

Council and Committee

Monthly Summary

May 2026

Below you will find highlights of the County of Renfrew County Council and Committee meetings held May 13 and May 27, 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 [May 13, 2026](#) and [May 27, 2026](#) meetings are on YouTube.

Warden's Address

Key highlights

At the May 13 meeting, Warden Jennifer Murphy highlighted some of her activities since the last Council and Committee meetings:

- As a member of the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus, Warden Murphy participated in the annual Queen's Park Advocacy Day, where Wardens and senior staff from across the region met with provincial representatives to advance shared priorities for rural Ontario. These discussions focused on key issues such as infrastructure, housing, and economic growth, and continued to reinforce the importance of strong collaboration between our municipalities and the Province.
- She acknowledged the [groundbreaking ceremony](#) for the new Whitewater Paramedic Base, calling it an important milestone which reflects our continued investment in paramedic service and the commitment to ensuring timely, high-quality emergency response for residents across the region. She thanked members of County Council and MPP Billy Denault for attending, in addition to members of the County of Renfrew Paramedic Service.
- The Warden attended the annual Hike for Hospice Renfrew on May 3, which saw dozens of teams and countless individuals band together to raise \$95,821 for the hospice.
- The Warden acknowledged Clerk's Week and Economic Development Week, highlighting the vital contributions of legislative staff in supporting transparent and accountable governance, as well as the efforts of staff and partners who drive business growth and economic prosperity across the County.
- She also acknowledged the Community Services Department – particularly the Children's Services team – for delivering a successful [May Day](#) event, which brought together childcare staff from across Renfrew County to celebrate early years programming and showcase services available to residents.

At the May 27 meeting, Warden Murphy highlighted her recent activities:

- On May 19, the Warden along with other members of County Council, Development and Property and Community Services staff attended the [ribbon-cutting](#) ceremony of our new affordable housing units at 135 Francis Street in the Town of Renfrew. This project represents an important investment in our community, contributing to the Renfrew County Housing Corporation's portfolio. This project was a collaboration between the County, the Provincial and Federal governments, along with many external partners, to provide safe, efficient, and accessible housing options for residents.
- With May 17–23 recognized as Paramedic Services Week and National Public Works Week, Warden Murphy acknowledged the dedication of Paramedics and emergency responders in providing essential front-line care, and the critical behind-the-scenes work of Public Works staff in maintaining infrastructure and supporting public safety and extended sincere appreciation to both groups for their ongoing commitment to residents.

Members' Written Motion

- County Council supported the nomination of Councillor Peter Emon to the Board of Directors for the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) as a Rural Caucus representative.

Announcements

- The [Silver Chain Challenge](#) returns this June. This friendly competition with Lanark County invites residents and visitors of all ages to get active by walking, running, or cycling throughout the month. This is a fun way to explore Renfrew County with a purpose – checking out new locations, getting some physical activity and helping Renfrew County win by [tracking your kilometres](#) in real time.

Delegations

- At the May 13 session of County Council, Adam Amza, Coordinator of [the Lanark Renfrew Immigration Settlement Services \(LRISS\)](#), provided an overview of LRISS programming and its role in supporting newcomer settlement across Renfrew County. In 2026, LRISS assisted 123 newcomers through 196 service interactions, providing coordinated supports including needs assessments, employment services, language and community connections, and school-based integration. Case examples highlighted the complexity of newcomer needs and the importance of ongoing, individualized support. Program outcomes demonstrate improved access to services, increased language skills, stronger community integration, and progress toward citizenship. Council was encouraged to continue supporting collaborative efforts that enhance newcomer inclusion and long-term settlement success in the region.
- At the May 13 Community Services Committee, Community Services Director Andrea Patrick and Development and Property Director Jason Davis provided a high-level overview of the [Renfrew County Housing Corporation's Vision Forward](#), a comprehensive five-year strategic road map that will guide community housing planning, investment, and service modernization across Renfrew County from 2026 to 2030.
- At the May 27 session of County Council, Stefi Van Wijk and Michelle Logan, Chair and Vice-Chair respectively of the Ottawa Valley Tourist Association Board of Directors, provided an [annual update](#). The OVTA highlights a strong and growing tourism sector in Renfrew County and Pembroke, with hundreds of businesses supporting nearly 3,000 jobs and continued growth in

accommodations and visitor activity. Visitor confidence remains high, with positive reviews, steady or increasing visitation for most businesses, and many operators rely heavily on tourism. A key focus is leveraging the Municipal Accommodation Tax (MAT), which is generating revenue in communities like Pembroke and Petawawa. These funds are reinvested into tourism marketing, product development, and events to attract more visitors and support local economies. Overall, the presentation emphasizes collaboration, strategic marketing, and reinvestment of tourism revenues to drive increased visitation, longer stays, and sustainable economic growth across the Ottawa Valley.

