



**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS
of the
COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION
of the
COUNTY OF RENFREW**

- First Ordinary Session -

County Council
Pembroke, Ontario
December 12, 2023

INAUGURAL SESSION

The members constituting the Council of the Corporation of the County of Renfrew, being respectively the County Councillor, Reeves and Mayors where applicable, of the municipalities within the County, having previously filed their respective Clerk's Certificate as to Election of Councillor/Reeve/Mayor and Members of County Council, are as follows:

Towns

Town of Arnprior
Town of Deep River
Town of Laurentian Hills
Town of Petawawa
Town of Renfrew

County Council Member

County Councillor Daniel Lynch
Reeve Glenn Doncaster
Mayor Anne Giardini
Mayor Gary Serviss
Reeve Peter Emon

Townships/Municipalities

Township of Admaston/Bromley
Township of Bonnechere Valley
Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch & Raglan
Township of Greater Madawaska
Township of Head, Clara & Maria
Township of Horton
Township of Killaloe, Hagarty & Richards
Township of Laurentian Valley
Township of Madawaska Valley
Township of McNab/Braeside
Township of North Algona Wilberforce
Township of Whitewater Region

County Council Member

Mayor Michael Donohue
Mayor Jennifer Murphy
Mayor Valerie Jahn
Mayor Rob Weir
Mayor Debbi Grills
Mayor David Bennett
Mayor David Mayville
Reeve Keith Watt
Mayor Mark Willmer
Mayor Mark MacKenzie
Mayor James Brose
Mayor Neil Nicholson

The Inaugural Session of the Council of the Corporation of the County of Renfrew met the 12th day of December 2023 at the hour of 10:00 a.m.

The Warden, Peter Emon, presided.

Warden Emon cited the Land Acknowledgement, identifying that the meeting was being held on the traditional territory of the Algonquin People.

The meeting opened with a moment of silent reflection and the singing of the National Anthem.

The roll was called and all members were found to be present.

The CAO/Clerk advised that correspondence received has been forwarded to Committee, noting that the County has been advised of the OCIF allocations, however, communications are embargoed until announced by the Province.

Warden Emon provided an overview of the past year.

Warden Emon vacated his seat. The Clerk, Craig Kelley, presided.

Pursuant to Section 17 of County of Renfrew Procedural By-law 85-10 as amended, the Clerk, acting as Presiding Officer, called for nominations for Warden for the ensuing year that were filed with the Clerk of the County of Renfrew by the deadline for nominations of November 10, 2023:

Moved by Councillor Donohue

Seconded by Councillor Murphy

THAT Peter Emon, Reeve of the Town of Renfrew, being a fit and proper person to be Warden of the Municipal Corporation of the County of Renfrew, is hereby nominated as a candidate for the Wardenship of this County for the ensuing year or until such time as his successor be elected.
CARRIED.

Councillor Michael Donohue, mover of Councillor Peter Emon's nomination, spoke on behalf of his nominee. Councillor Jennifer Murphy, seconder of Councillor Peter Emon's nomination, spoke on behalf of her nominee.

Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk, Craig Kelley, declared Councillor Peter Emon Warden of the County of Renfrew for the ensuing year. Warden Emon was escorted to the podium by the mover and seconder of his nomination.

Warden Emon took the Oath of Office.

Warden Emon assumed the Chair and addressed Council as follows:

Welcome, council, staff, honoured guests and members of the media. It is with a great deal of pleasure that I address you today.

I wish to thank my mover, Councillor Donohue and seconder, Councillor Murphy and County Council for bestowing this honour on me. You have allowed me to serve as Warden again and I accept the challenge for 2024. We have lot of work to do. I believe, as do you, the office of Warden is an instrument of council and our community as we work to continually improve all aspects of our community.

It takes a great deal of support to fulfil the role of Warden. Support from council and staff and the many welcoming and kind residents of the County. I have had support from my family and friends throughout my life acting as councillor, Mayor, Reeve, Warden and community volunteer. Please allow me to introduce to you my wife, councillors. Your support and wise counsel has been most welcome and at times urgently needed.

