

Council and Committee Monthly Summary

January 2026

Below you will find highlights of the County of Renfrew County Council and Committee meetings held January 14 and January 28, 2026 and the Budget Workshop on January 29.

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 [January 14, 2026](#), [January 28, 2026](#) and [January 29, 2026](#) meetings are on YouTube.

Warden's Address

Key highlights

- Warden Jennifer Murphy highlighted her return to the Eastern Ontario Warden's Caucus, which she called a driving force for regional advocacy, infrastructure investment, and sustainable growth across Eastern Ontario. She congratulated Bonnie Clark (County of Peterborough) on her acclamation as Chair of the EOWC and Warden Nathan Townend from Lennox & Addington on his election as Vice-Chair.
- She also reflected on the County of Renfrew's participation in the [2026 Rural Ontario Municipal Association \(ROMA\) Conference](#), noting the group contributed to the largest number of delegations ever hosted by ROMA. She noted the efforts at ROMA positioned the County of Renfrew for several promising opportunities, including potential funding announcements and enhancements to County programs and services. She believes the delegations truly resonated.
- The Warden highlighted her attendance at the Renfrew County Agriculture Wall of Fame induction dinner, which honours the extraordinary individuals and organizations who have shaped the heritage, innovation, and future of agriculture in our region. She thanked Councillor Neil Nicholson for presenting the awards to Wall inductees Tony Ruyter, Alex and Betty Briscoe, and the Renfrew North & South District Women's Institutes.

Delegations

- On January 14, Angela Rintoul, Dean, and Jodi Bucholtz, Manager of Community and Student Affairs, provided an update about the [Algonquin College Pembroke Campus](#). They highlighted strong local enrolment; a growing student population, including a diverse student body; program expansions; hands-on community partnerships and the regional impact of campus programs and partnerships that are strengthening Renfrew County's talent pipeline in healthcare, forestry, skilled trades, and environmental/technical fields.
- At the January 28 meeting, Dennis Carr, President & CEO and John Osborne, Vice-President and Chief Nuclear Officer, Canadian Nuclear Laboratories, provided an annual update about the Chalk River Laboratories, highlighting major projects, accomplishments and plans for the future. CNL employs 3,468 staff at Chalk River, contributing more than \$300 million in local salaries each year; it works with over 300 local suppliers, representing about \$75 million in regional spending and the organization supports over 125 student placements annually and contributes more than \$300,000 to community initiatives each year.

Throughout each Committee of the Whole meeting, members were provided with departmental updates highlighting strategic priorities and emerging pressures. These briefings served as a critical foundation for the decisions taken later in the month at the annual budget session.

Development & Property Committee

Presented by: James Brose, Chair

- Development and Property Committee approved the award to T.S. General Contracting, Pembroke, Ontario, for the conversion of the building at 224 Vimy Boulevard, Renfrew, Ontario, into a two-bedroom housing unit, in the amount of \$61,985.95, plus applicable taxes to be funded through the 2026 Capital Budget.
- County Council supported a resolution from the Town of Deep River, endorsing the Canadians for CANDU movement and advocating for the future use and deployment of Canadian nuclear energy, including Canadian-designed CANDU Reactors, associated medical isotopes, and Small Modular Reactors (SMRs).
- Late last year, the Manager of Economic Development met with staff from the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan Limited Partnership to review the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the County of Renfrew and the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation. The Limited Partnership is the economic development agency for the First Nation. The MOU outlines areas of collaboration, including work related to the CP Rail Trail (Algonquin Trail), Highway 17 extension, promoting Algonquin training opportunities through Enterprise Renfrew County, supporting Algonquin business and economic development and other agreed-upon priorities. Because the MOU was originally signed in 2016, staff is reviewing it to ensure it still reflects current collaborative goals. Any recommended updates will be brought back to Committee and Council at a future meeting.
- Ottawa Valley Tourist Association (OVTA) membership grew by 5.2% in 2025, with 17 new tourism businesses joining, bringing the total to 342 members. OVTA membership continues to be free for tourism businesses, organizations, and communities within Renfrew County, the City of Pembroke, and for Indigenous tourism operators in the Ottawa Valley. Businesses located outside these areas pay an annual fee. The OVTA currently has 10 paid members, contributing about \$1,600 per year in membership revenue.

Operations Committee

Presented by: Glenn Doncaster, Chair

- The Transportation Master Plan Report has been deferred until the first quarter of 2026 to allow for a more thorough review and discussion with local municipalities.
- County Council adopted a new by-law authorizing a speed-limit reduction on County Road 9 (Bulger Road) from 80 km/hr to 70km/hr between Highway 41 and civic address 2009. This is in the vicinity of Shaw Woods Outdoor Education Centre where there is already a Community Safety Zone in place.
- The approved contracts/tenders were as follows:
 - For White Water Road Patrol Radiant Tube Heaters as submitted by Brendon MacKay Plumbing & Heating Inc., Pembroke in the amount of \$34,380.00.
 - For the Supply and Delivery of Inhibited Calcium Chloride as submitted by Da-Lee Dust Control Ltd., Stoney Creek, Ontario in the amount of \$60,965.00.

- For a Four-Wheel Drive Front End Loader as submitted by J. R. Brisson Ltee. of Vars, Ontario in the amount of \$351,479.45 excluding applicable taxes.
- For the replacement of County Structure B103 (O'Grady Bridge), located on O'Grady Settlement Road, a distance of approximately 4.5 km west of County Road 512, in the Township of Killaloe, Hagarty and Richards, as submitted by Kehoe Marine Construction Ltd., Landsdowne, Ontario, in the amount of \$432,880.00, plus applicable taxes.
- For the replacement of County Structure B091 (Danny Constant Bridge), located on Constant Lake Road, a distance of approximately 1.8 km west of Highway 41, in the Township of Bonnechere Valley, as submitted by Kehoe Marine Construction Ltd., Landsdowne, Ontario, in the amount of \$458,830.00, plus applicable taxes.

Corporate Services Committee

Presented by: Peter Emon, Chair

- County Council approved a resolution which clarified the roles and duties of the Deputy Warden. The Deputy Warden's role is to support the Warden when needed. This includes representing the Warden at meetings or community events when the Warden is unavailable and helping with advocacy efforts at all levels of government. The Deputy Warden meets with the Warden regularly to stay informed about County matters. The role does not include automatic membership on committees or boards, and it does not give any extra authority beyond the responsibilities of a County Councillor. The Deputy Warden's role is not expected to result in additional costs.
- County Council adopted the revised by-law for the Remuneration of Members of the Council of the County of Renfrew effective January 1, 2026. The Council base remuneration includes the final of the four-year annual phase-in of \$1,573 to the base salary and the budgeted 2.0% Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) increase, adjusting the Council base remuneration to \$21,065. All resolution approved 2027 adjustments will be returned next year.

Health and Corporate Services Committees

The January meetings of these committees focused primarily on administrative updates and statutory requirements, with no significant strategic or policy matters brought forward for decision.

BUDGET MEETING

The annual budget meeting represented the culmination of several weeks of [detailed departmental presentations](#), financial analysis, and careful deliberation. This was one of the most challenging budgets the County has faced in recent years, as Council worked to balance significant cost pressures with the responsibility to maintain the essential services our residents rely upon. After thoughtful and, at times, difficult conversations, Council approved a [6.68% levy increase](#). The decision reflects a disciplined effort to protect core services, address infrastructure and service demands, and ensure the long-term financial stability of the County, while remaining mindful of the affordability concerns facing our community.

Additional Information

Craig Kelley, Chief Administrative Officer/Deputy Clerk

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