

Council and Committee Monthly Summary

April 2026

Below you will find highlights of the County of Renfrew County Council and Committee meetings held April 8 and April 22, 2026.

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 [April 8, 2026](#) and [April 22, 2026](#) meetings are on YouTube.

Warden's Address

Key highlights

At the April 8 meeting, Warden Jennifer Murphy highlighted some of the events she attended since the last Council and Committee meetings:

- The opening of the Opeongo Heritage Cup hockey tournament in Madawaska Valley on March 27 along with MPP Billy Denault, MP Cheryl Gallant, and Chief Greg Sarazin of the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation. She noted the event continues to be a meaningful example of how community, culture, and tradition come together and bring many back to the Valley for the weekend.
- The swearing-in ceremony of the new council for the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation. She congratulated Chief Greg Sarazin on his re-election and congratulated new and returning members of Council. She was appreciative of the invitation to attend this significant event, calling the ceremony a powerful reminder of the importance of relationship building, recognition, and continued collaboration with Indigenous partners across the region.
- Warden Murphy acknowledged and thanked Minister Nina Tangri, Associate Minister of Small Business with the Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade, for her recent visit to Renfrew and Arnprior. During her visit, Minister Tangri toured the Enterprise Renfrew County office at Renfrew Town Hall, met with staff and elected officials, and visited several Starter Company Plus participant businesses in both Renfrew and Arnprior. MPP Billy Denault also attended. She expressed appreciation for the Minister's time and her interest in supporting local entrepreneurship and economic development in Renfrew County.

At the April 22 meeting, Warden Murphy highlighted her recent activities:

- Earlier in the morning, the Warden had the opportunity to provide opening remarks, alongside Pembroke Mayor Ron Gervais, at the Ontario Professional Foresters Association conference. She was able to highlight the work of the County Forester and staff in bringing this conference to Pembroke and extend a warm welcome to all the delegates and guests.
- She recently spoke to a Grade 10 class at Renfrew Collegiate Institute about the role of Warden. She noted the students were incredibly engaged and asked impressive, well thought out questions and she added she spotted some budding politicians in the group.

- The Warden was reappointed Chair of the Eastern Ontario Regional Network (EORN). She looks forward to her continued work with the group on behalf of the County of Renfrew and the broader eastern Ontario region. She was recently in Kingston for EORN business and appreciated the opportunity to work alongside municipal and regional partners on issues that matter to our communities, particularly around connectivity, economic development, and regional collaboration.
- Warden Murphy acknowledged the flooding currently impacting parts of the County of Renfrew and said her thoughts are with residents who are dealing with high water conditions and the challenges that they bring. She thanked Municipal and County staff, emergency management teams, and volunteers who are working together to monitor conditions, providing assistance where needed, and keeping communities informed during this time.
- The Warden noted [registration is open](#) for the Warden's Golf Tournament, which will take place on June 19 at the Whitetail Golf Club. Proceeds from the tournament will be donated to Renfrew County Food Banks.

Members' Written Motion

- Councillor Glenn Doncaster introduced a [written motion](#) about ALTO High-Speed Rail, which was approved by Council. Through the motion, County Council expressed its support for the ALTO High-Speed Rail project in the Quebec City-Toronto corridor as a nation-building initiative that would improve transportation, reduce travel times, lower greenhouse gas emissions, create jobs, and strengthen Canada's economy. Council encouraged the federal government and project leaders to carefully minimize impacts on residents, landowners, wildlife, and the environment while advancing the project. Council also supported continued funding, timely implementation, transparent decision-making, and ongoing community engagement and directed that the resolution be circulated to federal and provincial leaders, partner organizations, municipalities, and Indigenous stakeholders to demonstrate broad regional support.

Delegations

- At the April 8 session of County Council, Warden Jennifer Murphy presented a certificate to County Councillor David Shulist (Township of Madawaska Valley) to recognize his hard work and dedication along with many volunteers in the creation of the Opeongo Heritage Cup, an event which celebrates the rich hockey cultural heritage of the Ottawa Valley and marked its 20th anniversary at the end of March. In accepting the certificate, Councillor Shulist thanked Warden Murphy for being a part of the opening ceremony with the other leaders, as previously mentioned.
- At the April 8 meeting of County Council, representatives from the [Circle of Turtle Lodge](#) appeared as a delegation. The Circle of Turtle Lodge, an Indigenous-led charity serving Renfrew County, is seeking municipal support to advance reconciliation, cultural education, and community well-being. The request includes an allocation of municipally owned land near Pembroke (preferably near water) to establish an Indigenous Knowledge Centre and Council advocacy to Queen's Park for an additional Education Tax stream, allowing property owners to direct education taxes to Indigenous charities providing public cultural education. The Circle of Turtle Lodge has served the region since 1999 and works in partnership with local institutions, municipalities, and Indigenous organizations.

