



ARNPRIOR

**Town of Arnprior
Regular Meeting of Council: July 10th, 2023**

Correspondence Package No. I-23-JUL-13

Recommendation:

That the Correspondence Package No. I-23-JUL-13 be received as information and filed accordingly.

General Information Items:

1. Correspondence from the Province of Ontario

- a) [Government Helping Grape Growers and Beekeepers Strengthen Their Businesses](#)
- b) [Ontario Capping Rent Increases Below the Rate of Inflation](#)
- c) [Ontario Delivers 2,900 Additional Affordable Child Care Spaces in Ottawa](#)
- d) [Ontario Expanding Personal Support Worker Training Program in Long-Term Care](#)
- e) [Ontario First in Canada to Provide Coverage for New LS Treatment](#)
- f) [Ontario Helping More Students Become Paramedics](#)
- g) [Ontario Increasing Investment in the Greenlands Conservation Partnership](#)
- h) [Ontario Offering Free Fishing to Celebrate Canada Day](#)
- i) [Ontario Protecting Provincial Waterways](#)
- j) [Ontario Providing Free Training for Truck Drivers](#)
- k) [Ontario Unveils Location of First New Operating Provincial Park](#)
- l) [Ontario Welcomes \\$4.5 Million Manufacturing Investment in Ottawa](#)
- m) [Ontario Welcomes \\$102 million Investment in Growing Electric Vehicle Sector](#)

- 2. Correspondence from the County of Renfrew**
 - a) [County Council Summary](#)

- 3. Correspondence from the Arnprior Regional Hospital**
 - a) [2022-23 Annual Report](#)

- 4. Correspondence from the Renfrew County and District Health Unit**
 - a) [Blue-Green Algae Bloom Found](#)

- 5. Correspondence from the Arnprior & District Library**
 - a) [Summer 2023 Newsletter](#)

- 6. Correspondence from the Association of Municipalities of Ontario**
 - a) [Watch File – June 22th, 2023](#)

NEWS RELEASE

Governments Helping Grape Growers and Beekeepers Strengthen Their Businesses

Canada and Ontario investing up to \$10 million to support sectors hit by extraordinary weather conditions

June 22, 2023

[Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs](#)

TORONTO – The governments of Canada and Ontario are investing up to \$10 million through the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership to help the grape growing and beekeeping sectors offset extraordinary costs caused by significant grapevine and bee colony losses due to extreme weather conditions in 2021-22.

Two new AgriRecovery initiatives will provide up to \$5 million for eligible grape growers and up to \$5 million for eligible commercial beekeepers.

"Resuming operations after disaster events can present extraordinary costs for beekeepers and grape growers," said the Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, federal Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food. "These initiatives will help to mitigate the impacts of these unanticipated occurrences so that these producers can recover and thrive."

This July, eligible Ontario grape growers can apply for financial support under the Canada-Ontario Grapevine Winter Injury Initiative (2021-2022) to help recover from significant vine damage and loss. The damage resulted from a series of severe weather events including periods of drought, heavy rains and extreme cold, from summer 2021 to winter 2022. The initiative will provide funding for up to 70 per cent of the costs of replacing or renewing grapevines lost or damaged during the defined period.

"These new AgriRecovery initiatives are welcome news for both sectors and will help our grape growers and beekeepers recover from these extraordinary events that occurred beyond their control," said Lisa Thompson, Ontario Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs. "This action is an example of our government's commitment to ensuring our agriculture and agri-food sector has the tools to be successful, even in instances where industry depends on the elements to thrive."

Supports for beekeepers will offset extraordinary costs caused by abnormal conditions during the 2021-22 winter, including severe weather and varroa mite damage. This July, eligible Ontario beekeepers can apply for financial support through the Canada-Ontario Overwinter Bee Colony Loss Replacement Initiative (2021-2022) to manage increased bee colony losses that occurred over the 2021-22 season. Eligible beekeepers will receive up to 70 per cent of the high cost of purchasing bee colonies to replace those impacted during the defined time period.

These initiatives will be delivered by Agricorp. The agency delivers business risk management programming in Ontario. AgriRecovery initiatives help offset extraordinary costs producers incur to recover from disasters outside of their control but which are necessary to mitigate the impacts and/or resume farming operations as quickly as possible.

“Beekeepers and grape growers are key contributors to Ontario’s thriving agriculture industry,” said Vance Badawey, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Indigenous Services and Member of Parliament for Niagara Centre.

“AgriRecovery can help growers alleviate unforeseen costs out of their control, so they can continue to deliver high value to the sector.”

AgriRecovery is a federal-provincial-territorial disaster relief framework to help agricultural producers with the extraordinary costs associated with recovering from abnormal conditions or disaster situations. The initiatives are cost-shared on a 60:40 basis between the federal government and participating provinces or territories, as outlined under the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (Sustainable CAP).

Quick Facts

- In 2021, Ontario grape growers harvested 17,770 acres and marketed around 82,000 metric tonnes of grapes, worth more than \$111 million in farm cash receipts. According to the 2021 census of agriculture, there are more than 600 grape farms in Ontario.
 - In 2021, Ontario accounted for 25 per cent of beekeepers in Canada, with about 13 per cent of the colonies, and seven per cent of the honey production.
 - Parasitic varroa mites are considered to be the primary cause of winter mortality for beekeeping in North America, including Ontario.
 - All farmers are encouraged to participate in Business Risk Management programs to support their farm businesses during difficult times. Farmers should contact [Agricorp](#) for more information about specific program options.
-

Additional Resources

[The Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership](#)

[Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada](#)

[Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs](#)

[Agricorp](#)

[Grape Growers of Ontario](#)

[Ontario Beekeepers' Association](#)

Media Contacts

Jack Sullivan

Minister's Office

jack.sullivan@ontario.ca

Connie Osborne

Communications Branch

OMAFRA.media@ontario.ca

[519-826-3145](tel:519-826-3145)

Simon Lafortune

Press Secretary, Office of the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

simon.lafortune@agr.gc.ca

[343 549-0778](tel:343-549-0778)

Media Relations

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

Ottawa, Ontario

[613-773-7972](tel:613-773-7972)

[1-866-345-7972](tel:1-866-345-7972)

aafc.mediarelations-relationsmedias.aac@agr.gc.ca

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NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Capping Rent Increases Below the Rate of Inflation

Province holding rent increase guideline at 2.5 per cent in 2024

June 30, 2023

[Municipal Affairs and Housing](#)

TORONTO — The Ontario government is continuing to strengthen protections for tenants by holding the rent increase guideline for 2024 at 2.5 per cent, well below the average inflation rate of 5.9 per cent. The rent increase guideline is the maximum amount a landlord can increase rent during the year for most tenants without the approval of the Landlord and Tenant Board.

The guideline is based on Ontario's Consumer Price Index, a measure of inflation calculated by Statistics Canada using data that reflects economic conditions over the past year. Under the *Residential Tenancies Act*, the guideline is capped at 2.5 per cent to help protect tenants from rising interest rates that would result in higher rent. Without the cap, the recent rate of inflation would have resulted in an increase of 5.9 per cent in 2024.

"Our government knows the cost of living continues to be a challenge for many Ontarians, including renters, which is why we are holding the rent increase guideline at 2.5 per cent," said Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. "This decision builds on the historic tenant protections contained in our recent Helping Homebuyers, Protecting Tenants plan, and demonstrates our commitment to help tenants across the province."

In 2022, Ontario broke ground on nearly 15,000 new purpose-built rentals, a 7.5 per cent increase from 2021 and the highest number on record. This year, rental starts across the province total more than 8,500 new units, which is a 77 per cent increase over January to May of 2022.

Quick Facts

- The rent increase guideline applies to the vast majority – approximately 1.4 million – of rental households covered by the *Residential Tenancies Act*. It does not apply to rental units occupied for the first time after November 15, 2018,

vacant residential units, community housing, long-term care homes or commercial properties.

- Rent increases are not automatic or mandatory. Landlords may only raise rent if they give tenants at least 90 days' written notice using the [correct form](#). At least 12 months must have passed since the first day of the tenancy or the last rent increase. If a tenant believes they have received an improper rent increase, they can apply to the [Landlord and Tenant Board](#) to request a correction.
- In most cases, the rent increase cannot be more than the rent increase guideline. Landlords can apply to the [Landlord and Tenant Board for above-guideline rent increases](#), under certain circumstances, such as after eligible capital work has been paid for and finished.
- Tenants who may need help to pay their rent are encouraged to contact their local [service manager](#) to see what housing supports are available in their community.
- Ontario has the highest maximum fines in Canada for residential tenancy offences. The province is doubling the maximum fines for offences under the *Residential Tenancies Act* (such as bad faith evictions) to \$100,000 for individuals and \$500,000 for corporations.

Additional Resources

- Learn more about [renting in Ontario](#) and your rights as a tenant, including easy-to-understand rental leases and protections against wrongful or bad faith evictions.
- Learn about [the rules for rent increases](#), including rent increase guidelines and resolving issues about rent control.
- Use [Navigate Tribunals Ontario](#) to learn about your rights and responsibilities and the rules and processes at the Landlord and Tenant Board.
- [Visit Ontario's website for information on how to solve a disagreement with your landlord or tenant](#), and learn how we can help if a landlord or tenant breaks a rule under the *Residential Tenancies Act*.

Related Topics

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Learn about the government services available to you and how government works.

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Home and Community

Information for families on major life events and care options, including marriage, births and child care. Also includes planning resources for municipalities. [Learn](#)

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Media Contacts

Victoria Podbielski

Minister's Office

victoria.podbielski2@ontario.ca

Communications Branch

MMA.media@ontario.ca

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NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Delivers 2,900 Additional Affordable Child Care Spaces in Ottawa

Investment will help make child care more accessible for families across the region

June 29, 2023

[Education](#)

NEPEAN — The Ontario government is expanding licensed child care spaces in the City of Ottawa by investing more than \$178 million in 2023 to support the implementation of the Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) system. This support delivers a significant reduction of child care fees for Ottawa families by 50 per cent on average and is helping to save families an annual average of \$6,000 to \$10,000 per child.

An additional 2,900 licensed child care spaces will be created in Ottawa by 2026. These new spaces for children aged zero to five will represent a 9.4 per cent increase of child care spaces available in the community – increasing access to more families across the region.

“We are delivering savings directly to families while increasing access to child care spaces for families across Ottawa,” said Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education. “Our government believes that child care should not be the cost of a mortgage payment, which is why we took action to finally make child care affordable. In addition to cutting child care fees by 50 per cent, we are proud to deliver additional spaces so that more Ottawa families benefit and ultimately save their hard earned money.”

These new spaces in Ottawa are on top of the 29,601 spaces enrolled in the CWELCC system last year.

“We know that creating new child care spaces is critical to ensuring our Canada-wide early learning and child care plan is a success,” said Karina Gould, Minister of Families, Children and Social Development. “This is an important step for families in Ottawa who rely on child care close to home and work. By working with the Government of Ontario, high-quality, affordable and inclusive child care is becoming a reality in the province.”

