



Town of Arnprior
Regular Meeting of Council: December 11th, 2023
Correspondence Package No. I-23-DEC-21

Recommendation:

That the Correspondence Package No. I-23-DEC-21 be received as information and filed accordingly.

General Information Items:

1. Correspondence from the Government of Ontario

- a) Ontario Making Progress to Widen Highway 17 from Arnprior to Renfrew
- b) Ontario Helping Contain Costs of Building Roads and New Homes
- c) Ontario Recruiting More Personal Support Workers into Long-Term Care and Home Care
- d) Ontario and Toronto Reach a New Deal
- e) Ontario Introducing Legislation to Support Victims of Crime and Enhance Community Safety
- f) Ontario Investing in Infrastructure and Technology to Help Support New Emergency 9-1-1 Communications System
- g) Ontario Helping More Women Build Skills and Get Jobs
- h) Ontario Cracking Down on Puppy Mills

2. Correspondence from the County of Renfrew

- a) County of Renfrew releases results of Point-in-Time Count on homelessness
- b) RCVTAC's Integrated Virtual Care receives provincial award
- c) 2023 Warden's Community Service Awards presented
- d) Nine Starter Company Plus grants awarded
- e) County Council Summary for November 2023

3. Correspondence from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities

- a) [Government of Canada and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Collaborate through New Tree Planting Initiative](#)

4. Correspondence from the Association of Municipalities of Ontario

- a) [Watch File – November 23rd, 2023](#)
- b) [Watch File – November 30th, 2023](#)

5. Correspondence from Local Authority Services (LAS)

- a) [LAS Natural Gas Program - 2021-2022 Period Reserve Fund Rebate and HST Reporting](#)

6. Correspondence from the Ontario Municipal Management Institute (OMMI)

- a) [Notification Letter – Certified Municipal Manager Level III Designation \(Cory Nicholas, Deputy Fire Chief\)](#)

7. Correspondence from the Municipality of North Grenville

- a) [Letter of Congratulations - Deputy Chief Nicholas' leadership program completion](#)

8. Correspondence from the Arnprior Regional Health

- a) [COVID-19 Outbreak Declared at The Grove Home](#)
- b) [COVID-19 Outbreak Declared on the Hospital Inpatient Unit](#)

9. Correspondence from AJ Charbonneau Public School

- a) [Letter from School Council – Safety Concerns on Baskin Drive](#)

Ontario Making Progress to Widen Highway 17 from Arnprior to Renfrew

Province finishes building Calabogie Road interchange in Renfrew County

November 20, 2023

[Transportation](#)

RENFREW — The Ontario government has completed the first phase of work to widen Highway 17 from two to four lanes between the Town of Renfrew and Arnprior, with the opening of a new interchange at Calabogie Road in Renfrew County.

“Four years ago, our government made a promise to prioritize widening Highway 17 and today’s announcement is proof that we’re making rapid progress to get it done,” said Prabmeet Sarkaria, Minister of Transportation. “We recognize how important this project is to the local community and once complete, it will fight gridlock and improve safety for workers, families and businesses in eastern Ontario.”

Work completed in Phase 1 of the project included building a new interchange to carry Calabogie Road traffic over Highway 417, a new carpool lot north of the highway, access roads and new ramp connections.

The next phase includes building three more interchanges and widening 22.5 kilometres of Highway 17 from Scheel Drive to three kilometres west of Bruce Street in Renfrew County.

“The completion of this interchange is great news for Renfrew County and demonstrates that our government is serious about making travel easier for the 14,000 drivers who rely on this stretch of Highway 17 every day,” said John Yakabuski, MPP for Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke. “Our government is investing in critical infrastructure across the province, including in Renfrew, to support jobs, attract investment and keep people moving.”

The widening of Highway 17 is a commitment in [Connecting the East: A Draft Transportation Plan for Eastern Ontario](#). The plan also includes more than 50 actions to fight gridlock, better connect communities and grow Ontario’s economy.

Quick Facts

- Highway 17/417 is the longest provincial highway in Ontario, stretching for more than 1,900 kilometres from the Ontario/Manitoba border to the Quebec border in Eastern Ontario.
- Construction for phase 1 work started in November 2021 and was completed on schedule.
- The contractor for phase 1 was Green Infrastructure Partners (GIP).

Additional Resources

[Connecting the East: A Draft Transportation Plan for Eastern Ontario](#)

Related Topics

Driving and Roads

Information about road conditions, driver's licences, vehicle registration and commercial vehicles. [Learn more](#)

Jobs and Employment

We've got the resource and supports to help connect job seekers with employers. [Learn more](#)

Travel and Recreation

Learn more about hunting and fishing, provincial parks, festivals and events, and visiting Ontario. [Learn more](#)

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Ontario Helping Contain Costs of Building Roads and New Homes

Proposal prohibiting fees to locate underground infrastructure such as gas and water lines would improve safety and efficiency

November 22, 2023

[Public and Business Service Delivery](#)

[Infrastructure](#)

[Energy](#)

TORONTO — Today, the Ontario government is introducing *The Building Infrastructure Safely Act, 2023*, that, if passed, would prohibit underground infrastructure owners and operators from charging fees to locate telecommunications lines, water mains and gas pipelines.

From planting a tree in your yard to large commercial construction, a locate is required before construction begins for a new home, subway line or high-speed internet cabling. The new legislation would help protect the public from damages to critical infrastructure and keep costs down for construction projects – an important part of Ontario’s plan to get vital infrastructure projects built safely and efficiently.

“We need to build critical infrastructure faster and smarter to support our growing communities,” said Todd McCarthy, Minister of Public and Business Service Delivery. “Banning locate fees would stem the possibility of spiralling costs that delay construction projects and increase costs. Our bill, if passed, would help streamline the process to ensure projects like improving transit, connecting more people to high-speed internet and getting homes built move ahead more efficiently.”

The free-of-charge locate system is consistent with a long-standing industry practice across Canada and the United States.

“Our government is building a stronger Ontario by leading the most ambitious capital plan in the province’s history,” said Kinga Surma, Minister of Infrastructure. “This includes investing over \$185 billion to revitalize schools, hospitals, public transit, roads, housing, and provide access to high-speed internet for every

community across the province by the end of 2025. The proposed changes to the locate delivery system will get key infrastructure projects built more efficiently, while ensuring communities across Ontario benefit from these projects today, and for generations to come.”

“Our government is keeping costs down and making it easier to build the housing, roads and public transit we need for our growing province,” said Todd Smith, Minister of Energy. “*The Building Infrastructure Safely Act* would ensure projects can be built cost-effectively while protecting our workers and the pipes and wires that keep our province powered and connected.”

The Ontario government also plans to bring forward regulations to help streamline the locate delivery processes that would cut down on the number of times a locate needs to be repeated.

Quick Facts

- In 2022, Ontario One Call coordinated approximately 1.2 million requests for locate services.

Additional Resources

- [Read more about Ontario One Call](#)

Related Topics

Law and Safety

Ontario’s laws and related information about our legal system, emergency services, the Ontario Provincial Police and victim services. [Learn more](#)

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Ontario Recruiting More Personal Support Workers into Long-Term Care and Home Care

New incentives will help attract thousands of PSW students and recent graduates to connect people to care

November 23, 2023

[Long-Term Care](#)

[Health](#)

TORONTO — The Ontario government is investing more than \$300 million over three years to help thousands of people launch careers as personal support workers in long-term care homes and in the home and community care sector. Recruiting more personal support workers is part of the province's [Your Health](#) plan to connect long-term care residents to more hours of direct care and expand home care services.

"Our government is fixing long-term care by training, hiring and retaining thousands of people to provide high quality care for residents," said Stan Cho, Minister of Long-Term Care. "These incentives will help people launch rewarding careers, increase the hours of direct care our residents connect to, and support the staffing needs of rural, remote and northern long-term care homes."

"Personal support workers play a critical role in helping people in Ontario connect to the care they need in the comfort of their own home and in their local community," said Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. "Bolstering our number of personal support workers in the home care sector allows us to increase people's access to in-home services which prevents unnecessary hospital and long-term care admissions, shortens hospital stays and provides people with the choice to stay in their own home longer."

Ontario is now offering new incentives of up to \$25,400 to students and recent graduates of personal support worker education programs, including:

- Up to \$5,400 to students while they complete their clinical placement in long-term care or home and community care;
- \$10,000 for current students and recent graduates who commit to working in a long-term care home or with a home and community care service provider for

12 months; and

- \$10,000 to help with relocation costs to graduates who commit to working in a long-term care home or with a home and community care service provider in a rural, remote or northern community for 12 months.

These incentives are retroactive to April 1, 2023 for students who recently completed their clinical placements and personal support workers who started working in long-term care or home and community care. Students who started a [district school board personal support worker program](#) on or after April 1, 2023 will also have their student fees waived or reimbursed.

For information on becoming a personal support worker and how to take advantage of the government incentives, visit: <https://www.ontario.ca/gopsw>

Ontario is continuing to increase the amount of direct care provided to long-term care home residents to ensure residents receive four hours of direct care per day by 2025, and more personal support workers are needed to meet this goal. Direct care is hands-on care that includes help with dining, bathing and dressing, as well as other important tasks such as helping residents move and providing medication.

Ontario is also expanding the delivery of home and community care services to help more people connect to the care they need in the comfort of their own home. The home and community care sector provides care to an estimated 1.3 million people and their families, including more caregiver supports and respite services, bereavement and behavioural programs to assisted living services for people with brain injuries.

[Your Health: A Plan for Connected and Convenient Care](#) 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.

Quick Facts

- [Find a local job fair](#) to learn about rewarding career opportunities in the personal support worker profession.
- The Ontario government is also increasing direct care for long-term care residents by investing \$16.5 million in a program that will train up to 600 people to become personal support workers. The province is funding the Learn and Earn Accelerated Program for Personal Support Workers in Long-Term Care (LEAP LTC) — an online, accelerated program that trains existing long-term care staff, such as resident attendants and dietary aides, to become personal

support workers. Graduates of this program who make a commitment to work in a home for one year are also eligible for the incentives.

- 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.
- The government is investing \$1 billion over three years to expand and improve home care services across the province and \$100 million for community services. The [2023 Ontario Budget](#) accelerated investments to bring home care funding in 2023-24 up to \$569 million.

Quotes

"We are grateful to this government for its continued recognition of this vital profession. This commitment to recruit and retain personal support workers in long-term care homes and home and community care will undoubtedly address the long-standing staffing shortages in the province."

- Miranda Ferrier
CEO, Ontario Personal Support Workers Association

"The Ontario Long Term Care Association thanks the Government of Ontario for continuing their significant support and investments to expand and enhance the long-term care workforce. Personal support workers are the primary providers of care to our residents and as the complexity of the care needs of our seniors increases, and the number of seniors in Ontario increases too, we must continue to invest in training our workforce. We welcome the innovative training models and accelerated programs the government has introduced, and we look forward to continuing to work with the government to scale these investments to train more personal support workers to meet the needs of our seniors, today and in the future."

