

COUNTY OF RENFREW

DEVELOPMENT AND PROPERTY DEPARTMENT REPORT

TO: Development and Property Committee

FROM: Craig Kelley, Director of Development and Property

DATE: August 11, 2020

SUBJECT: Department Report

INFORMATION

1. **June Financial Statements**

As directed by County Council, the Treasurer's Report is to be provided on a quarterly basis from January to September. Accordingly, Appendix I is a copy of the June 2020 Treasurer's Report for the Development and Property Department and will be emailed prior to the meeting.

2. **Algonquin Land Claim Mail Out**

Attached as Appendix II is an email from Keith Clark, Policy/Liaison Officer for the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry thanking staff for their assistance in a recent mail-out to property owners within the County of Renfrew who have interests in the proposed Algonquin settlement lands.

3. **Renfrew Agricultural Society**

Attached as Appendix III is a letter from Judy Dobec, General Manager for the Renfrew Agricultural Society advising the County that the Society has been impacted by COVID-19 and is now at risk of remaining sustainable. The Renfrew Agricultural Society is requesting financial support from the County of Renfrew.

4. **Helping Small Business Survive**

Attached as Appendix IV is a letter that was received from the Antler's which expresses their concerns on the future of their small business along with a request for assistance to remain operational.

5. **Broadband Update**

At the June 24, 2020 County Council meeting, staff was directed to undertake a review of broadband services in the County of Renfrew and then bring back a report to the Development and Property Committee for further discussion along with the October 30, 2019 letter that the County sent to Warden J. Murray Jones, Chair of the Eastern Ontario Regional Network (EORN), now attached as Appendix V.

Throughout the past several weeks, County staff have engaged in conversations and webinars with EORN to learn more about the Gigabyte project, and the Improving Connectivity for Ontario (ICON) program that was launched for applications in July with an impending deadline of August 21, 2020. (<https://news.ontario.ca/moi/en/2020/07/ontario-expanding-access-to-the-modern-digital-economy.html>) EORN will not be making an application to this round of funding, instead they are focusing on the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) funding that will be made available later this year. With only \$150 million available to projects, the EORN project far exceeds the limits of possible funding. The most recent update from EORN is available as Appendix VI (from webinar). EORN representatives will be available to speak to County Council in September.

Upon review of the ICON program, County staff also considered other proposals for internet expansion projects throughout Ontario. There are a few examples of communities that have taken a lead role in larger projects, but nothing like the scale of "powering up" an entire county. The documents from EORN suggest that over \$50 million would be required to provide 50/10Mbps to all homes in Renfrew County, and that a 75% subsidy would be required to do so. To provide a 1Gbps, or fiber to home, the costs balloon to over \$210 million. Staff considered the implications of issuing a request for proposal with limited funds and have suggested to instead

support the internet providers (now referred to as TSPs, or Telecom Service Providers) that are active in our area as Community Partners for an ICON funding application that they may be making. Concurrently, we are working with municipalities to identify areas of concern and relaying those to the local TSPs with the hope that they identify these areas with their own local business cases. In September, staff will have a better understanding of those TSPs that are making ICON applications and the areas that they are endeavouring to serve.

For Committee's information, the mapping of local internet availability is available here: <https://www.ic.gc.ca/app/sitt/bbmap/hm.html?lang=eng>. It should be noted that some technologies (wireless, satellite) may not be mapped as they are line of site specific and more difficult to identify.

6. Residential and Condo Sale Statistics

Attached as Appendix VII are the statistics for the residential and condo sales for all the municipalities within the County of Renfrew.

7. Economic Development Division

Attached as Appendix VIII is the Economic Development Division Report, prepared by Mr. Alastair Baird, Manager of Economic Development, providing an update on activities.

8. Ottawa Valley Tourist Association

Attached as Appendix IX is the Ottawa Valley Tourist Association Report, prepared by Mr. Alastair Baird, Manager of Economic Development, providing an update on activities.

9. Enterprise Renfrew County

Attached as Appendix X is the Enterprise Renfrew County Report, prepared by Mr. Alastair Baird, Manager of Economic Development, providing an update on activities.