Ontario remains committed to the success of the Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care system and will continue to work with municipalities and the sector to ensure affordable child care is available in communities where it is needed most.

Quick Facts

- As of December 31, 2022, 92 per cent of Ontario's licensed child care sites have opted in to the CWELCC system, meaning at these facilities across the province, families with children under the age of six are already seeing fee reductions of up to 50 per cent compared to 2020 levels.
- The Ontario government has streamlined the application process for new child care operators when they apply for a licence. They will learn about their eligibility for CWELCC child care funding before investing heavily in becoming licensed. The applicants will also have to submit key municipal approvals, including zoning and permitted use, together with their application. This will significantly reduce the time it takes the applicant to acquire a licence.
- Currently, there are more than 5,500 licensed child care centres, 145 licensed home child care agencies, and around 473,000 licensed spaces in Ontario.
- Since 2018, the Ontario government has invested over \$2.2 billion in capital projects within the education sector, including nearly 6,500 new, licensed child care spaces within schools. For 2022-23, the Ontario government has invested more than \$57 million to create 1,502 school-based licensed child care spaces for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers.
- In [March 2022](#), Ontario secured a five-year, \$10.2 billion agreement with the federal government which will lower fees for families to an average of \$10 a day by September 2025. In [December 2022](#), as part of that agreement, Ontario announced a targeted plan to create thousands of new licensed child care spaces, with a focus on increasing access to Ontario families.

Quotes

"The Government of Canada is making life more affordable for families while giving children the best start in life. These new child care spaces will increase access to affordable child care across Ottawa, saving families thousands per year."

- **Mona Fortier**

President of the Treasury Board of Canada and MP for Ottawa-Vanier

"Ottawa is growing in both population and opportunity. Providing accessible and affordable childcare to more families across our city is a welcome opportunity for many families. The Provincial government's investment will help Ottawa increase access to and support more families in Ottawa. This is a great investment for the future of our city."

- Mark Sutcliffe
Mayor, City of Ottawa

"Our government is continuing to support families with the addition of new child care spaces in our community. Today's announcement, along with the reduction of child care fees is another positive step for families."

- Lisa MacLeod
MPP for Nepean

"I am proud Ontario's government is taking real steps to support parents and families with affordable, reliable child care. Thousands more Ontario families have access to the child care they need, excited to say we're getting it done for parents across Ottawa, and all of Ontario."

- Goldie Ghamari
MPP for Carleton

Additional Resources

[Ontario Creating More Affordable Child Care Spaces Across the Province](#)

[Ontario Investing in Licensed Child Care](#)

[\\$13.2 Billion Child Care Deal will Lower Fees for Families](#)

[Ontario's Child Care Action Plan Puts Families First](#)

[Canada-Ontario early years and child care agreement](#)

Media Contacts

Grace Lee

Minister's Office

grace.lee3@ontario.ca

NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Expanding Personal Support Worker Training Program in Long-Term Care

Training hundreds of additional personal support workers will connect residents to more hours of direct care

June 22, 2023

[Long-Term Care](#)

TORONTO — The Ontario government is investing \$16.5 million to train up to 600 new personal support workers across the province as part of its commitment to ensure long-term care residents receive an average of four hours of hands-on direct care each day by 2025. The Learn and Earn Accelerated Program for Personal Support Workers in Long-Term Care (LEAP LTC) is an online program in partnership with Humber College that accelerates the training of existing long-term care staff, such as resident attendants and dietary aides, to become personal support workers.

“LEAP LTC will help long-term care workers grow their careers, support the staffing needs of rural, remote and northern long-term care homes and most importantly, increase care for residents,” said Paul Calandra, Minister of Long-Term Care. “This is part of our plan to hire and retain thousands of personal support workers and nurses as we work to implement a nation-leading standard of four hours of care, per resident, per day.”

First launched in 2022, LEAP LTC consists of full-time online coursework followed by a paid on-site clinical placement at the long-term care home where the participant already works. This makes it possible for people to build their skills without leaving their communities. By providing training, financial and mentorship support to participants, the program helps them overcome geographical and financial barriers that may hinder their career growth.

The government is fixing long-term care to ensure Ontario’s seniors get the quality of care and quality of life they need and deserve both now and in the future. This work is built on four pillars: staffing and care; quality and enforcement; building modern, safe, and comfortable homes; and providing seniors with faster, more convenient access to the services they need.

Quick Facts

- LEAP LTC was developed from a pilot project launched in 2022-23, in which the Ontario government invested \$1.575 million in a partnership with Humber College and Revera, to upskill existing long-term care staff to become personal support workers.
- Funding for LEAP LTC is provided through Ontario's [long-term care staffing plan](#).
- The Ontario government is providing up to \$1.25 billion this year to long-term care homes to hire and retain thousands more long-term care staff. This is part of the government's historic four-year, \$4.9 billion commitment to increase the provincewide average direct care time provided by registered nurses, registered practical nurses and personal support workers to four hours per resident, per day, by March 31, 2025.
- Through a \$6.4 billion investment, Ontario now has 31,705 new and 28,648 upgraded beds in development across the province. This will help increase overall bed capacity, address long-term care waitlists and hallway health care, and provide our seniors the care they deserve.
- On February 2, 2023, the Ontario government released [Your Health: A Plan for Connected and Convenient Care](#). The plan focuses on providing people with a better health care experience by connecting them to more convenient options closer to home while shortening wait times for key services across the province and growing the health care workforce for years to come.

Quotes

"Personal support workers are an essential health human resource. Humber is proud to partner with the Ontario government on the Learn and Earn Accelerated Program for Personal Support Workers in Long-Term Care, helping existing employees of long-term care homes across Ontario upskill to become personal support workers and fill these important positions. As a leader in health care education, Humber looks forward to working with more long-term care partners across the province through the newly expanded pilot project. Together, we can help Ontarians in the field move into in-demand roles through online learning and paid clinical placements with their current employer, without having to sacrifice their earnings."

- Ann Marie Vaughan
President and CEO, Humber College

"Our government is committed to increasing choices and reducing barriers to high-quality, postsecondary education for students. Providing long-term care workers with a combination of virtual and in-person education and training options so they can upgrade their skills and become personal support workers will help meet the health care needs of more residents in local communities across Ontario."

- Jill Dunlop

Minister of Colleges and Universities

Additional Resources

- [2023 Ontario Budget: Building a Strong Ontario](#)
- [Your Health: A Plan for Connected and Convenient Care](#)
- [Plan to Stay Open: Health System Stability and Recovery](#)
- [A better place to live, a better place to work: Ontario's long-term care staffing plan](#)

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Media Contacts

Jake Roseman

Office of the Minister of Long-Term Care

Jake.Roseman@ontario.ca

NEWS RELEASE

Ontario First in Canada to Provide Coverage for New ALS Treatment

Albrioza now covered under province's publicly funded drug program

June 28, 2023

[Health](#)

TORONTO — The Ontario government is connecting people to a new treatment for those living with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), also known as Lou Gehrig's disease. Ontario is the first Canadian jurisdiction to cover the new treatment, Albrioza, under the province's publicly funded drug program.

"Our government is giving people access to more treatment options by expanding public access to new medications and therapeutics," said Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. "Expanding Ontario's drug program coverage to include Albrioza, will ensure that people living with ALS will benefit from this new treatment sooner and is another example of how our government is connecting more people in our province to the care they need."

An early phase clinical study of Albrioza demonstrated slowed disease progression, with an additional clinical study currently underway to provide additional insight. Albrioza is also being explored for the treatment of other neurodegenerative diseases.

Albrioza is now funded through the Ontario Drug Benefit Program's Exceptional Access Program for Ontarians who meet specified criteria. Eligible Ontarians and their families are encouraged to reach out to their health care provider to help determine if Albrioza is a suitable treatment option for them.

Quick Facts

- ALS is a progressive nervous system disease that affects nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord, causing loss of muscle control.
- Ontario is the first jurisdiction in Canada to cover Albrioza through its publicly funded drug program.
- Amylyx has a manufacturing partnership for the global supply of Albrioza in Whitby, Ontario.

- Albriozza is available in individual packets, each containing 10 g of powder to be reconstituted in 250 mL of room temperature water and taken orally or administered via feeding tube within one hour of preparation.
- There are approximately 3,000 Canadians who live with ALS. 1,000 are diagnosed annually.

Quotes

"Our government is building on Ontario's long history of medical breakthroughs and life sciences innovation by connecting more people with Albriozza, an innovative, life-changing treatment for ALS. We continue to grow our life sciences sector thanks to companies like Amylyx, who chose Whitby as its manufacturing hub for the global supply of Albriozza."

- Vic Fedeli

Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade

"Amylyx is thrilled to announce that eligible Ontarians living with ALS will now have access to ALBRIOZA through the province's public drug benefit program. Canada is leading the way with its support of people living with ALS and was the first country in the world to approve and launch ALBRIOZA; a Canada-first approval does not happen often with global pharmaceutical launches. Now, with the support of the Ontario government, Ontario has become the first jurisdiction in Canada to provide publicly funded access to ALBRIOZA. As an Ontarian, I'm also particularly proud that Amylyx has partnered to manufacture the global supply of this therapy right here in the province."

- Chris Aiello

General Manager and Head of Canada at Amylyx

"We congratulate the Ontario government on its decision to reimburse this treatment in such a timely manner following pCPA negotiations. Because of the speed at which this fatal disease progresses, with a life expectancy of two to three years following diagnosis, timely access to this treatment is crucial. The ALS Society of Canada will continue to advocate for swift and equitable access for ALS therapies by bringing forward the perspectives and experiences of people affected by ALS."

- Tammy Moore
CEO of the ALS Society of Canada

Additional Resources

- [Get coverage for prescription drugs](#)

Related Topics

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Media Contacts

Hannah Jensen

Minister Jones' Office

Hannah.R.Jensen@ontario.ca

Anna Miller

Communications Division

media.moh@ontario.ca

[416-314-6197](tel:416-314-6197)

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NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Helping More Students Become Paramedics

Expansion of college programs will increase paramedic workforce, ensuring faster access to emergency care

June 29, 2023

[Health](#)

BARRIE — As part of [Your Health: A Plan for Connected and Convenient Care](#) and its plan to hire more health care workers, the Ontario government is helping more students who want to become a paramedic in Ontario by adding more than 300 spaces in paramedic programs at provincial colleges across Ontario this year.

“There is a significant demand for paramedics in communities across the province, and our government is making it as easy as possible for those who want to train and work in this important profession,” said Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. “In partnership with the Ontario Association of Paramedic Chiefs, we are strengthening Ontario’s paramedic workforce for years to come.”

More student spaces in primary care paramedic programs at colleges across Ontario will make it easier for future paramedics to access education and training closer to home. Expanding the pipeline of talent for the future will also help bolster the paramedic workforce and make sure emergency services are available to respond to emergencies when and where Ontarians need them.