- Donna Duncan
CEO, Ontario Long Term Care Association

"We strongly support the provincial government's significant investment in the training and retention of new personal support workers. Targeting this new initiative to long-term care and home care is especially needed and appreciated. We are particularly pleased that there is added support for rural and northern areas where staffing shortages have reached crisis levels in many communities. Taken together, we believe these measures will improve care for Ontario's seniors."

- Lisa Levin
CEO, AdvantAge

"George Brown College is proud of our world-class training for personal support workers, equipping students with critical skills and hands-on experience, and preparing them for the workforce through placements at long-term care facilities. We are pleased that the Government of Ontario is making critical investments to encourage more students to study and work as personal support workers, in long-term care settings and home care."

- Dr. Gervan Fearon
President, George Brown College

"Personal support workers play a critical role in Ontario's health care workforce. This new investment will provide students with more opportunity as they complete world-class training at our province's postsecondary institutions and ultimately go on to offer Ontarians the care they deserve, no matter where they live."

- Jill Dunlop
Minister of Colleges and Universities

"We are expanding hands-on learning across the curriculum so that students are better prepared with life and job skills that lead them to good-paying jobs. Personal support workers make a difference in the lives of their patients each and every day, and our government is removing barriers to make it easier for more students to pursue a career in this in-demand profession."

- Stephen Lecce
Minister of Education

"Personal support workers are a key part Ontario's home care sector, delivering critical health care services to hundreds of thousands of Ontarians every day in their homes. The investments announced today come at a time when they are most needed. Ontario's seniors population is set to increase by 15 per cent over the next five years and our home care sector is in desperate need of more personal support services workers. This new funding will help to attract students towards a rewarding career in personal support work and it will help to improve both retention rates and consistency of care by reducing staff turnover. These investments will be especially impactful for rural and northern communities where care is often the hardest to deliver."

- Sue VanderBent
CEO, Home Care Ontario

Additional Resources

- [*2023 Ontario Economic Outlook and Fiscal Review: Building a Strong Ontario Together*](#)
- [*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](#)

Related Topics

Government

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

[Learn more](#)

Health and Wellness

Get help navigating Ontario's health care system and connecting with the programs or services you're looking for. [Learn more](#)

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 more](#)

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Ontario and Toronto Reach a New Deal

New deal puts Toronto on a path to growth and long-term financial sustainability

November 27, 2023

[Office of the Premier](#)

[Finance](#)

TORONTO — The Government of Ontario and City of Toronto have reached a new deal that will help achieve long-term financial stability and sustainability for the city.

Following 10 weeks of productive working group discussions to find collaborative solutions to the city's operating and capital deficits, an agreement was reached to put the city on a path to succeed. The best way for Toronto to succeed in the future is through growth in population, density, housing, frontline service delivery and revenue from a growing economy.

"This historic new deal will help support the future growth of Toronto, delivering shared priorities like building homes, public transit and infrastructure," said Premier Doug Ford. "Toronto is critical to Ontario and Canada's economic success, and we need all levels of government working together to deliver solutions that protect services and put the city on a path towards long-term financial sustainability. When Toronto succeeds, Ontario and Canada succeed."

As part of this new deal, Ontario has agreed to provide the city with up to \$1.2 billion in provincial operating supports over three years and significant capital relief, including:

- Annual operating funding of \$330 million over three years beginning in 2024–2025 for new subway-integrated provincial transit projects — the Eglinton Crosstown LRT and the Finch West LRT
- Providing \$600 million in additional operating support for shelters and homelessness, conditional on federal support for refugee and asylum claimants
- Identifying provincially owned lands in Toronto that can be used to build homes
- Uploading both the Gardiner Expressway and the Don Valley Parkway to the province, subject to third-party due diligence. This proposal will ensure these

highways' long-term sustainability for the benefit of drivers and commerce across the Greater Toronto Area as untolled highways

- Over \$750 million in funding for 55 new subway trains for the TTC's Line 2, conditional on matching federal support
- \$300 million in one-time funding for subways and transit safety, recovery and sustainability that includes commitments on the part of the city related to increased police or safety officer presence on and near transit, continued expansion of transit rider cellular and data services across the TTC network and enhanced emergency reporting options and response timelines for riders. This new funding for TTC safety and service improvements will help build a system people want to ride and feel safe while doing so
- Continuing discussions on the longer-term sustainability of Toronto's finances and operations through the Toronto-Ontario targeted review, with terms of reference established by 2025.

"This new deal means unlocking Toronto's potential. It means the city has billions more for affordable housing, fixing our aging transit system and building complete communities with child care, community centres, parks and more," said Mayor Olivia Chow. "When all orders of government work together on shared priorities, we can deliver more for the people of Toronto."

Toronto has also agreed to the following terms:

- Meeting or exceeding the [province's housing targets](#) and, as part of that work, identifying and making available surplus city lands for building homes and increase density near transit through the use of tools such as official plans
- Taking further actions to find efficiencies in service delivery and procurement by improving and digitizing processes as well as exploring shared services.

As part of this deal, the city accepts that the province has the authority to advance project approvals for Ontario Place and intends to do so imminently. The province has also agreed to explore relocating the parking structure to the Exhibition Place grounds to improve public access to the shoreline and to discuss partnership opportunities with the city for maintaining public, community-oriented science programming at the legacy Ontario Science Centre.

To move forward on this new deal, the government will soon introduce the *New Deal for Toronto Act*, which, if passed, would provide the necessary authorities to make this deal a reality.

While Ontario and Toronto have taken meaningful action through this new deal to advance key provincial priorities, federal assistance is essential for the city to achieve long-term financial sustainability. The city and the province continue to call on the federal government to step up as a full partner with funding in critical areas of need such as shelter support for asylum claimants and transit funding. Toronto is unique among Canada’s cities, both in terms of the challenges it faces and its long-standing and unparalleled contributions to the province’s shared success.

Quick Facts

- Toronto is an economic hub, as well as a premier tourism destination for the province and country. For decades, the city has serviced and facilitated domestic and international trade and driven a significant portion of the country’s gross domestic product (GDP) growth. Toronto attracts millions of visitors every year with its professional sports teams, thousands of restaurants, live music venues and other attractions.
 - On [September 18, 2023, Premier Doug Ford and Mayor Olivia Chow announced a working group](#) of senior public servants from the Government of Ontario and the City of Toronto to explore opportunities for a new deal with respect to the city’s unique financial situation and tasked with delivering an agreement before the end of November 2023.
 - An [update on the working group’s progress was provided on October 30, 2023](#). Between September and November, the working group has held 13 meetings. On behalf of the city and the province, the meetings were chaired by City Manager Paul Johnson and Ontario Deputy Minister of Finance Greg Orencsak.
-

Quotes

"This new deal will protect the services that people who live, work and visit Toronto expect while avoiding new taxes, putting the City on a path toward long-term financial stability and success."

- Peter Bethlenfalvy
Ontario Minister of Finance

"Our government is strengthening communities, supporting economic growth, creating more jobs, and delivering on our commitment to rebuild Ontario Place into a destination for everyone."

- Kinga Surma
Ontario Minister of Infrastructure

Additional Resources

[Terms of the new deal](#)

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Ontario Introducing Legislation to Support Victims of Crime and Enhance Community Safety

Province proposing changes to Victims' Bill of Rights, Cannabis Control Act and Coroners Act

November 30, 2023

[Attorney General](#)

[Solicitor General](#)

TORONTO — Today, the Ontario government will introduce proposed legislation, that, if passed, would make it easier for more victims of crime to sue an offender for emotional distress. The proposed *Enhancing Access to Justice Act, 2023* would also protect children and youth from cannabis, enhance community safety and make court and government operations more efficient.

"We're putting victims of crime first, protecting children and keeping our communities safe," said Attorney General Doug Downey. "Through proposed changes to the *Victims' Bill of Rights* and the *Cannabis Control Act*, our government is increasing access to justice for victims of crime, holding offenders accountable, and protecting children and youth."

The proposed legislation, if passed, together with supporting regulatory changes, will:

- Update the *Victims' Bill of Rights, 1995* to make it easier for victims of crime (such as victims of terrorism, vehicle theft, human trafficking related crime and hate related crimes targeting places of worship) to sue an offender for emotional distress and related bodily harm.
- Protect children and youth by banning the growth of recreational cannabis in homes that offer childcare services.
- Amend the *Coroners Act* to allow for faster and more meaningful and relevant recommendations for construction-related death investigations.

"We're taking steps to bring justice and closure to family members of construction workers who have lost their lives on the job," said Solicitor General Michael Kerzner. "We're also updating the *Fire Protection and Prevention Act* to give fire

departments the tools they need to protect communities by strengthening compliance with Ontario's rigorous fire regulations."

If passed, the *Enhancing Access to Justice Act, 2023*, would also update the *Courts of Justice Act* and other statutes, including by limiting delays in a child protection trial when a judge is appointed to another court, to ensure that court operations are more readily accessible to Ontarians.

QUICK FACTS

- In 2022, there were 1,721 incidents of police-reported hate crimes which is almost a 20 per cent increase from the previous year.
- In 2023, the Ontario government invested \$25.5 million over two years to help address the rise of hate incidents against religious and minority groups. The new [Anti-Hate Security and Prevention Grant](#) will help faith-based and cultural organizations enhance or implement measures to ensure community spaces remain safe and secure.
- From 2014 to 2021, there was a 72 per cent increase in auto theft across the province, and a 14 per cent increase in the last year alone.
- [Ontario has invested \\$18 million over three years](#) to help police services combat and prevent auto theft and keep communities safe.
- Human trafficking is one of the fastest-growing crimes worldwide. Ontario is a hub for human trafficking, with the most police-reported incidents in the country in 2019.
- Ontario's five-year [Anti-Human Trafficking Strategy](#), introduced in 2020, focuses on raising awareness, protecting victims, intervening early, supporting survivors and holding offenders accountable.
- Through the [Victim Support Grant for 2023-24](#), Ontario is providing more than \$4 million across the province to help support victims and survivors of intimate partner violence, domestic violence, human trafficking and child exploitation.

Additional Resources

- [Enhancing Access to Justice Act, 2023](#)

Related Topics

Law and Safety

Ontario's laws and related information about our legal system, emergency services, the Ontario Provincial Police and victim services. [Learn more](#)

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Enhancing Access to Justice Act, 2023

November 30, 2023

[Attorney General](#)

[Solicitor General](#)

The *Enhancing Access to Justice Act, 2023* would, if passed, make it easier for more victims of crime to sue an offender for emotional distress. The proposed legislation would also protect children and youth from cannabis, enhance community safety and make court and government operations more efficient.

Supporting Victims of Crime

The province is increasing access to justice for victims by:

- Making changes to the *Victims' Bill of Rights, 1995* and its regulation to allow victims to sue for emotional distress and related bodily harm for more crimes, including terrorism, motor vehicle theft, human trafficking related offences, and hate related crimes targeting places of worship.

The government is also proposing consultations:

- With the federal government to discuss removing limitation periods on civil lawsuits under the *Justice for Victims of Terrorism Act* that are commenced in Ontario.
- With law enforcement, across government and stakeholders to further protect Ontarians from auto theft, including examining VIN-related fraud and catalytic converter theft.

