

# County Council Summary

**June 29, 2022**

*Below you will find highlights of the County of Renfrew County Council meeting from June 29, 2022.*

*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 agenda](#) can be found here.

Meeting [YouTube](#) link

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## Warden's Address

### Key highlights

- Warden Debbie Robinson acknowledged June as National Indigenous History Month, an important time for everyone to take the time to recognize the rich history, heritage, resilience and diversity of First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples across Canada.
- She congratulated MPP John Yakabuski on his re-election. She is looking forward to continuing to work with MPP Yakabuski as they advocate for the residents of the County of Renfrew and in particular, permanent funding for RC VTAC. She also congratulated MPP Steve Clark on his reappointment as Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and MPP Sylvia Jones, on her appointment as Minister of Health. She looks forward to meeting Minister Jones in person to share with her the incredible contribution RC VTAC is making to health care.
- She noted June was Volunteer Appreciation Month and shared she and Health Committee Chair Michael Donohue had the opportunity to celebrate the work of volunteers that support long-term care homes when they attended garden parties at Bonnechere Manor and Miramichi Lodge. While not often in the spotlight, volunteers are the backbone of the community and truly make the Manor and the Lodge a wonderful place for the residents, she said.

During the month of June, Warden Robinson attended 24 meetings regarding County business, including, but not limited to:

- On June 9 she attended the virtual Eastern Ontario Regional Network Annual General Meeting as the chair of the EOWC.
- On June 14, she attended the Paramedic Symposium held in Burnstown at the Neat Café. She found the guest speakers to be inspiring and they easily held the attention of the paramedics attending from 25 countries. She was pleased to have the opportunity to chat with Dr. Lori Gray, who assists the Renfrew County Paramedic Service.
- During the Symposium, Chief Michael Nolan of the County of Renfrew Paramedics Services presented the Chief's Commendation Awards to several people, including Karen Simpson, from Arnprior Regional Health, whose support and involvement in RC VTAC is well known. Also receiving this award was Dr. Jonathan Fitzsimon, Dr. Rob Cushman, Andrew Keck, Michael Donohue, Paul Moreau and the Warden herself.

- On June 15, she attended an AMO Health Task Force meeting. Topics of discussion were: access to health care; health funding for municipalities and District Social Service Administration Boards; Public Health Modernization; Long-Term Care Capital Programs and Provincial Election commitments to Health. During this meeting, she and CAO Paul Moreau made a presentation on Ontario Health Teams, municipal investment in health care, attracting and retaining health-care professionals and virtual care.
- On June 23 and 24, she attended AMO Board of Directors meetings in the Town of Parry Sound. Discussions were held on Proposed National Long-Term Care Standards; Mental Health and Addictions Advocacy; Post-Provincial Election Housing Update; and Collaborative Waste Management Efforts and Blue Box Program Transition.

## Announcements

- County Council passed a By-law appointing Craig Kelley as the new Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk effective September 1. Mr. Kelley has more than 15 years of municipal experience, including the last five years as Director of Development and Property for the County of Renfrew. See our full [media release](#) here.

## Delegations

- Bonnie Schryer, family peer support with Parents Lifeline of Eastern Ontario (PLEO) highlighted the services available to families throughout Renfrew County through the organization which was created for parents by parents. PLEO is a non-profit family peer support organization for parents of children up to the age of 25 who are facing mental health challenges. After dealing with their own challenges, these parents offer support to others in the same circumstances through a parents' helpline, support groups and mobile one-on-one support. For more information about the services available, visit [www.pleo.on.ca](http://www.pleo.on.ca).
- Steve Boland, co-chair of the Shaw Woods Outdoor Education Centre, provided an update on the activities at the Centre, which is located on County Road 9 (Bulger Road) in North Algona Wilberforce Township. The not-for-profit organization is managed by a board of directors and supports the concept of maintaining undisturbed forest areas as living examples of old growth forest available for study and appreciation of their unique cultural and scientific values. The SWOEC was established in 2010 and relies on part-time staff and approximately 40 volunteers to deliver a range of activities and programs. Outdoor education programs are provided to approximately 3,500 students of all ages each year.
- Karen Black, CPA, Partner, Scott Rosien Black and Locke, Chartered Accountants presented the 2021 Auditor's Report for the County of Renfrew.