“By expanding enrolment for paramedic programs in Ontario, our government is helping more students gain access to world class postsecondary training closer to home,” said Jill Dunlop, Minister of Colleges and Universities. “These new spots will play a critical role in addressing the current shortage of paramedics by preparing more highly-skilled health care professionals to enter the workforce and provide the excellent care Ontarians deserve.”

The province is making it easier for people and their families to connect to the care they need, when they need it, closer to home by helping those who want to train and work in Ontario and hiring more health care workers to help communities build up their own health workforces.

Quick Facts

- Colleges offered expanded enrolment in 2023-24 are Algonquin College, Cambrian College, Centennial College, Collège Boréal, Collège La Cité, Conestoga College, Confederation College, Durham College, Fanshawe College, Georgian College, Lambton College, Northern College, St. Clair College and St. Lawrence College.
 - The newly expanded [Ontario Learn and Stay Grant](#) will provide students studying in the first year of a paramedic program in 2023-2024 at [select postsecondary institutions](#) with funding for free tuition, books, compulsory fees and other direct educational costs. After graduating, students will need to work in the same region they studied for a minimum of six months for every full year of study funded by the grant.
 - As announced in the 2023 Ontario Budget, Dedicated Offload Nurses Program (DONP) funding is increasing by \$51 million over the next three years to support municipalities in reducing ambulance offload delays, providing funding for dedicated nurses to offload patients in hospital emergency rooms. As of January 2022, funding eligibility has been expanded to paramedics, respiratory therapists, and physician assistants in addition to nurses.
 - The province is also giving paramedics the flexibility to treat additional 9-1-1 patients – including those with diabetes and epilepsy – at home, on scene, or in appropriate community-based settings instead of in emergency departments. This innovative model of care is already in place for palliative as well as mental health and addictions patients.
 - Ontario is expanding its community paramedicine program, which enables paramedics to use their training and expertise beyond their traditional emergency response role. Through this program, which works alongside home care, primary care, and home and community care, 55 communities are already benefiting from 24/7 non-emergency support. This is also helping people with chronic health conditions live independently at home, where they want to be.
-

Quotes

"At Georgian College, our paramedic graduates are in very high demand by the many regional health services we partner with. We've had a 100 per cent employment rate in the program since 2017 and these new spaces for 20 additional paramedic students at Georgian will better serve our community needs for a highly skilled health-care workforce, as well as help more students achieve their career aspirations."

- Kevin Weaver
President and CEO, Georgian College

"The Ontario Association of Paramedic Chiefs (OAPC) welcomes the addition of 300 new spaces across Ontario for paramedic training. We look forward to working with Minister Jones, Minister Dunlop, Colleges Ontario and individual colleges to place highly trained and skilled paramedics on the road to serve Ontarians."

- Michael Sanderson
OAPC President

"This is an incredibly important investment in the paramedic programs at Ontario's public colleges. It will bolster Ontario's health-care workforce and improve the delivery of emergency services throughout the province."

- Marketa Evans
President and CEO, Colleges Ontario

Additional Resources

- [Your Health: A Plan for Connected and Convenient Care](#)
- [Applications Open! Sign Up Today for Ontario's Learn and Stay Grant](#)

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Media Contacts

Hannah Jensen

Minister Jones' Office

Hannah.R.Jensen@ontario.ca

Anna Miller

Communications Division

media.moh@ontario.ca

[416-314-6197](tel:416-314-6197)

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NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Increasing Investment in the Greenlands Conservation Partnership

Additional \$14 million will help further protect natural areas such as wetlands, grasslands and forests

June 27, 2023

[Environment, Conservation and Parks](#)

BANCROFT— The Ontario government is investing an additional \$14 million in the Greenlands Conservation Partnership to expand the protection of ecologically important natural areas and preserve the province's natural diversity.

The funding will help partner organizations such as the Nature Conservancy of Canada and the Ontario Land Trust Alliance secure, restore and manage new protected wetlands, grasslands and forests areas and open additional natural spaces for Ontarians to enjoy.

"We've seen widespread success over the last three years by working in partnership with organizations like the Nature Conservancy of Canada and the Ontario Land Trust Alliance to increase our impact and create opportunities to protect nature. That's why we're increasing our investment in the Greenlands Conservation Partnership program," said David Piccini, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks. "Together, we're protecting sensitive natural areas and ensuring a healthy environment Ontarians can enjoy, now and in the future."

The Greenlands Conservation Partnership is the single largest provincial fund to secure private land in Ontario. The program leverages private and other non-provincial dollars to secure, restore and manage new protected areas. Since launching in 2020, the program has protected nearly 167,000 hectares (approximately 412,000 acres) of land across the province – an area two and a half times the footprint of the City of Toronto.

"The time to accelerate conservation is now. Through the Greenlands Conservation Partnership, the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) and the province have delivered 31 conservation projects, protecting over 164,200 hectares of lands," said Mike Hendren, Regional Vice President – Ontario, Nature Conservancy of Canada. "These conserved areas help protect communities against the impacts of climate

change and biodiversity loss and ensure accessible green spaces. NCC is grateful for Ontario's ongoing support of the Greenlands program through which more natural areas, including forests, wetlands and grasslands, will be conserved and restored for people and nature."

The program has contributed to some of Ontario's most significant conservation efforts. For example, the Hastings Wildlife Junction project near Bancroft, to which the government contributed an additional \$4 million, is protecting nearly 10,000 hectares (25,000 acres) of significant forest and wetlands, making it the second largest protected area in the region. The area is 75 times the size of Canada's Wonderland.

"Ontario Land Trust Alliance welcomes this additional funding from the Government of Ontario for the Greenlands Conservation Partnership," said Alison Howson, Executive Director, Ontario Land Trust Alliance. "In the first three years of the program, local and community land trusts created 44 new projects that conserve sensitive ecosystems and protect habitats for 85 species at risk, including 23 new properties that provide public access and increase the availability of green spaces for Ontarians to enjoy. Partners of this program, including OLTA, will build on the real measurable benefits already seen, preserving more natural areas of ecological importance and promoting community connection to these natural spaces."

Partnering with conservation leaders is one way the government is working to preserve ecologically important natural areas and protect the province's rich biodiversity.

Quick Facts

- Since 2020, Ontario has invested \$38 million to leverage private contributions to the Greenlands Conservation Partnership with the Nature Conservancy of Canada and the Ontario Land Trust Alliance.
- This provincial funding supports the securement of privately owned protected areas and their restoration and management. For every dollar of provincial funding provided through the Greenlands Conservation program, NCC and OLTA have matched it with approximately \$5 from other conservation partners, including individual donors, foundations and other levels of government.
- Through Ontario's partnerships with the Nature Conservancy of Canada and the Ontario Land Trust Alliance, the government has contributed funding to help protect 72 privately owned properties of ecological importance.

- Donations to support the work of Ontario's conservation partners can be made directly to the [Nature Conservancy of Canada](#) and the [Ontario Land Trust Alliance](#), as well as to local land trusts.
-

Additional Resources

- Find out more about the [Nature Conservancy of Canada](#) and the [Ontario Land Trust Alliance](#).
 - [To locate a land trust near you, visit the Ontario Land Trust Alliance's member directory.](#)
 - [Find out more about where and how the Nature Conservancy of Canada is focusing their conservation efforts in Ontario.](#)
 - [Read about these investments and more in the 2023 Ontario Budget: Building a Strong Ontario.](#)
-

Related Topics

Environment and Energy

Learn more about how Ontario protects and restores wildlife and the environment. Includes information on conservation and the electricity system. [Learn more](#)

Media Contacts

Daniel Strauss

Minister's Office

Daniel.Strauss@ontario.ca

Gary Wheeler

Communications Branch

gary.s.wheeler@ontario.ca

[416-314-6666](tel:416-314-6666)

NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Offering Free Fishing to Celebrate Canada Day

Free fishing from July 1 to July 9 across the province

June 29, 2023

[Natural Resources and Forestry](#)

TORONTO – To help celebrate Canada Day, the Ontario government is encouraging families, fishing enthusiasts and first-time anglers to participate in the province’s week-long free fishing event. From July 1 to July 9, Canadian residents can fish for free.

“To help families celebrate Canada Day, we’re making it easier to get out on the water and experience the world-class fishing opportunities that exist in Ontario,” said Graydon Smith, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry. “Fishing is a fun and affordable way for families to enjoy quality time, while connecting with nature.”

Families are encouraged to plan their fishing trip or find a local event by visiting <http://www.ontariofamilyfishing.com/>.

If you are fishing for free during this period, you must carry ID issued by the provincial or federal government, showing your name and date of birth.

Quick Facts

- This is the last free fishing period in 2023 when Canadian residents can fish for free.
 - If you are fishing for free during this Canada Day period, all conservation licence catch limits, size limits, sanctuaries and all other [fishing regulations](#) and rules still apply.
 - All veterans and active Canadian Armed Forces members residing in Ontario can enjoy free recreational fishing in the province any time of year.
-

Additional Resources

[What You Need to Know about Free Family Fishing](#)

[Fishing in Ontario](#)

[Find a new fishing spot using Fish ON-Line](#)

[Learn to Fish in Ontario](#)

[Guide to eating Ontario fish](#)

Related Topics

Rural and North

Information about the province's Far North and rural communities. Get connected to business improvement organizations and learn more about funding and programs that support rural, northern and Indigenous communities. [Learn more](#)

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Media Contacts

Media Desk

Communications Services Branch

416-314-2106

MediaDesk.MNRF@ontario.ca

Melissa Candelaria

Minister's Office

647-448-7652

Melissa.Candelaria@ontario.ca

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NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Protecting Provincial Waterways

Province clarifying restrictions on floating accommodations

June 23, 2023

[Natural Resources and Forestry](#)

MUSKOKA – The Ontario government is prohibiting floating accommodations from docking overnight on provincial waterways. The regulatory change will come into effect July 1, 2023 and will protect Ontario's lakes and rivers by preserving access to public lands and ensuring fairness for recreational users. The regulation will not impact anyone exercising their right to navigate, including reasonable mooring, or anyone exercising Aboriginal or treaty rights.

"We heard a number of concerns about the use of floating accommodations on Ontario's waterways, including their potential effects on the environment as well as concerns about safety," said Graydon Smith, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry. "With these changes, we are taking action to protect our waterways by preserving access to lakes and rivers, ensuring access for recreational users, and reducing the potential for pollution of lakes and rivers."

Floating accommodations, such as rafts and barges, contain buildings or structures equipped for overnight accommodation, but unlike watercraft, they are not primarily designed for navigation.

The regulatory changes follow consultations with the public, boaters, cottagers, municipalities and Indigenous communities which expressed concerns that floating accommodations have a risk of damaging the environment. Concerns were expressed that floating accommodations could disturb local fish and wildlife by disrupting the natural environment and increase the risk of pollution from garbage, greywater disposal and spills.

These changes, which clarify the difference between floating accommodations and watercraft, only apply to public lands in Ontario managed under the *Public Lands Act* and will not address floating accommodations located on private water lots or on waterways under jurisdiction of other governments and ministries (e.g., portions of Trent Severn Waterway).

