

# Council and Committee

## Monthly Summary

### June 2025

Below you will find highlights of the County of Renfrew County Council and Committee meetings held June 12 and June 25, 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 [June 12, 2025](#) and [June 25, 2025](#) meetings are on YouTube.

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## Warden's Address

### Key highlights

- On June 12, Warden Peter Emon welcomed Councillor Rob Tripp as an alternate member of Council representing Greater Madawaska; he congratulated Councillor Glenn Doncaster on his appointment to the FCM Board of directors; he congratulated Councillor Lori Hoddinott on receiving the Academic Excellence Award in Municipal Law at the recent AMCTO conference and he congratulated the Township of Greater Madawaska on the tremendous success of their inaugural Guitars and Gasoline Music Festival.
- The Warden acknowledged June as Pride Month, a time to celebrate the diversity, resilience, and contributions of 2SLGBTQI+ communities across our region and beyond; as National Indigenous History Month, which offers an opportunity to honour the rich history, heritage, and ongoing contributions of Indigenous peoples across Canada; as Seniors Month, a time to honour the amazing seniors and to recognize the hard work that they have done all their lives to make the County of Renfrew into the great place it is today.
- The 18th Annual Renfrew County Warden's Golf Tournament was held on June 20<sup>th</sup> at Dragonfly Golf Links. He shared that the event raised over \$8,500 in support of two local charities: the Family and Children's Services of Renfrew County Darlene Aikens Memorial Fund, and the County of Renfrew's Homelessness and Housing Fund. He thanked the generous sponsors and supporters, County of Renfrew staff, and staff at Dragonfly Golf Links for making this fundraiser a success. Congratulations to Team Sweetness on winning the tournament.
- The Warden also attended John Yakabuski's retirement dinner, where he had the opportunity to thank him for his 22 years of dedicated service representing the people of Renfrew–Nipissing–Pembroke and wish him all the best in his well-earned retirement.
- This summer he encouraged everyone to THINK about their activities and buying power and to support our local businesses, noting every dollar spent in Renfrew County helps sustain local jobs, strengthens our economy, and preserves the unique identity and vibrancy of our communities.

## Delegations

- Michael Nolan, Director of Emergency Services/Chief, Paramedic Service, presented the Ontario Medal for Paramedic Bravery to retired Paramedic Brad Smith for his heroic actions on February 12, 2012. On that day, a snowmobiler had fallen through the ice on Calabogie Lake. Brad was among the first to respond. With no time to spare and no thought for his own safety, he located a nearby canoe, entered the icy waters, and paddled out using only his hands. Upon reaching the stranded individual — who was being supported by another courageous citizen — Brad worked to bring them to safety. During the rescue, Brad himself ended up in the freezing water. Despite this, he remained focused, resilient, and determined.
- Shanna Armstrong, member, and Jennifer Doelman, vice-chair, made a presentation on behalf of the [Renfrew County Agriculture Economic Development Committee](#). This Committee provides guidance and feedback on the state of the agriculture sector within Renfrew County and recommends and assists with possible initiatives in support of agricultural economic and business development. They highlighted economic contributions of the local agricultural community and noted challenges and opportunities for the industry.
- Darren Waters and Ryan Vandenberg, from the Ministry of Transportation, provided an update on several [MTO projects](#) in Renfrew County, including the twinning of Highway 17, Highway 148 in the Township of Laurentian Valley and City of Pembroke, and the preliminary design of Highway 60 and County Roads 30 and 60 in North Algona Wilberforce Township.
- MPP Billy Denault made his first official visit to County Council. Looking forward to his role as the Parliamentary Assistant to the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Gaming, a position that is applicable to the riding in terms of local economic development, working to build relationships with local councils necessary to assist where issues arise. He spoke about the Provincial Government's focus on health care with the Primary Care Action Plan headed by Dr. Jane Philpott. He acknowledged it has been a learning curve since taking office, but he called it a privilege and honour to advocate for the riding of Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke at Queen's Park.
- At the June 12 Community Services Committee, County of Renfrew Chief Administrative Officer Craig Kelley and Sabine Mersmann, CEO of Pembroke Regional Hospital, provided an update on the activities to date towards the establishment of the Renfrew County Mesa HART Hub in Pembroke. The HART Hub will provide low-barrier access to services, ensuring that clients can receive support regardless of their current stage of readiness for change; eliminate common barriers to care, such as rigid requirements or limited access points; offer immediate access to intensive wellness supports, such as stabilization services and onsite care for individuals with complex needs and lead comprehensive care planning by conducting physical and mental health assessments and delivering treatments based on those assessments.

