

Council and Committee Monthly Summary

August 2026

Below you will find highlights of the County of Renfrew County Council and Committee meetings held August 12 and August 26, 2026.

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

The full [Council and Committee packages](#) can be found online.

The [August 12, 2026](#) and [August 26, 2026](#) meetings are on YouTube.

Warden's Address

Key highlights

At the August 12 meeting Warden Jennifer Murphy shared and acknowledged the following information:

- The unveiling of the new Petawawa sign along the Algonquin Trail, recognizing its importance in celebrating the area's history, natural heritage, and connections to traditional Algonquin territory.
- Recent visits by several provincial ministers to Renfrew County, which provided valuable opportunities to showcase local priorities and strengthen advocacy efforts on behalf of our communities. Warden Murphy thanked MPP Billy Denault for his ongoing support of the County of Renfrew and his efforts in helping facilitate meaningful engagement with provincial ministers.
- Minister of Rural Affairs Lisa Thompson's visit to discuss the positive impact of provincial investments through the Rural Ontario Development Program in supporting strong and resilient rural communities.
- Recognition of Minister of Long-Term Care Natalia Kusendova-Bashta's visit to Miramichi Lodge, where she learned about the innovative Butterfly Model of Care and the County's commitment to resident-centred care.
- A productive meeting with Minister of Energy and Mines Stephen Lecce to discuss energy priorities and opportunities that support residents, businesses, and future economic growth in Renfrew County.

At the August 26 meeting Warden Murphy highlighted the following information:

- County Council members and staff attended the [2026 AMO Conference](#), advocating for Renfrew County priorities with provincial ministers on key issues, including healthcare, housing, infrastructure, economic development, energy, transportation, and municipal sustainability. Council also worked alongside local municipal leaders and the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus to advance shared regional priorities and strengthen Eastern Ontario's voice in discussions with the Province. Warden Murphy thanked her fellow members of County Council for their active participation and commitment to ensuring Renfrew County's priorities were well represented.

Delegations

- At the August 12 meeting, representatives from local food banks joined [County Council](#) to be recognized and receive their share of the \$17,500 raised through the 19th annual Warden's Golf Tournament. The Warden chose the Renfrew County Food Banks as the beneficiary after seeing firsthand the growing demand for food bank services in her community and across the County. Represented at council were the Cobden and District Food Bank; Eganville & District Community Food Bank; Arnprior & District Food Bank Inc.; Madawaska Valley Food Bank; Renfrew and District Food Bank; St. Joseph's Community Food Bank; Petawawa Pantry - Food Bank; and Deep River and District Health. Representatives from The Sharing Place (Golden Lake) and Killaloe Food Bank were unable to attend.
- At the August 26 meeting, Lisa Thompson, Executive Director of the Ontario Federation of Trail Riders – Renfrew County and Jason Spence, President of the Valley Trail Riders, made a presentation highlighting its partnership with the County of Renfrew in supporting safe, sustainable trail recreation and tourism in relation to the use of off-road motorcycles on County-owned trails. The organization emphasized the significant contributions of local volunteers in maintaining regional trail networks, promoting responsible trail use, environmental stewardship, and rider education. The presentation also underscored the economic benefits of trail tourism for local businesses and expressed a commitment to strengthening collaboration with the County to enhance trails, support volunteerism, and promote tourism across the region.
- At the August 26 meeting, David Hesidence, Healthcare Service Development and Quality Improvement Specialist, Project/Change Manager - Mesa Expansion Project and Liana Sullivan, Executive Director of Mackay Manor, provided a Project Mesa Update. Council received an update on the continued expansion of Project Mesa through Health Canada Substance Use and Addictions Program (SUAP) funding, which supports a dedicated outreach team working alongside community paramedics to connect individuals with addictions, mental health, housing, and social supports. Since implementation, the team has recorded 1,828 client encounters, served 187 unique clients, and made 684 referrals to community services. The presentation also highlighted the ongoing anti-stigma campaign, program evaluation efforts, website integration with community partners, and continued work toward securing stable long-term funding for the program.
- At the August 26 meeting, County Council recognized seven students who successfully completed the [Summer Company Program](#) through Enterprise Renfrew County. MPP Billy Denault, Warden Jennifer Murphy and Development and Property Committee Chair James Brose, congratulated the young entrepreneurs for their initiative, innovation and commitment to launching their own businesses. Participants were presented with certificates of completion and had the opportunity to display their products and services for County Council and staff.

