

Council and Committee Monthly Summary

March 2025

Below you will find highlights of the County of Renfrew County Council and Committee meetings held March 12 and March 26, 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 [March 12, 2025](#) and [March 26, 2025](#) meetings are on YouTube.

Warden's Address

Key highlights

- The Renfrew County Virtual Triage and Assessment Centre (RC VTAC), a local solution launched just days after the COVID-19 pandemic began in March 2020, marked its fifth anniversary on March 27 as it continues to serve residents without access to primary care. A collaboration between family doctors, paramedics, local hospitals, and health organizations, RC VTAC has been instrumental in reducing pressure on Emergency Departments and providing accessible health-care services. In 2024 alone, it received nearly 74,000 calls and diverted approximately 1,000 Emergency Room visits monthly. Through a variety of services, including phone and video appointments, in-home assessments, and referrals, RC VTAC addresses a range of health concerns. The Honourable Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health, was in Renfrew on March 27 for a celebration to mark the five-year milestone.
- Nominations are open for the 2025 Ottawa Valley Tourism Awards and it is time to celebrate the best of Ottawa Valley tourism! The Ottawa Valley Tourism Awards recognize industry achievements, inspire future excellence, and honour those making a lasting impact in our region. The OVTA is encouraging member businesses, events and individuals to [self-nominate](#) or nominate a deserving fellow member for one of these six awards: Tourism Champion, Business/Organization of the Year Award, Event of the Year Award, Tourism Marketing Award, Sustainability Champion Award and New Tourism Product Award.
- Registration for the 18th annual [Warden's Golf Tournament](#) is now open. This year's event is being held at the Dragonfly Golf Links at Renfrew on Friday, June 20, with proceeds going towards the Darlene Aikens Memorial Fund of Family and Children's Services of Renfrew County to help send kids to camp and the Renfrew County Housing and Homelessness Fund.
- On March 4, the Warden attended Enterprise Renfrew County's Francophone Networking Breakfast hosted in partnership with Renfrew County Community Futures Development Corporation. He congratulated Luc Fleurant and Bernadette Demong of Ottawa Valley Taekwon-Do on winning the Francophone Entrepreneur of the Year Award.

Delegations

- At the March 26 Development and Property Committee, Business Development Officer David Wybou, made a presentation about the proposed [HYPE \(Helping Your Place Excel\)](#) Regional Incentive Program for Renfrew County. In February, County Council approved \$100,000 in the Economic Development budget for the County of Renfrew initiative designed to drive economic development through financial incentives that support key areas of investment. Aligned with the County's Strategic Plan, Trail Strategy, Active Transportation Plan, Climate Action Plan, Housing/Homelessness Plan, and Economic Development Strategic Plan, it promotes Housing, Tourism, Business Retention & Expansion, and Investment Readiness. This program will provide up to 50% matching grants for eligible projects in local municipalities that have a Community Improvement Plan in place. The total grants cannot exceed \$15,000 annually per property. The program is open to property owners, businesses, and not-for-profit organizations. The program provides funding for projects that enhance: Agriculture & Agri-Tourism, Brownfield Redevelopment, Affordable Housing & Secondary Dwellings, Energy Efficiency & Environmental Enhancements, Accessibility Improvements, Commercial, Institutional & Industrial Development, and Regional Trail Expansion. Following the presentation, the Development and Property Committee recommended that County Council receive and accept the Helping Your Place Excel (HYPE) Program details for consultation. Direction was given to staff to proceed with amending the County of Renfrew Official Plan permitting County Council to provide grants and/or loans to support local Community Improvement Plan initiatives. County staff is also available to those communities without a CIP and that want to discuss a path forward.

Development & Property Committee

Presented by: James Brose, Chair

- County Council approved the Terms of Reference for the Climate Action Ad Hoc Committee. It is proposed that the Climate Action Ad Hoc Committee be established to guide the implementation of the County of Renfrew's Climate Action Plan. The Committee will focus on identifying priorities, facilitating stakeholder engagement, recommending actionable strategies, and ensuring alignment with the County's Climate Action Plan for both the County of Renfrew goals and community goals for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The goal is to achieve a 20% decrease in emissions from County operations and a 20-25% reduction in community-wide emissions by 2030 with 2021 as the baseline year.

Operations Committee

Presented by: Dan Lynch, Vice Chair

- Public Works and Engineering staff will coordinate with the organizer of the Everest Climb Cancer Fundraiser to explore and assess agreeable traffic management solutions to ensure County Road 512 (Foymount Road) remains open during the Everest Hill Climb fundraiser while promoting safety for road users and event participants. Staff will continue to explore other potential traffic mitigation measures with the organizer.