Strengthening Ontario's Cannabis Framework

The government is also proposing legislative changes, that, if passed, would further support Ontario's priorities to combat the illegal cannabis market, keep communities safe and protect children and youth by:

- Banning the cultivation of recreational cannabis in homes that offer childcare services through proposed changes to the *Cannabis Control Act, 2017*.
- Making changes to the *Cannabis Licence Act, 2018* and *Cannabis Control Act, 2017* that would support negotiations with First Nations communities on the

regulation of cannabis on reserves.

To respond to the growth of the legal cannabis retail market and combat illegal cannabis stores, the province is making amendments to Ontario Regulation 468/18 under the *Cannabis Licence Act, 2018* to increase the number of stores that licensed retail operators and their affiliates can operate from 75 to 150.

In addition, the government is proposing to explore different enforcement options against illegal online cannabis sales.

Expanding Options for Fire Safety Enforcement

Ontario is proposing changes to the *Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997* (FPPA) to enhance enforcement and compliance by enabling future development of an administrative monetary penalty (AMP) framework. Once in place, this will allow for the use of AMPs as a progressive enforcement tool that could be imposed upon anyone including tenants, owners, and corporations in contravention of the FPPA and its regulations such as the Ontario Fire Code.

Construction-Related Death Reviews

As part of its commitment to the safety and well being of workers, Ontario is proposing amendments to the *Coroners Act*, that would allow for faster and more meaningful recommendations for construction-related death investigations. The proposed amendments would:

- Create a coroner-led annual review and public report of multiple accidental construction-related deaths each year.
- Allow the coroner to hold an inquest for a death if they believe it is in the public interest.

Courts System Changes

Ontario is proposing changes to the *Courts of Justice Act* and other statutes to free up resources, improve court efficiencies and ensure court, jury and administrative procedures and operations are clearer and more accessible. These proposed changes will include:

- Reducing court delays by making it easier for judges in the Court of Appeal and Superior Court of Justice to better manage vexatious litigants, including those who begin unreasonable court proceedings.
- Limiting delays in a child protection trial when a judge is appointed to another court.

- Enhancing access to justice by addressing technical inconsistencies between the *Provincial Offences Act* and online services used by the public.

Strengthening the Bail System

Ontario is further strengthening the province's bail system to ensure that high-risk and repeat violent offenders comply with their bail conditions. In September, Ontario launched the [Intensive Serious Violent Crime Bail Teams](#). These teams provide dedicated Crown attorneys and business professionals with expertise to work with police province-wide on bail matters involving serious and violent crimes, including firearm offences and serious repeat offenders.

Additional Resources

- [Ontario Introducing Legislation to Support Victims of Crime and Enhance Community Safety](#)
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Related Topics

Law and Safety

Ontario's laws and related information about our legal system, emergency services, the Ontario Provincial Police and victim services. [Learn more](#)

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Ontario Investing in Infrastructure and Technology to Help Support New Emergency 9-1-1 Communications System

December 01, 2023

[Solicitor General](#)

Ontario is investing \$78 million in telecommunications infrastructure to help municipalities and emergency response centres transition to a new emergency communications system known as Next Generation 9-1-1. The funding is part of the government's [\\$208 million investment](#) to help emergency operators and dispatchers save more lives by transitioning to the enhanced Next Generation 9-1-1.

About Next Generation 9-1-1

To successfully transition to the Next Generation 9-1-1 system, significant technology and infrastructure upgrades are required. These upgrades include new telephony systems, call handling systems, internal network infrastructure and cyber security infrastructure.

Once implemented, Next Generation 9-1-1 will enable voice, text messages and data to flow seamlessly from the public to 9-1-1 communications centres when emergency assistance is required. It will also give emergency operators and dispatchers the ability to identify the location of a call using GPS coordinates, resulting in a safer, faster, and more informed emergency response.

Emergency communications centres across the province have until March 4, 2025, to transition their networks from analog to digital as mandated by the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC).

Funding Recipients

The following recipients will receive funding up to the maximum amount listed:

Barrie Police Service - \$848,790

Belleville Police Services Board - \$467,766

Chatham-Kent Police Services Board - \$1,914,580

City of Richmond Hill (Fire Service) - \$1,034,718

Cornwall Community Police Services Board - \$633,962

Corporation of the City of Guelph (Police and Fire Services) - \$3,658,016

Corporation of the City of Oshawa (Fire Service) - \$2,925,794

Corporation of the Town of Hawkesbury (Fire Service) - \$294,500

County of Brant (Fire Service) - \$1,382,501

Greater Sudbury Police Services Board - \$1,390,067

Halton Regional Police Service - \$2,412,522

Kingston Police Services Board – \$720,000

Niagara Parks Commission (Police Service) - \$148,349

North Bay Police Services Board - \$1,391,179

Northern Communication Services Inc - \$927,836

Ottawa Police Service - \$2,500,196

Owen Sound Police Services Board - \$891,139

Peel Regional Police - \$3,042,165

Quattrra SCS Ltd. - \$458,497

Regional Municipality of Durham (Police Service) - \$1,274,568

Regional Municipality of Niagara (Police Service) - \$2,061,556

Regional Municipality of York (Police Service) - \$1,051,354

South Simcoe Police Service - \$550,842

St. Thomas Fire Department - \$1,040,594

St. Thomas Police Service - \$1,032,803

The City of Barrie (Fire Service) - \$1,392,359

The City of Brampton (Fire Service) - \$1,842,847

The City of Brantford (Police and Fire Services) - \$1,315,247

The City of Brockville (Police and Fire Services) - \$782,256

The City of Burlington (Fire Service) - \$1,354,825

The City of Hamilton (Police and Fire Services) - \$4,106,751

The City of Kawartha Lakes (Police Service) - \$1,031,681

The City of Kingston (Fire Service) - \$1,043,095

The City of Kitchener (Fire Service) - \$713,802

The City of London (Police and Fire) - \$4,070,850

The City of Niagara Falls (Fire Service) - \$148,349

The City of Orillia (Fire Service) - \$841,567

The City of Ottawa (Fire Service) - \$1,390,023

The City of Peterborough (Police and Fire Services) - \$2,092,824

The City of Sarnia (Police Service) - \$684,167

The City of Sault Ste. Marie (Police and Fire Services) - \$970,151

The City of St. Catharines (Fire Service) - \$1,326,061

The City of Toronto (Fire and Paramedic Services) - \$2,094,639

The City of Vaughan (Fire Service) - \$1,250,563

The City of Woodstock (Police Service) - \$889,056

The Corporation of the City of Windsor (Police and Fire) - \$1,364,816

The Corporation of the Town of Ajax (Fire Service) - \$1,000,000

The Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc (Police Service) - \$1,203,618

The Stratford Police Services Board - \$381,996

The Town of Gananoque (Police Service) - \$1,047,528

The Town of LaSalle (Police Service) - \$529,504

The Town of Smiths Falls (Police and Fire Services) - \$776,872

Thunder Bay Police Service - \$391,700

Timmins Police Services Board - \$42,274

Toronto Police Service - \$2,523,335

Town of Hearst - \$563,620

Town of Milton (Fire Service) - \$463,955

Town of Tillsonburg (Fire Service) - \$1,557,825

Village of South River (Fire Service) - \$137,000

Waterloo Regional Police Services Board - \$2,602,925

Related Topics

Law and Safety

Ontario's laws and related information about our legal system, emergency services, the Ontario Provincial Police and victim services. [Learn more](#)

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Ontario Helping More Women Build Skills and Get Jobs

\$5.5 million investment will support local programs helping women join the workforce and gain financial independence

December 04, 2023

[Children, Community and Social Services](#)

[Women's Social and Economic Opportunity](#)

BURLINGTON – The Ontario government is launching a call for applications and investing \$5.5 million, including an additional \$496,000 this year, in the Women's Economic Security Program to expand and increase training opportunities for low-income women to equip them with the skills, knowledge and experience to find a job or start a business and increase their financial security.

"The Women's Economic Security Program is empowering women with the skills they need to join the workforce and help build Ontario together," said Charmaine Williams, Associate Minister of Women's Social and Economic Opportunity. "We know that supporting more women in the workforce benefits Ontario's economy, especially in in-demand sectors such as the skilled trades. These careers are exciting, provide good pay and benefits, and will empower women and girls across the province to succeed."

The Women's Economic Security Program offers training in four streams: the skilled trades, entrepreneurship, information technology and general employment. To help remove barriers to participating, the training programs also include additional supports such as providing meals throughout the training day, transportation to and from training, and support in finding child care.

Through the program, women, including those who have experienced or are at risk of intimate partner violence, can also access wraparound supports, including referrals to mental health and well-being supports, counselling, housing, and legal support.

Women interested in the program can visit [Ontario.ca/women](https://ontario.ca/women). The call for applications for eligible service providers looking to deliver the program is also now open. The deadline to apply is January 26, 2024, and information about the program and the application process is available at [Ontario.ca/getfunding](https://ontario.ca/getfunding).

Investing in the Women’s Economic Security Program is one more way Ontario is removing barriers so more women can excel as entrepreneurs, in leadership roles, and in jobs where they are underrepresented like the skilled trades. In addition to \$5 million invested in this program, Ontario is providing another \$496,000 for projects this fiscal year. The additional funding is provided through the bilateral agreement on the National Action Plan to End Gender-based Violence in Ontario with the federal government.

Quick Facts

- Organizations funded under the Women’s Economic Security Program deliver employment, pre-employment, pre-apprenticeship, and entrepreneurship training to low-income women.
 - Since its inception in 2018, the Women’s Economic Security Program has helped more than 2,100 women secure employment, become entrepreneurs or pursue further training and/or education. This includes helping 1,298 women start small businesses and 237 get jobs in the skilled trades.
-

Quotes

"Under the Women's Economic Security Program, Centre for Skills Development has been fortunate to provide our Enhanced General Carpentry Program to women for over 20 years and has seen great success with over 300 participants securing sustainable, financially rewarding, and meaningful employment in the construction sector. Our 22-week program is designed to prepare participants to work in a variety of skilled trades within the construction industry, from residential builds to high-end renovations. We provide wrap around supports and comprehensive skills training that equips women with the skills, knowledge and experience to find a job, or start a small business, in the construction sector."

- Lisa Rizzato
CEO, Centre for Skills Development

"Ontario is taking action to end gender-based violence by supporting survivors and their families on their journey to recovery. One of our focus areas is helping women build economic stability and achieve financial independence. Through our collaborative efforts, we are building a province that promotes safety and fosters opportunities for women and girls."

- Michael Parsa

Minister of Children, Community and Social Services

"Ontario is facing the largest labour shortage in a generation, and with thousands of jobs going unfilled in the skilled trades, information technology, and other critical industries, we need all hands on deck. That's why Minister Williams and our government will continue investing in programs that continue breaking down barriers for women and give them the tools they need to earn bigger paycheques for themselves and their families."

- David Piccini

Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development

"Our government has always been a champion of entrepreneurs and small businesses in our province. The Women's Economic Security Program is another example of how we are fostering entrepreneurship. Supporting more women to become business owners helps them achieve success, and it's good for Ontario's economy."

