

Council and Committee Monthly Summary

August 2025

Below you will find highlights of the County of Renfrew County Council and Committee meetings held August 13 and August 27, 2025.

Please note that this summary does not constitute the official record of the meetings and approved minutes should be consulted for that purpose.

The full [Council and Committee packages](#) can be found online.

The [August 13, 2025](#) and [August 27, 2025](#) meetings are on YouTube.

Warden's Address

Key highlights

- At the August 13 meeting, Warden Peter Emon recognized the passing of Raye-Anne Briscoe, the former mayor of the Township of Admaston/Bromley, a former County Councillor and a long-standing advocate for the County of Renfrew. He noted that she remained engaged in County affairs even after her time on Council, as she regularly followed meetings on YouTube and kept a sharp eye on the issues, particularly those related to finance and the health sector. The Warden commended Raye-Anne for her dedication and passion for the County will not be forgotten, as he extended condolences to her family and friends.
- Over the summer months, the Warden had the honour of attending several events in communities across the County of Renfrew. He noted recent community events highlighted the pride residents take in their communities and the warm hospitality shown to both neighbours and visitors. These gatherings showcased the vibrant spirit of Renfrew County and reinforced its reputation as a welcoming and increasingly popular travel destination.
- The Warden emphasized that the County continues to play a central role in addressing the interconnected crises of homelessness, mental health, and substance use disorders. It is actively working with service providers, law enforcement, healthcare professionals, and community-based organizations to provide coordinated, compassionate, and effective support. He extended an open hand to all agencies willing to collaborate, share resources, and join in the shared mission of restoring dignity, stability, and hope to those most in need.
- At the August 27 meeting, the Warden highlighted the County of Renfrew's participation in the [Association of Municipalities of Ontario \(AMO\) Conference in Ottawa](#) and noted the contingent shared ideas, addressed challenges, and explored innovative solutions. He expressed pride in the collaborative spirit and forward-thinking discussions which occurred. He looks forward to bringing these insights back to Council and staff as we continue to build a stronger, more sustainable Renfrew County.

Delegations

- At the August 13 session, Warden Peter Emon and CAO Craig Kelley presented cheques from the proceeds of the annual Warden's Golf Tournament. The event raised \$8,500, which was divided between Family and Children Services of Renfrew County for the Darlene Aikens Memorial Summer Camp Fund and the County of Renfrew Housing and Homelessness Fund. Jennifer White, Executive Director of FCS Renfrew County, noted the \$4,250 donation has helped to send more than 70 children and youth from Renfrew County to summer camp. Jennifer Dombroskie, the County's Manager of Community Housing, said the \$4,250 donation to the Housing and Homelessness Fund will also go a long way to supporting families in the community. There are currently more than 2,000 households waiting for an affordable housing solution in the County of Renfrew through the centralized waitlist for rent-geared-to-income housing, in addition to more than 1,400 households that are receiving social assistance payments through Ontario Works.
- Renfrew County District School Board representatives Kristen Niemi, Director of Education; Scott Nichol, Superintendent of Education; Bill Murray, Senior Manager, Facilities; and Jamie Thomson, Director of Development, Re-Nature Foundation shared details about the partnership between the Board and Re-Nature Foundation to bring [outdoor learning spaces](#) to 19 elementary schools across the county. These spaces will support inquiry-based and experiential learning, framed by trees and natural elements to promote student well-being, environmental education, and equity. Each site will feature outdoor classrooms, benches and stump seats, curriculum cabinets and over 50 trees and eco-restoration features. RCDSB is seeking support from local municipalities to apply for the Growing Canada's Community Canopies (GCCC) grant through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities—with no cost to municipalities.
- The Grind Pembroke shared the impact of their work supporting individuals in crisis across the region. Grind Board members Dave Henderson and Derek Lindley made the presentation. Among the stats shared: 2,800+ breakfasts and 4,800+ lunches served, 200+ emergency food boxes distributed, 200+ individuals in need accessed showers, 1,300+ people received urgent client services and on-site support from Ontario Works, crisis teams, and health professionals. The Grind made a request that the County of Renfrew provide direct funding to their organization to sustain these vital services – annual request: \$95,750 and interim support needed until March 2026. The presentation was received as information.
- At the August 27 meeting, Warden Emon presented the Culture Connector Award to Emily Stovel, Manager of Culture and Curator at the Arnprior and District Museum on behalf of the Local Immigration Partnership – Lanark & Renfrew. Ms. Stovel was recognized for her outstanding contributions to community building, cultural inclusion, and newcomer support. Through her leadership, the museum has become a vibrant hub for connection and collaboration, and her outreach efforts have helped foster a welcoming and inclusive environment in Arnprior.
- Adrian Schut, Director of Real Estate Development and Construction with Cahdco, a non-profit real estate developer, presented the findings of the [Portfolio Analysis for the Renfrew County Housing Corporation](#). Select sites within Renfrew County lands and housing portfolio with the highest potential for redevelopment were identified. The report focuses on the current renewal plan with options for replacing a 24-unit property at the end of its useful life for the County of Renfrew and exploring various project scales and built forms to support future housing development.