Announcements

- The third annual County of Renfrew Municipal Day is planned for September 17, 2026, at Renfrew County Place, 450 O'Brien Road in Renfrew, from 3-6 p.m. This year's event is especially meaningful as it will help kick off the inaugural Rural Ontario Week (September 20-26), an initiative put forward by Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke MPP Billy Denault and passed by legislation earlier this year by the Provincial Government. Staff is finalizing presentations, exhibits, and opportunities to connect with municipal leaders and community partners.

Health Committee

Presented by: Michael Donohue, Chair

- The County of Renfrew Paramedic Service successfully completed a comprehensive Ontario Ministry of Health service review and received certification to continue operating land ambulance services through July 2029, reflecting the service's ongoing commitment to quality patient care, regulatory compliance, and operational excellence.
- The County of Renfrew entered into a 2026/27 funding agreement with Ontario Health to support the continued operation of the Renfrew County Virtual Triage and Assessment Centre (RC VTAC), helping ensure residents, particularly those in rural communities, have ongoing access to timely virtual and in-person healthcare services.

Corporate Services Committee

Presented by: Peter Emon, Chair

- County Council granted pre-budget approval to proceed with the following 2027 projects and purchases (total \$22,083,000):
 - 149 Francis Street Triplex - \$900,000
 - Pembroke Paramedic Base - \$12,500,000
 - Light Vehicle Capital Lease orders - \$1,355,000 (9 half ton pick up trucks, 1 three-quarter ton pick-up truck, 1 maintenance van, 4 large SUVs)
 - Two (2) Heavy Duty Trucks - \$960,000
 - Petawawa Roundabout - \$4,100,000
 - Seven (7) Ambulances - \$2,268,000
- County Council approved the following unbudgeted capital projects within long-term care:
 - Bonnechere Manor: Concrete Walkways – \$68,000
 - Miramichi Lodge: Hot Water Tanks – \$100,000, Front Sliding Door Repair – \$40,000.
- County Council approve the following unbudgeted capital projects for Renfrew County Housing Corporation housing units:
 - 8 Burwash elevator upgrade – \$250,000
 - 63 Russell elevator upgrade – \$250,000
 - 260 Elizabeth elevator upgrade – \$250,000
 - 150 Elizabeth roof repairs – \$195,000
 - 5967 Plamer Rapids patio doors and balconies – \$90,000
 - 204/206 240/242 Cecil Street roof repairs – \$140,000 (\$100,000 was approved in the 2026 budget).
- County Council approve reallocation of the 2026 capital budget to add funds for the following capital projects in 2026:
 - Microsurfacing or surface sealer on County Road 49 (Lapasse Road), from County Road 31 (Lookout Road) to Grants Settlement Road, in the amount of \$783,120; and
 - Detailed design and traffic study for expansion of County Road 51 (Petawawa Boulevard), from County Road 37 (Murphy Road) to County Road 55 (Paquette Road), in the amount of \$300,000, with \$200,000 anticipated for carry-over into the 2027 capital budget.
- County Council endorsed a resolution from the Municipal Finance Officers' Association of Ontario (MFOA) calling on the Province of Ontario to make the current level of Ontario

Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF) funding permanent beyond 2026, helping municipalities address critical infrastructure renewal needs and maintain essential services.

- County Council approved the engagement of Gallagher Benefit Services (Canada) Group Inc. to provide a non-union compensation market review for the County of Renfrew in the amount of \$19,639.68 (net of the HST rebate).