- Nina Tangri

Associate Minister of Small Business

"When women have equal opportunities in the workforce, economies thrive, but they cannot get there if they are not safe. With investments from the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence, I'm proud that our government is working with the Government of Ontario improve women's economic security. This is about empowering more women to reach their full potential in all spheres of society, while also building the strong and inclusive workforce Canada needs to grow and thrive."

- Marci Ien

Minister for Women and Gender Equality and Youth

Additional Resources

[Women's Economic Security Program](#)

[Available funding opportunities from the Ontario Government](#)

[Ontario helping more women build skills and get jobs](#)

[The Governments of Canada and Ontario sign bilateral agreement to end gender-based violence](#)

Related Topics

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 more](#)

Jobs and Employment

We've got the resource and supports to help connect job seekers with employers. [Learn more](#)

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Ontario Cracking Down on Puppy Mills

New legislation will help ensure safe and ethical treatment of dogs

December 04, 2023

[Solicitor General](#)

TORONTO — Today, the Ontario government introduced legislation to help stop unethical dog breeding operations, often known as puppy mills. The *Preventing Unethical Puppy Sales Act* (PUPS Act) if passed, will amend the *Provincial Animal Welfare Services Act* (PAWS Act) to stop harmful dog breeding practices, impose penalties, and make sure that dogs across Ontario receive the care they deserve.

“Ontario currently has the strongest penalties for animal welfare violations in the country and we will not stop until dogs, and other animals across the province, have a comprehensive and robust system to ensure their safety,” said Solicitor General Michael Kerzner. “The *Preventing Unethical Puppy Sales Act* will help to ensure Ontario remains a leader in animal welfare by being the first province in the country to introduce minimum penalties specific to puppy mills.”

The changes proposed in the PUPS Act will prohibit the harmful dog-breeding practices most often associated with puppy mills and the reckless sale of dogs, such as:

- Breeding a female dog more than three times in a two-year period, or breeding more than two litters from a female dog’s consecutive heat cycles
- Breeding a female dog that is less than a year old
- Failing to keep a dog with a contagious disease away from other dogs or animals
- Failing to ensure a dog’s environment is sanitary and free from accumulation of waste
- Separating a puppy from its mother before the age of eight weeks

Under the new legislation, the province will introduce minimum penalties of \$10,000 for bad actors operating a puppy mill and \$25,000 if these violations result in the death of a dog. Changes will also allow the province to help develop regulations to set conditions that must be met when selling or transferring a dog and establish regulations for record-keeping.

To keep animals across the province safe, Ontario also intends to consult on regulations relating to medically unnecessary procedures for dogs and cats, such as declawing, tail docking, ear cropping, and debarking, and establish a framework for administrative monetary penalties under the PAWS Act.

Cruelty to any animal is not tolerated in Ontario. If an animal is in distress or being abused, call 1-833-9-ANIMAL (264625).

Quick Facts

- The term “puppy mill” is used to describe a dog breeder that engages in poor breeding practices such as the overbreeding of dogs in substandard conditions.
- Due to the inferior quality of care, puppies sold by puppy mills can have numerous health conditions such as parvovirus and behavioural issues.
- The PAWS Act came into effect January 1, 2020, making Ontario the first jurisdiction in Canada to implement a full provincial animal welfare enforcement system to enhance animal safety.

Quotes

"This government has always led the way when it comes to protecting animal rights. And under the leadership of Premier Ford, we are now the first province in the country to put a leash on puppy mills that treat dogs as litter-churning machines. The PUPS Act addresses an important policy issue spotlighted by my first Private Members’ Bill – Protecting Our Pets Act. This legislation shows that as a team we are committed to creating a more compassionate world for companion animals."

- Christine Hogarth
MPP for Etobicoke-Lakeshore

"The Canadian Kennel Club supports well-crafted legislation that is fair, non-discriminatory, and enforceable to target producers of unhealthy puppies, without unduly burdening responsible breeders. We look forward to working with the government to address the puppy mill issue and ensure that the new legislation will consider the interests of responsible breeders who prioritize the health and wellbeing of dogs."

- Jeff Cornett
Executive Director, Canadian Kennel Club

"This legislation is a welcome and important step towards protecting dogs from unethical breeders and addressing the issue of puppy mills throughout our province. The Ontario SPCA and Humane Society looks forward to continuing to work with the Solicitor General to further develop the detailed regulations that will provide the greatest protection possible for both dogs and the public."

- Doug Brooks
President & CEO, Ontario SPCA and Humane Society

Additional Resources

To learn more about animal welfare in Ontario, visit ontario.ca/animalwelfare.

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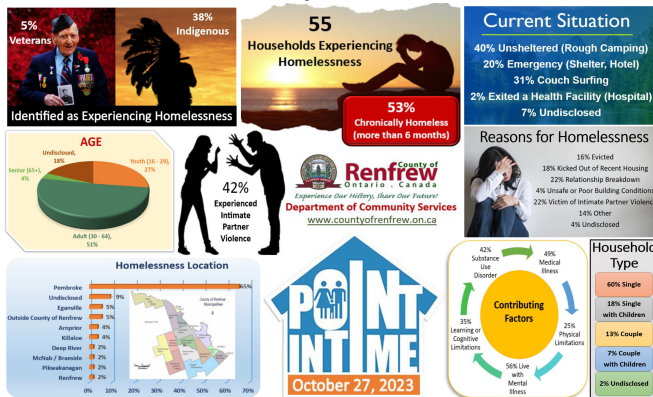
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County of Renfrew releases results of Point-in-Time Count on homelessness

Posted on Thursday, November 23, 2023



RELEASE DATE:

November 23, 2023

The County of Renfrew, along with its community partners, recently completed a Point-in-Time Count to gather information about those experiencing homelessness in Renfrew County.

The surveys, which were completed by staff from the Community Services Department, the County of Renfrew Paramedic Service and Renfrew County and District Health Unit as well as volunteers of various agencies at more than a dozen locations across Renfrew County, revealed that 55 households indicated they were homeless as of October 27, 2023, which was the date chosen as the Point in Time. The data was collected until November 3, 2023.

Jennifer Dombroskie, the County of Renfrew's Manager of Housing and Homelessness, thanked the participants for sharing this crucial information and the surveyors who helped to not only collect the data but connect individuals with services in the community.

Of these 55 households, 65 per cent said they were in the Pembroke area, 53 per cent of respondents were experiencing chronic homelessness (more than six months) and the majority of respondents ranged in age from 30 to 64 years although 27 per cent were youth aged 16 to 29 experiencing homelessness, according to the data collected.

Here are some other key statistics which were gathered through the surveys.

Situation as of October 27:

- 40% unsheltered (rough camping)
- 31% couch surfing
- 20% emergency (shelter or hotel)
- 2% exited a health facility (hospital)
- 7% undisclosed

Reasons for homelessness:

- 22% victim of intimate partner violence
- 22% relationship breakdown
- 18% kicked out of recent housing
- 16% evicted
- 4% unsafe or poor building conditions
- 4% undisclosed
- 14% other

Household type:

- 60% single
- 18% single with children
- 13% couple
- 7% couple with children
- 2% undisclosed

Contributing factors to homelessness:

- 56% live with mental illness
- 49% medical illness
- 42% substance use disorder

- 35% learning or cognitive limitations
- 25% physical limitations

To address homelessness in Renfrew County, the County of Renfrew delivers the provincially-funded Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP) to help residents with low incomes maintain housing stability. The Program focuses on housing retention and providing emergency services in the form of funding for rent allowances, emergency home repairs, household expense arrears, and emergency hotel stays.

For anyone experiencing homelessness who requires assistance in connecting with community agencies and supports, please call the County of Renfrew Community Services Department during business hours (Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.) at 613-732-2601 or 1-866-897-4849. Information about Homelessness Prevention Program supports can also be found on the County of Renfrew website.

After hours there is a 24/7 Mental Health Crisis Line which can be reached at 1-866-996-0991.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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By GHD Digital (<http://www.esolutionsgroup.ca>).

RC VTAC's Integrated Virtual Care receives provincial award

Posted on Friday, November 24, 2023



On November 15, during the Renfrew County Health Committee Renfrew County Virtual Triage and Assessment Centre and Integrated Virtual Care, which is a part of RC VTAC, were recognized for IVC's achievement of winning a provincial award. On hand for the photo (from left) were Dr. Jonathan Fitzsimon, Family Physician and Medical Lead for Renfrew County IVC/RC VTAC; Deputy Chief Mathieu Grenier, County of Renfrew Paramedic Service; Judy Hill, Executive Director of the Petawawa Centennial Family Health Team; Councillor Michael Donohue, Health Committee Chair; Craig Kelley, Renfrew County Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk and Chief Michael Nolan, County of Renfrew Paramedic Service.

RELEASE DATE:

November 24, 2023

Petawawa Centennial Family Health Team wins Bright Lights Award after adopting IVC model

The Renfrew County Virtual Triage and Assessment Centre (RC VTAC), which is changing how medical care is received in Renfrew County and across the province, is being recognized for its success.

On October 23, the Association of Family Health Teams of Ontario presented its annual Bright Lights Awards and Integrated Virtual Care (IVC), which is a part of RC VTAC, was honoured under the population-based approach for providing care to the community.

IVC is an integral part of RC VTAC and they work together to provide comprehensive care to patients who do not have access to a family physician or a Family Health Team. IVC family physicians are embedded into the Petawawa Centennial Family Health Team and connected to existing local interdisciplinary health-care providers (Dietician, Social Worker, Pharmacist, Respiratory Therapist, Midwife, Registered Practical Nurse, Nurse Practitioner). IVC patients access in-person care at home, and virtually depending on their individual needs and preferences.

Following a presentation on RC VTAC and IVC at the Renfrew County Health Committee meeting on November 15, Renfrew County Warden Peter Emon called the award good news.

"The Bright Lights Award is an incredible achievement awarded by the Association of Family Health Teams of Ontario, which means other parts of primary health care and Family Health Teams across the province are not only acknowledging but celebrating the work of RC VTAC and IVC," the Warden noted. "This award really shows the advancement of not only RC VTAC but also a greater understanding of the importance of both of these programs to the citizens of Renfrew County."

IVC has also recently expanded to North Renfrew Family Health Team in Deep River and West Champlain Family Health Team.

"IVC continues to demonstrate evidence that it will be impactful in the advancement of new models of primary care," said Dr. Jonathan Fitzsimon, Family Physician and Medical Lead for Renfrew County IVC/RC VTAC. "IVC has already resulted in significant impacts for increasing attachment to primary care locally."

Renfrew County has approximately 30,000 patients who are unattached (without a family physician) and since 2020, with IVC 3,249 patients have been successfully attached to physicians and have had 10,436 appointments with a family physician.

"We have a very strong foundation, to the point where other municipalities, other provinces, the federal government and beyond are looking at RC VTAC and IVC very closely, not only as a virtual solution but as a layered care option," said Councillor Michael Donohue, Renfrew County Health Committee Chair. "That allows our physicians to work locally with our paramedics, work locally with Family Health Teams and not just be a one and done encounter. It's a far more complex and sophisticated system than the services that popped up and went away during the pandemic."