Announcements

- Renfrew County Municipal Day will take place on Wednesday, September 24, from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the County Administration Building. This family-friendly event will showcase County and municipal services, with interactive displays including Touch-a-Truck, Paint-a-Plow, a mini Taste of the Valley, and more. All municipalities and service partners are invited to participate. We hope to make Municipal Day an annual event that encourages residents to connect with their local government and appreciate the scale and diversity of services provided across Renfrew County.

Development & Property Committee

Presented by: James Brose, Chair

- The Development and Property Committee approved the award of a contract for the design and installation of EV Charging Stations at the County Administration Building site, 9 International Drive, Pembroke, and at Renfrew County Place, 450 O'Brien Road, Renfrew, to Rondeau Electric 1997 Ltd., Pembroke, Ontario, in the amount of \$93,865, plus applicable taxes and \$149,005, plus applicable taxes, respectively. The remaining \$152,870 required for the completion of the projects be drawn from the Building Reserve account.
- Council designated the Taste of the Valley event series as events of municipal significance playing an important cultural, social and economic role in the community. Due to changes in the designation of Farmers' Market events, and in order to continue to support and allow for the sale of craft alcohol products at Taste of the Valley events, the County must apply for a Special Occasion Permit (SOP) from the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO) for the Calabogie and Cobden events, taking place on September 20 and October 18, respectively.

Community Services Committee

Presented by: Anne Giardini, Chair

- Following the Ministry of Education's CWELCC space recalibration, the County of Renfrew was awarded 261 new child-care spaces. In accordance with Council's direction, there were a number of spaces that were approved to be allocated, including an invitation to the three non-CWELCC centres to opt in, extra spaces for a pre-existing school build and the balancing of spaces from our original allocation, resulting in 97 remaining spaces. An open application process was held from June 10-July 15, 2025, with submissions reviewed and assessed in alignment with the County's Directed Growth Plan. The following is a list of organizations that were awarded spaces:
 - Arnprior and District Child Care Services (Leaps and Bounds) – 26 spaces for a new before and after school program at Our Lady of Fatima Elementary School in Renfrew
 - Community Resource Centre (Killaloe) Inc. – 39 spaces for a new child-care centre in Whitewater Region
 - County of Renfrew Licensed Home Child Care – 24 spaces (4 licensed homes) to be opened in priority neighbourhoods
 - Petawawa Military Family Resource Centre (Lil' Troopers South Day Care) – 6 spaces to revise their licence to increase capacity