10. Forestry and GIS Division

Attached as Appendix XI is the Forestry and GIS Division Report, prepared by Mr. Jason Davis, Manager of Forestry and GIS, providing an update on activities.

11. Real Property Assets Division

Attached as Appendix XII is the Real Property Assets Division Report, prepared by Mr. Kevin Valiquette, Manager of Real Property Assets, providing an update on activities.

12. Planning Division

Attached as Appendix XIII is the Planning Division Report, prepared by Mr. Charles Cheesman, Manager of Planning Services, providing an update on activities.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIVISION REPORT

Prepared by: Alastair Baird, Manager of Economic Development

Prepared for: Development and Property Committee

August 11, 2020

INFORMATION

1. Sprott School of Business/Sprott Consulting Project Assistance

Staff are assisting with two projects the Sprott Consulting group are conducting in the County by providing data on recent resort developments, demographics and statistics, and tourism industry information and perspectives. The first project, a feasibility study of a tourism resort and equestrian community development concept, is being conducted for the investment group who are considering moving the project forward. The second is an assessment of the marketing and delivery of the Algonquin College Outdoor Adventure and Outdoor Naturalist programs to suggest how the college can sustain and grow student registrations in these programs. This study is being carried out on behalf of the college.

2. Site Search for Food Processing Facility

Staff have surveyed the County for suitable buildings in response to a request from a manufacturer considering expansion.

3. Taste of the Valley and Farmers Markets

Staff continue to assist Taste of the Valley host municipalities and coordinators with information on how other food events and venues are managing COVID-19 precautionary measure implementations, and the consumer response and participation in events and farmers markets. This is an area of concern for all vendors and market managers, and an ever changing and evolving environment as decisions are made to operate or not, and if so, how to meet health unit food safety and human health concerns.

4. **Renfrew County Economic Task Force Enterprise Renfrew County Business Recovery Fund**

Economic Development and Enterprise Renfrew County staff provided one-on-one consultations with 43 local businesses who were seeking information and guidance on how to apply to the COVID-19 Business Recovery Fund program.

Mr. Kelley will provide a presentation summary on the Renfrew County Task Force meeting of August 6, 2020.

5. **Multi-Unit Residential Building Housing (MURB) Investor**

Business Development Officer David Wybou assisted an investor considering a new MURB investment by providing population statistics and projections and demographic statistics and also presented an overview of similar successful projects delivered across the County.

6. **Assistance to Local Food Processors with Applications to Ontario Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) Funding**

Business Development Officer David Wybou assisted two local food processors with OMAFRA applications which may provide essential funding to support facility upgrades and service delivery enhancements.

7. **Toronto Star Newspaper and Horizon Magazine Campaign**

Economic Development Services has developed an advertorial story to attract new residents, business investment and visitors. This is to capitalize on the much increased interest from residents of large urban areas for rural living and vacation property and for opportunities to move a business operation out of regions where the COVID-19 crisis was very damaging and challenging for business and for workforce retention. The campaign launches in mid-August with a full page spread in Horizon Magazine and with an additional 100,000 issues of the magazine inserted in Toronto Star newspaper distribution to their highest household income subscribers across the Greater Toronto Area.

Additionally, a tourism promotional video featuring the Ottawa Valley and Renfrew County will be screened frequently over August and September on the two-sided large outdoor screen at Yonge-Dundas Square in Toronto. These initiatives are partially supported by the Tourism Recovery Fund program.

8. **Business Closures and Openings**

Summarized from the March 17th beginning of the COVID-19 crisis here are some statistics of interest:

Businesses closed:	17
Job losses resulting directly from business closures:	88
Businesses still operating but have given up physical space:	3
New businesses created and operating:	15

OTTAWA VALLEY TOURIST ASSOCIATION REPORT

Prepared by: Alastair Baird, Manager of Economic Development

Prepared for: Development and Property Committee

August 11, 2020

INFORMATION

1. **Ottawa Valley Love Letter Video**

The Ottawa Valley Tourist Association (OVTA) in partnership with Ontario's Highlands Tourism Organization (OHTO) recently launched "To My Home, With Love", a video which was released in July on OVTA social channels:

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/ottawavalleytravel/videos/282867182772048/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/p/CCqifFAAJCc/>

The video is part of our Ottawa Valley Love Letter campaign recognizing our forests, rivers, lakes and communities as what makes our region so special and such a great place for locals to explore and experience more fully. This is the first phase of our return to tourism marketing which begins at the hyper-local level targeting residents of Renfrew County. This message will also resonate very well with tourists from around the world so the produced content will have marketing and promotional applications far into the future as the COVID-19 crisis fades into memory.

