

# Council and Committee Monthly Summary

## May 2025

Below you will find highlights of the County of Renfrew County Council and Committee meetings held May 14 and May 28, 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 [May 14, 2025](#) and [May 28, 2025](#) meetings are on YouTube.

---

## Warden's Address

### Key highlights

Warden Peter Emon attended the May 14 meeting virtually and was absent for the May 28 meeting. Acting Warden Jennifer Murphy presided over both meetings.

- She noted Warden Emon was invited by Premier Doug Ford to participate in a multi-minister meeting alongside members of the Eastern Ontario Warden's Caucus on May 13 in Toronto. The meetings included discussions with the Hon. Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs; Hon. David Piccinni, Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development; Parliamentary Assistant Matt Rae, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing and the Hon. Victor Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade.
- At the May 28 meeting, she acknowledged National Paramedic Services Week and National Public Works Week, which were observed from May 18 to 24. On behalf of council and residents she thanked the members of these departments for their service and commitment to our communities.
- She also announced the return of the [Silver Chain Challenge](#), a friendly competition between Renfrew and Lanark Counties which encourages everyone to get outside, stay active, and enjoy our beautiful communities by walking, running or cycling during the month of June. Let's lace up, ride out, and make every step and pedal count. Visit the Silver Chain Challenge website to get started. Let's bring the title home to Renfrew County!
- Councillor Dan Lynch represented the County at the Town of Petawawa's Kick Off to Accessibility Week, which is May 25-31. As part of the celebration, he was invited to paint a square, which will be part of a centrepiece that promotes Accessibility.
- On Sunday May 25, Councillor Lynch also brought greetings and congratulations from the County to Gerald Tracey in Bonnechere Valley, during the community celebration that highlighted the renaming of "Gerald Tracey Park".

## Delegations

At the May 14 meeting, Council heard from the following interested parties:

- Ann Pohl, spokesperson for the Council of Canadians: Kitchissippi-Ottawa Valley spoke about the Climate Action postcards display at the County Administration Building to mark Earth Day. She also provided postcards from their communities to members of County Council.
- Sabine Mersmann, Co-chair of the Ottawa Valley Ontario Health Team, provided an update on Primary Care Team expansion proposals, which were recently submitted on behalf of the West Champlain Family Health Team and the Petawawa Centennial Family Health Team. These proposals are meant to serve high-needs and underserved populations across Renfrew County and South Algonquin and attach people to regular primary care providers. These teams seek to attach almost 18,000 patients to primary care providers by March 2027.
- Chris Brennan, Enbridge Gas, provided an update on the 20-year Franchise Agreement, initially entered with Enbridge Gas Distribution Inc. in April 2025, which was up for renewal.

At the May 28 meeting, Council heard from the following interested party:

- Three German Paramedics – Andreas Bauer, Chief of Education, Bavarian Red Cross Regensburg; Stefan Dums, Preceptor, BRK Kreisverband Cham, Germany and Kristina Voith, who spent the week with the County of Renfrew Paramedic Service were introduced to County Council by Health Committee Chair Michael Donohue. He noted this visit provided a unique opportunity to strengthen professional relationships and foster international cooperation in the field of paramedicine. It also allowed the Paramedics to learn from one another, deepening the understanding of various approaches to public safety and patient care.
- Jason St. Pierre and Lisa Severson provided an annual update from the [Eastern Ontario Regional Network](#), including the Cell Gap Project and highlights of the 2024-2028 Strategic Plan. In Renfrew County 47 new builds were planned with 27 of 47 new sites are in service, 25 upgrades were completed and nine co-locations are in the process of being completed.
- Nadia Prescott, [Ottawa West Four Rivers Ontario Health Team](#), made a presentation on the Primary Care Team expansion proposals recently submitted to address the needs in the communities of Arnprior and McNab/Braeside. The multi-organizational approach will be led by West Carleton Family Health Team with the support of the Arnprior & District Family Health Team among others. The goal is to attach 8,500 net new patients by March 2027, including 1,000 new patients for the Arnprior and District Family Health Team.
- Stefani Van Wijk (Chair) and Meghan James (Vice-Chair) of the [Ottawa Valley Tourist Association](#) Board of Directors provided an annual update on the state of tourism in the Ottawa Valley, the critical role played by the OVTA and how tourism is fuelling economic growth and community vitality in the region.