## Finance & Administration Committee

### Presented by: Jennifer Murphy, Chair

- As chair of the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus Treasurers Group, Mr. Jeff Foss held an in-person meeting on Friday, June 2 at the Hastings County Office in Belleville. Discussion items

amongst the treasurers included COVID funding costs, revenues and reporting requirements; delay of assessment by Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC); Long Term Financial Plans and the impact of increasing tender prices; Asset Management Plan – O.Reg 588/17 July 1 deadline; WSIB – Schedule 2 Employers mitigation strategies; Insurance Renewal premium increases; Municipal Election – Lane Duck; IT Roadmap/Strategy; Non-Union Compensation Review and POA Court backlog due to shortage of Justices of the Peace. The County of Renfrew will also be hosting a Fall EOWC Treasurers’ Meeting.

- The date for the inaugural meeting of County Council was discussed. Following the October 24 municipal election the new Council may take office effective November 15, 2022 and lower-tier municipalities will need to swear in their council prior to the County’s inaugural meeting. In a municipal election year, nominations for the office of the Warden must be filed with the Clerk 14 days prior to the inaugural session. Section 230 of the *Municipal Act* allows a municipality to hold the inaugural meeting of Council any time within the first 31 days after its term commences. Because the upper tier municipality meeting cannot be organized until all lower tier members have been sworn in, this could lead to a timing issue for the County. The County also must hold its first meeting on or before December 16, so having lower tiers delay their inaugural meetings may risk the County not being able to meet its obligation under Section 230 of the *Municipal Act*. Legal counsel has recommended the lower tiers have their inaugural meetings as soon after the election as possible to ensure that all levels of government can comply with Section 230.
- County Council passed a resolution approving the revised 2022 schedule of Committee and Council meetings for the months of September and October so outgoing councillors can be recognized following the municipal election on October 24. The meeting dates for September were also amended to allow elected officials and staff to attend the Ontario East Municipal Conference.
- County Council passed a resolution to suspend Section 6.1 (a) of the Procedural By-law until the end of the term of council to allow hybrid meetings for Standing Committees, Sub-Committees of Council and Ad-Hoc Committee meetings, but Section 6.1 will continue to apply for meetings of County Council. There are four circumstances which allow councillors to participate remotely via electronic video conferencing:
  - the County of Renfrew is in a declared emergency as defined by the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act, R.S.O. 1990;
  - the County of Renfrew has a significant weather event (across the entire County of Renfrew or within its local municipalities) has been declared;
  - a member is ill or injured;
  - a member has been duly appointed to an external advisory role such as AMO, ROMA, FCM or EORN, etc.
- County Council passed a resolution to approve delegated authority for the month of July for the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO). This authority allows the CAO to approve consultant appointments and contract awards that would normally require Committee and/or Council approval. This approval is contingent on the appointments/contract awards being within approved funding allocations and that there are no irregularities associated with the procurement process.
- County Council passed a resolution approving the engagement of Watson & Associates Economists Ltd. to provide a Development Charges Background Study for the County of Renfrew at an approximate cost of \$40,000, which includes the additional optional meetings to review the Development Charges process with County Council, local municipalities, and the development community. The Development Charges Background Study will also include the

additional cost of \$10,000 to complete an analysis to include development charges for eligible services (i.e. ambulance, municipal housing and long-term care services).