The second aspect of the campaign is an Instagram contest to encourage residents to share their love of the Ottawa Valley using the hashtag #OVLoveLetter. [See post](#) for more details about the campaign.

This campaign was very well received over an area and social network span much wider than just the Ottawa Valley. A number of local realtors are planning to use the video content in their marketing and sales efforts to attract home buyers.

2. **Phase 2: Ottawa Valley Love Letter**

Phase 2 of our video and social media campaign is presently in production, with a planned mid to late August release. This phase will be directed at tourists from beyond the Ottawa Valley across eastern Ontario, the Near North and to the Greater Toronto Area and Golden Horseshoe regions. It will draw attention to our waterways, boating and fishing, whitewater rafting and other regional attractions of the Ottawa Valley. This campaign is coordinated with the gradual re-opening program of the Province of Ontario, extending our marketing message delivery as the Province encourages gradually expanding travel distances for Ontario residents.

3. **OVTA Board of Directors**

The OVTA Board of Directors were voted in at the Annual General Meeting held on July 6, 2020 via Zoom.

Directors for the 2020-2021 term are:

- Marc Bru, Square Timber Brewing Company
- Victoria Charbonneau, Town of Renfrew (maternity leave)
- Sean Dennison, Ry-J's Climbing Adventures
- Glenn Doncaster, County of Renfrew appointed Councillor
- Chris Hinsperger, (Past-President) Bonnechere Caves
- Meghan James, Best Western Pembroke Inn and Conference Centre
- Kim Love, County of Renfrew appointed Councillor
- Sharon Mahussier, Spectacle Lake Lodge
- Elijah McKeown, City of Pembroke appointed staff representative
- Lauren McIlfaterick, Heliconia
- Chris Melmoth, Algonquin College Pembroke
- Geoff Patterson, Township of McNab/Braeside
- Angela Siebarth, Champlain Trail Museum and Pioneer Village
- City of Pembroke appointed Councillor (seat vacant)

The OVTA Board of Directors re-appointed Chris Melmoth as President and Marc Bru as Vice-President for the term.

4. Free Annual Membership in OVTA

The decision by the Board to provide free 2020/2021 membership for all OVTA member businesses and organizations has been very positively received by members. This decision was made based on two key factors. Firstly, to truly represent all tourism businesses of the Ottawa Valley, a membership structure inhibited the ability of OVTA to properly and reasonably support and market the non-member businesses. Board and County staff have been discussing this issue for several years. Secondly, the COVID-19 crisis and its devastating effects on all aspects of the tourism sector, compelled the Board to take this small, but positive, step to reduce the financial burden on our tourism businesses. It will also enable the OVTA to expand the membership base so that we truly encompass and represent all tourism in the Ottawa Valley. Fiscally, with some recent significant funding successes and strong fiscal management, the OVTA is in a position to continue to expand and enhance tourism marketing and fulfill our mandate of attracting visitors to the Ottawa Valley.

5. Recent Funding Successes

The OVTA has been successful application for funding resulting in \$19,000 in support of two projects:

a) ValleyExplore.com

The OVTA has hired a trails consultant, Sachin Sethi, of Prakriti Outdoors, who is a recent graduate of the Algonquin College Outdoor Adventure Naturalist (ODAN) program. He is contracted to survey, GIS plot and map the routes and key points of interest and to take promotional photographs of all our hiking, mountain biking, ski and snowshoe, paddle, naturalist and heritage trails and routes. His work will further develop updated web, mobile and print friendly route descriptions and maps to enhance this key outdoor adventure product. He will also create social media posts as he travels our trails and routes to share the information about this very significant and much used tourism product.