## Development & Property Committee

**Presented by: James Brose, Chair**

- County Council will send a letter to MPP Billy Denault, Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke and the Honourable Vic Fideli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade (MEDJCT), in support of the Small Business Centres Ontario's (SBC Ontario) recommendations and request for increased CORE funding towards salary wages for Enterprise Renfrew County and all Small Business Enterprise Centres across Ontario.

- County Council adopted a by-law to authorize Municipal Law Enforcement Services, Renfrew, Ontario to act as a By-law Enforcement Officer, on behalf of the County of Renfrew, on County of Renfrew Owned Forests. In recent years, issues within the Renfrew County Forests have been increasing in frequency and severity, including dumping, encroachment, fires and camping.
- A special meeting of the Development and Property Committee will be held on June 12, 2025 at 3 p.m. at the County of Renfrew Administration Building to host a public meeting to inform the public of the proposed Official Plan Amendment No. 47. The proposed Official Plan Amendment is to permit the County Council to provide grants and/or loans to support local Community Improvement Plans.
- The County of Renfrew is working with Esri Canada to do a full review of its location-based data to get ready for the new Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG9-1-1) system. This new system will help modernize how emergency services respond. Local municipalities play a big part in this work because they help create and update the data that emergency services rely on. For this project to be successful, strong teamwork and input is required from our municipal partners. Their local knowledge is key to making sure the data is correct and useful. To help move this project forward, a two-hour workshop is scheduled on June 5, 2025, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. An invitation was sent out to all local municipalities, including the City of Pembroke and the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan.
- During the first quarter of 2025, the Economic Development Division received seven requests related to site searches for businesses looking to expand and/or move within or to Renfrew County. The Division is also supporting a number of municipal requests related to potential investment and expansion opportunities, providing guidance, research and expertise.

## Operations Committee

**Presented by: Glenn Doncaster, Chair**

- County Council adopted a by-law authorizing the acquisition of a piece of property with frontage on County Road 23 (Highland Road) in the Township of McNab/Braeside from Susan Patricia Clark. This land will be dedicated as part of the road allowance for County Road 23.
- County Council adopted a by-law to approve Corporate Policy PW-24, Community Safety Zones along County Roads. Community Safety Zones can be used near community centres, elementary or secondary schools, high pedestrian traffic locations (defined as a location experiencing an average of 100 pedestrians per hour or more for any eight hours of the day), seniors' centres and residences, daycare centres, playgrounds, parks and hospitals.
- County Council adopted a new by-law that includes the execution of a Purchase and Sale Agreement and a Lease Agreement with the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority for the K & P Recreational Trail, from the County of Renfrew border northward approximately 6.7km. It is estimated that the County of Renfrew's portion of costs associated with clearing title on the properties to be purchased will be approximately \$67,000.
- The Warden and Chief Administrative Officer executed the Housing-Enabling Core Services (HECS) - Transfer Payment Agreement for the approved reconstruction of a roundabout at the intersection of Petawawa Blvd., Doran St., Mohns Ave. and Hilda St. This is in follow-up to the January 28, 2025, announcement that the Province of Ontario would provide \$2.8 million in funding support for a significant infrastructure improvement at the intersection of County Roads 26/51 (Doran Road/Petawawa Boulevard) in the Town of Petawawa. This project will see the construction of a roundabout designed to enhance traffic flow, improve safety, and support the growing needs of the community.