Quotes

"Our region is home to many waterways of tremendous importance to the area's geology, biology, history, and culture, and they deserve protection so residents can continue to enjoy them for generations to come. Working with our communities and looking at the impacts of floating cottages, these changes are essential to protect our waterways that play a vital role as drainage outlets, providing habitat, nourishment, and means of transport to countless lifeforms, offering travel routes for business and recreational boaters, and that create the majestic scenery that is such an integral part of our landscape."

- Jill Dunlop
MPP for Simcoe North

"I would like to thank Minister Smith for taking time to consult the public including boaters, cottagers, municipalities and Indigenous communities to address floating accommodations. This resolution will protect our water eco systems and allow for the continued enjoyment for all wishing to utilize public lands."

- Laurie Scott
MPP for Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock

Additional Resources

[Read more about the regulation changes](#)

Related Topics

Environment and Energy

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Rural and North

Information about the province's Far North and rural communities. Get connected to business improvement organizations and learn more about funding and programs that support rural, northern and Indigenous communities. [Learn more](#)

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Media Contacts

Media Desk

Communications Branch

mediadesk.mnrf@ontario.ca

Melissa Candelaria

Minister's Office

Melissa.Candelaria@ontario.ca

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NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Providing Free Training for Truck Drivers

New project will provide \$1.3 million for more than 50 jobseekers to kick-start their careers in the transportation industry

June 27, 2023

[Office of the Premier](#)

AYR— The Ontario government is investing \$1.3 million to prepare 54 women, newcomers and others from underrepresented groups for in-demand careers in the trucking industry. Across Ontario, at least 6,100 more truck drivers are needed to fill job vacancies and to ensure families and businesses receive goods on time and the province's economy reaches its full potential. Only two per cent of Ontario truck drivers are women, which is why the program will reimburse up to \$4,500 for childcare and other living expenses.

"This innovative program will help break down barriers to attract more women into the trucking industry," said Premier Doug Ford. "As we build Ontario, we're going to need all hands-on deck. That's why our government is working hard to ensure that all skilled occupations are more accessible and welcoming for women and all under-represented groups."

Led by the Women's Trucking Federation of Canada, this free project will provide participants with up to 200 hours of training needed to obtain AZ (tractor-trailer) and DZ (straight truck) licenses. Instructors will use both virtual reality systems and in-cab, hands-on training to teach jobseekers how to operate a commercial vehicle, perform manoeuvres, conduct inspections, maintain the vehicles, and understand commercial vehicle systems and controls.

"Truckers are the everyday heroes who keep the wheels of our economy turning, and we need to ensure more people have a chance to explore these purpose-driven careers," said Monte McNaughton, Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development. "I was proud to make Ontario [the first province in Canada to guarantee truckers the right to access washrooms](#), and our government will continue to invest in training to ensure everyone in our community gets a shot at earning bigger paycheques for themselves and their families."

The project will also cover training for forklift operation, defensive driving, workplace violence and harassment, and human trafficking awareness. After completing the program, the Women's Trucking Federation of Canada will work with graduates to ensure they are employed as professional drivers.

"This investment in the trucking industry directly helps more people achieve fulfilling careers as professional drivers," said Shelley Walker, CEO at Women's Trucking Federation of Canada. "With a significant and growing skilled driver shortage facing Ontario's trucking industry, this initiative is timely in both removing barriers to employment and supporting Ontario's economy. We thank Premier Ford and Minister McNaughton for their leadership and support, and look forward to working with them on this incredibly important initiative."

To remove barriers to participation, participants will be eligible to receive up to \$1,000 for transportation and childcare support, \$300 for equipment and a \$400 weekly allowance. The first cohort of in-person training begins July 1 and will be available in Kitchener-Waterloo, the Greater Toronto Area, Ottawa, and London.

This project is funded through the government's Skills Development Fund, an over \$700 million initiative, which supports ground-breaking programs that connect jobseekers with the skills and training they need to find well-paying careers close to home.

Quick Facts

- Those interested in the Bridging the Gap in Trucking program can apply by emailing programs@wtfc.ca
 - On average, truck drivers make about \$26 per hour in Ontario.
 - Through its first three funding rounds, the Skills Development Fund has supported 596 projects, to help almost 522,000 people around the province take the next step in their careers.
 - Ontario's Skills Development Fund is supported through labour market transfer agreements between the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario.
-

Quotes

"The trucking sector in Ontario continues to experience significant skills and labour shortages. As a multifaceted and diverse industry, there are many opportunities in trucking for Canadian women, who will be an instrumental resource in helping us solve our labour shortage. This program is an essential component of the types of investments required to build a strong workforce that can support our economy into the future."

- Stephen Laskowski
President, Ontario Trucking Association (OTA)

Additional Resources

- [Skills Development Fund](#)

Related Topics

Education and Training

Learn about Ontario's early years, education and training systems. Includes information on child care, elementary schools, secondary schools, colleges, universities, skills training and financial aid. [Learn more](#)

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Media Contacts

Stephanie Bellotto

Premier's Office

Stephanie.Bellotto@ontario.ca

Sydney Dubin

Minister's Office

Sydney.Dubin@ontario.ca

Anuradha Dhar

Communications Branch

mlitsdmedialine@ontario.ca

NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Unveils Location of First New Operating Provincial Park in 40 Years

Bigwind Lake Provincial Park to provide more opportunities for year-round recreational activities

June 22, 2023

[Environment, Conservation and Parks](#)

BRACEBRIDGE —The Ontario government announced the location of the first new all-season, full-service provincial park in over 40 years.

Located at Bigwind Lake Provincial Park near Bracebridge, the operating park will offer overnight and electrified campgrounds, backcountry camping, and a variety of four-season recreational activities, including cross-country skiing, canoeing and hiking. Once complete, the park is expected to add 250 campground campsites and up to 25 new cabins to the Ontario Parks system.

“Having grown up camping in Ontario Parks with my dad, I know just how special it is to have access to the great outdoors,” said David Piccini, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks. “This will be the first new operating provincial park in almost two generations, and with the demand on our parks system on the rise, our government understands the importance of investing in Ontario Parks, which is the largest provider of outdoor recreational experiences in the province.”

Bigwind Lake Provincial Park is currently classified as a non-operating provincial park, meaning it offers low-intensity, self-guided recreational opportunities, such as hiking and nature appreciation, but does not have staff, maintained facilities or campsites.

The proposed new operating provincial park will be fully serviced and designed with the visitor experience in mind. Modern buildings and amenities such as a visitor centre, electric vehicle charging stations and electrified campsites will deliver the features that today’s campers and park-users expect. The park design will also consider environmentally sustainable elements, such as low-energy buildings, easy-to-access biking and walking routes, and wildlife-friendly planning and design, so the park remains a vital part of the natural landscape for generations to come.

“Parry Sound–Muskoka is home to some of Ontario's most popular provincial parks. Today's announcement reaffirms our government's commitment to protecting these special places,” said Graydon Smith, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry and MPP, Parry Sound–Muskoka. “Residents and tourists will soon have access to another truly beautiful and quintessential provincial park. I have full confidence that Bigwind Lake Provincial Park will become a very popular destination for people to take in the splendor of our area.”

Over the coming months, the government will engage Indigenous communities, local municipalities, stakeholders and the public on the proposed new operating park. Individuals also have an opportunity to [comment on the park's design features until August 6](#). It is anticipated that construction on Bigwind Lake Provincial Park will begin in fall 2024.

“The Town of Bracebridge is committed to community health and well-being and we are thrilled that the new park will add new amenities, including campsites and roofed accommodations to Bigwind Lake Provincial Park, operationalizing the space for visitors year-round. Bracebridge's vibrant community and landscape attracts visitors to experience it for themselves, and these new features will help to further strengthen our tourism and hospitality sectors, provide a space for people to connect with nature, and align with our commitment of encouraging long-term economic growth,” said Rick Maloney, Mayor, Town of Bracebridge.

Creating a new operating park is another way the Ontario government is building stronger and healthier communities, expanding recreational opportunities for families, and preserving and enhancing the province's natural beauty.

Quick Facts

- Bigwind Lake Provincial Park is almost 5,000 acres (1,967 hectares) – more than one and a half times bigger than Arrowhead Provincial Park in neighbouring Huntsville.
- The park's ecological diversity features five named lakes, extensive upland forests, marshes and meadows.
- Parks visitors are important drivers of the tourism economy. Based on estimated visitation, once the new operating park opens, park visitors will spend approximately \$16 million annually in Bracebridge and surrounding communities.
- Bigwind Lake Provincial Park will become Ontario's 116th operating provincial park.

- Ontario is also exploring the creation of a new urban provincial park near Uxbridge. Individuals can [share their thoughts and ideas on the proposed new urban park](#), and what they think about urban provincial parks in general until July 19.
- Visitation to Ontario's provincial parks has grown steadily in the last decade, reaching over 12.1 million visits in 2022, making it the largest provider of outdoor recreational opportunities in the province.
- Ontario manages and protects a system of 340 provincial parks and 295 conservation reserves totalling 9.8 million hectares or nine per cent of the province.

Additional Resources

[Comment on the government's proposal to create a new operating provincial park](#)

[Learn more about Bigwind Lake Provincial Park](#)

[Find a provincial park or conservation reserve near you](#)

Related Topics

Environment and Energy

Learn more about how Ontario protects and restores wildlife and the environment. Includes information on conservation and the electricity system. [Learn more](#)

Media Contacts

Daniel Strauss

Minister's Office

Daniel.Strauss@ontario.ca

Gary Wheeler

Communications Branch

gary.s.wheeler@ontario.ca

[416-314-6666](tel:416-314-6666)

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NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Welcomes \$4.5 Million Manufacturing Investment in Ottawa

Veritas Tools' expansion project will create more good-paying jobs

June 23, 2023

[Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade](#)

OTTAWA — The Ontario government is supporting a \$4.5 million investment by Veritas Tools Inc. to boost local manufacturing and create 30 new good-paying jobs in Ottawa. As part of this investment, the government is providing \$675,000 in funding through the Regional Development Program's Eastern Ontario Development Fund.

"Local manufacturers like Veritas Tools play a key role in communities across the province, and our government is proud to support them as they expand and create more good-paying jobs," said Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade. "Just last month, we saw the manufacturing sector in Ontario grow by over 20,000 jobs. We continue to create the right conditions to attract investments from both global and domestic companies."

[Veritas Tools](#), the manufacturing arm of [Lee Valley](#), is a world leader in woodworking tool-design innovation. The Ottawa-based company is investing \$4.5 million to increase production and add new state-of-the-art equipment to meet growing global demand. With more than 1,250 woodworking tool products and more than 100 patents, Veritas Tools manufactures some of the most sought-after woodworking tools in the world.

"Lee Valley and Veritas Tools are committed to domestic manufacturing, creating and preserving meaningful employment. We believe these to be foundational to a healthy economy. Investment in these areas is critically important and remains a priority," said Jason Tasse, President of Lee Valley. "We appreciate the support of Ontario's Regional Development Program. Strengthening Canada's manufacturing sector is most effective in collaboration, as demonstrated with this expansion initiative."