- County Council passed a resolution approving the 2021 Financial Report for the Corporation of the County of Renfrew for the year ended December 31, 2021. Ms. Karen Black, CPA, CA, Partner, Scott Rosien Black and Locke, presented the report to County Council. The firm has indicated it will not be in a position to renew the agreement to provide auditing services for the County of Renfrew beyond the 2021 fiscal year, thus ending a long-standing relationship dating back more than 40 years. Finance staff will now begin the process of developing a Request for Proposal (RFP) for auditing services for the 2022 fiscal period and beyond.
- County Council passed a by-law to delegate to the Chief Administrative Officer, in the event of a “lame duck” period, the powers to appoint or remove from office any officer of the municipality; to hire or dismiss any employee of the municipality; to dispose of any real or personal property of the municipality which has a value exceeding \$50,000 at the time of disposal and to make any expenditure or incur any other liability which exceeds \$50,000 for the period from August 19, 2022 to November 15, 2022 or until the new council is sworn-in.
- County Council approved the amended Employment By-law #1 effective the first pay period after August 1, 2022 to implement the changes adopted at the May 25, 2022 session of County Council regarding the Gallagher Benefits Services (Canada) Group Inc. Non-Union Compensation Review. County staff is hosting a meeting with local municipal staff to provide an overview of the changes to the County of Renfrew’s salary grid.

## Community Services Committee

### Presented by: James Brose, Chair

- County Council passed a resolution to approve the ‘Purchase of Service Agreement’ template to enter into an agreement with Licensed Child Care Providers for the purpose of opting into the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) System.
- County Council passed a resolution to amend the County of Renfrew New Licence Home Agreement by-law and enter into an agreement with a service provider in Eganville. Since 2018, the County of Renfrew has been licensed by the Ministry of Education to operate a Licensed Home Child Care Agency. Currently, there are five homes operating with 24 full-time children. One home is in Arnprior, three homes are in Pembroke, and the fifth home is in Eganville.
- County Council passed a by-law authorizing the County of Renfrew to enter into an agreement with child-care agencies and recreation programs for special needs resourcing funding, be amended to enter into a special needs resourcing agreement with the following child-care agencies:
  - Bonnechere Algonquin First Nation
  - Centre éducatif Coeur des Jeunes
- County Council passed a By-law authorizing the County of Renfrew to enter into an agreement with Licensed Child-Care Providers for the purpose of child-care services, with Centre éducatif Coeur des Jeunes directly operating the child-care centre located in l'Équinoxe school, Pembroke, Ontario beginning in September 2022.

# Development & Property Committee

**Presented by: Robert Sweet, Chair**

- Melissa Marquardt has accepted the position of Manager of Economic Development Services, which encompasses the Economic Development Division, Ottawa Valley Tourist Association, and Enterprise Renfrew County. Melissa has worked with the County for 17 years in the tourism industry alongside the former Manager of Economic Development, Alastair Baird.
- County Councillor Peter Emon, representing Warden Debbie Robinson and County Council, submitted a verbal intervention to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission Public Hearing on June 3, 2022 in support of Canadian Nuclear Laboratories' (CNL) application to amend its Chalk River Laboratories (CRL) site licence to authorize construction of a Near Surface Disposal Facility (NSDF). The presentation is found on page 149 of the [council report](#).
- The Ottawa Valley Tourist Association (OVTA), Ontario's Highlands Tourism Organization (OHTO) and various tourism operators recently hosted the first international travel trade Familiarization (FAM) tour to the region since 2019. Tour operators from France, Mexico, Japan, United Kingdom, Netherlands, South Korea and Canada visited Renfrew County from May 19 to 24, 2022.
- The OVTA and Economic Development Services collaborated on a marketing program in the GTA utilizing 18 giant video screens located at strategic sites along the major 400-series highways running through Canada's most populated region. The Ottawa Valley was showcased through 160,000 impressions of 8-second-long video messages, one promoting tourism and one promoting county lifestyle and career opportunities. The campaign ran from June 6 to June 19, 2022. These giant screens measure 14' X 48' and are situated prominently along Highways 401, 403, and 407.
- The first intake for Starter Company Plus 2022/2023 program year has 14 participants. These new entrepreneurs will undergo three months of business training, coaching and mentoring from Enterprise Renfrew County staff, business coaching professionals, local business professionals and local volunteer entrepreneurs. At the end of the training sessions, those clients who wish to continue may compete in our business plan pitch contest where they may be awarded up to \$4,000 funding to utilize towards their business operations.
- Summer Company recruitment has yielded five applicants and staff is reviewing and updating the business plans from these student entrepreneurs. Once the reviews are complete, the business plans will be evaluated and successful young entrepreneurs will join the 2022 Summer Company program.
- There have been multiple public inquiries about browning cedar trees in the County. This is caused by a native insect called cedar leafminer. Cedar leafminer has not been known to cause widespread death of cedar trees, but the insect "mines" out the inside of cedar leaves, starting at the branch tips and moving inwards, causing the trees to look quite brown in the spring. Most trees are still green closer to the bole and are able to regrow new leaves. More information is available here: [Cedar Leafminer Fact Sheet \(lrconline.com\)](#). Defoliation is particularly visible along Highway 41 from Pembroke to Dacre, and towards Renfrew.
- The May 21, 2022 windstorm impacted some tracts of the Renfrew County Forest. Staff is still mapping and evaluating damage in 10 potentially affected tracts, which is a time-consuming activity on the ground. It is likely that salvage operations will be necessary. There is only a window of two months to salvage pine once it is on the ground, or it stains and is no longer