## Announcements

- County Councillor Jennifer Murphy stated her intention to run for Renfrew County Warden for 2026. She thanked Warden Peter Emon for his support in the past six months in helping her to prepare for the role, which she previously held from 2017-2019.

## Development & Property Committee

**Presented by: James Brose, Chair**

- County Council adopted a by-law to enter into a lease agreement with the Ontario Addiction Treatment Centre (OATC), located at 156 John Street, Pembroke, Ontario, for a three-year term commencing May 1, 2025, for the purpose of a warming/cooling centre as part of the Renfrew County Mesa HART Hub.
- County Council approved the implementation of a regional incentive program, referred to as the Helping Your Place Excel (HYPE) program.
- County Council adopted a by-law to approve Official Plan Amendment No. 47, which allows the County to provide grants/loans to local municipalities that support their Community Improvement Plans (CIPs).
- County Council has approved moving forward with the new Pembroke Paramedic Base at 330 Boundary Road. A consulting firm, Greenview Environmental Management, of Bancroft, Ontario, has been hired to help design and plan the project. The total cost for their services is \$227,970 plus taxes. The County will apply to Infrastructure Ontario to help fund the renovations.
- County Council has approved the construction of a new paramedic base in the Township of Whitewater Region. The project will be led by R.K. Porter General Contracting Inc. (Perth), working with J.L. Richards and Associates (Ottawa) and Egis Group (Kanata). The total cost is \$3.25 million (plus rebatable taxes). Funding will come through a financing arrangement with Infrastructure Ontario.
- A total of 13 applications were received to fill the 7 available spots in the [2025 Summer Company program](#). The successful participants are Jazmin Clark (Whitewater Region) – Pottery; Page Hodgson (Arnprior) - Crochet products and clothing; Noah Obrien (Madawaska Valley) - Apparel brand; Hunter Prince (Horton) - 3D Printing; Minnah Rehn (Arnprior) - Henna services and products; Nella Rosandic (Killaloe-Hagarty-Richards) - Handmade stickers and buttons and Emmanuel Young (Arnprior) - Lawn care business.  
The Summer Company program supports students aged 15-29 who start and run their own summer business. Students are provided with business planning and operational guidance, in addition to a \$1,500 non-repayable grant at the start of the program. Upon program completion, students are awarded an additional \$1,500 non-repayable grant.

## Operations Committee

**Presented by: Glenn Doncaster, Chair**

- County Council adopted a revised by-law to Regulate the Operation of Off-Road Vehicles on County of Renfrew Roads. The amendment permits Off-Road Vehicles on the following sections of County Roads in the Town of Petawawa: County Road 16 (Victoria Street), between Laurentian Drive and Petawawa Boulevard; County Road 25 (Laurentian Drive), between Victoria Street and Petawawa Boulevard; County Road 26 (Doran Road), between Petawawa Boulevard and Highway 17; County Road 37 (Murphy Road), between Petawawa Boulevard and Highway 17; County Road 51 (Petawawa Boulevard), between B-Line Road and civic address 2991 Petawawa Boulevard. Crossings of County Road 51 (Petawawa Boulevard) at the Fred Street/Norman Street and Victoria Street/Portage Road intersection is also permitted.

- The approved contracts/tenders were as follows:
  - For the purchase of a Boom Mower from Colvoy Enterprises 2012 Ltd., Courtland, Ontario, in the amount of \$49,998, plus applicable taxes.
  - For rehabilitation of County Road 26 (Doran Road) from Black Bay Road to County Road 51 (Petawawa Boulevard), Town of Petawawa, as submitted by Greenwood Paving (Pembroke) Ltd., Pembroke, Ontario, in the amount of \$1,165,971.50, plus applicable taxes.
  - For supply and delivery of bulk coarse highway salt for a two-year period as submitted by Windsor Salt Ltd., Mississauga, Ontario, in the amount of \$3,918,915, plus applicable taxes.
  - For rehabilitation of both County Road 52 (Burnstown Road) from B123 (Burnstown Bridge) to Picket Hill Road and County Road 508 (Calabogie Road) from Stacey Drive to Civic Address 1803, Township of McNab/Braeside, as submitted by Thomas Cavanagh Construction Limited, Ottawa, Ontario, in the amount of \$1,044,335.53, plus applicable taxes.
  - For the rehabilitation of County Road 4 (Storyland Road), from Eady Road to Alex Lane, a distance of approximately 2.69km, Township of Horton awarded to Greenwood Paving (Pembroke) Ltd., Pembroke, Ontario, in the amount of \$1,390,750.40.
  - For supply and delivery of granular material on County Road 69 (Siberia Road), from River Road to Sunny Hill Road, a distance of approximately 4.46km, Township of Madawaska Valley awarded to Bonnechere Excavating Inc., Renfrew, Ontario in the amount of \$357,212.
  - For paving, shouldering and guide rail installation on County Road 69 (Siberia Road), from River Road to Sunny Hill Road, a distance of approximately 4.46km, Township of Madawaska Valley, awarded to Bonnechere Excavating Inc., Renfrew, Ontario in the amount of \$947,266.25.
  - For the rehabilitation of County Road 70 (Ruby Road), from Gorman Road to Wolfe Road, a distance of approximately 3.25km, Township of Bonnechere Valley, awarded to Bonnechere Excavating Inc., Renfrew, Ontario, in the amount of \$756,960.12.
  - For the rehabilitation of County Road 512 (Foymount Road), from Silver Lake Road to Highway 41, Township of Bonnechere Valley, as submitted by Greenwood Paving (Pembroke) Limited, Pembroke, Ontario, in the amount of \$3,022,967.80, plus applicable taxes.