I would also like to acknowledge the staff from the Town of Renfrew. They represent a supportive and innovative team whom I am fortunate to have back stopping me in all of my roles.

As we heard earlier in the year and a bot earlier this morning in 2023 we worked on a number of important projects. The efforts of council will continue unabated.

Further Twinning of 417

Along with the reinvigorated 417 Advisory Committee and with the support of our community we will continue our conversations with both the Federal and Provincial governments to stress the need for the predictable and timely twinning or the enhancement of Highway 17 through the County of Renfrew and beyond. This is a critical piece of transportation infrastructure which is necessary for the continued economic stability of our community. This highway enhancement is absolutely essential for the future and necessary expansion and diversification of our communities' economy and our ability to compete with the rest of Ontario and beyond. The good news is the province has finally included the next phase, through from Scheel Drive to Bruce Street in their construction plans. Now we need to continue to remind them to fund it and to start moving rock.

We believe Highway 417 will bring interested companies and investors, visitors and future residents to -our many safe, affordable, caring and welcoming communities. We have observed and documented the positive impacts the extension of 417 to Arnprior has brought to that community and their closely linked neighbour McNab Braeside. We will continue to document the benefits in that area and in other areas on other 400 series highways and advance our case with both levels of government about the importance of the TransCanada Highway system and Highway 17 to Ontario and to Canada.

CNL

CNL for a very long time has been a vital engine which drives our economy. We look forward through our relationship with the Operators to ensure this continues. We expect and our community expects it to remain one of the world's premier nuclear research facility as it evolves.

Nuclear science and technology, research and development and radio-active waste management facilities and a thriving business cluster in Renfrew County is what we expect and will work with CNL and our community to achieve. This is in keeping with what we have observed in other international communities hosting nuclear labs and research.

We accept and support nuclear industry and science in our community. CNL, the laboratories and the science are rooted and belong here. To in any way systematically diminish them is to ignore the glorious and productive past, the significant present value and the limitless future.

Garrison Petawawa

Garrison Petawawa continues to evolve and grow. The many benefits accrued by our community extend beyond the Town of Petawawa. It generates income for many, opportunity to provide services and goods for others and a strong group of volunteers who care about and build our community.

Renfrew County has always and continues to have a strong and emotional attachment and relationship with Garrison Petawawa. We wish to ensure the serving members and civilian employees know they have our continued and heartfelt support as they fulfill their role globally in terms of defending Canada and others, providing security and disaster relief.

We, as always, look forward to the ongoing and mutually benefiting relationship with our Garrison Petawawa.

Culture/Healthy Living

This coming year, we will continue to receive nominations with regards to the Warden's Community Service awards. Recently, we had the great pleasure to award individuals and organizations for their outstanding commitment to making the County of Renfrew a better place to live, work and play.

We reside in a part of the province, the country and the world, envied by many. Our connection to Canadian history mixed with our evolving social diversity and the vibrant arts community is second to none. Renfrew County residents are fortunate to share our community with the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan community, it is a treasured relationship which needs to be constantly respected and developed.

We will through the carefully fostered partnerships with Ottawa Valley Tourism Association (OVTA) and the various cultural groups work to properly showcase and further develop our unique attributes to residents and visitors alike. I would encourage each and every one of you and your families to take the opportunity to explore the arts, culture and historical treasures we have hidden away and waiting discovery here in Renfrew County.

The County of Renfrew will continue to take an active role in healthy living by participating in a health promotion challenge with Lanark County. The Silver Chain Challenge encouraged the use of our roads, trails, hallways and any natural or man-made infrastructure to increase physical activity along with social and community engagement. I look forward to June 2024 with enthusiasm and a healthy sense of needing to improve. Our efforts to finish the Algonquin Trail will continue and we will work partners to ensure all of our trails remain an important asset for residents and visitors.

We also work with the Health Unit and a number of partners to improve the physical activeness and health of our community. We value our collaborative relationship with them as we work to ensure our community is healthy and protected during times of illness and worry.