Community Services Committee

Presented by: Anne Giardini, Chair

- County Council adopted a by-law to enter into an agreement with Arcori Software Inc., Thunder Bay, Ontario, to support the County of Renfrew's Community Housing program, with the funds being taken from the Strategic Priorities Reserve for the implementation costs and, if required, from the Renfrew County Housing Corporation Operating Budget.
- County Council adopted a by-law to execute a Memorandum of Understanding with Renfrew Victoria Hospital and St. Francis Memorial Hospital for a one-year pilot of the Hospital-to-Home initiative, aimed at supporting low-income seniors by providing access to community housing with enhanced hospital-to-home services.
- County Council adopted a by-law to enter into a Municipal Partnership Agreement with the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation (AOPFN) to support an application to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' (FCM) Green Municipal Fund – Sustainable Municipal Buildings program for a feasibility study related to a proposed Cultural Centre.

Operations Committee

Presented by: Glenn Doncaster, Chair

- County Council endorsed the advancement of the Ottawa Valley Trade Corridor Improvement Project and directed staff to work with federal, provincial, and regional partners to pursue funding through the Government of Canada's Trade Diversification Corridors Fund for improvements to the Highway 17 corridor between Meath Hill and Deep River. Council further directed staff to prepare and submit the necessary expressions of interest, project documentation, and funding applications to position the project for federal investment. Council reaffirmed its support for strategic investments in the Highway 17 corridor as a critical component of Canada's national transportation and trade network and directed that the recommendation be circulated to all lower-tier municipal councils in the County of Renfrew, Garrison Petawawa, and Canadian Nuclear Laboratories for endorsement.
- County Council adopted the County Roundabout Implementation Framework; authorized feasibility studies for one urban location (Petawawa Boulevard in the Town of Petawawa or Daniel Street in the Town of Arnprior) and one rural location (Haley Station in the Township of Whitewater Region) directed staff to report back with operational modelling results, a lifecycle cost comparison, and a proposed funding strategy prior to any capital commitment.
- County Council adopted a by-law to execute a third one-year contract extension for pavement marking as submitted by Trillium Pavement Marking (TPM), Carleton Place, Ontario, dated February 11, 2026, in the amount of \$699,497.72, plus applicable taxes.
- In accordance with County Policy for Enhanced Traffic Warning Devices, the Township of McNab/Braeside submitted a request for the County to share the cost of permanently painting 40 km/h road markings on County Road 23 (Highland Road) and County Road 63 (Stewartville Road). The cost will be shared equally between the County and the Township. The requested markings will be installed when line-painting operations begin later in the season, and the Township will be billed for its share of the cost. The Township also requested the installation of centre-line bollards on each road. The County will cover 50% of the installation costs, while the Township will be responsible for ongoing maintenance and winter removal of the bollards.

- The Township of McNab/Braeside submitted a resolution requesting reconsideration of the planned temporary closure of County Structure B121 (Waba Creek Bridge) on County Road 2 (White Lake Road). The bridge, located approximately 0.8 km west of County Road 23 (Highland Road), is scheduled for rehabilitation during the upcoming construction season and requires extensive deck repairs. Due to the narrow width of the bridge, staged construction with traffic maintained is not feasible, making a temporary closure necessary. County staff worked with the design consultant to reduce impacts by limiting the closure to a maximum of eight weeks during the summer months to avoid affecting school bus routes. However, a temporary closure is required to ensure the completion of long-lasting repairs.
- The approved contracts/tenders were as follows:
 - For the upgrade of the lighting system at the White Water Road Patrol facility to Carter's Electrical Contracting, Westmeath, Ontario, in the amount of \$8,658.95, plus applicable taxes. Upon completion of the installation, Carter's Electrical Contracting will reimburse the County of Renfrew up to \$4,572 through the Ontario Save on Energy grant, as the Government of Ontario is offering businesses incentives to upgrade aging lighting systems.
 - For janitorial services for the Public Works and Engineering Patrol sites from Valley Pro Cleaning, Foresters Falls, Ontario, in the amount of \$45,579.88, plus applicable taxes. The contract provides professional deep cleaning services for a one-year term, with options to extend, enabling the County to address immediate health and safety concerns while assessing long-term service requirements.
 - For the supply and delivery of a side-by-side to support recreational trail maintenance and construction, as submitted by Pete's Sales and Service Limited, Pembroke, Ontario, in the amount of \$51,340.00, plus applicable taxes.
 - For manhole cover and catch basin cleaning to Clean Water Works Inc., Ottawa, Ontario, in the amount of \$38,296.50. The municipalities participating in this contract are the Townships of Admaston/ Bromley, Horton, and Whitewater Region.
 - For Signs, Traffic Control Equipment and Reflective Sheeting to Stinson Equipment Ltd., Markham, Ontario in the amount of \$47,863.50. The municipalities participating in this contract are the Towns of Laurentian Hills and Petawawa, and the Township of Greater Madawaska.
- Various contracts for the Rehabilitation of County Road 69 (Siberia Road), from Sunny Hill Road to Pipedream Road, Township of Madawaska Valley, a distance of 3.75 km, were awarded under delegated authority:
 - For the supply of Granular Material as submitted by Bonnechere Excavating Inc., Renfrew, Ontario, in the amount of \$227,350.00.
 - For in-place full depth reclamation of bituminous pavement as submitted by Greenwood Paving (Pembroke) Ltd., Pembroke, Ontario, in the amount of \$27,737.60
 - For the rehabilitation of the roadway as submitted by Bonnechere Excavating Inc., Renfrew, Ontario, in the amount of \$820,591.63.