## Community Services Committee

**Presented by: Anne Giardini, Chair**

- County Council authorized County of Renfrew staff to undertake all necessary actions to implement the Renfrew County Mesa HART Hub project as outlined, including but not limited to executing the Transfer Payment Agreement with the Ontario Ministry of Health, Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Ontario Health, and any other designated ministry or agency with responsibility for funding of the HART hub(s), fulfilling reporting obligations, hiring or assigning staff as appropriate, entering into agreements with partner agencies, procuring goods and services within approved budgets, and performing any other activities necessary to bring the project to fruition.

- As part of the Renfrew County Housing Corporation Annual General Meeting, Jennifer Dombroskie, Manager of Community Housing, and Kevin Raddatz, Manager of Real Estate, highlighted aspects of the [2024 Renfrew County Housing Corporation Annual Report](#). Mr. Raddatz overviewed the RCHC portfolio, which includes 1,029 Residential Units across apartments, townhouses, and single/semi-detached homes. He highlighted some capital projects completed, noted some emergency repairs required for some units and in looking ahead noted the 2025 priority of long-term stability for the RCHC. Ms. Dombroskie highlighted the Collaborative Model of Care when it comes to Community Housing in Renfrew County – from Community Housing Caseworkers, to maintenance staff and the Community Paramedic/RCHC collaboration towards improved health and wellness for tenants.
- A new Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) Agreement was executed with Paradise Children’s Programs Inc., myFM Centre Recreation Complex, Renfrew, Ontario. In accordance with the County of Renfrew’s Directed Growth Strategy, the three non-CWELCC centres (Paradise Children’s Programs Inc., myFM Centre Recreation Complex), Kinder Connection Nursery School, and Deep Roots Nature & Nursery School) were given the first opportunity to opt in, followed by an application-based process to determine the allocation of remaining spaces.

## Health Committee

**Presented by: Michael Donohue, Chair**

- County Council directed staff to establish a volunteer-based Disaster and Emergency Local Team Activation (DELTA) Program within the County of Renfrew, including the development of operational supports necessary for implementation. This strategy aims to build a robust infrastructure of trained, skilled, and community-based volunteers who can respond effectively alongside professional emergency services during times of crisis.
- County Council authorized County of Renfrew to undertake all necessary actions to implement the Renfrew County Substance Use, Mental Health and Housing Mesa Systems Integrated Navigational Tool, including but not limited to executing the Transfer Payment Agreement with Health Canada, fulfilling reporting obligations, entering into agreements with partner agencies, procuring goods and services within approved budgets, and performing any other activities necessary to bring the project to fruition.
- County Council adopted a by-law authorizing the Warden and Chief Administrative Officer to sign the Lease Agreement between the County of Renfrew and Carefor Health and Community Services, 425 Cecelia Street, Pembroke, Ontario, for tenant office space for the Renfrew County Virtual Triage and Assessment Centre (RC VTAC) for a one-year term commencing April 1, 2025.

## Corporate Services Committee

**Presented by: Jennifer Murphy, Chair**

- County Council approved the Audited Financial Statements for the County of Renfrew for the year ended December 31, 2024. At the beginning of the meeting, Lori Huber, Partner KPMG, provided a high-level overview of the [clean audit report](#).

- County Council approves the following Corporate Policies: Retirement and Early Retirement (amended); Contract Employees (new); Hours of Work and Overtime (amended); Employee Recognition Program (amended). Copies of the policies are available from Human Resources.

## **Additional Information**

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

613-735-7288