b) Tourism Industry and Stakeholder Survey/Consultations and Strategy Development

This major project to assist OVTA to effectively represent and support our tourism industry and communities is being delivered by DestinationNext, highly recommended tourism sector consultants who have done this type of work for regions across Canada and the United States. All tourism industry and stakeholder groups will be surveyed by email and targeted representative tourism businesses will be interviewed by video conference. They will be engaged on questions and discussion of: the local tourism market gaps; strengths and opportunities; damages, harm and future outlook resulting from the COVID-19 crisis; the level of knowledge of the OVTA and its mandate, structure, activities and performance; and the ideas and views the respondents have about the future of tourism in the Ottawa Valley, markets to pursue and general future prospects. The results will be discussed by tourism business leaders and then by the Board, led by the DestinationNext team, and a strategy for OVTA tourism operations and marketing will be developed to guide the next five years.

ENTERPRISE RENFREW COUNTY REPORT

Prepared by: Alastair Baird, Manager of Economic Development

Prepared for: Development and Property Committee

August 11, 2020

INFORMATION

1. Summer Company 2020

Six students from across the Ottawa Valley were successful in earning a Summer Company award to run their own business during the summer. The Summer Company Program is funded by the Ontario Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade for students aged 15-29 and is delivered by Enterprise Renfrew County.

The Summer Company 2020 student entrepreneurs are:

- a) Casey Asselin, owner of Chorally Creative located in the Township of McNab/ Braeside. Casey creates special order and one-of-a-kind crochet blankets along with a variety of smaller items. If you have an idea for a blanket but no pattern, Chorally Creative can produce the pattern and customize the item for you. Casey can be contacted at: 613-804-0141 or caseyasselin@ymail.com.
- b) Keanna MacKinnon operates Valley Grocery Delivery located in the Township of Laurentian Valley. Keanna provides two options to clients: Valley Grocery Delivery will shop for your groceries and deliver them or, if you would rather put in your order directly to the store, Valley Grocery Delivery will pick up your order and safely complete a contactless delivery to your front porch. Keanna can be contacted at 613-602-5968 or valleydelivery@icloud.com.
- c) Mason Godin, owner of Mason's Lawn Care located on the outskirts of the City of Pembroke. Mason's Lawn Care will complete all your lawn maintenance, from cutting and raking to weeding your flower or vegetable gardens. Mason can be contacted at 613-602-3760 or masondlogodin@gmail.com.

- d) Maiya Dalton, owner of Maiya D Apparel located in the Township of Laurentian Valley. Maiya D Apparel is an environmentally conscious business which embraces keeping good quality clothing out of the landfill site and gives clothing a second chance at life. She adds embellishments and creates a modern look to some of the clothing. Maiya sells vintage and used clothing on her online Depop and Poshmark shops. You can contact Maiya at 613-717-1700 or maiya.d.apparel@gmail.com.
- e) Ryan Lapping, owner of Lapping Lawn Care located in the Town of Deep River. Ryan provides complete lawn maintenance, he will haul away debris and complete odd jobs. Contact Ryan at: 613-633-3813 or ryanlapp12@hotmail.com.
- f) Isaac Young, owner of Backyard Builder located in the Town of Arnprior. Isaac builds a variety of handcrafted wooden pieces created for the homeowner who is looking for quality made items for their home, cottage or business. He handcrafts garden boxes and picnic tables from locally grown white cedar. Isaac offers contactless curbside pick-up or delivery. Contact Isaac at 613-622-0185 or masteriny04@gmail.com.

The Summer Company Program has guided over 141 young entrepreneurs to business success in Renfrew County and has proven itself to be extremely worthwhile training.

2. **Starter Company Plus Program Training Underway with 12 Clients**

Business Development Officer Colleen Sadler and Program Officer Kim Fraser are assisting 12 Starter Company Plus clients through the four month training, coaching and mentoring cycle. This program has involved quite a high level of personal interaction with the clients, staff and business trainers, local legal insurance and accounting professionals and volunteer business coaches. In the COVID-19 environment Enterprise Renfrew County (ERC) staff have modified and enhanced the program to put it all on-line and create more live interactive video training and packaged static video training content. Some of the new training materials and content are

also being utilized in our Summer Company training and has proved very effective.