Ontario is investing \$140 million through its [Regional Development Program](#) to support distinct regional priorities and challenges. To date, Ontario has provided more than \$91 million to support 84 projects through the program, leveraging more than \$940 million in new investments and helping to create more than 1,800 jobs in the province.

Quick Facts

- The government launched the Regional Development Program for Eastern and Southwestern Ontario in November 2019. Businesses and municipalities can get financial support and guided access to a range of complementary services and supports.
 - In 2022, the government launched the [Advanced Manufacturing and Innovation Competitiveness](#) stream of the Regional Development Program. It supports Ontario advanced manufacturers to invest in the equipment, advanced technologies and the skilled workforce needed to improve competitiveness and growth, and to create and retain jobs across the province. The next round of applications for the stream opens on July 20, 2023.
 - As part of the [2023 Ontario Budget](#), the government introduced the [Ontario Made Manufacturing Investment Tax Credit](#), which will provide a 10 per cent refundable Corporate Income Tax credit to help local manufacturers lower their costs, invest in workers, innovate and become more competitive.
-

Quotes

"Our government is strengthening the local economy through our Regional Development Program. Not only will this investment create good-paying jobs in Ottawa, but it will also lead to the development and manufacturing of world-class products used locally, nationally and around the globe that are made in Ontario."

- Goldie Ghamari
Member of Provincial Parliament for Carleton

"Our government continues to invest in local manufacturing like Veritas Tools, resulting in the creation of 30 good-paying jobs right here in Ottawa. We're supporting our local economy and future investments towards the growth of our city and those who work hard to contribute to its success."

- Lisa MacLeod

Member of Provincial Parliament for Nepean

Additional Resources

- [Learn more about the Regional Development Program](#)

Related Topics

Business and Economy

Information about Ontario's economy and how to do business here. Includes economic development opportunities, research funding, tax credits for business and the Ontario Budget. [Learn more](#)

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Media Contacts

Vanessa De Matteis

Minister's Office

Vanessa.DeMatteis@ontario.ca

Sumita Kanga

Communications Branch

Sumita.Kanga@ontario.ca

[416-569-1890](tel:416-569-1890)

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NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Welcomes \$102 Million Investment in Growing Electric Vehicle Sector

Mitsui High-tec (Canada), Inc.'s new Brantford facility will help build province's EV supply chain

June 29, 2023

[Office of the Premier](#)

BRANTFORD — The Ontario government is welcoming a \$102.3 million investment by Mitsui High-tec (Canada), Inc. a manufacturer of motor cores, the basic structure of the motor used in electric vehicles (EVs). This investment, to expand the company's Canadian operations, will create 104 highly skilled, good-paying jobs, while helping to build Ontario's EV supply chain.

"Mitsui High-tec (Canada), Inc.'s investment to expand its Brantford-based facilities is a huge boost not only for the people of southwestern Ontario, but for our province's growing manufacturing and auto sectors," said Premier Doug Ford. "With great partners, we're building an electric vehicle and battery supply chain and making Ontario an auto-manufacturing powerhouse once again."

Since opening its first Ontario facility in 2017, [Mitsui High-tec \(Canada\), Inc.](#) has expanded twice to increase production capacity and is now the only motor core parts manufacturer for EVs and hybrid vehicles in Canada. The company's significant \$102.3 million investment will be used to open a new 103,500 square-foot manufacturing facility in Brantford that will help meet the growing demand for its products.

To support Mitsui High-tec (Canada), Inc.'s expansion, the government is investing \$3.1 million through Invest Ontario, the province's investment attraction agency.

"As the sole motor core parts manufacturer for EVs, Mitsui High-tec (Canada), Inc. plays an important role in Ontario's auto and advanced manufacturing sectors," said Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade. "Their exciting new investment will create more good-paying jobs and help ensure that the cars of the future are built in Ontario by Ontario workers. Thank you, Mitsui High-tec (Canada), Inc., for choosing Ontario."

This investment furthers [Driving Prosperity](#), the government's 10-year plan to transform Ontario's automotive supply chain to build the cars of the future, including fully-battery electric vehicles. Over the last two and a half years, Ontario has attracted over \$25 billion in transformative investments from global automakers, parts suppliers, and manufacturers of electric vehicle batteries and battery materials. With a talented workforce, state-of-the-art research and development facilities, clean steel manufacturing and an abundance of critical minerals, Ontario continues to be one of the most competitive places for businesses to invest and grow.

Quick Facts

- [Driving Prosperity: The Future of Ontario's Automotive Sector](#) positions Ontario as a North American leader in developing and building the car of the future through emerging technologies and advanced manufacturing processes.
 - Vehicle assembly and auto parts production directly supports approximately 97,000 workers in Ontario, as well as hundreds of thousands of indirect jobs. Ontario's auto supply chain comprises over 700 parts firms, over 500 tool, die and mold makers, and over 300 connected and autonomous companies.
 - As part of the [2023 Ontario Budget](#), the government introduced the [Ontario Made Manufacturing Investment Tax Credit](#), which would provide a 10 per cent refundable Corporate Income Tax credit to help local manufacturers lower their costs, invest in workers, innovate and become more competitive.
 - Through the Skills Development Fund, Ontario is investing [more than \\$4.7 million](#) to help over 360 technicians and jobseekers gain the skills they need to transition and launch their careers in the automotive manufacturing sector and emerging EV field.
 - Invest Ontario is Ontario's investment attraction agency. The agency pursues major investments that create good, high-paying jobs, promote innovation and stronger supply chains in key sectors including the automotive, advanced manufacturing, life sciences and technology sectors.
-

Quotes

"Ontario has been a great place for Mitsui High-tec (Canada) Inc. to settle and build. With the growing focus on the Hybrid and EV industry in Canada, and our opportunity to strengthen the supply chain, Ontario is a fantastic location to be close to borders for export, with space and opportunity to continue growing. Brantford has specifically been a great place to expand into, as there is a healthy job force, and space for development. We are looking forward to continuing to foster our relationship with the region of Brantford and Province of Ontario in this next phase of expansion."

- Yasushi Harada
President of Mitsui High-tec (Canada), Inc.

"Ontario continues to lead the way with EV production and innovation. With some of the best workers in the province, our desirable business environment and robust manufacturing sector, Brantford-Brant and Mitsui High-tec (Canada), Inc. will help build Ontario for generations to come and I welcome this announcement today."

- Will Bouma
Member of Provincial Parliament for Brantford—Brant

"This longstanding relationship is a testament to how companies who come to Ontario can continue to grow and flourish here. Our existing infrastructure, strong automotive cluster and talent pool reduce the burden of setting up shop and ultimately retain leading global businesses like Mitsui High-tec (Canada), Inc. Investments like these have catalytic effects on the industry and support Ontario's automotive cluster as a global leader."

- Trevor Dauphinee
CEO of Invest Ontario

Additional Resources

- [Invest Ontario](#)
 - [Driving Prosperity: The Future of Ontario's Automotive Sector](#)
-

Related Topics

Business and Economy

Information about Ontario's economy and how to do business here. Includes economic development opportunities, research funding, tax credits for business and the Ontario Budget. [Learn more](#)

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Media Contacts

Stephanie Bellotto

Premier's Office

Stephanie.Bellotto@ontario.ca

Vanessa De Matteis

Minister Fedeli's Office

Vanessa.DeMatteis@ontario.ca

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Contact us

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County Council Summary

June 28, 2023

Below you will find highlights of the County of Renfrew County Council meeting from June 28, 2023.

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 County Council package](#) can be found on our website.

[June meeting](#) YouTube link.

Warden's Address

During the moment of silent reflection, Warden Peter Emon asked those in attendance to remember the members of 450 Tactical Helicopter Squadron – Capt. David Domagala, 32, and Capt. Marc Larouche, 53 – who died as a result of a helicopter crash near Garrison Petawawa earlier this month.

Key highlights

During the month of June, Warden Peter Emon attended 14 meetings on County business.

- On June 7, he attended with CAO Craig Kelley and Director Michael Nolan, a meeting to discuss paramedic issues including cross border billing, off load delays and the County's relationship with the City of Ottawa. Members of council and staff from the Counties of Prescott Russell, Lanark, and Stormont Dundas and Glengarry, and the City of Cornwall were present and progress was made on forging ahead with the issues.
- On June 8, he attended a meeting with CAO Kelley, members of the Renfrew County and District Health Unit (RCDHU) board, elected officials and staff from South Algonquin and the City of Pembroke. RCDHU staff provided a briefing on a budget deficit as a result of the possibility of the mitigation funding from the Province of Ontario not being renewed. The Board noted the resulting strain on the 2024 budgets of the three obligated municipalities. On June 19 the same group met with MPP John Yakabuski regarding the absence of mitigation funding. MPP Yakabuski agreed to seek clarification from the Minister and facilitate a meeting.
- On June 22, he and other municipal leaders attended a briefing on wildfires in Ontario hosted by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. The prognosis was for a long dry summer with a high fuel load and the probability of more fires if our communities are not vigilant.
- On June 26, he attended a meeting of the United Way East Ontario Cabinet to discuss youth mental health and substance use health in East Ontario.
- On June 27 he attended Roseburg Forest Products in Laurentian Valley along with CAO Craig Kelley and County Development staff at the invitation of Anita Vandenberg, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of International Development; the Honourable Graydon Smith, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry and MPP John Yakabuski, for an announcement on a significant funding investment. The announcement saw the Federal and Provincial Governments invest \$1.5 million each to help Roseburg Forest Products upgrade equipment at the facility.

- On June 29, he presented the Culture Connector Awards to Ro Nwosu and Michelle Beale in Arnprior. Culture Connect, organized by the Local Immigration Partnership – Lanark and Renfrew, is an initiative, which offers a unique opportunity to celebrate the beauty of diversity and the significance of culture. By bringing together community groups and organizations across the Ottawa Valley, Culture Connect aims to create an inclusive space for learning, social connection, and fun.

Delegations

- Darren Waters, Area Manager Highway Engineering, Project Delivery, and Ryan Vandenberg, Project Manager, Project Delivery, Ministry of Transportation, provided an update about MTO projects in Renfrew County in 2023. This includes an investment of approximately \$8 million on highway rehabilitation projects in Renfrew County this year. They shared details about the Highway 148 project, which is currently in the design phase, and the consultation phase for Highway 60 at County Roads 30/70, as well as the Highway 17 Twinning, including the Calabogie Road interchange.
- Lori Huber, Partner, KPMG, LLP presented the 2022 Draft Audited Financial Statements for the County of Renfrew. This was the first time she presented to council as KPMG was just hired as the new auditor for the County.
- Meredith Staveley-Watson, Manager of Government Relations and Policy, Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus, outlined the history of the EOWC and shared successes of the group's advocacy work. Jim Pine, CAO for the County of Hastings, outlined the EOWC's Regional Housing Plan, known as '7 in 7', a bold plan which aims to reduce wait lists and build the supply of community housing by delivering 7,000 new affordable community rental units across Eastern Ontario over the next seven year.