- The Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing has confirmed the County of Renfrew's funding allocations for the Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative (COCHI) and Ontario Priorities Housing Initiative (OPHI) for the 2025-26 fiscal year, along with planned allocations for 2026-27 and 2027-28. The memo received provides a rent-assisted unit target of 12 units for 2025-26, contributing to Ontario's goal of expanding rent-assisted housing by 19,660 units by March 2028. The Ministry also indicates that portable housing benefits under the Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit (COHB) program will continue for current participants, with allocations for new participants yet to be confirmed.
- The Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing has confirmed the 2025-26 Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP) funding allocation in the amount of \$3,569,200. This funding allocation is consistent with the allocation for 2024-25 and aligns with planning allocations communicated in 2023. New reporting requirements have been implemented for 2025-26, including the requirement to report monthly data on individuals moved from encampments to emergency shelters, those moved into housing, and new emergency shelter spaces created.
- Deep Roots Nature and Nursery School Inc. and Petawawa Co-operative Nursery School Inc. (Kinder Connection) have entered the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) program with the County of Renfrew, effective July 1, 2025 and September 1, 2025, respectively. Deep Roots and Kinder Connection were previously non-CWELCC sites that were offered the opportunity to enroll in the CWELCC system following the County's successful acquisition of additional program spaces. All child-care centres in the County of Renfrew are now operating under CWELCC.

Health Committee

Presented by: Michael Donohue, Chair

- At the August 13 meeting, Paramedic Commander Matt Cruchet and Deputy Chief Nick LeRiche shared the incredible work of the Country of Renfrew Paramedic Service's [Sierra Team – Disaster & Event Support](#). So far in 2025, the Sierra Team has had 87 deployments – nearly double the 44 calls at this time last year – including the large Haliburton Deployment following a severe weather event and loss of critical infrastructure, a fall at the Eagles Nest, Medical Emergency at Gun Lake, Tree Strike at North Depot Lake, Storm/Tornado Response on Opeongo Lake, severe storm at Samuel de Champlain Provincial Park, and a skydiving crash. To date the team has assessed and managed appropriately 200 patients. Commander Cruchet noted complexity, acuity, frequency and duration of Sierra calls have increased substantially. The expansion of text to satellite communication options has resulted in a significant increase in Sierra requests, which also allows Sierra Team Paramedics to make direct patient contact prior to arrival and provide care instructions and ongoing support while simultaneously responding.

Corporate Services Committee

Presented by: Jennifer Murphy, Chair

- County Council approved the following Corporate Policies – Criminal Record Checks (amended); General Unpaid Leave of Absences or Statutory and Non-Statutory Leaves of Absence (amended); and Occupational Health and Safety (amended). These policies are available from Human Resources.

Operations Committee

Presented by: Glenn Doncaster, Chair

- County Council resolved to investigate opportunities to advocate with local MPP Billy Denault, Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke, and through municipal conferences for the transfer of the remaining Canadian Pacific (CP) Railway properties, using compiled plans where compatible, in support of the Ottawa Valley Recreational Trail/Algonquin Trail acquisition from CP in a timely manner.
- County Council approved the extension of the following two contracts based on the projected surplus in the 2025 Capital Program:
 - Rehabilitation of County Road 4 (Storyland Road), with the addition from Alex Lane to Highway 17, a distance of approximately 1.42 km, at an approximate cost of \$365,000, plus applicable taxes
 - Rehabilitation of County Road 20 (Castleford Road), with the addition from Eady Road to Humphries Road, a distance of approximately 2.7 km, at an approximate cost of \$1,085,000, plus applicable taxes.
- County Council adopted a by-law, dedicating Block 41 on Plan 547 as part of the public road allowance of County Road 26 (Doran Road), in the Town of Petawawa. This is as a result of a severance file which proposes the creation of an additional lot which would only have frontage along Doran Road.
- County Council approved the request for a new pedestrian crossover at the intersection of County Road 26 (Doran Road) and Herman Street, in the Town of Petawawa. As per County of Renfrew Corporate Policy PW-14, Pedestrian Crossings and Hiking Trail Crossings on County Roads, the Town of Petawawa will be responsible for all costs associated with the initial installation of the Pedestrian Crossing, including signage and pavement markings associated with the crossing, as well as the replacement of the pedestrian crossing and annual pavement markings associated with the crossing. The County of Renfrew will be responsible for the costs associated with the annual operation and maintenance of the pedestrian crossing and signage.
- The approved contracts/tenders were as follows:
 - For the purchase of Portable Traffic Lights from Canada Traffic Supply Inc., St-Mathieu de la Prairie, Quebec, in the amount of \$16,743.
 - For two Sweeper Attachments for Tractors from Colvoy Enterprises 2012 Ltd., Courtland, Ontario, in the amount of \$65,750.
 - For Concrete Gutters and Grates at the White Water Road Patrol from G.P. Splinter Forest Products Ltd., Pembroke, Ontario, in the amount of \$47,914.77.
 - For the Rooftop HVAC Unit at the Cobden Patrol Garage from Valley Refrigeration, Pembroke, Ontario in the amount of \$12,600.
 - For Traffic Signs, Decal and Blanks from Stinson Equipment Ltd., Concord, Ontario in the amount of \$66,276.43. The Towns of Arnprior, Laurentian Hills and the Townships of Bonnechere Valley, Brudenell, Lyndoch & Raglan, Greater Madawaska, Laurentian Valley, Madawaska Valley and Whitewater Region were participants on this tender.
 - For Steel Sign Posts from UCC Industries International, Pickering, Ontario, in the amount of \$39,337.24. The Town of Laurentian Hills and the Townships of Admaston/Bromley, Bonnechere Valley, Brudenell, Lyndoch & Raglan, Greater Madawaska, Head, Clara & Maria, Horton and Madawaska Valley were participants on this tender.