- County Council approved several contracts/agreements as submitted:
 - For engineering services for the replacement of County Structure B188 (Turcotte Bridge), located on Code Road, approximately 2.2km northeast of Micksburg Road, in the Township of Laurentian Valley, by Tatham Engineering Limited, Collingwood, Ontario in the amount of \$83,575, plus applicable taxes.
 - For pavement marking as submitted by Trillium Pavement Marking (TPM), Carleton Place, Ontario, for one additional year (2025) in the amount of \$707,042.54, plus applicable taxes. This is an extension of the 2003 contract.
 - For Engineering Services for the rehabilitation of County Structure B145 (Combermere Bridge), to include Contract Administration and Construction Inspection, for Jacobs Consultancy Canada Limited, Ottawa, Ontario, in the amount of \$379,123.30, plus applicable taxes.
- County Council passed a resolution to develop an Ad-Hoc Committee to review potential options for a transit system with application for the County of Renfrew. This follows the writing of an [in-depth report](#) by the Director of Public Works and Engineering, which can be found in the council package.
- County Council adopted a by-law approving the alterations to County Roads and Structures for the 2025 construction season. Approval of the alterations to a highway is intended to be the final step in the design process, where Council authorizes the work to proceed, subject to the budget and tender process. The approval is intended to apply only to those Capital Projects, which would result in alterations to the highway that could affect a person's access to and from their land, or that could significantly restrict or alter the use of the highway for a period of time. Only those projects that involve significant alterations are presented for approval. The By-law sets out 16 rehabilitation projects on County Roads, two bridge rehabilitation projects and the rehabilitation/reconstruction of five culverts.
- At the March 26 Operations Committee meeting, Committee approved the following recommendations:
 - The 2025 Work Plans as presented for the Algonquin Trail and the K & P Recreational Trail. On March 19, 2025, the Recreational Trails Advisory Ad Hoc Committee approved the 2025 Work Plans which include funds in the amount of \$203,900 for Algonquin Trail maintenance and \$25,000 for K & P Recreational Trail maintenance. The works will include dust suppression activities, repairs to signs and gates, general structural repairs, grading/surface repairs, fencing, ditching and vegetation management and tree planting.
 - The approved 2025 Budget also includes \$2,500,000 for Algonquin Trail Development, which includes allocations from the Active Transportation Fund for completion of the Algonquin Trail to Bissett Creek. Additionally, the Capital portion of the 2025 budget includes funds for the following Capital Projects on recreational trail infrastructure:
 - Replacement of AT009 (Jeffreys Creek) \$200,000
 - Engineering for AT032 (Highway 17 and Bissett Creek Overpass) \$110,000
 - Engineering for KP001 (Madawaska River 1) \$46,000
 - Legal and Ontario Land Survey Fees for Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority Land Transfer \$30,000
 - Legal Fees for Canadian National Transfer (Laurentian Valley and Whitewater Region) \$10,000

- A Contract for the purchase of three Light Duty Pick-Up Trucks, as submitted by Surgenor Chev Buick GMC Cadillac, Ottawa, Ontario, in the amount of \$163,740, plus applicable taxes.

Corporate Services Committee

Presented by: Jennifer Murphy, Chair

- By-laws were passed in relation to the 2025 Tax Policy:
 - A by-law to set tax ratios for County and lower-tier purposes.
 - A by-law to set tax rate reductions for prescribed property subclasses for County and lower tier purposes for the year 2025.
- County Council adopted a by-law to establish the 2025 Tax Rates for County of Renfrew purposes.

Health Committee

Presented by: Michael Donohue, Chair

- County Council adopted a revised by-law to accept 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 for an indefinite term rather than a five-year term in the previous agreement.
- County Council adopted a by-law to enter into a collaborative agreement between the County of Renfrew, the University of Western Ontario and Scatr Inc. to participate in a Leading the Way: People with Living and Lived Experience (PWLLE) at the Forefront of Drug-Checking Initiative designed and developed by Western University research team. This project aims to engage the Mesa team and community paramedics in enhancing harm reduction strategies, including the optimal use of drug-checking services. Participation in this project will allow County of Renfrew Paramedics the opportunity to analyze the local drug supply and gather information that is not otherwise available. The Scatr machine will provide paramedics on the spot results, informing the identification of various substances and the estimated quantities of each substance in the sample.
- County Council adopted a revised by-law authorizing the lease of three additional ZOLL ONE program monitor/defibrillator units from ZOLL Medical Canada Inc. With the increased need in the community for paramedic service due to the expansion of the Mesa program and the Virtual Triage and Assessment Centre (VTAC) program, there is a desire to appropriately support our paramedics and patients with three additional ZOLL ONE program monitor/defibrillator units. Adding three units to the existing contract will increase the County's monthly payments by \$2,650.61 and the annual cost by \$31,807.32. This will raise the annual cost from \$344,241.30 to \$376,048.62.

Additional Information

Craig Kelley, Chief Administrative Officer/Deputy Clerk

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