Development & Property Committee

Presented by: James Brose, Vice-Chair

- County Council passed a resolution to issue a letter under the Warden's signature in support of the Township of McNab/Braeside's resolution, which requests that the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Gaming undertake a review and modernization of the Heritage Organization

Development Grant (HODG). The Heritage Organization Development Grant (HODG) is an annual operating grant of up to \$1,545 that supports more than 170 heritage organizations across the province in informing and educating the public about their community's history, however the grant has remained unchanged for over 15 years and no longer reflects increasing operating costs such as insurance, utilities, and record preservation.

- County Council adopted the updated Terms of Reference for the Renfrew County Agriculture Economic Development Committee as presented. At the February meeting of the Renfrew County Agriculture Economic Development Advisory Committee, the terms of reference were reviewed and updated to include the addition of new members, reflect changes in the election of the Chair and Vice-Chair positions, address quorum issues and clarify reporting.
- County Council enacted a by-law to adopt and approve Official Plan Amendment Number 49 (OPA 49) to the County of Renfrew Official Plan. The amendment allows the property owner to apply to the Township of McNab/Braeside for a minor variance to permit an additional dwelling unit on an existing undersized lot. The minor variance process could include the conditions and recommendations outlined in the planning justification study and the hydrogeological assessment submitted as part of the Official Plan Amendment application.
- Effective April 1, 2026, the [Centre for Workforce Development](#), located in Belleville, was selected by the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development to expand Local Board services by establishing an additional site for the Renfrew and Lanark area for the 2026-27 fiscal year. This change is a result of Algonquin College Pembroke Campus' decision to not enter into a new Local Board Transfer Payment Agreement beyond March 31, 2026, for what is now formerly known as the Labour Market Group of Renfrew/Lanark. Economic Development staff will be engaging with the Centre for Workforce Development to better understand what these changes mean for Renfrew and Lanark counties.
- The Tourism Industry Association of Canada (TIAC) has recently launched a [Local Impact dashboard](#), which includes tourism economic impact data at the federal electoral level. This new tool, which pulls data points from Statistics Canada and Tourism HR Canada, provides regions with updated information about the local tourism workforce and tourism business community. The [2025 data for Algonquin-Renfrew-Pembroke](#) notes 2,920 (6.38%) tourism workers across 547 tourism businesses.
- Renfrew County staff has identified an area of greenspace on County Administrative Building (CAB) property located at 7/9 International Drive as a suitable location for the proposed new Pembroke Paramedic Base, that would utilize the CAB greenspace area lying adjacent to International Drive and the Best Western property. Ongoing consultation regarding this property with the City has thus far proven fruitful.

Health Committee

Presented by: Michael Donohue, Chair

- Council received an update on the Mesa Mobile Outreach Team Program for 2025–26. Between June 1, 2025, and March 25, 2026, the program supported 343 unique clients through a coordinated, multidisciplinary approach addressing mental health, substance use, housing, and homelessness. Services included more than 1,540 community paramedic visits, responses to community calls, and 600 referrals to external supports. The program continues to play a key role in improving access to care for vulnerable residents and supporting client-centred, community-based health services across Renfrew County.

- The Community Paramedic Program, in partnership with the Renfrew County and District Health Unit, continues to support harm reduction through wellness clinics using a drug-checking machine. Eight clinics have been held across the county, reaching nine unique clients and testing 11 drug samples. The initiative provides low-barrier access to services, enhances individual safety, and helps improve awareness of local substance trends.

Corporate Services Committee

Presented by: Peter Emon, Chair

- County Council adopted a by-law to set tax ratios for County and lower-tier purposes for the year 2026. The Tax Ratio and Tax Rate By-laws were deferred to a special meeting held on March 25, 2026, to incorporate the optional Small-Scale On-Farm Business tax subclasses. The incorporation of these four subclasses only impacted the Tax Rates By-law, resulting in a shift in the tax burden from the small number of eligible properties to all other properties. For the residential class, this represented an increase of 0.00000023 in the tax rate, or approximately \$0.02 per \$100,000 of assessment in the County levy.
- County Council adopted a by-law to establish the 2026 tax rates for County of Renfrew purposes.
- County Council directed staff to transfer \$250,000 from the Winter Control Reserve into the Working Capital Reserve effective April 2026 and that staff be directed to develop a comprehensive Reserve Policy for Council consideration in 2026, outlining clear authority, objectives, criteria and processes for the Treasurer for the use and replenishment of all County Reserve accounts.
- The Chief Administrative Officer/Deputy Clerk provided a quarterly report for Q1 2026 which overviewed key activities, emerging pressures, and strategic progress during the first quarter of 2026.

Additional Information

Craig Kelley, Chief Administrative Officer/Deputy Clerk

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