3. **Assistance for Agri-businesses from Starter Company Plus Program Client**

Melanie Dick of Douglas is presently in our Starter Company Plus Program which assists entrepreneurs to develop and operate a full-time year 'round business. She has graciously offered her business expertise and marketing/grant writing skills to assist local farmers to access various grants to help them grow and prosper. She has also teamed up with Zach Remus and Sebastian Baum, co-owners of Revel Marketing Agency based in Burnstown and a past Summer Company program participant, to add more value and marketing content development to assist local agri-businesses and to design marketing strategies with them. Attached as Appendix ERC-I is an article about Revel Marketing Agency.

4. **ERC Delivering COVID-19 Crisis Business Assistance Fund**

In support of the Warden's Renfrew County Economic Task Force and the City of Pembroke, ERC is delivering the unique Renfrew County/City of Pembroke COVID-19 Business Assistance Fund. The program, developed specifically to address the challenges faced by County businesses as they adjust and enhance their business operations to respond to the severe challenges imposed by the precautionary measures, will provide up to \$5,000 as a non-repayable loan to qualified businesses. Applications have been received from 124 businesses in all sectors from across the County. Another 43 applications were received from the City of Pembroke. The Warden, Mayor and Economic Task Force will soon be announcing the successful applicant businesses.

FORESTRY AND GIS DIVISION REPORT

Prepared by: Jason Davis, Manager of Forestry and GIS

Prepared for: Development and Property Committee

August, 11, 2020

INFORMATION

1. Forestry Activities

(a) Below is the Forestry Activity Tracker information for the months of June and July 2020:

June Summary	County Forester Hours	County Forester %	Forestry & Trails Tech. Hours	Forestry & Trails Tech. %
Management of County Forests	127	86	21	14
Industry Support	0	0	0	0
Species at risk	0	0	0	0
Trails	0	0	126	86
GIS	N/A	N/A	0	0
Municipal Support	0	0	0	0
Education & Public	14	10	0	0
Learning/Conference/Workshop	0	0	0	0
Admin/Other	6	4	0	0
Total	147	100	147	100

July Summary	County Forester Hours	County Forester %	Forestry & Trails Tech. Hours	Forestry & Trails Tech. %
Management of County Forests	129	90	0	0
Industry Support	0	0	0	0
Species at risk	0	0	0	0
Trails	0	0	154	100
GIS	N/A	N/A	0	0
Municipal Support	0	0	0	0
Education & Public	3	2	0	0
Learning/Conference/Workshop	8	6	0	0
Admin/Other	4	2	0	0
Total	144	100	154	100

(b) Gypsy Moth, an invasive defoliating moth that targets oak, maple, poplar, birch and willow, but also impacts other species, is present at moderate to high levels in areas of the County. The most impacted area this year seems to be Greater Madawaska, but also has been observed near Killaloe, Deacon, and Dacre. At this time, females are laying egg masses that will emerge a new crop of caterpillars next year. Defoliation will not kill a healthy tree in one year, but causes stress which may be compounded by drought. Multiple years of defoliation can lead to tree death. If municipalities/landowners wish to take action in their areas, surveying for egg mass levels and evaluating whether a spray program should be explored for the spring of 2021. On a small scale, landowners can also scrape off/destroy egg masses this summer/fall to reduce population for 2021, and trap/destroy caterpillars in spring. More information is available here:

<https://www.invasivespeciescentre.ca/invasive-species/meet-the-species/invasive-insects/gypsy-moth/>

(c) 2020 operations are still ongoing. Harvest and hauling are complete at Elliot and Simpson Pit tracts. Harvest and hauling are now underway at Opeongo and Beachburg Tracts.

2. **Weeds**

The County Weed Inspector has responded to 12 inquiries regarding Wild Parsnip, Giant Hogweed and Japanese Knotweed throughout the County. Staff supported the Public Works and Engineering Department in the summer spraying to control hazardous plants along County properties.