marketable. Destructive wind events are becoming a near-annual event and monitoring for this type of damage is difficult with the current capacity of the Division. Staff is investigating the purchase of a drone for mapping and monitoring purposes.

- In January 2021 County Council approved the appointment of County Forester, Lacey Rose to the Inaugural Board of the Global Network for Young Professionals in Forestry. Lacey attended the World Forestry Congress in Seoul, South Korea from May 2-6, 2022 and delivered a presentation during the session titled “[The Future is Now: Investing in Young Forestry Professionals and Career Development](#).” See the full [media release](#) on Lacey’s trip here.
- The County of Renfrew will enter a three-year contract with Esri for the Small Local Government Enterprise License Agreement to enhance GIS mapping services for the County, local municipalities and the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan.
- County Planning Division staff will reach out to the 12 local municipalities and coordinate a working group from some of the local municipalities that utilize the County Official Plan with the objective to draft and prepare an Official Plan Amendment for the implementation of Bill 109 “Ontario’s More Homes for Everyone Act, 2022.” The Official Plan Amendment is required to be in place by January 1, 2023. Staff will also include the municipalities who have their own official plans as part of their working group discussions.
- County Council approved emergency structural repairs of roof balconies at 63 Russell St., Arnprior in the amount of \$210,300; and agreed the costs to complete these emergency structural repairs be funded from the RCHC Building Reserve Fund.

## Health Committee

**Presented by: Michael Donohue, Chair**

- County Council passed a resolution to award the Request for Tender for the Flat Roof Replacement project at Bonnechere Manor to Perth Roofing from Perth, Ontario, for Roof C, No Taper, at the quoted price of \$276,159.26 inclusive of HST, with \$222,000 approved in the Bonnechere Manor 2022 Capital Budget. The shortfall of \$54,159.26 will be taken from the Bonnechere Manor Unallocated Reserves to finance the project above the original budget allocation.
- County Council passed a resolution to award the Request for Proposal (RFP) for Bonnechere Manor courtyard improvements to Country Caretakers, Renfrew, Ontario. The work will include Pinnacle South courtyard completion, including turf replacement and concrete work, and HM1-North, HM1-South and Pinnacle North courtyards turf replacement only for a total price of \$360,114.00 inclusive of HST which was approved through the Bonnechere Manor 2022 Capital Budget.
- County Council passed a resolution that the Vaccination Policy for the long-term care homes remain in place with issue being revisited in August.
- County Council passed a By-law authorizing the Warden and CAO to sign the Lease Agreement between the County of Renfrew and ConnectWell Community Health to locate a RCVTAC Clinical Assessment Centre in Cobden to expand services in the eastern and western ends of the County.
- County Council passed a By-law authorizing the Warden and CAO to sign the Agreement between the County of Renfrew and Pembroke Regional Hospital for a partnership with the County of Renfrew Paramedic Service to include an Advanced Care Paramedic in the Emergency Department.