- During the Development and Property Committee, County Forester Lacey Rose [outlined the draft Forest Management Plan \(FMP\)](#) for the County of Renfrew Forest (RCF) for the 2027–2036 period, which guides the sustainable management of approximately 6,540 hectares of County-owned forest across 54 tracts. The RCF continues to operate as a certified, working forest, balancing economic, environmental, and social objectives while remaining compliant with provincial legislation and the County Official Plan. The plan reflects current forest conditions, noting that a large portion of the forest is mature and eligible for harvest, which presents challenges for maintaining consistent long-term revenue. Over the next decade, approximately 1,716 hectares are planned for harvest, with projected revenues of \$2.3 million, subject to market conditions.
- Larissa Coulas, the County's Municipal Climate Intern, made a presentation to the Development and Property Committee [overviewing climate change trends](#), impacts, and current actions within Renfrew County, alongside a recommendation for next steps. National research indicates that most municipalities across Canada – particularly in Ontario – have adopted or are developing climate action plans, highlighting a growing expectation for local climate leadership. She noted the County has initiated a range of climate-related actions, including energy efficiency upgrades to facilities, installation of EV chargers, operational changes to reduce emissions, and the establishment of a Climate Action Committee.

Operations Committee

Presented by: Glenn Doncaster, Chair

- The Operations Committee met on April 29, 2026, to review the Transportation Master Plan (TMP) and discuss how it will guide future transportation planning in the County. The discussion covered potential updates to road planning, transit options, active transportation (such as walking and cycling), and several existing policies. Members focused on making sure future plans support safe, efficient, and sustainable travel while meeting the community's changing needs. The Committee also reviewed policies related to road safety and design, including community safety zones, speed limits, and road clear zones. Members noted concerns about potential costs and stressed the importance of keeping policies flexible and practical for different local conditions. Following the discussion, staff were directed to update and draft several transportation-related policies and strategies, and to review infrastructure expansion priorities within the Asset Management Plan.
- Council approved a resolution related to the Protection for Municipal Public Workers and Contractors. It calls on the Province of Ontario to strengthen legislative protections, enhance enforcement support, and impose stricter consequences for individuals who threaten or obstruct municipal public works staff and contractors.

- The approved contracts/tenders were as follows:
 - For engineering services for the inspection of County structures, as submitted by Keystone Bridge Management Incorporated of Ottawa, Ontario, in the amount of \$66,335.00, plus applicable taxes.
 - For rehabilitation of County Road 68 (Rockingham Road), from Guiney Road to Letterkenny Road, Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan, as submitted by Bonnechere Excavating Incorporated, Renfrew, Ontario, in the amount of \$1,082,510.84, plus applicable taxes.
 - For steel sign posts as submitted by Spectralite/Signoplus, Trois-Rivieres, Quebec, in the amount of \$44,599.00, excluding applicable taxes. The municipalities participating in this contract are the Towns of Laurentian Hills and Petawawa and the Townships of Bonnechere Valley, Horton, and Whitewater Region.
 - For crack sealing as submitted by Roadlast Asphalt & Sealing Maintenance Inc., Kemptville, Ontario, in the amount of \$39,420.00.
 - For the rehabilitation of B121 (Waba Creek Bridge), located on County Road 2 (White Lake Road), approximately 0.4 km north of County Road 52 (Burnstown Road), Township of McNab/Braeside, as submitted by GIP Paving Inc., Kingston, Ontario in the amount of \$467,330.00 excluding applicable taxes.
 - For the rehabilitation of County Road 508 (Calabogie Road), from 350m south of County Road 52 (Burnstown Road) to 200m south of Fleming Drive, approximately 5.7km, Townships of McNab/Braeside and Greater Madawaska, as submitted by McCrea Excavating Ltd., Pembroke, Ontario in the amount of \$2,616,681.80.
 - For supply and delivery of granular materials for the rehabilitation of County Road 508 (Calabogie Road), as submitted by Miller Paving Limited, Markham, Ontario, in the amount of \$109,070.00.

Community Services Committee

Presented by: Anne Giardini, Chair

- County Council has approved the County's new five-year community housing plan, *Vision Forward*. As part of this plan, the housing building at 524 Nelson Street in Pembroke will be declared surplus and prepared for sale in 2026, in accordance with County policy. The 24 existing rent-geared-to-income (RGI) units in that building will be replaced through a mix of redevelopment, intensification at other properties, and partnerships, including opportunities within the private market. Staff has been directed to move forward with the plan and its actions, subject to future budget approvals and any additional Council decisions required.