RC VTAC is a collaboration between family doctors, the County of Renfrew Paramedic Service, primary care teams, Renfrew County Hospitals and the Renfrew County and District Health Unit. Permanent funding for RC VTAC/IVC was announced in March 2023 with a \$3.2 million investment by the Government of Ontario through the Ministry of Health and Ontario Health. Learn more at www.rcvtac.ca or call 1-844-727-6404, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

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By [GHD Digital](http://www.esolutionsgroup.ca) (<http://www.esolutionsgroup.ca>).

2023 Warden's Community Service Awards presented

Posted on Wednesday, November 29, 2023



The Whitewater Sno-Goers Snowmobile Club received the 2023 Warden's Community Service Award in the Not-for-Profit Category. Taking part in the award presentation during the November 29 session of County Council (from left) were Councillor Dave Bennett, Township of Horton; Derek Chapman, financial coordinator and Trevor Stokes, vice-president, Whitewater Sno-Goers; County of Renfrew Warden Peter Emon; Councillor Michael Donohue, Township of Admaston/Bromley and Councillor Neil Nicholson, Township of Whitewater Region.

RELEASE DATE:

November 29, 2023

The County of Renfrew presented the 2023 Warden's Community Service Awards, honouring two individuals and a not-for-profit organization, at the November 29, 2023 session of County Council. These awards are a meaningful way to recognize and thank the recipients for their numerous community contributions.

The recipients of the individual awards were Wanda Hilts of Laurentian Valley, nominated by Kathy Frederick and Clair Cox of Laurentian Hills, nominated by Bruce Boucher and the Whitewater Sno-Goers Snowmobile Club, nominated by Derek Chapman, was recognized in the not-for-profit category.

For the past four decades, Ms. Hilts has made substantial contributions through the Alice and Fraser Recreation Centre. She was instrumental in the revival of the Laurentian Valley Alice in Winterland Carnival and assisted with the creation of the Laurentian Valley Fall Flavours Festival.



Wanda Hilts of Laurentian Valley received the 2023 Warden's Community Service Award in the Individual Category. Taking part in the award presentation during the November 29 session of County Council (from left) were Laurentian Valley 50+ Fit and Feisty executive members Kathy Frederick, Simone Burger, Cindy Schultz, Wanda Hilts and Bev Veaudry, Renfrew County Warden Peter Emon, Fit and Feisty executive members Bruce Mitton, Colleen Schutt, Randy Kitchen and Councillor Keith Watt of Laurentian Valley Township.

Her most recent endeavour was the creation of the Laurentian Valley 50+ Fit and Feisty group. This program offers daily low cost or free physical activity opportunities for Renfrew County residents aged 50-plus. In its first year, the group already has 315 members. This latest initiative addresses a gap in the rural area for organized physical activities for people over 50. The group's aim is to offer physical activity, travel culture and entertainment and offer activities to build social connections, such as the coffee connect with guest speakers on a wide range of topics.

Mr. Cox has dedicated nearly 50 years to volunteering in his community, including nearly four decades with the North Renfrew Snowmobile Association. Over the years he held many positions within the club, but most notably the grooming coordinator. In this role he has calmly led a group of 17 volunteer groomer operators. The consummate community orientated volunteer, Clair not only promotes volunteerism within the group through coordination, training and scheduling, but also by simply providing a stellar example for the rest of the organization to emulate.



Clair Cox of Laurentian Hills received the 2023 Warden's Community Service Award in the Individual Category. Taking part in the award presentation during the November 29 session of County Council (from left) were Heather Cox, Clair Cox, County of Renfrew Warden Peter Emon, nominator Bruce Boucher, Rosalee Boucher and Councillor Ann Giardini, Township of Laurentian Hills.

Whitewater Sno-Goers Snowmobile Club, which was incorporated as a not-for-profit organization in July 1990, maintains nearly 250 kilometres of trails across four townships – Whitewater Region, Horton, Admaston/Bromley and McNab/Braeside. The Club operate two groomers with an average volunteer commitment of 770 hours annually, which assists the growth of local winter tourism.

In 2022, a volunteer began focusing grant applications and was able to secure funding to build a trail side warmup shack and a new paved ramp in Renfrew for snowmobiles/groomer to drive across O'Brien Road and not damage the millennium walking trail. The club also secured funding for a second warmup shack in Beachburg.

Following the presentation of the awards, Renfrew County Warden Peter Emon congratulated the recipients and thanked them for their numerous contributions and dedication to improving and strengthening the quality of life we all enjoy within the County of Renfrew.

"We are appreciative to the nominators for bringing these individuals and organizations to our attention," he said. "The recipients have donated countless hours to the benefit of others in the community and they are very deserving of this recognition. We are very fortunate to have them working with us and for us on different initiatives across Renfrew County," he said.

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Nine Starter Company Plus grants awarded

Posted on Monday, December 04, 2023



RELEASE DATE:

December 4, 2023

Enterprise Renfrew County is pleased to announce the autumn Starter Company Plus program has completed with nine award recipients. Starter Company Plus is an intensive training program which guides entrepreneurs through the development of a full business plan and cash flow projections over three months of training. All program participants demonstrated diligence in fulfilling program requirements, commitment, and passion for their businesses, which contributes positively to the economic landscape in the County of Renfrew.

Award recipients are as follows: Jo-anne Caldwell of Rivers and Valley Coffee Company (Haley Station), Terri-Lee Cameron of TLC Fitness & More (Renfrew), Sarah Jellen Aadoson of Snapdragon Glass (Arnprior), Michelle Jozwiak of The Wizard of Pawz (Renfrew), Kiranraj Kamanth of Indian Curry Pot (Arnprior), Krisanne Mascarenhas of Ottawa Valley Sport & Spine (Deep River), Laurence Roy of Arnprior

Pelvic & Pediatric Physiotherapy (Arnprior), Amanda Sage of Deep Roots Nature & Nursery School (Deep River) and Derek Weidhaas of White Pine Bison (Pembroke).

Mr. Weidhaas notes the Starter Company Plus Program has played a crucial role in White Pine Bison's growth.

"The program has equipped us with the essential skills to develop a comprehensive business plan, create accurate cash flow projections, and formulate sales strategies while offering ongoing support and professional guidance. This knowledge and guidance are invaluable as we transition into the next phase of our farm operation. We will forever be grateful. Thank you, Starter Company Plus!" the owner of White Pine Bison says.

Small Business Advisor Heather Inwood-Montrose commends all program participants for their efforts.

"Starter Company Plus asks participants to dive deep into building their business model to develop a solid foundation for operations and understanding of their financials," she says.

Starter Company Plus is funded by the Province of Ontario and the Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation, and Trade. The next available intake for Starter Company Plus will be spring of 2024 with information sessions held in April. Interested participants must attend one info session to obtain an application form. For more information, including program guidelines and to join the contact list to receive an invitation to an information session, visit www.enterpriserenfrewcounty.com/starter-company-plus.

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County Council Summary

November 29, 2023

Below you will find highlights of the County of Renfrew County Council meeting from November 29, 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.

[November meeting](#) YouTube link.

Warden's Address

Key highlights

- The Warden and staff are to meeting weekly with the Pembroke and Area Warming Centre Ad Hoc Committee about the warming centre being established in Pembroke on the site of the Pembroke Farmers' Market. The centre, being run by The Grind and by volunteers, is expected to open early in December.
- The Warden congratulated Laura LePine, Director of Community Services, on receiving the 2023 Ontario Municipal Social Services Association (OMSSA) Patti Moore Human Services Integration Award. The award recognizes an OMSSA member and a social services leader who has a proven and respected track record and has displayed extraordinary leadership and has made an exceptional contribution to human services integration.
- Warden Emon expressed his condolences to the Briscoe Family and the Township of Admaston/Bromley work family on the passing of Beverly Briscoe, who passed away on November 9, 2023. Bev was the Clerk Treasurer at Admaston/Bromley Township for 37 years.
- He also expressed his sincere condolences to the Pecoskie family and the community of the Township of Killaloe, Hagarty, Richards on the passing of former Councillor Stanley Pecoskie. Stanley was a huge supporter of local events and relished his role as a municipal councillor.
- The Warden shared that the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation recently declared a State of Emergency due to the opioid crisis, noting that the County of Renfrew shares concerns surrounding this issue and is committed to working with all levels of government to address that fact that society is facing a serious public health, social and safety issue due to the opioid crisis.
- On December 6, 2023 at 12 noon, EVA – Renfrew County is hosting a vigil at the Women's Monument at 2 Harry Street in Petawawa. This vigil will honour the 14 women who were killed in Montreal in 1989, honour the women killed in Renfrew County and will remember the missing and murdered Indigenous women. Everyone is invited to attend this event. Earlier this year, the County of Renfrew, along with many local municipalities have declared Intimate Partner Violence an epidemic. This vigil commemorates those who we have lost to Intimate Partner Violence and reminds us that the work to end Intimate Partner Violence is still ongoing.

- The Warden noted EVA – Renfrew County is also one of this year’s recipients of United Way East Ontario’s Community Builder of the Year Award, for its work that has had a unique and lasting impact on our community, that exemplifies compassion for others, and that builds stronger, healthier communities for everyone.
- Members of County Council and staff wore white ribbons at the meeting to signify the White Ribbon Pledge which is an international campaign aimed at raising awareness about and ending violence against women.

During the month of November, Warden Peter Emon attended 12 meetings on County business.

- He presented the Eastern Ontario Wardens’ Caucus Regional Housing Plan at the ROMA Board Meeting held on Friday, November 10.
- On November 23, he attended meetings with several key members of the Ontario Legislature at Queen’s Park to discuss the strategic priorities of the Eastern Ontario Wardens’ Caucus and brought greetings from Renfrew County.
- On November 27, he attended the 2023 Housing Forum in Toronto, where several housing-related topics were discussed.

Warden’s Community Service Awards

Warden Peter Emon presented the 2023 Warden’s Community Service Awards as follows:

Individual Category – Wanda Hilts of Laurentian Valley, nominated by Kathy Frederick.

Wanda Hilts has made substantial community contributions through the Alice and Fraser Recreation Centre in the Township of Laurentian Valley for more than 40 years. She was instrumental in the revival of the Laurentian Valley Alice in Winterland Carnival and assisted with the creation of the Laurentian Valley Fall Flavours Festival. Wanda’s most recent endeavor is creating the Laurentian Valley 50+ Fit and Feisty group. This program offers daily low cost or free physical activity opportunities for Renfrew County residents aged 50-plus. In its first year, the group already has 315 members. This latest initiative addresses a gap in the rural area for organized physical activities for people over 50. The group’s aim is to offer physical activity; travel, culture and entertainment; and activities to build social connections, such as the coffee connect with guest speakers on a wide range of topics.

Individual Category – Clair Cox, Laurentian Hills, nominated by Bruce Boucher.