# Operations Committee

**Presented by: Tom Peckett, Chair**

- County Council passed a resolution to defer construction projects planned for 2022 to a later year because of significant overages in the capital budget. The projects are County Structures B064 (Pilgrim Road Bridge), C012 (Farquharson's Creek Culvert), C040 (Snake River Culvert), C134 (Campbell Drive Culvert), C137 (Hanson Creek Culverts), and C197 (Etmanskies Swamp Culvert).
- County Council adopted a By-law authorizing the approval of a Community Safety Zone on County Road 9 (Bulger Road) between 500 metres north of civic address 2065 and 500 metres south of civic address 2065 for a total distance of 1.0 kilometre. This is in response to a request from the board of the Shaw Woods Outdoor Education Centre.
- Several Requests for Tenders were issued during the month of May for the Public Works and Engineering Department. Staff reviewed the tender results and note there are overages in several of the tenders compared with the budget, but costs for these projects are not anticipated to be reduced should the projects be postponed, and the works tendered are necessary to ensure more significant works are not needed in the near future. County Council approved the following contracts:
  - Rehabilitation of County Structure B005 (Scollard Bridge), Bonnechere Excavating Incorporated, Renfrew, Ontario in the amount of \$588,465 plus HST.
  - Rehabilitation of County Road 21 (Beachburg Road) from civic address 1046 to the urban cross section, H&H Construction Incorporated, Petawawa, Ontario in the amount of \$1,216,714.25 plus HST
  - The manufacture, supply and delivery of a concrete box culvert for County Structure C037 (Bagot Creek Culvert), Power Precast Limited, Ottawa, Ontario in the amount of \$172,270.25 plus HST
  - Rehabilitation of County Road 512 (Foymount Road) from Brudenell Limit to Hubers Road, R.G.T. Clouthier Construction Limited, Pembroke, Ontario in the amount of \$1,381,415.93 plus HST
  - Rehabilitation of County Road 1 (River Road), from 1.1 km west of Henry Crescent to 600m east of Storie Road, B.R. Fulton Construction Limited, Renfrew, Ontario in the amount of \$849,937.80 plus HST
  - Rehabilitation of County Road 24 (White Water Road) from Highway 17 to Greenwood Road, H&H Construction Incorporated, Petawawa, Ontario in the amount of \$857,625.64 plus HST
  - Rehabilitation of County Road 29 (Drive-In Road) from Pembroke City limits to Clearview Crescent, Greenwood Paving (Pembroke) Limited, Pembroke, Ontario in the amount of \$752,674.70 plus HST
  - Rehabilitation of County Road 7 (Foresters Falls Road) from Harriet Street to the start of the semi-urban section, Greenwood Paving (Pembroke) Limited, Pembroke, Ontario in the amount of \$884,173.42 plus HST
- County Council approved a contract as submitted by Greenwood Paving (Pembroke) Limited, Pembroke, Ontario for Hot Mix Asphalt – Cobden Patrol Yard in the amount of \$169,631.75 plus HST.

- County Council approved a contract as submitted by Winslow-Gerolamy Motors, Peterborough, Ontario for the supply and delivery of one Tandem Truck and Plow Unit in the amount of \$384,749 plus HST.
- County Council approved a contract as submitted by J.R. Brisson Equipment Limited, Vars, Ontario for the supply and delivery of one Backhoe Loader and attachments in the amount of \$183,694 plus HST.

## **Additional Information**

**Paul Moreau, Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk**

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