3. **KandP Trail**

In February, the Development and Property Committee was advised that staff would be submitting an Ontario Rural Economic Development (RED) application. The County of Renfrew was successful in their RED funding application for improvements for the KandP Recreational Trail to a maximum of \$65,000. The proposed work includes ditching, brushing, grading, compaction and aggregate application on the KandP Recreational Trail.

The County of Renfrew Warden and Chief Administrative Officer, under By-law Number 33-20 being a By-law to delegate Council's authority, passed a By-law to execute an agreement with Her Majesty the Queen in Right of the Province of Ontario as represented by the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs for the Province of Ontario – Rural Economic Development (RED) Program.

The County of Renfrew has agreed to provide funding equivalent to 70% up to a maximum amount of \$45,500, with the remainder of the funding (\$19,500) to be provided by the Province of Ontario. This project funding must be used by 2023. The County portion of the project funds will come from the existing KandP Recreational Trail budget.

REAL PROPERTY ASSETS DIVISION REPORT

Prepared by: Kevin Valiquette, Manager of Real Property Assets

Prepared for: Development and Property Committee

August 11, 2020

INFORMATION

1. Real Property – Projects Update

Attached as Appendix RP-I is a summary report of all projects currently underway that involve the Real Property Assets Division. Details on each project are included in the comments section.

2. Real Property – 2020 Capital Projects

Attached as Appendix RP-II is a summary report of all capital projects approved in the 2020 budget.

3. Service Delivery Improvement Project

The General Contractor Jumecc has been mobilized and on site since the last week in June. Safety and COVID-19 protocols are in place. Phase 1 of the project has been initialized with construction areas hoarded off. Phase 1 is the east wing renovation for the Development and Property and Public Works and Engineering Departments as well as the Hard Rock Café and Front Reception area. This area is to be complete by October 1, 2020.

- Demolition is 90% complete.
- Electrical and mechanical rough ins as well as the new floor layouts have been started.
- Ramp at the front entrance has been removed.
- Preparations for steel beams and columns for new reception area underway.

Phase 1B which is the new courtroom area was started on August 4. This area was previously the classroom area leased by the Renfrew County and District Health Unit. This area was turned over to the County on August 1 as

part of a renegotiated lease agreement. The Courtroom area is expected to be completed in December. The lease at the present Courtroom location expires December 31, 2020.

4. Furniture Procurement Request for Proposal

A Request for Proposal (RFP) for Furniture Supply and Installation was initiated July 28, 2020. The RFP is for interior work stations required for the new floor layouts in the Service Delivery Improvement Process as well as furniture for the new collaboration area. Funds were budgeted for this as part of the approved project budget. The RFP closes on August 11, 2020 and a recommendation will be brought to Council on August 26, 2020.

5. New Pylon Sign – County Administration Building, 9 International Drive

As part of the 2020 Capital Budget, \$50,000 was allocated for a new pylon sign with an electronic reader board. A Request for Proposal was initiated on July 7, 2020 with a closing date of July 23, 2020. The RFP also included a request for directory signs for 7 and 9 International Drive to identify the various department locations. Seven submissions were received and are currently being evaluated and scored.

6. POA Leased Space – 141 Lake Street

The Development and Property Department received a request from the Landlord at 141 Lake Street about the possibility of sharing the Provincial Offences Administration (POA) washrooms with the Renfrew County and District Health Unit for the period of October 31 to December 31, 2020. The renovation project at that facility has run into concrete slab issues that will challenge the November 1, 2020 occupancy date for the Health Unit. The lease for POA expires December 31, 2020 at 141 Lake Street with a timeline to move into the County Administration Building in the middle of December.

The County has agreed to make every effort to accommodate this request. The October 31, 2020 date for the Health Unit to vacate this building is a critical time frame in our construction project to allow work to begin for the new Social Services Department in that area. If this is delayed there will be

additional lease costs for the Social Services Department with their existing Landlords as well as the potential for delay claims from the General Contractor.