Clair Cox of Laurentian Hills began his illustrious volunteer career with the local cross-county ski club in 1975 and continued for six years before moving to the Valley Snow Travellers Snowmobile Club and then the North Renfrew Snowmobile Association, which he has been a member of for more than three decades. His stellar dedication to snowmobiling is an example for many club members. Over the years he held many positions within the club, but most notably the grooming coordinator. Clair expertly scheduled and led a group of 17 volunteer groomer operators possessing various levels of competency when operating the Club’s groomer, calmly dealing with all factors that routinely come into play during a grooming season, including breakdowns and weather. The consummate community orientated volunteer, Clair not only promotes volunteerism within the group through coordination, training and scheduling, but also by simply providing a stellar example for the rest of the organization to emulate.

Not-for-profit Organization – Whitewater Sno-Goers Snowmobile Club, nominated by Derek Chapman.

Whitewater Sno-Goers (WWSG) Snowmobile Club has been an active club in the Ottawa Valley since the 1970s and incorporated as a not-for-profit organization in July 1990. The club is one of the premier clubs within Eastern Ontario District 6 – Snow Country. Club activities consist of maintaining nearly 250 kilometres of trails across four townships – Whitewater, Horton, Admaston/Bromley and McNab/Braeside. The Whitewater Sno-Goers operate two groomers with an average operating time of 770 volunteer hours annually which assists the growth of local winter tourism. WWSG creates social and economic opportunities for Ottawa Valley residences during the isolated winter months. In 2022 they added a volunteer focused on applying for grants, successfully securing a grant to assist building a trail side warmup shack, and additional grants to create a new paved ramp in Renfrew for snowmobiles/groomer to drive across O'Brien Road and not damage the millennium walking trail. The club worked with a local Westmeath business owner to fund the building materials for a second warmup shack in Beachburg. The building was constructed by 20+ volunteers at a value of \$14,000 donated by the local business.

Delegations

- Sabine Mersmann, President and CEO, and Scott Coombes, Vice-President Finance and Corporate Services/CFO, Pembroke Regional Hospital (PRH) provided an update on programs and services offered by the PRH, including patient volumes. The presentation focused on the hospital's conversion to Electronic Medical Records, with a request to the County of Renfrew to provide financial assistance towards the multi-million-dollar project.
- CAO/Clerk Craig Kelley presented the County of Renfrew's [2023 Report Card](#) which can be found on page 50 of the County Council package. He highlighted the numerous achievements by department and provided a status update on the points set out under the County's 2023-2026 Strategic Plan goals and objectives: financial sustainability, workforce development, community wellness and healthcare, shared services and resources, attainable housing and infrastructure and environmental resiliency.

Finance & Administration Committee

Presented by: Jennifer Murphy, Chair

- Since early October 2020, the County of Renfrew has been engaged with StrategyCorp on an update to the Service Delivery Review, including an examination of the composition and responsibilities of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) given the impending changes coming due to retirements. Interviews and consultations have occurred with members of the SLT, and with the Chairpersons of the standing committees. It is anticipated that the Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk will receive a draft report with several recommendations by the end of November 2023, and will bring them to a closed meeting of County Council when fully analyzed for potential impact.
- The Clerk's office would like to adopt the practice of an agenda automation system to improve the workflow process and eliminate inefficiencies and duplication of work. Staff has determined it is time to move to a platform that suits the needs of the County of Renfrew. An Electronic Agenda

Management System essentially manages the documents from creation to archive for easy retrieval. Staff has been in touch with several colleagues across the eastern region group of clerks, as well as many of the local municipalities, on their preferred software platforms. These platforms will be assessed against the needs of the County of Renfrew and one to move forward with will be chosen. Funding required for implementation will be included in the appropriate budget(s) and likely shared across departments.

- The County of Renfrew is currently hosting two co-op students at Miramichi Lodge and hopes the experience helps the students confirm career decisions before starting post-secondary education, including apprenticeships. Further, the County of Renfrew hopes the students can build an evidence-based career portfolio to support the application process for work, college or university. Lastly, the largest benefit to the County of Renfrew is the establishment of contacts in the workplace for networking opportunities and demonstrate that municipal jobs are an attractive career path.
- County Council approved the County of Renfrew's contribution of \$36,000 to the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus (EOWC) 7 in 7+ Regional Housing Plan deliverables to March 31, 2024 as presented by Eastern Ontario Regional Network (EORN). The total cost of \$468,000 will be shared equally amongst the 13 EOWC member municipalities.
- County Council approved a resolution directing staff to review the information from the Town of Arnprior and provide a report to a future meeting of the Finance and Administration Committee detailing the projected impact on the County of Renfrew to participate in the (brownfield) tax assistance program for the Town of Arnprior.
- County Council adopted By-laws to enter into service agreement renewals with Cowan Benefits Consulting and Manulife Financial for the provision of a benefits insurance program, both for the period of January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024.

Community Services Committee

Presented by: Anne Giardini, Chair

- Senior Women Living Together will be launching in Renfrew County in January 2024. SWLT is a housing program/platform that connects senior women to shared housing opportunities. Originally operating in Peterborough, now thanks to its success, the program is branching out into other communities, Renfrew County being the first in the area that this program is moving into.
- The Point-In-Time Count (PIT) is an annual homelessness enumeration survey that helps identify how many people experienced homelessness on a set date. This year the PIT date was Friday, October 27 and the survey period extended from that date up to Friday, November 3. Surveys were completed at over a dozen locations across the County of Renfrew by the staff and volunteers of various agencies, as well as staff from the Community Services Department, Paramedic Services, and the Renfrew County District Health Unit. Thank you to the participants who shared their information and to the surveyors who helped to not only collect data but to connect people with services. See our [Point-in-Time Count media release](#) outlining the results.
- County Council supported the resolution from the Municipality of Bluewater regarding the critical issue of childcare availability in the province of Ontario and how it is linked to educational requirements and low wages within the child-care sector. Council directed staff to send a letter of support to the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services with copies being sent to the Premier of Ontario.

- County Council approved a By-law authorizing the County of Renfrew to enter into an agreement with Candace Gellert (Laurentian Valley) for the provision of Licensed Home Child-Care services.

Development & Property Committee

Presented by: James Brose, Chair

- The fourth [Taste of the Valley](#) event was held in Cobden on October 14, 2023, with more than 135 vendors in attendance and more than 5,000 visitors. The last event in the series is the Holiday edition scheduled for December 16, 2023, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Germania Club in Pembroke.
- During the month of October, the County received six applications for subdivision approval (typically the average is 3-4 a year) as follows:
 - 47T-23003 – Elias Lane (Greater Madawaska) – 8 lots
 - 47T-23004 – Sipolins Road (Greater Madawaska) – 6 lots
 - 47T-23005 – Rose Lane (Greater Madawaska) – 6 lots
 - 47T-23006 – River Road Estates (McNab/Braeside) – 23 lots
 - 47T-23007 – Robinson Lane (Laurentian Valley) – 156 lots (55 singles, 34 semi, 34 multi attached, 33 condo)
 - 47T-23008 – Black Bay Road (Petawawa) – 56 lots

Staff is in the process of circulating these applications for review with the local municipalities, the required agencies under the Planning Act, peer reviewers, and the public. As a result of recent changes to the Planning Act there will be no public meetings regarding these developments.

- County Council passed a resolution directing staff to undertake an Official Plan Amendment to introduce alternative notice policies for Planning Act Applications. The Warden will also write a letter to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, in support of the resolution from the Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa, requesting the Provincial Government make an amendment to the Legislation Act, 2006, to include digital publications as an acceptable means of publication and notice requirements for Provincial Acts and Regulations. This action is in response to print newspapers ceasing publication in many communities across the province.
- County Council adopted a By-law to enter into an agreement with the Corporation of the Town of Renfrew for office space for Enterprise Renfrew County commencing on January 1, 2024, for a five-year period. This space is within the Ottawa Valley Business Hive located within Town Hall at 127 Raglan Street South, Renfrew, Ontario.

Health Committee

Presented by: Michael Donohue, Chair

- Ms. Judy Hill, Executive Director of the Petawawa Centennial Family Health Centre and Dr. Jonathan Fitzsimon, Medical Lead, Renfrew County Virtual Triage and Assessment Centre, presented an update of the Integrated Virtual Care Program. The Petawawa Centennial Family Health Centre was congratulated for being awarded the Association of Family Health Teams of Ontario 2023 Bright Lights Award in the category of: Using a population-based approach to

provide care to the community Achievement: Integrated Virtual Care. See our [media release](#) here.

- County Council passed a resolution authorizing the Warden and Clerk to sign a Memorandum of Agreement with the Ministry of Health for \$421,000 in one-time funding for the 2023/24 funding year to support the Dedicated Offload Nurses Program.
- County Council passed a resolution authorizing the Warden and Clerk to sign a Memorandum of Agreement with the Pembroke Regional Hospital for Advanced Care Paramedics to participate in the Emergency Department to facilitate early ambulance offload transfers of patients onto hospital stretchers.
- County Council passed a resolution authorizing the Warden and Clerk to sign a Memorandum of Agreement with the Renfrew County and District Health Unit to contract the Community Paramedic Program to deliver/assist with delivery of influenza and COVID-19 vaccinations for the term October 30, 2023, to December 31, 2023.

Operations Committee

Presented by: Glenn Doncaster, Chair

- A Policy for Naming Bridges and Culverts has been developed to ensure that the naming of bridges and culverts is consistent with the Public Works and Engineering Department's primary objective of providing and maintaining a safe road system. This also provides an opportunity to honour the heritage of the area. To be considered as part of the final policy to be presented to County Council in February 2024, staff is requesting that comments from local municipalities be provided to the Director of Public Works and Engineering, Lee Perkins, by January 15, 2024.
- A County Council resolution that would have directed staff to advise the Township of Whitewater Region that the intersection of County Road 61 (Haley Road and Godfrey Road) with Haley Road and Fire Hall Lane does not meet the warrants for an all-way stop did not move forward. A report will come back to Council through the Operations Committee in 2024.
- County Council approved a bid in the amount of \$533,424, plus applicable taxes, as submitted by Toromont CAT, Ottawa, Ontario, for the acquisition of one-wheeled excavator and required attachments.

Additional Information

Craig Kelley, Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk

613-735-7288

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[HOME](#) > [NEWS & MEDIA](#) > [NEWS RELEASES](#) > [GOVERNMENT CANADA AND FCM](#)
[COLLABORATE THROUGH NEW TREE PLANTING INITIATIVE](#)

Government of Canada and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Collaborate through New Tree Planting Initiative



December 4, 2023

Ottawa (ON) – Trees provide clean air, support biodiversity, improve well-being and absorb and store carbon dioxide. Trees are part of nature-based solutions that help fight climate change and contribute to a greener, more equitable and sustainable future.

Today, the Government of Canada and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) announce that FCM's Green Municipal Fund will contribute to Canada's efforts to plant two billion trees through a new Growing Canada's Community Canopies (GCCC) initiative, designed for communities across the country.

In 2024, the GCCC will launch with two goals: support municipalities and local governments in building their planning and operational capacity to undertake tree planting projects; and support these same communities in planting trees to grow their local canopies and maximize environmental and social benefits while ensuring their long-term survivability.

This initiative will help fight climate change while enhancing the quality of life for local residents by providing shade, cooling temperatures in population centres, preventing flooding, improving air quality, improving mental health, and fostering equitable access to trees across communities.

