Pilgrim Road Bridge) Bonnechere Excavating Incorporated, Renfrew, Ontario, in the amount of \$398,505 plus HST.

## Ontario Winter Games

**Presented by: Peter Emon, Chair**

- The Renfrew County 2023 Ontario Winter Games, held February 2-5 and 9-12, hosted 2,500 participants including athletes, coaches and officials.
- Nearly 900 volunteers were active during the Games, with many taking multiple shifts to make these the #BestGamesEver
- A total of 22 sports were held in nine different communities across Renfrew County and into west end Ottawa.
- Close to \$400,000 in sponsorship, both cash and in-kind, was raised.
- Once all of the bills have been paid, more details will be announced about the Games' Legacy Project
- The Warden thanked the communities which fully embraced the Games, including several municipal partners and he thanked the Games Organizing Committee which worked tirelessly behind the scenes to make Renfrew County 2023 such a resounding success.

## Additional Information

**Craig Kelley, Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk**

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