Operations Committee

Presented by: Dan Lynch, Vice-Chair

- County Council supported the Township of Armour's resolution requesting the Governments of Ontario and Canada to prioritize the development of new and upgraded highway rest stops and traveller infrastructure along Highways 11 and 17, including improvements to the existing rest stops located within the County of Renfrew.
- County Council supported the North Grenville, Merrickville-Wolford Village OPP Detachment Board resolution requesting that the Province of Ontario expand its stated interest and financial commitment to adopt a province-wide approach to public safety and enhance the well-being of all Ontarians through speed calming/speeding mitigation techniques.
- The approved contracts/tenders were as follows:
 - For the rehabilitation or replacement of Structure AT011 (Gould's Creek Bridge), located on the Algonquin Trail, Township of Whitewater Region, as submitted by Keystone Bridge Management Incorporated, Ottawa, Ontario, for Engineering Services, in the amount of \$32,850.
 - For the Goshen Patrol storage sheds A&B cladding and repairs, awarded to TS General Contracting, Pembroke, Ontario, in the amount of \$217,664.64.
 - Installation of guiderail on County Road 58 (Round Lake Road) from 200m west of Red Rock Road, for a distance of approximately 0.15km, in the Township of Killaloe, Hagarty and Richards, awarded to Hughson Fencing and Guiderail, Glenburnie, Ontario, in the amount \$122,859.94.
 - For asphalt patches and surface sealer on County Road 49 (Lapasse Road), from County Road 31 (Lookout Road) to Grant Settlement Road, a distance of approximately 5.36km, Township of Whitewater Region, awarded to Walker Construction Limited, Niagara Falls, Ontario, in the amount of \$698,800.

Community Services Committee

Presented by: Anne Giardini, Chair

- County Council approved the 2026-2027 Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP) Investment Plan, including an \$800,000 capital project to convert an existing Renfrew County Housing Corporation single-family home into a triplex, creating additional affordable housing units.
- County Council approved updates to the Renfrew County Housing Corporation rent structure, establishing maximum rents for new tenancies at 30% of the applicable provincial Household Income Limit beginning January 1, 2027, and implementing a gradual increase for existing tenancies to support a standardized and equitable approach across the housing portfolio.
- County Council supported moving forward with plans for a Seniors Supportive Housing with Assisted Living initiative at the Carefor MacKay site, in partnership with Pembroke Regional Hospital and Carefor, subject to provincial funding and further work on program delivery, funding, and implementation details.

Development & Property Committee

Presented by: James Brose, Chair

- County Council approved a Shared Services Agreement with the Town of Renfrew to provide economic development and tourism support services. Under the agreement, County staff will offer advisory, consultation and mentorship services, helping to strengthen local economic development initiatives, support tourism growth, and foster greater regional collaboration while avoiding duplication of services. The one-year agreement also provides the Town with access to County expertise and resources to support coordinated economic development efforts across Renfrew County.
- The [Starter Company Plus](#) training program, sponsored by Renfrew County Community Futures Development Corporation, and run by Enterprise Renfrew County has now concluded for 2026. This business development program guides small business owners through the creation of a full business plan and two years of cash flow projections with the opportunity to pitch and compete for a non-repayable grant award. A total of 16 businesses from across the region received \$80,000 in grant funding.
- Lanark and Renfrew Immigrant Settlement Services (LRISS), in partnership with the Counties of Renfrew and Lanark, will host the second annual Settlement Services Forum on September 15 in Arnprior, bringing together newcomers, employers, municipalities, and community partners to strengthen supports for newcomer settlement and integration.
- The approved contracts/tenders were as follows:
 - For the replacement of existing asphalt shingle roofs with a complete steel roofing system at 13 duplexes located on Oak Crescent and Frank Dench Street, Renfrew, Ontario, awarded to Eliot Roofing from Stittsville, Ontario for a net cost of \$149,587.20.
 - For the replacement of existing asphalt shingle roofs with a complete steel roofing system at eight duplexes located on Cecil Street in Pembroke, awarded to TS General Contracting, Pembroke for a net cost of \$79,016.94.
 - For the design and construction of a new “turnkey” residential building consisting of three self-contained units on a lot owned by the Renfrew County Housing Corporation at 149 Francis Street in Renfrew as submitted by T.S. General Contracting, Pembroke for a net cost of \$838,176.77.
 - For the replacement of the existing asphalt shingle roofing systems with new prefinished steel roofing systems at the three rowhouse buildings located at 26 Spruce Crescent, Arnprior, as submitted by Demers Masonry Inc., Pembroke for a net cost of \$99,317.76.
- County Council endorsed participation in the Federation of Canadian Municipalities’ *From the Ground* initiative, which encourages municipalities to identify publicly owned land that could support affordable, non-market housing. Staff have been directed to identify a suitable County-owned property for Council consideration and potential inclusion in FCM’s national inventory of housing-ready sites.

Additional Information

Craig Kelley, Chief Administrative Officer/Deputy Clerk

613-735-7288