The initiative will be delivered by FCM's GMF and includes a partnership with Tree Canada.

Tree Canada is recognized for its expertise in delivering tailored support services and knowledge to build capacity in urban forestry management, including guidance on how to improve tree species and site selection with consideration for biodiversity and climate.

Quick Fact

GMF is a \$1.6 billion program delivered by FCM and funded by the federal government.

Associated links

[Federation of Canadian Municipalities](#)

[Green Municipal Fund](#)

[Growing Canada's Community Canopies](#)

[2030 Emissions Reduction Plan: Clean Air, Strong Economy](#)

[2 Billion Trees Commitment](#)



November 23, 2023

In This Issue

- AMO survey: Mapping Diverse Experiences Running for Municipal Office.
- Renewal of Ontario Invasive Species Strategic Plan.
- Community Emergency Preparedness Grant.
- Pilot vehicle questionnaire now open.
- Webinars: Funding for EV charging stations.
- Volunteer firefighter recruitment and retention.
- New federal waste diversion resource document.
- ROMA Conference: Plenary program announcement.
- Important new training: Understanding Competing Human Rights, Dec. 12.
- Save the date: OSUM 2024 Conference.
- Blog: How Technology is Transforming FOI Programs in Ontario Municipalities.
- Don't get caught in the dark!
- ClearRisk webinar for AMO members!
- SaveOnEnergy Energy Management and Efficient Electrification webinars.
- Canoe Fall Webinar: Uncrewed Vehicles(Drones - that is!).
- Data Standards for Planning and Development Applications: Terminology.
- Future of Aging Summit - Register today!
- Funded assistance for accessibility and disability management.
- Fleming College seeking municipal partnership projects.
- Careers: Welland, Toronto and Simcoe County.

AMO Matters

Have you run for municipal office, or considered running for municipal office in Ontario? Do you consider yourself to be from an equity-deserving community? If so, we would love to hear from you! By filling out this short survey, you will help AMO improve our understanding of diverse candidates running for office in Ontario, informing how we create new programs, resources, and advocacy strategies.

Provincial Matters

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry is seeking feedback on the proposed renewal of the Ontario Invasive Species Strategic Plan.

Ontario has announced \$5 million through an application-based program to help increase emergency preparedness. Municipalities under 100,000 are eligible to apply. Applications are due November 30.

Is your jurisdiction participating in a pilot vehicle program for e-scooters, cargo e-bikes, large quadricycles, electric low-speed vehicles, or golf carts? If so, the Ministry of Transportation needs your input!

The ChargeON Program will provide up to 75% provincial funding for municipalities to install Electric Vehicle charging stations. Join webinars hosted by Canoe Procurement

Group partner Flo on [November 29](#) and the Ministry of Transportation on [November 30](#) to find out what you need to do.

The Ontario Fire Marshal is conducting an [online survey](#) for volunteer firefighters and fire chiefs to inform their understanding on recruiting and retaining volunteer firefighters.

Federal Matters

The federal government published *[The Role, Management, and Impacts of Plastics in Organics Waste Diversion Programs \(FR\)](#)* in Canada to support municipal decision making on the inclusion of plastics such in organics recycling programs.

Education Opportunities

[Register](#) for the ROMA 2024 Conference to learn about hot topics impacting rural communities. Plenary stage programming includes panels discussions about *The Future of Feeding Ontario and Experiences and Solutions for Rural and Remote Homelessness*.

AMO and Hicks Morley have developed training to support municipal elected officials and council in understanding their obligations related to human rights and understanding how to manage seemingly competing human rights. You can register for this important training [here](#).

Mark April 30 - May 2 in your calendar for the OSUM 2024 Conference in Orillia. Check back [here](#) as details are confirmed.

LAS

Nine out of 10 municipalities say that budgets have not increased to cope with the Freedom of Information demand. To learn more, [read](#) our Freedom of Information Solutions partner's guest blog.

Don't get caught in the dark as the government phases out fluorescent and other mercury containing lights. The LAS [Facility Lighting Service](#) is your easy-button to environmentally-friendly, efficient LED upgrades. Contact [Christian Tham](#) to find out more and get started today.

ClearRisk will be hosting our training webinar in one week! Come [join us November 30](#) at 11:00 AM ET for an overview of the system and a detailed demonstration.

The final webinar of our [LAS/Canoe Procurement Group](#) Fall series will not disappoint! Join us on December 7th as we hear from Aerospace and Deep Trekker, two vendors in the new Uncrewed Vehicles category - [register here today](#).

SaveOnEnergy is offering free training webinars for municipal energy/facility managers and directors. Learn how to integrate energy management principles, identify savings, and reduce cost in your municipal facilities. [Register today](#).

Municipal Wire*

The Digital Governance Standards Institute has opened public review on [terminology](#) that will be used to establish consistency in data requirements for planning and development applications in Ontario.

RTOERO's inaugural [Future of Aging Summit](#), held in Toronto from May 15 to 17, 2024, unites global experts and thought leaders across numerous sectors to improve

our later years.

Limited spots remain available for a free and confidential Workplace Disability Management Assessment. For details and an application form, visit the National Institute of Disability Management and Research [website](#).

Fleming College is seeking municipal environmental land-use planning and management projects to be implemented by students in the Environmental Land Management program. Contact Emily Markovic to discuss partnership opportunities.

Careers

General Manager of Corporate & Enterprise Services/Chief Financial Officer (CFO) - City of Welland. Apply by December 15.

Director of Community Services - City of Welland. Apply by December 15.

Director Regulatory Compliance Enforcement - City of Toronto. Apply by: November 30.

Economic Development Officer - County of Simcoe. Apply by: December 8

About AMO

AMO is a non-profit organization representing almost all of Ontario's 444 municipal governments. AMO supports strong and effective municipal government in Ontario and promotes the value of municipal government as a vital and essential component of Ontario's and Canada's political system. Follow [@AMOPolicy](#) on Twitter!

AMO Contacts

AMO Watchfile Tel: 416.971.9856

Conferences/Events

Policy and Funding Programs

LAS Local Authority Services

MEPCO Municipal Employer Pension Centre of Ontario

ONE Investment

Media Inquiries

Municipal Wire, Career/Employment and Council Resolution Distributions

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AMO's Partners



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November 30, 2023

In This Issue

- AMO survey: Mapping Diverse Experiences Running for Municipal Office.
- Renewal of Ontario Invasive Species Strategic Plan.
- Community Emergency Preparedness Grant.
- Volunteer firefighter recruitment and retention.
- New! Advanced training for AMO members in 2024.
- ROMA 2024 Conference: *Closer to Home* programming.
- Still time to register: Understanding Competing Human Rights, Dec. 12.
- Save the date: OSUM 2024 Conference.
- Thinking road needs study in 2024? Contact LAS.
- SaveOnEnergy Energy Management and Efficient Electrification webinars.
- Canoe Fall webinar: Uncrewed Vehicles (Drones - that is!).
- Municipal climate internship recruitment.
- Must attend: ORFA's Outdoor Ice Symposium.
- Data Standards for Planning and Development Applications: Terminology.
- Fleming College seeking municipal partnership projects.
- Careers: MOECP, Brampton, DNSSAB and London.

AMO Matters

Have you run for municipal office, or considered running for municipal office in Ontario? Do you consider yourself to be from an equity-deserving community? If so, we would love to hear from you! [By filling out this short survey](#), you will help AMO improve our understanding of diverse candidates running for office in Ontario, informing how we create new programs, resources, and advocacy strategies.

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The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry is [seeking feedback](#) on the proposed renewal of the Ontario Invasive Species Strategic Plan.

Ontario has announced \$5 million through an application-based program to help increase emergency preparedness. Municipalities under 100,000 are eligible to apply. [Applications are due November 30.](#)

The Ontario Fire Marshal is conducting an [online survey](#) for volunteer firefighters and fire chiefs to inform their understanding on recruiting and retaining volunteer firefighters.

Education Opportunities

AMO Education has significantly expanded our training suite to meet your evolving needs. Our training is specifically designed for municipally elected officials to advance your leadership and service delivery skills. View the current slate of opportunities [here](#), and mark your calendars. Registration will be opened soon.

The ROMA 2024 Conference program will address important issues facing rural municipalities in Ontario, including homelessness, access to services, and food security. [View the program outline](#) and [register today](#).

AMO and Hicks Morley have developed training to support municipal elected officials and council in understanding their obligations related to human rights and understanding how to manage seemingly competing human rights. You can register for this important training [here](#).

Mark April 30 - May 2 in your calendar for the OSUM 2024 Conference in Orillia. Check back [here](#) as details are confirmed.

LAS

The [LAS Road & Sidewalk Assessment Service](#) offers high-accuracy road needs studies for an affordable price. Get better data to help make better decisions, saving time and improving service levels. [Contact Tanner](#) for a quote to include in your 2024 budget.

The final webinar of our [LAS/Canoe Procurement Group](#) Fall series will not disappoint! Join us on December 7 as we hear from Aerospace and Deep Trekker, two vendors in the new Uncrewed Vehicles category - [register here today](#).

SaveOnEnergy is offering free training webinars for municipal energy/facility managers and directors. Learn how to integrate energy management principles, identify savings, and reduce cost in your municipal facilities. [Register today](#).

Municipal Wire*

Environmental Leadership Canada is recruiting environmental leaders (aged 18-30) for a Municipal Climate Internship in eastern Ontario with Lanark, Frontenac, and Stormont-Dundas-Glengarry. [Applications are due December 12, 2023](#).

ORFA's [Outdoor Ice Symposium](#) is a two-day event (January 23-24, 2024) focused on the opportunities and challenges of offering outdoor ice-skating experiences for communities. [Register](#) to join them in-person at The Bentway, Toronto or connect virtually!

The Digital Governance Standards Institute has opened public review on [terminology](#) that will be used to establish consistency in data requirements for planning and development applications in Ontario.

[Fleming College](#) is seeking municipal environmental land-use planning and management projects to be implemented by students in the [Environmental Land Management](#) program. Contact [Emily Markovic](#) to discuss partnership opportunities.

Careers

[Director, Environmental Permissions - Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks](#). Closing date: December 5.

[City Clerk - City of Brampton](#). Closing date: December 22 @11:59 pm.

[Chief Administrative Officer - District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board \(DNSSAB\)](#). Closing date: January 9, 2024, 4:30 pm.

[Director, Life Stabilization City of London](#) Closing date: December 12.

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November 24, 2023

Lisa McGee
Mayor
Town of Arnprior
105 Elgin Street West
Arnprior, ON K7S 0A8

Dear Mayor McGee:

RE: LAS Natural Gas Program – 2021-22 Period Reserve Fund Rebate and HST reporting

LAS is pleased to announce a rebate to all LAS Natural Gas Program members. The amount being rebated back to your municipality is **\$3,168.61**.

This amount represents your municipality's share of the \$750,000 reserve fund surplus being returned to participants enrolled in the LAS Natural Gas Program during the November 1, 2021 - October 31, 2022 program year. The rebate is based on actual consumption data and is being shared proportionately amongst all program participants.