Announcements

- County Council approved the creation of the Community Health Programs Advisory Committee (CHPAC) as an ad-hoc to the Health Committee, consisting of representatives from different institutions and areas of relevance within the broader health-care system, to offer their diverse, relevant, and extensive perspectives of health care leadership experience. Warden Peter Emon and Councillor Michael Donohue, Health Committee chair, will be the County Council representatives on the CHPAC.
- County Councillors Dan Lynch and Jennifer Murphy were appointed as Deputy Wardens from July 1, 2023 to December 12, 2023. This is a ceremonial function to allow the Warden to accept more invitations and have the Deputy Wardens attend simultaneous events to bring greetings on behalf of the County, while increasing the exposure for the corporation.
- County Council passed a [Housing and Homelessness Resolution](#) highlighting the housing and homelessness crisis being felt across Ontario and within Renfrew County. The resolution calls on the Province of Ontario to acknowledge the housing affordability crisis, commit to ending homelessness and provide adequate, predictable and sustainable housing infrastructure renewal funding.
- County Council approved the purchase of property at 34254 Highway 41, Eganville, Ontario in the amount of \$1.6 million for a future Paramedic Base. Staff was directed to further proceed with the retrofit and current costs at an estimated value of \$483,200 to be financed from Building Reserves.

Finance & Administration Committee

Presented by: Jennifer Murphy, Chair

- Tara-Lee Hay, Prosecutor within the Provincial Offences Administration, provided an update to the Finance and Administration Committee on the review of cases within the POA Court due to COVID-19. She noted the review resulted in the disposal of approximately 500 Part I and Part III charges within the County of Renfrew between January to May 2023, with the majority of these charges falling under the Highway Traffic Act and the Compulsory Automobile Insurance Act. This is to assist with the current court backlog.
- County Council passed a resolution authorizing staff to join the Canoe Procurement Group of Canada/LAS Group Procurement Program, effective July 1, 2023, to take advantage of public sector group purchasing opportunities when it is beneficial for the County of Renfrew to do so.
- County Council approved that the Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk be given delegated authority for the month of July 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 approved a revised Employment By-law # 1 that included a number of changes, in removing, reclassifying, creating and renaming positions. All of these changes were approved over the past year.

Community Services Committee

Presented by: Anne Giardini, Chair

- The County of Renfrew Community Services Department has been participating on the Renfrew County Risk Watch Table since April 2023. The Table brings multiple human-service sectors together to identify individuals who are at an acutely elevated risk of harm and provide a coordinated intervention before a crisis occurs. Meetings are held on a bi-monthly basis, and the location is rotated between Renfrew and Pembroke. Rotating the meeting location affords all agencies an opportunity to attend in person while reducing travel time and expenses.

Development & Property Committee

Presented by: James Brose, Chair

- The Summer Company program has five participants enrolled for the 2023 season:
 - Daniel Pomery – 3D Directions, Chalk River. 3D printing business selling small items such as fidget spinners, figurines and custom orders.
 - Grace Ding – Aster’s Boutique, Deep River. Jewelry and sewing business, including wrap wire jewelry (rings, earrings, necklaces, bracelets) and small sewing services (minor repairs, buttons and hems).

- Arden Miller – Arden Miller Studios, Chalk River. Custom paint pieces and hand painted items, including tote bags.
- Amber Gilchrist – Charms and Trinkets, Pembroke. Pottery business offering handcrafted mugs, bowls and vases.
- Logan Stuart – Viking Metal Works, Eganville. Junior blacksmith offering hooks, hangers, BBQ accessories and cooking utensils.

Business operations start the first week of July. Participants will each receive a \$1,500 grant to assist with business start-up costs, including equipment purchase, setting up online platforms, etc. To successfully complete the program and receive a second grant of \$1,500, students must log 280 operational hours, complete training, attend bi-weekly meetings and provide proof of sales.

- From January to May 2023, the Planning Division opened 96 new severance applications and approved 91 applications. In 2022, the County of Renfrew received a total of 234 applications and approvals for 184 applications. The County of Renfrew has processed 15 Zoning By-law Amendment applications and 7 Official Plan Amendments on behalf of local municipalities, in the same timeframe.
- Official Plan Amendment No. 35 implemented new provisions that would allow municipalities to require mandatory pre-consultation. County of Renfrew staff have reached out to the local municipalities that we provide local planning services for to start implementing changes to address Bill 109, More Homes for Everyone Act, 2022 and Bill 23, More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022. These changes are intended to help local municipalities process planning applications in accordance with the revised timeframes under the Planning Act.
- The Province has extended the commenting period regarding a review of proposed policies adapted from A Place to Grow and Provincial Policy Statement to form a new provincial planning policy instrument, until August 4, 2023 on the Environmental Registry of Ontario ([ERO 019-6813](#)).
- County Council passed a by-law to enter into a lease agreement for a two-year period commencing August 1, 2023 with Arnprior Regional Health for office space at 80 McGonigal Street, Arnprior, Ontario.
- County Council passed an updated Tariff of Fees By-law for applications made in respect of planning matters. Staff recommended an average 10% increase to fees. Even with the proposed increases, these fees are far below actual costs to the County of Renfrew for processing planning applications. The changes to the Tariff of Fees By-law are required to implement Bill 109 and Bill 23. Local municipalities will also need to update their Tariff of Fees by-laws to implement changes to the Planning Act under Bill 109 and Bill 23. Some of the proposed County fee changes will impact what a local municipality will need to re-coop from a local development application fee.
- County Council adopted a by-law to delegate the authority to the Manager of Planning Services to enter into consent agreements. This delegation of authority will streamline the consent agreement process and improve efficiency within the County of Renfrew, ultimately benefiting the stakeholders involved. Consent agreements play a crucial role in facilitating land development, allowing for the creation of new parcels or the adjustment of boundaries between existing parcels. These agreements often include conditions and restrictions that ensure compliance with planning regulations and promote orderly and sustainable development.

Health Committee

Presented by: Michael Donohue, Chair

- The Emergency Services Department met with representatives from the Ministry of Health and the Renfrew Central Ambulance Communications Center to begin planning the implementation of a new deployment tool called MPDS (Medical Priority Dispatch System) to replace the current DPCI (Dispatch Priority Card Index) system of triaging and categorizing 911 calls. The Service will be designing “response plans” to help guide the Ambulance Communications Officer (ACO), at dispatch to send the right crew, to the right place, at the right time.
- RC VTAC was selected as the winner of the Paramedic Chiefs of Canada Award of Excellence in the category of Client Centred Initiative, which was presented at the Leadership Summit in Kelowna, B.C., on June 13-15, 2023.
- The EOWC set paramedic services as a priority for 2023 in response to the growing pressure faced by paramedic services throughout the region. The report includes updated data for both the EOWC as a region as well as each of the 13-member municipalities following the initial EOWC paramedic services situational overview report from 2019. The refreshed report is available on the EOWC website: www.eowc.org/2023paramedicstudy.
- County Council approved that the County of Renfrew join a working group of neighbouring municipalities to address the issue of cross-border paramedic billing and other systemic issues.
- County Council adopted a by-law authorizing the Warden and CAO/Clerk to sign a contract with 211 Ontario to provide 211 contact centre (telephony system) access to support the Renfrew County Virtual Triage and Assessment Centre team.
- County Council approved the reallocation of Paramedic Service Capital Funds to cover the purchase of a Super Daxx Survivor 1800 Rescue Watercraft at a cost of \$11,500 and deferred the purchase of a Paramedic all-terrain vehicle. In the past the Paramedic Service has borrowed boats to respond to calls requiring water access, but this purchase will allow the Service’s Sierra Team to add marine capabilities to its operating procedures.
- County Council authorized the Warden and CAO/Clerk to sign an Agreement between the County of Renfrew, and Ontario Health for funding to support the Renfrew County Virtual Triage and Assessment Centre for the term from April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024.

Operations Committee

Presented by: Glenn Doncaster, Chair

- On May 4, 2023, County staff attended a presentation to various municipal stakeholders by Dillon Consulting Limited (Dillon), on behalf of the Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO), which is commencing a Preliminary Design and Class Environmental Assessment Study for the intersection of Highway 60 with County Road 30 (Lake Dore Road) and County Road 70 (Kokomis Road). Dillon reviewed 20 conceptual alternatives for the intersection and has narrowed the design alternatives to the following 4 that are viable for continued analysis and consideration:
 - Traffic signals with left turn lanes;
 - Realigned Kokomis Road with signals and driveway;
 - Realigned Kokomis Road with signals, a south cul-de-sac, and left turn lanes; and,
 - Realigned Kokomis Road with signals and south cul-de-sac.

- County Council approved the assumption of McMahon Road Culvert on McMahon Road, 0.18km east of Ferguslea Road, Township of Admaston/Bromley. Costs for design and construction on McMahon Road Culvert will be shared equally between the County of Renfrew and the Township of Admaston/Bromley. A design for the culvert and budget implications will be presented at a future meeting.
- County Council approved a number of contracts as submitted:
 - For the reconstruction of County Road 512 (Foymount Road) and County Structure B257 (Harrington Creek Bridge), from Rodden Creek to Miller Road, Township of Bonnechere Valley, to Bonnechere Excavating Incorporated (BEI), Renfrew, Ontario, in the amount of \$6,370,184.09 plus applicable taxes.
 - For the rehabilitation of County Road 508 (Calabogie Road) from Goshen Road to Highway 17, Township of McNab/Braeside in the amount of \$1,077,527.42 plus applicable taxes and from County Road 34 (Norton Road) to Mill Street, Township of Greater Madawaska, in the amount of \$940,617.58 plus applicable taxes, to Thomas Cavanagh Construction Limited, Ashton, Ontario.
 - For the rehabilitation of County Road 65 (Centennial Lake Road) from Black Donald Public Boat Launch to Civic Address #2875, in the Township of Greater Madawaska, to McCrea Excavation Ltd., Pembroke, Ontario, in the amount of \$531,708.75 plus applicable taxes.
 - For the rehabilitation of County Road 517 (Dafoe Road) from the Township Line (Coulas Road) to Serran Road, Township of Madawaska Valley, to Walsh Contracting and Equipment Rentals, Killaloe, Ontario, in the amount of \$1,074,039.62 plus applicable taxes.
 - For the rehabilitation of County Road 4 (Storyland Road) from Alex Lane to County Road 653 (Chenau Road), Township of Horton, to Greenwood Paving (Pembroke) Ltd., Pembroke, Ontario, in the amount of \$1,245,192.50 plus applicable taxes.
 - For Asphalt Patching and Scratch Coat Paving to Greenwood Paving (Pembroke) Ltd., Pembroke, Ontario, in the amount of \$672,355.70 plus applicable taxes.
 - For the reconstruction of County Road 30 (Lake Dore Road) from Highway 60 to Sperberg Road, Township of North Algona Wilberforce, to R.G.T. Clouthier Construction Ltd., Pembroke, Ontario, in the amount of \$2,914,330 plus applicable taxes.
 - For Contract Administration and Construction Supervision services during reconstruction of County Road 512 (Foymount Road), Township of Bonnechere Valley, BT Engineering Incorporated, Ottawa, Ontario, in the amount of \$316,647.80 plus applicable taxes.
- County Council approved a Road Access Agreement to County Road 20 (Castleford Road), Township of Horton between Enne Bakker and Douwe Bakker and the County of Renfrew.
- County Council approved a Road Access Agreement to County Road 508 (Calabogie Road), Township of Greater Madawaska between Scott Power and Lindsay Power and the County of Renfrew.
- County Council approved a Cost Share Agreement with the Town of Arnprior for the County Road 2 (Daniel Street), Edey Street and Galvin Street intersection realignment. During the 2023 Budget Workshop, County Road 2 (Daniel Street), Edey Street and Galvin Street intersection realignment was approved. Staff has completed the Agreement which will see the County of Renfrew contribute \$684,356.96 excluding applicable taxes to this project (as budgeted). This project is being led and managed by the Town of Arnprior.