We will work with our community to understand and demonstrate the value of our Public Health system and our local RCDHU. It is time to inform the Province of Ontario about the value and the need to have to remain a locally governed service provider and not one directed from a distant office.

Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus

The Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus (EOWC) sets priorities for the year in January of each year. As council will recall, the Caucus has been very successful in completing major projects and studies.

County of Renfrew, CAO Craig Kelley and myself will continue to support the efforts of EOWC and ensure the concerns of the County of Renfrew are duly considered.

We will continue to build on the excellence of the VTAC model of care as we take the lessons from the Warming Centre initiative and from our always developing community para-medicine program as we advocate and continue to care for our community.

Housing in 2024 will continue to be a focus for us. This year we will host a housing summit with developers, builders, not for profits and user groups to gather information. I will continue to be a strong advocate for the EOWC 7 in 7 Regional Housing Plan and the financing it will pursue which will assist us in building in our community.

Our Community Service Department continues to be a strong advocate for Housing, Homelessness and our Seniors' Housing Strategy. We value their information and insight as we work to find complete and appropriate solutions with our partners in the community.

Council will continue to speak out on issues of concern. We declared Intimate Partner Violence an Epidemic and we worked to establish a Warming Centre. Our worry, our planning and our responses to assist our community will not diminish. It is however restrained by funding.

In 2024 we will work towards hosting a regional Economic Development Summit and possibly another Queen's Park day building on our very successful day in 2022. These and other actions will be incorporated in our economic development strategy being developed in 2024.

I look forward to continuing our working relationship with our MP Cheryl Gallant, and our MPP John Yakabuski in ensuring the issues of Renfrew County and our local municipalities and our community are duly considered by our senior governments. Partnerships with our federal and provincial governments are extremely important if we are to move forward on the major initiatives offered today.

Council, through me, requests our staff to please continue to work hard on behalf of our communities. We constantly challenge you to be innovative, informative, thrifty and visionary on a daily basis. Our local councils depend upon you to be subject experts and assistors in a variety of situations. Residents and clients expect you to assist them, to protect them, to heal them and to advise them. You respond to all of these roles, challenges, requests and expectations with grace and professionalism. You do not disappoint.

Once again, we call upon you to provide thoughtful papers and policy options containing clear goals, costs and comparators upon which we can make informed decisions. We will be taking every opportunity to appear before provincial and federal bodies to offer policy options when they impact on Renfrew County.

Our community is so fortunate to have the strong efforts of Councillor Doncaster and Councillor Murphy working on our behalf at FCM and ROMA. We will continue to be a strong voice at FCM, AMO and ROMA as we bring forward solutions which will benefit our community and other communities across Ontario and Canada.

This year with local councils facing dramatically increasing operating costs from policing and electricity to name just a few - we will no doubt be asking about any new or developing different service models and expanded partnerships as no municipality will be immune to fiscal challenges and pressures. Partnership across many fields are the new “revenue producers” for municipal government and we will need to lead and facilitate the discussions on this.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is an honour that I sit here before you as your Warden for the County of Renfrew starting my second term. I understand the immense responsibility you have graciously bestowed on me. I will encourage and work with you to adopt and implement an agenda which allows us to move forward on the issues we have mentioned today and in the past year. Together as councillors, staff and community members we will continue to make Renfrew County the best place to live, work, invest and play.

Undoubtedly 2024 will be filled with challenges, which as has occurred countless times before in these chambers, will require patience and appreciation for each other and our individual points of view and diverse goals. I am sure we will not always support each other’s goals and views, I am confident we will always expect to find ourselves at the end of the session supporting our community.

To each and every one of you, have a wonderful Christmas and I hope an extremely busy, prosperous, and successful 2024.

MP, Cheryl Gallant and MPP, John Yakabuski sent regrets along with greetings to County Council.

Chief Greg Sarazan, Algonquins of Pikwakanagan, First Nation brought greetings to County Council.

Councillor Dan Lynch on behalf of Mayor Lisa McGee, Town of Arnprior brought greetings to County Council.

