

# County Council Summary

## September 27, 2023

Below you will find highlights of the County of Renfrew County Council meeting from September 27, 2023.

Please note that this summary does not constitute the official record of the meeting and approved minutes should be consulted for that purpose.

The full [County Council package](#) can be found on our website.

[September meeting](#) YouTube link.

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## Warden's Address

### Key highlights

- The 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Warden's Golf Tournament was held on September 21, 2023, at Dragonfly Golf Links, with amazing weather and prizes. The Warden thanked those who supported the event through sponsorship, donations, golfing, or volunteering. The event raised \$4,500. The proceeds from the event are going to the Support for All Fund – Renfrew County 2023 Ontario Winter Games Legacy Fund and the new Renfrew County Housing and Homelessness Fund. See our [golf tournament media release](#).
- The County of Renfrew will be launching the annual Warden's Community Service Awards early next month with a call for nominations. These awards are a meaningful way to honour and thank Renfrew County residents for their community involvement and commitment. The awards are presented in three categories – individual, not-for-profit business, and for-profit business. The nominations will be reviewed by a committee comprised of Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk Craig Kelley, one member of County Council and the Warden and are considered based on the criteria that defines how they contribute to the County of Renfrew's quality of life. The awards will be presented at the November 29, 2023, session of County Council.
- National Day for Truth and Reconciliation is to be observed annually on September 30. The day honours the children who never returned home and survivors of residential schools, as well as their families and communities. Public commemoration of the tragic and painful history and ongoing impacts of residential schools is a vital component of the reconciliation process.
- The Huron County Road Supervisors Association hosted the 28th Association of Ontario Supervisors (AORS) Provincial Safety Truck Rodeo on Wednesday, September 20, 2023 at the Eastlink Arena in Clinton, Ontario. Operator Lonnie Liedtke of the Southwest Patrol placed third.

During the month of September, Warden Peter Emon attended 12 meetings on County business.

- From September 6-8 the Warden attended the Ontario East Municipal Conference where he and the Director of Emergency Services provided a presentation on the history and importance of the Renfrew County Virtual Triage and Assessment Centre (RC VTAC). On behalf of the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus, he also presented an update on the '7 in 7' Regional Housing Plan.

- On September 13, during Welcoming Week 2023, he attended the Canadian Citizenship Reaffirmation Ceremony at the Petawawa Civic Centre, along with Mayor Gary Serviss. Welcoming Week celebrates the spirit of unity, diversity, and the strong bond between Canada and its citizens.
- On September 15, the Warden and Councillor Murphy attended the ROMA Board of Directors meeting.

## Delegations

- Peter Seeman and Artem Chaplynsky of Grassroots Public Affairs and Pembroke and Area Airport Commission Chair Allan Wren were on hand to provide an update on airport operations. They also requested to open the dialogue between the Commission and the County of Renfrew to tap into the potential of the facility to create a strong regional asset to benefit everyone in the County.
- Jodi Bucholtz, Manager Local Immigration Partnership – Lanark & Renfrew, provided an overview of the Eastern Ontario Immigrant Attraction and Retention Strategy.
- Aimee Bailey of Circle of Turtle Lodge and her sister Annie Parker were on hand for a Truth and Reconciliation recognition event at the Noojimokamig [new-JIH-mah GAH-mig] Garden. She led a tobacco ceremony for members of County Council and County staff, where participants were asked to offer prayers to the Creator and show their respect for the children who did not make it home from Residential Schools ahead of the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation on September 30. An orange flag was raised outside the County Administration Building as part of the ceremony.

## Announcements

- Councillor Gary Serviss provided notice that in October he will be bringing forward a Motion to Rescind, as per Section 65 of the Procedural By-law, the decision made by Council with respect to the formula for the billing of the new Fire Dispatch System. He noted this motion is being made in light of new information that has become available to the Town of Petawawa and Town of Deep River.
- Warden Peter Emon declared his intention to run again as Warden for the 2024 term of Council. He will be submitting his official paperwork by the November 28 deadline, which is 14 days prior to the December inaugural meeting of County Council.

## Finance & Administration Committee

### Presented by: Jennifer Murphy, Chair

- Jeffrey Foss, Director of Corporate Services/Treasurer provided notice of his retirement effective December 15, 2023. Jeff joined the County of Renfrew on November 9, 1998 and has over 25 years of providing sound financial advice to staff and elected.
- Laura LePine, Director of Community Services, provided notice of her retirement effective January 12, 2024. Laura joined the County of Renfrew on October 13, 1998 and has been an integral part of the transformation of the department.

- Council reviewed an update from the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) advising that on August 16, 2023 the Ontario Government filed Regulation 261/23 under the *Assessment Act* to extend the current assessment cycle, and the valuation date of January 1, 2016, through to the end of the 2024 taxation year.
- County Council approved that StrategyCorp Inc. be enlisted to provide an update to the 2020 Service Delivery Review, at an estimated quotation of \$30,555 (excluding HST), as a strategic review of the County's organizational structure.
- County Council approved the 2024 Budget Guideline with a 3% annual levy target increase. The two-day budget workshop is scheduled for January 24 and 25, 2024. County Council will hold a special meeting November 9, 2023, where staff will present an update on the County's Asset Management Plan including asset condition ratings, 10-year capital plans and the Long-term Financial Plan.

## Community Services Committee

The September committee meeting was cancelled.