Development & Property Committee

Presented by: James Brose, Vice-Chair

- County Council allocated a budget of \$25,000 from County's Strategic Reserves for appraisal and survey work for a Class III Industrial Park located in the Township of Whitewater Region. Economic Development staff is engaging with the Ministries of Natural Resources and Energy and Mines, as the landowners of the site, to ensure that we have the most recent copies of any geological surveys completed to date and to discuss potential Provincial support and involvement for possible new developments in this area.

- County Council adopted an updated Tariff of Fees By-law for applications made in respect of planning matters, particularly associated with peer review of technical studies.
- The Township of Admaston/Bromley and the Town of Laurentian Hills adopted new comprehensive zoning by-laws this month, marking an important milestone for both municipalities and a significant achievement. These projects represent years of work involving detailed policy review, technical analysis, public consultation, and coordination to ensure that the new by-laws are consistent with provincial planning requirements while also reflecting the evolving needs and priorities of each community.
- The County of Renfrew GIS Division has launched the [Renfrew County GIS and Mapping Hub](#), a new publicly accessible platform powered by Esri's ArcGIS Hub technology. The Hub provides a centralized source for geographic data and interactive mapping tools, improving access to spatial information for residents, partner agencies, and County staff. By supporting collaboration, enhancing transparency, and enabling efficient data sharing, the Hub also plays a key role in advancing GIS initiatives. The GIS Division will continue to expand and maintain the platform and welcomes feedback from the community and stakeholders as the Hub evolves.
- On April 28, 2026, Business Development Officer David Wybou attended the Canadian Association of Nuclear Host Communities (CANHC) Annual General Meeting with representatives from the Town of Deep River, including Mayor Suzanne D'Eon, Reeve Glenn Doncaster, CAO Sean Patterson, and Director of Growth and Sustainability Christian Kaiser. The meeting focused on national nuclear host community priorities, including CANHC's strategic direction, federal/provincial/industry collaboration updates, regulatory processes, Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission engagement, governance reform, membership model changes, and long-term funding strategy.

Health Committee

Presented by: Michael Donohue, Chair

- In response to requests from local municipalities, the County of Renfrew Paramedic Service teams checked and mapped 268 locations affected by flooding as of May 4, with the majority in Whitewater Region, Horton, and Laurentian Valley. Staff reached residents using a variety of methods – including trucks, boats, and on-foot access - to assess health and safety, property impacts, access to emergency services, and potential hazards. Information was shared between the County and local municipalities through emergency management channels, and mapping work (including drone support) helped track conditions and plan for future flooding. Vulnerable residents were supported through the Community Paramedic Program and were actively monitored. Outreach and coordination with communities continued throughout the spring melt to help ensure residents were supported.
- County Council approved the purchase of four new Emergency Response Vehicles at a total cost of \$380,000. Some of the vehicle outfitting will be completed in-house to reduce costs. The vehicles will be paid for through a capital lease.
- County Council adopted a by-law authorizing the Warden and Chief Administrative Officer to sign the Lease Agreement between the County of Renfrew and Carefor Health and Community Services, 425 Cecelia Street, Pembroke, Ontario, for space for the Renfrew County Virtual Triage and Assessment Centre (RC VTAC), commencing April 1, 2026.

Corporate Services Committee

Presented by: Peter Emon, Chair

- County Council adopted a by-law amending a Corporate Policy for Non-Elected Committee Member Reimbursement, which will replace a 2007 by-law to reimburse travel costs for non-elected committee members. With more committees now including volunteer members, there's a need for clearer, more consistent rules. The new policy updates outdated language, sets a limit of four reimbursed meetings per year, and encourages virtual or hybrid attendance to reduce travel and improve access. It does not apply to members serving on external boards or agencies.
- County Council adopted a by-law amending a Corporate Policy for the Procurement of Goods and Services following direction to incorporate the *Buy Ontario Act (Public Sector Procurement), 2025* and the Municipal Buy Ontario Procurement Directive into the policy.
- County Council adopted a by-law amending the Surplus/Deficit Policy following a review of the reserve accounts.
- County Council approved a by-law amending Delegate Authority for the Administration of the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act By-law. The existing by-law was outdated, and this update modernizes the County's MFIPPA framework, provides greater clarity and accountability, and aligns the County's practices with current legislation and accepted municipal best practices, without changing Council's oversight role or the County's obligations under the Act.
- County Council approved the revised Employment By-law #1 to return of the Human Resources Generalist position into Group 5 of the Non-Union Salary Grid.

Additional Information

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