Mayor Suzanne D’Eon, Town of Deep River, brought greetings to County Council.

Mayor Steve Bennett, Township of Laurentian Valley, sent regrets and provided congratulations to Warden, Peter Emon and provided greetings to County Council.

Mayor Tom Sidney, Town of Renfrew, brought greetings to County Council.

Mayor Ron Gervais, City of Pembroke brought greetings to County Council.

Colonel Jason Guiney, Commander and Chief Warrant Officer Jimmy Cote, Garrison Petawawa brought greetings to County Council via Zoom.

Council recessed at 11:13 a.m. Council reconvened at 11:30 a.m. with the same persons present.

Notice of Motion:

Councillor Nicholson provided a Notice of Motion regarding the unaffordability of Water and Wastewater Rates in rural Ontario.

The CAO/Clerk and Council acknowledged the retirement of Laura LaPine, Director of Community Services and presentations and speeches were provided acknowledging her dedication and service to the County during the past 25 years.

Council recessed at 11:57 a.m. Council reconvened at 1:13 p.m. with the same persons present, except, Councillor Mark Willmer.

Mayor Donohue, Chair of the Striking Committee, brought in and read the resolutions of the following report:

December 12, 2023

To the Council of the Corporation
of the County of Renfrew

Members of County Council:

We, your **Striking Committee**, wish to recommend as follows:

BY-LAWS

1. **A By-law to Establish the County Committees for the Ensuing Year**

RESOLUTION NO. ST-CC-24-01-01

Moved by Chair

Seconded by Committee

That the persons listed in By-law No. 1-24, as amended be the committees for the ensuing year and that the first person named on each committee, where bold, be the Chair and that these be established by by-law at this session of County Council.

COUNTY OF RENFREW

BY-LAW NUMBER 1-24

**A BY-LAW TO APPOINT THE COUNTY COMMITTEES FOR THE
ENSUING YEAR OR UNTIL THEIR SUCCESSORS ARE APPOINTED**

WHEREAS the Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2001 c.25, as amended provides that every Council may pass by-laws for governing the proceedings of Council;

AND WHEREAS related acts authorize the appointment of committees, boards and special bodies;

AND WHEREAS it is deemed expedient to appoint all committees and board membership by by-law;

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the Corporation of the County of Renfrew hereby enacts that the committees for the ensuing year, or until their successors are appointed, be as follows and that the first person on each committee, where done in bold, be the Chair:

Striking: Michael Donohue, James Brose, Peter Emon, Debbi Grills, Valerie Jahn, Mark MacKenzie, Neil Nicholson

Vice-Chair: Neil Nicholson

STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance & Administration: Jennifer Murphy, James Brose, Glenn Doncaster, Michael Donohue, Peter Emon, Anne Giardini, Valerie Jahn, David Mayville

Vice-Chair: Valerie Jahn

With responsibility for:

- Association of Municipalities Ontario
- County Inter-Municipal Relations Committee
- Federation of Canadian Municipalities
- Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee

Operations: Glenn Doncaster, Dave Bennett, Peter Emon, Dan Lynch, Mark MacKenzie, Keith Watt, Mark Willmer

Vice-Chair: Dave Bennett

With responsibility for:

- Highway 17 Extension Advisory Committee

Development & Property: James Brose, Dave Bennett, Peter Emon, Dan Lynch, Mark MacKenzie, Gary Serviss, Keith Watt, Rob Weir

Vice-Chair: Rob Weir

With responsibility for:

- Algonquins of Pikwakanagan - County of Renfrew Economic and Community Development Committee
- Chalk River Laboratories Environmental Stewardship Council
- Trails Advisory Committee
- Land Division Committee
- Ministry of Natural Resources Forest Management Plan
- Ministry of Natural Resources Regional Advisory Committee
- Ottawa Valley Tourist Association
- Renfrew County Forestry and Wood Processing Committee
- Renfrew County Agricultural Economic Development Committee
- Shaw Woods Outdoor Education Centre

Health: Michael Donohue, Peter Emon, Debbi Grills, Valerie Jahn, Jennifer Murphy, Neil Nicholson, Rob Weir, Mark Willmer; (plus two City of Pembroke representatives)