## Development & Property Committee

Presented by: James Brose, Chair

- The Economic Development Division is collaborating with Renfrew County Community Futures Development Corporation (RCCFDC) to undertake a strategic planning exercise for the creation of a new three-year economic development strategic plan for the region. This strategic planning partnership exercise provides the Economic Development Division with cost savings in consultant fees, while reducing redundancies in surveys, interviews, outreach and research with the local business and municipal sectors.
- As part of the Ottawa Valley Tourist Association's (OVTA) travel trade efforts promoting La Route Champlain itinerary, two familiarization tours are scheduled/occurred highlighting various experiences and tourism operators along the route, including:
  - [Salut Canada](#) (Francophone tourism portal) – Sept 6-9, 2023: OWL Rafting, Whitewater Inn and Valley Cycle Tours, Bonnechere Caves, Driftwood Provincial Park, Somewhere Inn Calabogie and The Nook Creperie.
  - [Faszination](#) (German tour operator) – Oct 3-5, 2023: Somewhere Inn Calabogie, Eagle's Nest Calabogie, Bonnechere Caves and Spectacle Lake Lodge.These two opportunities are a direct result of the OVTA's membership with Ontario's Highlands Tourism Organization's Travel Trade Partnership.
- Enterprise Renfrew County, in partnership with Renfrew County Community Futures Development Corporation, is hosting [Bridges to Better Business](#), a series of in-person and virtual workshops and training opportunities during Small Business Week in October.
- Progress continues as the first, second and third level walls and roofing are framed on the multi-unit affordable and supportive housing complex at the corner of Lea and Douglas Streets in Pembroke, Ontario. A [Zencity](#) webpage for the project, featuring construction updates, provides the viewer with a description of the project along with progress images.

- At the August 30, 2023 session of County Council there was a question regarding prime agricultural mapping. The areas designated as prime agricultural areas in the County of Renfrew Official Plan are identified in accordance with policies, guidelines and information from the Province through the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA). The County (and all local municipalities) are required to designate and protect areas that have been identified as meeting the classification for “prime agricultural areas” in accordance with Section 2.3.1 of the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS).
- County Council passed a resolution authorizing County staff to work with the Pembroke and Area Airport Commission and its selected consultant to assist with their strategic economic development efforts and bring back a report to County Council. The Pembroke and Area Airport is operated by the six partner municipalities who are the Towns of Petawawa, Deep River, and Laurentian Hills, the Townships of Laurentian Valley and Whitewater Region and the City of Pembroke. All partnering municipalities have members on the Pembroke and Area Airport Commission, in addition to Garrison Petawawa as a non-voting member.
- County Council passed a resolution directing staff to work with the Town of Renfrew to develop the concept of a modular seniors’ village at Bonnechere Manor and bring back options, including funding, to Council for consideration.
- County Council passed a resolution directing staff, in partnership with the Town of Deep River, to present and negotiate an offer to purchase the former Keys Public School property for the purpose of community and/or residential use.

## Health Committee

### Presented by: Michael Donohue, Chair

- County Council passed a resolution directing staff to draft a Terms of Reference and investigate funding options to create a mobile Health/Support Hub to present at the October Health Committee meeting for approval.
- County Council adopted a By-Law authorizing the Warden and CAO/Clerk to sign a renewal of the Agreement between the County of Renfrew Paramedic Service and Arnprior Regional Health to deploy Paramedics in the Emergency Department.
- County Council adopted a By-law to amend amended Agreement between the County of Renfrew, and Ontario Health for funding to support the Renfrew County Virtual Triage and Assessment Centre for the term April 1, 2023, and ending on March 31, 2024, to include additional funding for physician compensation in the amount of \$1,316,250, for total of \$4,416,250.
- County Council adopted a By-law authorizing the Warden and CAO/Clerk to sign a Memorandum of Understanding between the County of Renfrew and the Petawawa Centennial Family Health Team (PCFHC) for administration of the Integrated Virtual Care (IVC) component of the VTAC program to provide attachment for previously unattached patients and provide physician services to the VTAC and IVC program.

# Operations Committee

## Presented by: Councillor Dan Lynch

- Staff has been directed to develop a policy for the purpose of naming bridges within the County of Renfrew. The impetus coming from the fact that the bridges and large culverts throughout the County of Renfrew, for the most part, are named after local landmarks, e.g., Ski Hill Bridge on County Road 58 (Round Lake Road) in reference to the community of Alice's downhill ski facility which is no longer in existence.
- In early May, County staff was made aware of a culvert in a failed state condition under McMahan Road, 0.18 kilometres east of Ferguslea Road, Township of Admaston/Bromley. The culvert is not a County Structure; however, it does have a span of 3 metres. In June County Council approved the assumption of the McMahan Road Culvert and that the cost be shared equally between the County and Township. The design for McMahan Road Culvert has been completed by the County staff and shared with staff of the Township of Admaston/Bromley for approval to proceed. It is currently estimated that the overall replacement can be completed for less than \$200,000, including design and construction, which would be shared equally between the County and the Township. In an effort to expedite the project and realize savings, the County would proceed with replacement utilizing the County Day Labour Construction forces. As McMahan Road Culvert is in a failed state condition and requires replacement this year, staff was directed to proceed with the replacement of the culvert under the 2023 Capital Budget in the estimated amount of \$100,000 for the County portion of the project costs.
- County Council adopted a By-law to acquire property described as part of Lot 26, Concession 14, Part 6 on Plan 49R-20186 in the geographic Township of Sebastopol, Township of Bonnechere Valley, from Andrew Leight and Sally Leight for the sum of \$2,000. This purchase is to facilitate the reconstruction and widening of County Road 512 (Foymount Road).

## Additional Information

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

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