- For Winter Sand at the Cobden Patrol from W.W. Siegel Sand & Gravel Ltd., Pembroke, Ontario, in the amount of \$17875.
- For Winter Sand at the Goshen Patrol from McCrea Excavating Ltd., Pembroke, Ontario, in the amount of \$27,120.
- For Winter Sand at the Southwest Patrol from G.P. Splinter Forest Products Ltd., Pembroke, Ontario in the amount of \$46,800. The Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan was a participant on this tender.
- For Winter Sand at the White Water Road Patrol from W.W. Siegel Sand & Gravel Ltd., Pembroke, Ontario, in the amount of \$15,750.
- Winter Sand at the Golden Lake Garage from G.P. Splinter Forest Products Ltd., Pembroke, Ontario, in the amount of \$8,450.
- Concrete Curb Replacement on Siberia Road from D. Rock Paving, Brampton, Ontario, in the amount of \$64,617.02. The Township of Madawaska Valley was a participant on this tender. The Township of Madawaska Valley was a participant on this tender.
- For the rehabilitation of County Road 20 (Castleford Road), from 275m east of Highway 17 to Eady Road, a distance of approximately 3.12km, in the Township of Horton, as submitted by B.R. Fulton Construction Limited, Renfrew, Ontario, in the amount of \$1,257,665.25, plus applicable taxes.
- For the rehabilitation of County Road 71 (Matawatchan Road), from Civic Address 4882 to County Road 65 (Centennial Lake Road), a distance of approximately 3.29km, Township of Greater Madawaska, as submitted by Bonnechere Excavating Inc., Renfrew, Ontario, in the amount of \$693,494.40, plus applicable taxes.
- For construction of the Algonquin Trail, from Yates Road to Crossing Road, a distance of 16.4km, United Townships of Head, Clara, and Maria, as submitted by G.P. Splinter Forest Products Ltd., Pembroke, Ontario in the amount of \$815,858.69, plus applicable taxes.
- For a Hydrovac Trailer as submitted by Wachs Canada Ltd., Newmarket, Ontario, in the amount of \$118,850, plus applicable taxes.
- Construction on County Structure C201 (Broomes Creek Culvert and Dam) resumed July 2, 2025, under emergent conditions due to the deteriorating dam, following a permit delay from the Ministry of Natural Resources. A permit was approved July 31, 2025. A Change Order was issued for stand-by costs, partially offset by County-led coordination with Hydro One. Completion is now expected beyond 2025, with potential additional costs and winter maintenance impacts being discussed with Whitewater Region staff.

Additional Information

Craig Kelley, Chief Administrative Officer/Deputy Clerk

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