Vice-Chair: Neil Nicholson

With responsibility for:

- Board of Health

Community Services: Anne Giardini, Peter Emon, Debbi Grills, David Mayville, Neil Nicholson, Gary Serviss; (plus one City of Pembroke representative)

Vice-Chair: Debbi Grills

With responsibility for:

- Renfrew County Housing Corporation
- United Way East Ontario

AD-HOC COMMITTEES

Algonquins of Pikwakanagan - County of Renfrew Economic and Community Development Committee: **Peter Emon**, Gary Serviss, Alternate: Jennifer Murphy

Community Health Programs Advisory Committee (CHPAC): **Michael Donohue**, Peter Emon

Highway 17 Extension Advisory Committee: **Peter Emon**, Dave Bennett, James Brose, Glenn Doncaster, Anne Giardini, Neil Nicholson, Gary Serviss (plus one City of Pembroke representative)

Land Division Committee: Debbi Grills, Valerie Jahn, Mark Willmer; Alternate: Mark MacKenzie

Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee: David Bennett

Pembroke and Area Warming Centre Committee: Peter Emon

Trails Advisory Committee: James Brose, Peter Emon, Dan Lynch, Keith Watt

APPOINTMENTS TO EXTERNAL BOARDS, COMMITTEES OR AGENCIES

Association of Municipalities Ontario: Peter Emon

Board of Health Appointees: James Brose, Peter Emon, Jennifer Murphy, Neil Nicholson

Chalk River Laboratories Environmental Stewardship Council: Dan Lynch

County Inter-Municipal Relations Committee: **Jennifer Murphy**, James Brose, Peter Emon, Gary Serviss

Vice-Chair: James Brose

Federation of Canadian Municipalities: Glenn Doncaster

Ministry of Natural Resources Forest Management Plan (Algonquin Park and Ottawa Valley Forest): Gary Serviss

Ministry of Natural Resources Regional Advisory Committee: Mark Willmer

Ottawa Valley Tourist Association Board of Directors: David Bennett, Rob Weir

Renfrew County Agricultural Economic Development Committee: Dave Bennett

Renfrew County Forestry and Wood Processing Committee: David Bennett

Shaw Woods Outdoor Education Centre: James Brose

United Way East Ontario: Peter Emon

THAT By-law 137-23 enacted on the 9th of November 2023 is hereby repealed.

THAT this by-law shall come into force and take effect upon the passing thereof.

READ a first time this 12th day of December 2023.

READ a second time this 12th day of December 2023.

READ a third time and finally passed this 12th day of December 2023.

The Report was adopted as presented.

Moved by Councillor Murphy

Seconded by Councillor Brose

THAT the following By-laws be enacted and passed:

- a) By-law 1-24 A By-law to Appoint the County Committees for the ensuing year or until their successors are appointed.
- b) By-law 2-24 A By-law to Authorize the Borrowing of Money to meet Current and Capital Expenditures for the year 2024. CARRIED.

Councillor Donohue questioned when the Borrowing of Money By-law was last utilized. The CAO/Clerk advised that he would inquire and provide the information at an upcoming meeting.

Moved by Councillor Donohue

Seconded by Councillor Lynch

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council move into a closed meeting pursuant to Section 239 of the Municipal for the purpose of personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees. CARRIED. Time: 1:17 p.m.

- a) Organizational Review
- b) CAO/Clerk Goals and Objectives

Moved by Councillor Serviss

Seconded by Councillor Jahn

THAT this resume as an open session of County Council. CARRIED. Time: 2:13 p.m.

Moved by Councillor Giardini

Seconded by Councillor Watt

THAT By-law 3-24 being a By-law to Confirm the Proceedings of the Council of the County of Renfrew at the meeting held on December 12, 2023, be now numbered, deemed read three times and passed. CARRIED.

Moved by Councillor Grills

Seconded by Councillor MacKenzie

THAT County Council adjourn. Time 2:16 p.m. CARRIED.