

County Council Summary

November 27, 2024

Below you will find highlights of the County of Renfrew County Council meeting November 27, 2024.

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 [November County Council package](#) can be found on our website.

[November meeting](#) YouTube link.

Warden's Address

Key highlights

- November was a quieter month for Warden Peter Emon as he underwent hip surgery and spent time in the hospital recovering. During his hospital stay, he did host a meeting to kick off the Mesa Warming Centre project. This project is something to be proud of, as it has brought many agencies and neighbouring municipalities together to provide a positive impact to the County. The goal is to have the [Warming Centre](#) open in early December.
- He thanked members of County Council and staff for their ongoing support as he recovers. The Warden specifically thanked County Councillor Dan Lynch for representing him at a meeting for community leaders at Garrison Petawawa on November 19.

Delegations

- Warden Peter Emon presented the 2024 [Warden's Community Service Awards](#) to the following recipients in their respective categories:
 - Individual: Dan Poole of Whitewater Region;
 - Non-profit: Paddler Coop, Palmer Rapids with Ryan O'Connor accepting;
 - For-profit: The Valley Gazette, Madawaska Valley, with publisher Michel Lavigne accepting.
- Pascal Genevieve and Mark Brillon, CCG - Ainsworth presented the County of Renfrew's Climate Change Action Plan, providing a summary of the greenhouse gas inventory, proposed targets for reducing emissions by 2050, and outlining priorities and objectives going forward. Next steps are outlined in the report from the Development & Property Committee.
- CAO/Deputy Clerk Craig Kelley provided the annual report care on the County's 2023-2026 Strategic Plan, highlighting achievements of the past year under the identified priorities of financial sustainability, workforce development, community wellness and health care, shared services and resources, attainable housing and infrastructure and environmental resiliency.

Announcements

- County Council recommended that staff submit delegation request(s) at the upcoming Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) Conference that are consistent with the 2023-2026 County of Renfrew Strategic Plan, the 2024-2026 Economic Development Strategy, other current initiatives that require further advocacy, and previous delegations that addressed funding shortfall(s); and that the Chair of the appropriate Standing Committee, along with the Warden, be designated to attend the delegation meetings. A full list can be provided upon request of the CAO or the Clerk.

Operations Committee

Presented by: Glenn Doncaster, Chair

- The Road Rationalization Study, which was completed as part of the Transportation Master Plan, was presented to County Council. More information can be obtained by contacting the CAO or the Clerk, or by speaking to the Director of Public Works & Engineering.
- County Council adopted a by-law to finalize the transfer of County Structure C339 (Lynch Road Culvert) in the Township of Admaston/Bromley, which was reconstructed this year, to the County Road System effective December 1, 2024.
- County Council approved that the County of Renfrew section of the Ottawa Valley Recreational Trail, the Algonquin Trail, become part of the Trans Canada Trail Network. The acceptance of the Algonquin Trail into the TCT network provides a large number of funding opportunities as well as greater overall promotion for the County's recreational trail. The Algonquin Trail is the County of Renfrew's portion of the Ottawa Valley Recreational Trail (OVRT). The entirety of the OVRT, from Smith Falls to Mattawa, is being accepted into the TCT network. TCT is in contact with the other OVRT partners, County of Lanark and Township of Papineau-Cameron regarding their sections. This is a significant development for the County of Renfrew, and its partners along the Ottawa Valley Recreational Trail, as they have been working collectively on this designation since 2017.
- Council discussed the Operations Committee's direction to staff that Contract PWC-2025-45, the rehabilitation of County Structure B145 (Combermere Bridge), located on County Road 62 (Combermere Road), in the Township of Madawaska Valley, would be re-scoped to span over a two-year construction period and retendered, after project costs came in much higher than originally estimated due, in part, to the condensed proposed project timeline.

Community Services Committee

Presented by: Anne Giardini, Chair

- The County of Renfrew has been awarded the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association's (OMSSA) 2024 Local Municipal Champion Award in recognition of the leadership and vision in implementing the region's Mesa wellness initiative. This award celebrates significant contributions to advancing excellence in human services integration and service system management throughout the Province, often involving collaboration between municipal staff and community organizations. The County of Renfrew has been invited to present on Mesa at the OMSSA 2025 Exchange Conference, showcasing key highlights of community achievements. The OMSSA Exchange Conference will be taking place from May 13-14, 2025 in Toronto.