- County Council approved contracts/tenders as submitted:
  - For the purchase of two tandem truck plow and spreader units from Premier Truck Group of London, London, Ontario, in the amount of \$957,052, plus applicable taxes.
  - For the rehabilitation of County Road 71 (Matawatchan Road), from Civic Address 4882 to County Road 65 (Centennial Lake Road), Township of Greater Madawaska, as submitted by Bonnechere Excavating Incorporated, Renfrew, Ontario, in the amount of \$693,494.40, plus applicable taxes.
  - For the fabrication, supply, relocation, and rehabilitation of Access Control Gates in various locations on County Recreational Trails as submitted by G.P. Splinter Forest Products Limited, Pembroke, Ontario in the amount of \$148,855.96, plus applicable taxes.
  - For the supply, delivery, and installation of Steel Beam Guiderail on County Road 71 (Matawatchan Road), approximately 8.41km east of Highway 41, Township of Greater Madawaska, as submitted by Borall Fence and Guiderail Contractors Limited, Waubaushene, Ontario, in the amount of \$215,231.25, plus applicable taxes.
  - For the rehabilitation of County Road 3 (Usborne Street), from County Road 1 (River Road) to the urban limit of Braeside, a distance of approximately 0.34km, Township of McNab/Braeside as submitted by Thomas Cavanagh Construction Ltd., Ashton, Ontario, in the amount of \$528,000, plus applicable taxes.
  - For Contract Administration and Construction Inspection Services for the reconstruction of County Structure C201 (Broomes Creek Culvert) and Dam as submitted by J.L. Richards & Associates Ltd. in the amount of \$286,472.48, plus applicable taxes.
  - For the rehabilitation of County Road 2 (Daniel Street), from County Road 1 (Madawaska Street) to Staye Court Drive, a distance of approximately 1.9km, Town of Arnprior, awarded to R.W. Tomlinson Ltd., Ottawa, Ontario, in the amount of \$1,597,200, plus applicable taxes (Town of Arnprior will cover \$544,203.23, plus applicable taxes.)
  - For the rehabilitation of County Road 36 (TV Tower Road), from County Road 35 (Jean Avenue) to County Road 42 (Forest Lea Road), and County Road 51 (Pembroke Street West), from County Road 42 (Forest Lea Road) to the City of Pembroke Limits, a distance of approximately 3.52km, Township of Laurentian Valley awarded to McCrea Excavating Ltd., Pembroke, Ontario, in the amount of \$1,810,000.
  - For the purchase of a Boom Mower from Colvoy Enterprises 2012 Ltd., Courtland, Ontario, in the amount of \$49,998, plus applicable taxes.

At the May 28 the Operations Committee recommended the following:

- County Council adopt a revised by-law to Regulate the Operation of Off-Road Vehicles on County of Renfrew Roads. The County of Renfrew has received a request from the Town of Petawawa to update the restrictions for off-road vehicles along County Roads within the Town. The effect of the amendment would permit 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. In addition, the Town of Petawawa has requested crossings of CR51 (Petawawa Boulevard) be allowed at the Fred/Norman Street and Victoria Street/Portage Road intersections, which were also recommended.

## Community Services Committee

**Presented by: Anne Giardini, Chair**

- County Council supported the resolution passed by the Prince Edward-Lennox and Addington Social Services Committee in April requesting an increase to Ontario Works rates to match the ODSP rate increases that have already been made and be indexed to inflation and a commitment to ongoing cost of living increases above and beyond the rate of inflation to make up for the years they were frozen. A copy of this resolution be sent to the Minister of Children, Community, and Social Services, the Minister of Health, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association, the Rural Ontario Municipal Association, and all Ontario Municipalities.

## Corporate Services Committee

**Presented by: David Mayville, Vice-Chair**

- County Council directed staff to submit delegation request(s) at the upcoming Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Conference that are consistent with the 2023-2026 County of Renfrew Strategic Plan and other departmental strategic plan(s), that address current initiatives that require further advocacy and/or address funding shortfall(s).

## Health Committee

**Presented by: Michael Donohue, Chair**

- County Council directed staff to proceed with hiring PRO-TEC 5 Incorporated, Pembroke, Ontario, as a security agency at Bonnechere Manor when required for the newly implemented security program.
- County Council authorized the Warden and Chief Administrative Officer to execute a Purchased Service Agreement with Mackay Manor, Renfrew, Ontario, for the period of June 1, 2025 until March 31, 2027. The County of Renfrew Paramedic Service is partnering with Mackay Manor following the successful approval of a joint application to the Substance Use and Addictions Program (SUAP). This funding will support the delivery of targeted paramedic-led outreach services. These services will focus on individuals experiencing homelessness, mental health challenges, and/or substance use concerns. This initiative aims to improve access to care for vulnerable populations by providing timely, community-based interventions. It also reflects the shared commitment of both organizations to integrated person-centered service delivery.

## Additional Information

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

613-735-7288