The LAS Natural Gas program is structured in a way to provide price stability for participants, as well as protection in uncertain markets. In years when the market is relatively stable, rebates to municipalities are possible. It is important to note though that as the natural gas market experiences volatility, as it is currently, combined with the impact of prolonged periods of extreme cold in the winter it may not always be possible to provide a rebate. Nonetheless, LAS' goal remains price stability for participants.

In addition to the rebate, a reconciliation of accounts will be emailed to the program contact separately from LAS. This reconciliation is intended for the recording and reporting of HST in relation to the supply and consumption of Natural Gas for the contract year. The supporting instructions and explanation are attached as **Appendix A** to this communication.

We look forward to your continued involvement in this valuable program. Should you have any questions please contact Jason Hagan, LAS Program Manager at ext. 320 or at jhagan@amo.on.ca.

Sincerely,



Judy Dezell Director

CC: Jennifer Morawiec, General Manager, Client Services/Treasurer

Appendix A: Reconciliation of Accounts

For a particular contract year, a Municipality could either have claimed it paid too little or claimed it paid too much tax. Therefore, the municipality may have under claimed or over claimed their rebate/ITC.

The Municipality would be responsible for making the adjustment on its GST/HST rebate application or return.

The Municipality:

- Would claim an additional rebate/credit; or
- Would report an over claimed rebate/credit and have a liability.

The following sample outlines the details that support the refund including consumption, refund, GST, HST and Net Refund amounts.

| GROUP ID | OLD FACILITY ID | UTILITY ACCOUNT NAME | UTILITY SERVICE ADDRESS | ACCOUNT NUMBER | ACCOUNT CONSUMPTION | REFUND | GST | HST | NET REFUND |
|----------|-----------------|----------------------|-------------------------|----------------|---------------------|-------------|----------------|--------------|-------------|
| M18 | 3018 | MUNICIPALITY | Municipal Address | XXXXXXXXXX | 780,498 | \$ 2,088.23 | \$ (39.39) | \$ 122.97 | \$ 2,171.81 |
| M18 | 3018 | MUNICIPALITY | Municipal Address | XXXXXXXXXX | 3,211 | \$ 8.59 | \$ (38.59) | \$ 120.30 | \$ 90.30 |
| M18 | 3018 | MUNICIPALITY | Municipal Address | XXXXXXXXXX | 4,408 | \$ 11.79 | \$ (33.32) | \$ 103.89 | \$ 82.36 |
| M18 | 3018 | MUNICIPALITY | Municipal Address | XXXXXXXXXX | 3,970 | \$ 10.61 | \$ (0.98) | \$ 3.00 | \$ 12.63 |
| | | | | Total | 5,632,556 | \$15,069.94 | \$ (16,474.17) | \$ 51,404.23 | \$50,000.00 |

Recommended accounting entries as follow for the above example:

| | |
|----------------|-----------------------|
| Cash | \$ 50,000.00 (debit) |
| HST Payable | \$ 51,404.23 (credit) |
| GST Payable | \$ 16,474.17 (debit) |
| Rebate Revenue | \$ 15,069.94 (credit) |



Ontario Municipal Management Institute
Est. 1979

Cory Nicholas
Deputy Fire Chief, Fire Suppression & Prevention Services
recognized and awarded the

Bill McKim
Secretary
Executive Director,
Ontario Municipal Management Institute
www.ommi.on.ca



John R. Okum
Director of Emergency and Protective Services/Fire Chief
Municipality of North Grenville

November 27, 2023

Mayor Lisa McGee
Town of Arnprior
105 Elgin Street, West
Arnprior, Ontario

Dear Mayor McGee,

I am writing to extend my congratulations to Deputy Chief Cory Nicholas on his recent achievement as a Level III Certified Municipal Manager from the Ontario Municipal Management Institute.

Deputy Chief Nicholas' devotion to public safety is exhibited by his leadership through paramount training, solid fire prevention programs, and effective emergency response. His professionalism and dedication are an invaluable service to the community.

The council's public recognition of Deputy Chief Nicholas' professional achievement is honourable. Congratulations once again to Deputy Chief Nicholas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John R. Okum", is written over a horizontal line.

Chief Okum

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COVID-19 Outbreak Declared at The Grove Home

UPDATE: November 30, 2023

The Grove Home continues to see new cases of COVID-19 among residents. We continue to closely monitor all residents, and diligently adhere to our outbreak protocols.

November 27, 2023 – Today, Renfrew County and District Health Unit (RCDHU) has declared a COVID-19 outbreak on the Pine Lane Resident Home Area (RHA) at the Grove Home.

There is currently confirmation of four resident cases and two staff cases associated with the outbreak. Both residents reside on Pine Lane RHA and will remain under isolation protocols.

Due to the outbreak, *general* visitor access to Pine RHA has been paused; however, *essential* visitors are permitted to visit their family member on Pine RHA. Essential visitors include Essential Caregivers who provide care to a resident, including supporting feeding, mobility, personal hygiene, cognitive stimulation, communication, meaningful connection, relational continuity, and assistance in decision making. Essential Caregivers may be family members, a privately hired caregiver, paid companions, and translators.

All visitors must adhere to the outbreak protocols posted in Home Areas. If you are visiting a resident who is currently isolated, you **must** wear a gown, gloves, visor or eye protection, and mask. PPE must remain on even within resident rooms.

Access to the Harvest Room on Pine Lane is currently unavailable.

In partnership with RCDHU, The Grove has implemented the necessary outbreak protocols to protect the health and safety of residents and staff. This includes:

- Contact tracing and testing
- Isolation protocols
- Enhanced cleaning of high-touch areas
- Increased PPE measures for staff and essential caregivers

About Arnprior Regional Health

Arnprior Regional Health (ARH) is a progressive healthcare organization with a fully accredited community hospital, nursing home, primary health care centre, and extensive community programs. ARH is a regional hub with a strong history of providing exemplary care to West Ottawa, McNab/Braeside, Arnprior, and Mississippi Mills residents. As your partner in health, ARH commits to listening and responding to those we serve to create a thriving community together.

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Send a special thank you message to one of our departments, staff members, physician's or volunteers.

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Media contact:

Taylor Holmes

Communications and Community Engagement Lead

tholmes@arnpriorhealth.ca



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CONTACT US

Arnprior Regional Health

350 John Street North

Arnprior, ON, Canada K7S 2P6

Tel: 613-623-3166



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COVID-19 Outbreak Declared on the Hospital Inpatient Unit

November 30, 2023 – This afternoon, Renfrew County and District Public Health Unit (RCDHU) has declared a COVID-19 outbreak on the Inpatient Unit. There is currently confirmation of three patient cases associated with the outbreak.

In partnership with RCDHU, we have put in place the necessary outbreak protocol to mitigate the outbreak and protect the health and safety of our staff and patients. This includes:

- Contact tracing and testing
- Isolation protocols
- Enhanced cleaning of high-touch areas
- Vigilance with PPE measures for staff, volunteers, and visitors

In keeping with outbreak protocol, **visitation will be limited to Essential Caregivers only**. An Essential Caregiver on the inpatient unit is an individual who is designated by the patient and/or their substitute decision-maker and is visiting to provide direct care to the patient (for example, supporting feeding, mobility, personal hygiene, cognitive stimulation, communication, meaningful connection, relational continuity, and assistance in decision-making).

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October 19, 2023

Dear Members of Arnprior Town Council,

We hope this letter finds you well. We are writing to you on behalf of the School Council Committee at AJ Charbonneau School. As parents and community members, we are deeply concerned about the safety of our children as they make their way to school each day, particularly along Baskin Drive.

We would like to bring to your attention a pressing matter that affects the well-being of our children and the entire community. The issue we wish to discuss is the need for a visible and prominent crosswalk, as well as the installation of a sidewalk on the side of AJ Charbonneau School.

Currently, there is a lack of safe infrastructure for our children to use while walking to and from school. This poses a significant safety risk, especially during busy morning and afternoon periods. With the absence of a visible crosswalk and a sidewalk on the school side of Baskin Drive, our children are forced to navigate through potentially hazardous conditions.

We kindly request that the Town Council consider our petition for a visible, prominent crosswalk and the installation of a sidewalk on the side of AJ Charbonneau School. These measures would greatly enhance the safety of our children and all pedestrians in our community. By implementing these changes, we can ensure that our students have a secure and convenient path to school.

We understand the importance of creating a safe environment for everyone in our community, and we believe that these improvements will contribute to the overall safety and well-being of our residents. We kindly ask for your support and assistance in addressing this matter promptly.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue. We look forward to working together to make our community a safer place for our children and all residents. Please feel free to reach out to us if you require any additional information or if you would like to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'AJC', written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

AJ Charbonneau School Council



105 Elgin St. West
Arnprior, ON K7S 0A8

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fax 613 623 8091

arnprior@arnprior.ca
www.arnprior.ca

December 4th, 2023

A.J. Charbonneau Public School
c/o Maria Manwell, Principal
225 Baskin Drive West
Arnprior, Ontario, Canada
K7S 0E3

Re: Safety Concerns on Baskin Drive West

Dear Maria;

Thank you for the letter from your School Council dated October 19th, 2023 regarding their concerns about safety along Baskin Drive West. The Town is aware of the challenges that exist along this roadway and we are actively working with the County of Renfrew to create plans to mitigate risks for pedestrians and motorists in the area over the coming years.

The urbanization of County Road 10 (Baskin Drive) is a high priority on the list of improvements which the Town is pushing for at the County level and as part of the ongoing Transportation Master Plan (TMP) exercise. Unfortunately, it is difficult to install sidewalks along Baskin Drive without first urbanizing the street itself with new storm sewers and other underground infrastructure.

In the interim, the Town has tentatively proposed funding in the draft 2024 Capital Budget for the installation of a new Pedestrian Crossover (PXO) on Baskin Drive West near the schools (exact location to be confirmed). This will be considered by Council as it discusses the 2024 Operating and Capital Budgets in early 2024. Furthermore, the developer of the new subdivision beside AJ Charbonneau Public School to the east will be required to install new sidewalks through their development with a pathway linking from the school to Smolkin Street.

Lastly, traffic calming options are being looked at for the entire community as part of the TMP and may result in further recommendations for additional traffic calming measures for roads such as Baskin Drive West once the report is finalized later next year. That said, I would encourage the school and its parents to complete the County and Town's TMP surveys online (two separate surveys) and provide their feedback through this channel as well.

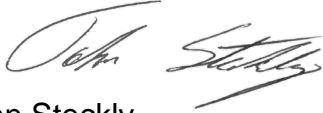
- You can access the Town of Arnprior's Transportation Master Plan survey through our website at <https://renfrew-county.civilspace.io/en/projects/transportation-master-plan-town-of-arnprior-03db>.

WHERE THE RIVERS MEET

- You can access the County of Renfrew's Transportation Master Plan survey through our website at <https://renfrew-county.civilspace.io/en/projects/transportation-master-plan-county-of-renfrew>.

Please let me know if you have any additional questions, comments or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Steckly', with a stylized flourish at the end.

John Steckly
General Manager, Operations
Tel. (613) 623-4231 ext. 1831
isteckly@arnprior.ca