Development & Property Committee

Presented by: James Brose, Chair

- The Ottawa Valley Tourist Association (OVTA) has been in discussions with the Town of Petawawa regarding potential implementation of a Municipal Accommodation Tax (MAT) and naming the OVTA as the eligible tourism entity. The Town is proposing to implement, effective January 1, 2025, a rate of 3%. Draft agreements from the City of Pembroke and Town of Petawawa have been presented to the OVTA Board of Directors. The projected annual combined MAT revenues shared with the OVTA from both communities is approximately \$298,500.
- County Council passed a resolution to support the Ottawa Valley Tourist Association's request that Statistics Canada reinstate tourism data reporting at the census level for communities in Ontario. In 2016, Statistics Canada stopped providing tourism data at the census level, creating a gap in the availability of information at the local level. Destination Ontario and Destination Canada provide tourism data, but the information is only available at the regional tourism organization level.
- County Council received the Climate Action Plan as presented and resolved that an Ad Hoc Climate Action Committee be formed to review the recommendations of the plan and provide possible implementation recommendations to Committee.
- In September 2024, County Council adopted By-law 133-24 that entered the County into a Co-Ownership Agreement with the Town of Deep River for the shared opportunity to purchase the discontinued Keys Public School in Deep River for the purpose set out in the terms and conditions respecting the ownership, development and management of the asset. The Renfrew County District School Board has formally accepted the revised terms and conditions outlined in the Agreement of Purchase and Sale for Keys Public School. This agreement signifies the mutual consent of all involved parties to proceed with the transaction, ensuring that all stipulated provisions have been reviewed and agreed upon.
- County Council adopted a by-law to execute an agreement with the Ministry of Transportation for funding through the Electric Vehicle (EV) ChargeON Program – Community Site Stream for the installation of six Level 2 EV charging ports to be located at the County Administration Building, 9 International Drive, Pembroke, Ontario, and six Level 2 EV charging ports to be located at Renfrew County Place, 450 O'Brien Road, Renfrew, Ontario. More information will be forthcoming in 2025.
- County Council adopted a by-law authorizing the Warden and Chief Administrative Officer to enter into a short-term lease agreement, with options to renew, with the Ontario Addiction Treatment Centre, Pembroke (OATC), located at 156 John Street, Pembroke, Ontario, for space to be used as a Mesa Warming Centre; and that funds from the Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP) and Municipal contributions be dedicated towards this initiative.

Health Committee

Presented by: Michael Donohue, Chair

- County Council adopted a by-law to authorize the Service Agreement between the County of Renfrew and the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) for renewal of the 9-1-1 Primary Public Safety Answering Point (P-PSAP) Service Agreement.

- County Council adopt a by-law to authorize the Fire Services Agreement for the provision of communication (call-taking, call alerting and/or dispatching) services to local fire services within the City of Pembroke and County of Renfrew by the Renfrew Central Ambulance Communications Centre for a two-year term commencing January 1, 2025. The County of Renfrew Emergency Services Department is responsible for the contract for call-taking and fire dispatching. The Public Works and Engineering Department is responsible for the maintenance of call-taking and dispatching radio and notification equipment and technology.

Finance & Administration Committee

Presented by: Jennifer Murphy, Chair

- County Council supported the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus resolution – Calling for Investment in Municipal Infrastructure for Eastern Ontario's Small and Rural Communities. The Council of the Corporation of the County of Renfrew joins the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities in calling on the Federal and Ontario Governments to immediately and sustainably partner with Municipal Governments by investing in both the new and ongoing maintenance and repairs of municipal infrastructure in Eastern Ontario's small rural municipalities. The resolution asks that the Federal and Ontario Governments immediately review data and work together to implement solutions based on the [EOWC's Municipal Infrastructure Policy Paper](#) in partnership with small rural municipalities.
- County Council supported a resolution requesting the Redistribution of the Provincial Land Transfer Tax and GST to Municipalities for Sustainable Infrastructure Funding. The request is that the redistribution of the Land Transfer Tax and GST be structured to provide predictable and sustainable funding to municipalities, allowing for better long-term planning and investment in infrastructure projects that benefit local communities, thus ensuring that local governments receive a fair share of the revenue to address critical infrastructure needs.
- County Council adopted a by-law to govern the proceedings of council and committees of the County of Renfrew. This new Procedural By-law follows discussions during a special meeting of County Council in October and further discussions during the November Finance and Administration Committee. The most significant change is to the committee structure, whereby County Council will move to Committee of the Whole in January 2025 with a realignment of the committees to Joint Services – Health, Joint Services – Community Services, Corporates Services, Development and Property and Operations. There will now be two meeting days per month; the second and fourth Wednesday, as per the published calendar.
- County Council approved amended Corporate Policies: Short-Term Disability Plan; Long-Term Disability Plan; Employee Incident/Accident/Near Miss Reporting; Workplace Safety and Insurance Board; Return to Work/Stay at Work; and the newly developed Corporate Policies: Accommodations; Accommodating Disabilities; Non Work-Related Illness/Injury; and Personal Time Off. For more information on these policies, please contact the HR department.

Additional Information

Craig Kelley, Chief Administrative Officer/Deputy Clerk

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