- County Council approved the acquisition of property described as part of Lot 22, Concession 13, Part 6 on Plan 49R-20186 in the geographic Township of Sebastopol, Township of Bonnechere Valley from Sean Rombough in the amount of \$7,800.

Additional Information

Craig Kelley, Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk

613-735-7288

MESSAGE FROM CATHY JORDAN, BOARD CHAIR, AND LEAH LEVESQUE, PRESIDENT AND CEO

We are in the middle of a health human resources crisis, and over this last year, we have been determined to prevent service disruptions. We have had some notable success implementing innovative solutions that allowed a long run of uninterrupted care in our Emergency Department, Inpatient Unit, and the opportunity to expand our Surgical Services and reach full occupancy of the 96-bed Grove.

Unfortunately, in May 2023, we made the difficult but necessary decision to close the ED temporarily on two occasions, each time for 12 hours. We're working urgently to avoid this from happening again by increasing support from community paramedics, continuing with active recruitment for RNs in the Emergency Department, and building a supportive work environment to retain team members.

Through the staffing challenges, we have prioritized our people and our partnerships to deliver innovative solutions. We have reflected this approach in our new 2023-26 Strategic Plan guided by our new Vision – Creating a thriving community together and supported by five pillars: Person-Centred Care, Our People, Our Infrastructure, Our Partners, and Financial Stewardship. In this year's Report to our Community, we're thrilled to share a snapshot of how these pillars are moving us forward to enhance quality care and services for our community.

Sincerely,



Cathy Jordan,
Board Chair



Leah Levesque,
President & CEO



2022-23 AT A GLANCE

- Accredited with Exemplary Standing from Accreditation Canada for achieving the highest quality care and safety standards.
- Bridging Program supported 3 RPN staff members to pursue their RN designation.
- The Mammography Unit earned accreditation for meeting the highest care and service delivery standards.
- The Grove opened its final Resident Home Area increasing capacity from the former Grove by 60%.
- Planning, design, and municipal and provincial approvals are underway for The Grove expansion, which will add 32 new long-term care beds (for a total of 128 beds) and a Community Program Wing at the site of the old Grove.

» PATIENT-CENTRED CARE RNAO SELECTS THE GROVE AS BEST PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT ORGANIZATION PRE-DESIGNATE

The Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario (RNAO) confirmed The Grove Long-Term Care Home as a Best Practice Spotlight Organization (BPSO) – Long-Term Care pre-designate. This three-year partnership with RNAO will give The Grove the support and education necessary to implement an evidence-based practice culture and achieve designation.

"The BPSO pre-designation is an honour and speaks to The Grove's commitment to our community to deliver quality care and explore ways to improve residents' and families' experiences," said Leah Levesque, President, and CEO, Arnprior Regional Health (ARH). "This partnership with RNAO will connect our Grove team members with a long-term care network of experts, educators, and peers that will enhance our care and services."

The Grove formally launched its BPSO project on April 13, 2023. The team's best practice guidelines are:

- Person and Family-Centred Care
- Fall Prevention and Reduction
- Delirium, Dementia, and Depression

"We chose these particular guidelines based on input from our team members, residents, and their families to focus on growth and professional development that best supports our residents, their families, and our staff," explained Janice Dunn, VP, Long-Term Care and Seniors' Care, ARH. "They also build on previous and current efforts to reduce falls and depression, and to strengthen person and family-centred care – aligning well with our organizational strategic directions and goals."

» OUR PEOPLE DEVELOPING OUR FUTURE LEADERS

With a commitment to invest and grow leaders from within, ARH launched the Emerging Leaders Program with the first cohort graduating in December 2022, followed by the next cohort of emerging leaders starting in April 2023.

The Emerging Leader Program helps identify future leaders and provide formal training and support so the organization can invest in and retain leadership talent. Facilitated by external learning and development experts, participants work through asynchronous course work, go-try-it exercises, and monthly meetings that facilitate discussion and practice presenting to a group.

Sarah Lacasse, a 2022 Emerging Leaders Graduate, recently moved into a manager role in the Finance Department, and she recognizes the impact of ARH's professional development support since starting at the organization in 2010.

"With ARH's support over the years, I have received The Employee Bursary Fund to assist with continuing education, and, most recently, I graduated from the Emerging Leaders Program that helped me develop new leadership skills I am building on in my new manager position."



» OUR PARTNERS NEW TRANSITIONS IN CARE PROGRAMS

ARH has introduced two new collaborative programs to improve transitions in care for individuals with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and type 2 diabetes.

COPD Transitions in Care Program

The Inpatient Unit (IPU) partnered with the Arnprior & District Family Health Team (ADFHT) and the Ottawa West Four Rivers OHT to help admitted patients with COPD diagnoses transition seamlessly to community-based care for improved outcomes. The IPU supports eligible patients using standardized clinical education pathways, dedicated medication reviews, and referrals to community programs (e.g., the ADFHT's Cardiopulmonary Rehab Program) before discharge.

Newly Diagnosed Type 2 Diabetes Transitions in Care Program

The Emergency Department (ED) team has partnered with ADFHT and the Evidence 2 Practice Ontario Program to enhance the self-management and care of eligible ED patients with prediabetes or type 2 diabetes. The program supports ED clinicians with quality standards and easy-to-use tools. Newly diagnosed type 2 diabetes patients who meet the criteria will receive best practice information and timely referrals to the appropriate regional diabetes programs (e.g., ADFHT). This new initiative aims to improve outcomes, potentially reduce avoidable ED visits, and enhance coordinated care between primary care and acute care.

"There have been significant wins from introducing the Total Knee Surgery collaboration with QCH, and it's proven to be an important financial stewardship strategy for ARH to expand revenue opportunities," said Jeff Letourneau, VP, Finance and Support Services, CFO, ARH. "Our Surgical Services has additional capacity for further expansion, and our leadership is actively exploring new collaborations in the region that will strategically address the wait time issue and generate revenue for our operations."

Through the Total Knee Surgery Program, QCH surgeons come to ARH to perform additional surgeries with the ARH anesthetists, nurses, and allied health professionals. At the one-year mark, the collaborative model has resulted in an additional 287 cases – 30% more total knee surgeries than would have been accomplished without this new program.

» OUR CARE PARTNERS THE FOUNDATION

In 2022-23, The Arnprior Regional Health Foundation returned to hosting its beloved events in person, allowing the team to build on previous successes, thank their loyal supporters personally and have some fun doing it!

Because of the community's healthcare heroes, wonderful business partners, and supporters of great health care close to home, The Foundation supported the purchase of **19 Vital Signs Machines**, a **new Stress Test Machine**, as well as various pieces of life-saving equipment.

» OUR INFRASTRUCTURE CT SCANNER WILL IMPROVE ACCESS TO DIAGNOSTICS

The Ministry of Health approved ARH for a major clinical expansion with the addition of Computerized Tomography (CT) Scan Services, which will boost the community's access to life-saving diagnostic imaging.

Currently, ARH refers patients who need more detailed imaging via CT scans to either Renfrew Victoria Hospital or Queensway Carleton Hospital, which can often involve nursing support for the out-of-town hospital visit. More than 160 ARH patients are referred out for a CT scan annually. Additionally, local family physicians are estimated to refer more than 3,000 patients per year for a CT scan requiring travel outside their community.

"Bringing CT Scan Services to the community will benefit our patients' health and offer us a greater edge as we continue recruiting physicians to our community," explained Leah Levesque, President and CEO, ARH.

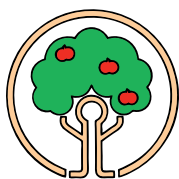
ARH has initiated the procurement process for the physical CT scanner and begun working on the space design to accommodate the new technology. The targeted completion timeline is early 2025. The estimated total cost of the CT Scan Project is \$1,800,000, which will be 100 percent funded through the launch of a community fundraising campaign.

» FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP SURGICAL SERVICES EXPANSION

ARH marked the first anniversary of its collaborative Total Knee Surgery Program with Queensway Carleton Hospital (QCH), which has built regional capacity, reduced wait times, and increased revenue generation.

THE AUXILIARY

The Auxiliary enjoyed a successful year with the support of approximately 146 active volunteers, **contributing over 15,000 hours**. The Sewing Team repaired over 2,000 items for the Hospital. The Grove Team assisted residents with day-to-day needs as well as music therapy, entertainment, retail therapy, the soothing calmness of a dog, or a rousing game of cards. The Hospital Team folded gowns, restocked shelves, and assisted patients with non-medical needs. Finally, through the combined sales at The Opportunity Shop and Gift Shop, **The Auxiliary donated \$270,000** to life-saving equipment at the Hospital and Grove.



Renfrew County and District Health Unit
"Optimal Health for All in Renfrew County and District"

For Immediate Release

(Pembroke, Ontario, June 22, 2023)

Blue-Green Algae Bloom Found – Dempseys Lake, Greater Madawaska Twp.

The Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) has confirmed the presence of a blue-green algae bloom on and around the shore of Dempseys Lake.

Blue-green algae blooms are a natural seasonal phenomenon that may appear in lakes, rivers, and ponds. Dense blue-green algal blooms can make the water look like a bluish-green pea soup or a shiny paint slick. They have the potential to produce toxins that are harmful to people and animals. Direct contact with the toxin can cause skin irritation and, if ingested, it can result in vomiting, nausea, diarrhea, and abdominal pain.