PLANNING DIVISION REPORT

Prepared by: Charles Cheesman, MCIP, RPP, Manager of Planning Services

Prepared for: Development and Property Committee

August 11, 2020

INFORMATION

1. Planning Division Activity Tracker

Attached as Appendix PLAN-I are the Activity Trackers for June and July 2020. In June, the Planning Division opened 4 new severance applications and prepared 15 planning checklists for general inquiries (pre-consultations). In July, 5 new severance applications were opened and 8 planning checklists were prepared.

For the period January – July 2020, the County of Renfrew opened 48 severance applications compared to 63 over the same period in 2019. With respect to decisions, 48 decisions were rendered from January – July 2020 compared to 85 rendered over the same period in 2019.

In June, a part lot control exemption by-law was approved in Arnprior for 78 townhouse lots, and in July a plan of subdivision in McNab/Braeside (Madawaska Shores) received final approval for 30 single detached lots.

One other figure of note is that in July our office handled 88 phone, email and zoom inquiries under the category of “other inquiries” compared to 187 in all of last year.

2. County of Renfrew Official Plan Meeting

County representatives (Warden Debbie Robinson; Chair of Development and Property, Robert Sweet; Paul Moreau, CAO; Craig Kelley, Director of Development and Property; and Charles Cheesman, Manager of Planning Services) met virtually with the Honourable John Yakabuski, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, the Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) and their senior policy staff on Friday, July 10, 2020.

The meeting was requested by the County and Minister Yakabuski to discuss our concerns with the recent final approval of Official Plan Amendment No. 25 (OPA 25), the five-year update to the County's Official Plan.

Our main requests were to look for a deferral on the implementation of OPA 25 until January 1, 2021 and to seek exemption from Minister approval of amendments to the County of Renfrew Official Plan.

Unfortunately, based on MMAH's own legal advice, we were advised that there was no path forward to deferring the OPA.

With respect to exemption, the Province is moving forward as expeditiously as possible to grant us this authority and has posted a Notice of our Request on the Ontario Regulatory Registry. The Notice includes a 45-day public comment period that ends on August 21, 2020. We are optimistic we will receive the exemption sometime after that date. If we are successful in gaining exemption status, the Ministers would support the County's efforts to amend the Official Plan so that it matches more closely with the interests of Renfrew County.

Until then the Ministers were very sympathetic to our situation and gave us their full support in allowing the County planning staff to interpret the new Official Plan in a flexible manner that ensures good land use planning (e.g., land use compatibility), while also recognizing the unique development context in Renfrew County.

We remain confident that we will receive exemption status, which will further allow us to expedite changes to a new official plan amendment (OPA 31) by Spring 2021.

3. **COVID-19 Update – Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing**

Attached as Appendix PLAN-II is correspondence from Minister Steve Clark advising that the temporary suspension of the *Planning Act* timelines for decision-making has ended as of June 22, 2020.

4. **Proposed COVID-19 Relief Measures**

Attached as Appendix PLAN-III is a brief presented to various provincial ministries by the Regional Planning Commissioners of Ontario (RPCO) and the Regional Public Works Commissioners of Ontario (RPWCO) which outlines recommended measures that are designed to support municipal efforts to respond to COVID-related public health requirements, support economic recovery, and reduce costs in municipal operations and the delivery of public services.

BY-LAWS

5. **County of Renfrew Official Plan Amendment No. 30 (Part of Lot 9, Concession 13(B), in the geographic Village of Braeside, in the Township of McNab/Braeside) – Applicant: 62995 Canada Inc. (Eric Draper)**

Recommendation: THAT the Development and Property Committee recommend that a By-law be passed to repeal By-law 27-20 being a By-law to Adopt Amendment No. 30 to the Official Plan of the County of Renfrew at the next session of County Council.

Background

Official Plan Amendment No. 30 proposed to re-designate lands to allow a future residential plan of subdivision. The amendment was adopted by the County on February 26, 2020, and was sent to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. The Ministry did not approve the amendment. Attached as Appendix PLAN-IV is a letter from the owner's agent requesting the repeal of the amendment. If the County is granted exemption status from provincial approvals, the owner may re-apply to change the designation on the property as indicated in a letter attached as Appendix PLAN-V.