RCDHU advises that people using Dempseys Lake and any body of water for recreational or drinking water purposes be on the lookout for algae blooms. **If a confirmed or suspected bloom is visible**, please take the following precautions:

- Avoid direct contact with the bloom.
- Avoid swimming in the vicinity of a bloom. Do not allow pets or livestock to swim in the water. Wait until at least 24 hours after the bloom has disappeared and the water is clear before resuming recreational use.
- Avoid any use of the water for cooking or drinking. Do not let pets or livestock drink the water.
- Be aware that boiling water will **not** remove toxins and may cause more toxin to be released into the water.
- Toxins that may be released by blue-green algae are not removed by small-scale residential treatment systems, such as filtration, chlorination or ultraviolet light disinfection. Surface water is never a safe source of drinking water without effective treatment.
- Residents should not rely on water jug filtration systems as they do not protect against the toxins.
- Caution should be exercised when eating fish caught in water where blue-green algae blooms have occurred. Avoid eating the liver, kidneys and other organs of fish caught in the water.
- On lakes and rivers where blue-green algae blooms are confirmed, people who use the surface water for their private drinking water supply should consider an alternate, protected source of water.
- Report algae blooms to MECP spills action center at 1-866-663-8477.

RCDHU will continue to work with MECP to monitor for blue-green algae in open bodies of water within Renfrew County and District.

For more information, please visit the Ministry of the Environment Conservation and Parks website at Blue-green algae | ontario.ca or the RCDHU website at <https://www.rcdhu.com/healthy-living/safe-water/>.

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Renfrew County and District Health Unit
Fax: 613-735-3067
media@rcdhu.com
www.rcdhu.com



Arnprior Public Library

Summer 2023

Newsletter

Welcome Summer Hours

- **10am - 6pm** Monday and Tuesday; **10am - 5pm** Wednesday through Friday; **10am - 2pm** Saturday. Please note we are closed Sundays and statutory holidays (July 1 - 3 and August 7)
- Please note we will be hosting our Summer Reading Club Kick-off event the morning of July 4th in the main library with nearly 200 children in attendance. Regular library service will begin around 11am

It's tiii-iiime!!! School is winding down, the days are getting hotter, and we are looking forward to creative days at the library and reading for the pure joy of it!

Our TD Summer Reading Club registration is open on-line, so it's easier than ever to join. If you register your child(ren) by June 30, they will receive an invitation to our Summer Kick-Off Event on July 4, featuring Junkyard Symphony.



This summer participants will receive wooden coins when they borrow five books from the children's collection. These coins can be exchanged for coupons to local businesses such as Beach Bites, Dairy Queen, Flavour Container, Super Lucky Dollar Store, Wes'

Chips and Wyvern Wares. If children earn 10 or more coins over the summer they will be invited to our End-of-Summer Celebration on August 23. John Pert will amaze us with a phenomenal magic show, and there will be great prize packs for lucky winners!

Many thanks to our supporters: Arnprior Rotary Club, Arnprior Optimist

Club and the Scharf Family Charitable Trust.

Blak will be our special guests for Friday morning story times on July 28. They will share their beautiful drums and Indigenous stories, and lead us in a craft activity. Ten o'clock is the start time for toddlers and their grown-ups, and preschoolers who are ready to attend a program independently meet at 11am. Our Friday story times will be running from July 7 to August 18, and all that is required for children to attend is a valid library membership.



Teen Program Alert! Join us for 2 days of Dungeons & Dragons. The first day we will be doing a basic walk through and tutorial of how to create a character and then we'll jump into an adventure. Day two will be a full day of game play. Lunch will be provided. New to

experienced players welcome. This program will be offered on Friday, July 7 and Monday, July 10 from 10am to 4pm for people aged 13-17 years. This is a fun, casual introductory game. [Register Today](#)

We'll be celebrating our new programming space this summer. The official opening of the **Scharf Hall** will take place in July. The new indoor and outdoor space will be used for a variety of programming and as a space to enjoy our wonderful view. It is named in honour of the Scharf Family Trust which has been a major supporter of programming and capital improvements to the library as well as the estate of the late Norma Hall whose bequest had been held in trust for a library expansion.

Keep an eye on our website and social media for further details.

There's plenty to keep you busy all summer long.

National Museums and Provincial Parks are popular destinations this summer and you can borrow a [family pass](#) for a week! Passes circulate on a first come first serve basis so stop by to see what's available.

Did you know you can borrow a WiFi Hotspot? That means you can access the Internet for free at home or at the cottage. Hotspots circulate for one week with a valid library card. Our plan is with Rogers, so coverage should be relatively

strong throughout the area. If you need a laptop to connect to the Internet, ask us about borrowing a Chromebook too!



Our ESL meet-ups are taking a break for the summer, but if you would like to volunteer to help a newcomer practice their conversational English, let us know! library@arnpriorlibrary.ca

If you're looking for some used books for the cottage or your travels, stop by our used book sale - full of great finds for \$1 or \$2 and there's also the Pristine Book Sale for best sellers at \$5 each.



While in the library's lower level, have a look at the lovely art work on display in the Art Corridor. This month's featured local artist is Rosanna Salter.

Gearing up for the fall...

We're planning some author visits for October's Ontario Public Library Week. Dr. Brian Goldman is confirmed for Sunday October 22. He has written several books and we'll be focusing on two with the theme of kindness and empathy. Our goal is to encourage patrons to read his books - [The Power of Kindness: Why empathy is essential in everyday life](#) and his most recent: [The Power of Teamwork: How we can all work better together](#). We'll use the conversation with Dr. Goldman to springboard the theme of kindness and empathy throughout the community!

We're also hosting a visit from His Excellency Whit Fraser on his recent book: [True North Rising](#). It's a fall selection of our Arnprior 10 Book Clubs, but we will open his visit to non-book club members who would like to attend.

Watch for details to reserve your seat for these two events.



In November, we'll be hosting a return visit of the Strings of St. John's as they gear up for their 25th anniversary tour!

Find out more about [this orchestra](#) and their new conductor Mehdi Javanfar

Mark your calendars now for the return of our talk-of-the-town New Year's Eve Gala. The Fabulous Heart Beats will be back to dance the night away in our newly expanded space. Tickets will go on sale in September.



Follow us on Instagram and Facebook and we'll see you at the library!

AMO Watchfile not displaying correctly? [View the online version](#)
Add Communicate@amo.on.ca to your safe list



June 22, 2023

In This Issue

- MPAC Board positions - Call for expressions of interest.
- EnAbling Change Program funding opportunity.
- Electrification and Energy Transition Panel - Call for feedback.
- Support for Municipal Disability Management Programs.
- Register for the AMO 2023 Annual General Meeting and Conference.
- Councillor training: Fall dates.
- AMO-OFIFC Indigenous Community Awareness: November limited availability.
- Human Rights and Equity Training: November workshop.
- LAS & IPE 2023 Risk Symposium, October 4-5, Casino Rama Orillia.
- Registration for AMO-LAS Energy Symposium is now open!
- Blog: My Journey to Net Zero Emissions.
- LAS lighting solutions for your sports fields.
- Canoe vendor spotlight: Rubicon.
- Share with your first responder services: PSPNET Families.
- Bereavement Authority of Ontario increases its renewal fees.
- Careers: AMO, Highland Shores Children's Aid and Ministry of Labour.

AMO Matters

AMO has issued a call for expression of interests for building the AMO 2024 list of nominees for the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) Board of Directors. [Applications are due June 30.](#)

Provincial Matters

The Ontario government is providing up to \$1.5 million through the 2023-2024 [EnAbling Change Program](#) for accessibility projects. Applications for this funding are open until June 29.

Organizations are invited to provide submissions to the [Electrification and Energy Transition Panel](#) via email at energypanel@ontario.ca until June 30 at 5:00 pm. Feedback will inform the Panel's report to the Minister of Energy.

Federal Matters

A free assessment of disability management programs is available until June 2024. The assessment involves an interview and produces a report. For details, visit the National Institute of Disability Management and Research [website](#).

Eye on Events

AMO is excited about this year's Conference hosted by the City of London at RBC Place London and DoubleTree by Hilton, August 20-23. View the preliminary [program](#) and [register](#) now for this important event.

Secure your spot in AMO's iconic councillor training this fall. This training provides

councillors in all stages of their careers information, insights, and the necessary tools to be an effective local leader. [Register today](#).

Building on the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) shared by AMO and the Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres (OFIFC), we are offering training to help build indigenous cultural competency in municipal government. [Register](#) for the November 27 training - limited availability.

Understanding your role and responsibilities as an elected official when it comes to [Human Rights & Equity](#) is critical. This training examines your legislative responsibilities and understanding what equity means and how it can be implemented. [Register today](#) to build your knowledge in these complex areas.

Join Local Authority Services (LAS) and Intact Public Entities (IPE) in discussion on Navigating the Road to Resilience in examination of critical municipal risk issues such as climate resiliency, cyber security, risk data management and more. [Register today](#) as space is limited. Deadline to Register: September 27.

The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and Local Authority Services (LAS) are pleased to be hosting the 2023 Municipal Energy Symposium on November 2- 3 at the Novotel Centre Toronto. [Registration](#) is now open. Space is limited.

LAS

LAS' Municipal Program Specialist [writes about how he achieved net zero emissions](#) during his past employment with a municipality, and how he's doing his part as a resident.

Did you know LAS offers lighting solutions for your sports fields and ball diamonds? [Contact Christian](#) to learn how our turn-key [Facility Lighting Service](#) can help with your LED upgrade.

Looking for a solution for your heavy-duty fleets? LAS welcomes Rubicon to the [Fleet Management](#) category under the Canoe Procurement Group. They provide telematics, fleet optimization, work order management, and more for your heavy-duty vehicles. [Contact Sarah](#) to learn more.

Municipal Wire*

[PSPNET Families](#) is a free online resource that provides information and strategies to help first responder families navigate daily life. Please share with your first responder services!

On July 1, the The Bereavement Authority of Ontario [BAO](#) is increasing operator licensing renewal fees to \$30 per interment, scattering, cremation, death registration, including under social services programs, per its [Notice to the Profession](#).

Careers

[Senior Manager, Policy - AMO](#). This is a leadership role as a key contributor to AMO's overall policy and government relations strategy and activities. Submit cover letter and CV via confidential email to: careers@amo.on.ca, subject: Senior Manager, Policy by July 7.

[Senior Advisor - AMO](#). Advise Senior Management and Board of Directors on policy and government relations strategies related to housing, LUP and natural resource / environmental management. Submit cover letter and CV via confidential email

to: careers@amo.on.ca, subject: Senior Advisor by July 7.

Executive Director - Highland Shores Children's Aid. Lead the organization in achieving mission to enhance the lives of children and youth. Apply to careers@highlandshorescas.com by June 26.

Occupational Health and Safety Inspector – Health Care - Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development. Enforce the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*, including the workplace harassment provisions and the Act's regulations. Apply online by July 13.

Occupational Health and Safety Inspector – Industrial - Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development. Enforce the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*, including the workplace harassment provisions and the Act's regulations. Apply online by July 13.

Occupational Health and Safety Inspector – Construction - Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development. Enforce the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* and its regulations. Apply online by July 13.

About AMO

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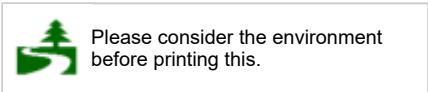
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Association of Municipalities of Ontario
200 University Ave. Suite 801, Toronto ON Canada M5H 3C6
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