



ARNPRIOR

**Town of Arnprior  
Regular Meeting of Council: January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**Correspondence Package No. I-24-JAN-02**

**Recommendation:**

That the Correspondence Package No. I-24-JAN-02 be received as information and filed accordingly.

**General Information Items:**

**1. Correspondence from the Government of Ontario**

- a) [Ontario Achieves Strong Job Growth and Investments in 2023](#)
- b) [Ontario Putting More Repeat Violent Offenders Behind Bars](#)
- c) [Ontario Launching New Long-Term Care Home Investigations Unit](#)
- d) [Ontario Supporting Community Housing Modernization](#)
- e) [Ontario Helping Rural Communities Grow With More Jobs, Homes and Infrastructure](#)

**2. Correspondence from the County of Renfrew**

- a) [Students – Unlock Your Entrepreneurial Potential](#)

**3. Correspondence from the Association of Municipalities of Ontario**

- a) [Watch File – January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024](#)
- b) [Watch File – January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024](#)
- c) [Watch File – January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024](#)

**4. Correspondence from the Arnprior Public Library**

- a) [2024 Winter Newsletter](#)

**5. Correspondence from the Pembroke Regional Health**

- a) [Holiday 2023 Community Connection Newsletter](#)

**6. Town of Arnprior**

- a) [Public Notice – Consent Application No. B1-24 \(30 Arthur Street\)](#)
- b) [Public Notice – Consent Applications No. B1-23, B2-23, B3-23 and B4-23 \(Arthur Street\)](#)

## STATEMENT

## Ontario Achieves Strong Job Growth and Investments in 2023

Domestic and international companies invested billions in the province

January 05, 2024

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

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TORONTO — Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade, issued this statement following today's monthly employment release by Statistics Canada, which showed that while employment in Ontario decreased last month, nearly 120,000 jobs were created in 2023, including over 22,000 jobs in the province's manufacturing sector.

"As we reflect on 2023, we can proudly say that our responsible and targeted approach to fostering stability and growth across Ontario's economy is working – with over \$11 billion in new investments and the creation of thousands of new jobs across a variety of industries including the auto, manufacturing, tech and life science sectors.

Thanks to our competitive and stable business environment, highly skilled workforce, along with over 500 initiatives to reduce red tape, Ontario remains the economic engine of the nation, and large multinational companies across the globe, particularly in the auto sector, are taking notice.

Over the last three years, Ontario attracted more than \$27 billion in new investments from global automakers, parts suppliers, and electric vehicle (EV) battery manufacturers.

In 2023, Ontario secured new auto investments from companies including [Mitsui High-tec \(Canada\)](#), [Umicore](#) and [Magna](#) alongside [Volkswagen Group](#)'s historic \$7 billion investment to build its first overseas EV battery cell manufacturing plant in St. Thomas.

Through the province's [Regional Development Program](#), which helps companies in eastern and southwestern Ontario expand their operations, our government supported a \$9.6 million investment by automaker [PWO Canada](#) and a \$35 million

investment from parts manufacturer [Bobaek America Inc.](#) These investments will create nearly 200 new jobs in the Windsor and Kitchener regions.

And, to further strengthen our end-to-end auto supply chain, we launched the fourth round of the [Ontario Automotive Modernization Program \(O-AMP\)](#), partnering with 26 parts suppliers that invested almost \$9.6 million and created 111 new, good-paying jobs across the province.

In the auto sector and across all sectors, our government is supporting small and medium-sized businesses and creating the conditions for jobs to grow.

While 2023 was a great year for job creation in our province, we cannot take this success for granted. In 2024, we're going to continue with our targeted and responsible approach to ensure Ontario remains one of the best jurisdictions in the world for companies to invest, grow and create jobs."

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## Related Topics

### Business and Economy

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

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## Media Contacts

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## NEWS RELEASE

# Ontario Putting More Repeat Violent Offenders Behind Bars

Province giving police more resources to monitor and enforce bail conditions

January 11, 2024

[Solicitor General](#)

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WHITBY — As part of the province's plan to protect communities, support victims of crime and keep people safe, the Ontario government is investing \$24 million over three years to help prevent repeat and violent offenders from committing serious crimes while out on bail.

"It is unacceptable that repeat and violent offenders are committing serious crimes while out on bail," said Solicitor General Michael Kerzner. "By giving police the tools they need to track and arrest offenders who violate their bail conditions, our government is helping to ensure Ontario is one of the safest jurisdictions in Canada."

The investment is being delivered through the Bail Compliance and Warrant Apprehension (BCWA) Grant program and will help police services establish dedicated bail compliance and/or warrant apprehension teams to monitor high-risk individuals. It will also support new technology for a provincewide bail compliance monitoring system.

[The BCWA Grant program](#) is part of a [\\$112 million investment](#) to strengthen the province's bail system and ensure high-risk and repeat violent offenders comply with their bail conditions. Other measures include:

- The creation of a Bail Compliance Unit within the OPP's Repeat Offender Parole Enforcement (ROPE) Squad
- The establishment of Intensive Serious Violent Crime Bail Teams within the court system
- A new provincewide bail compliance dashboard to help monitor high-risk offenders with the most accurate data possible

The BCWA Grant program will support 17 municipal police services, four First Nations police services and 12 Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) services.

## Quick Facts

- Ontario is fighting auto theft by [investing \\$51 million](#) over three years to help police identify and dismantle organized crime networks and put thieves behind bars. This includes [\\$18 million to support new and enhanced crime-fighting measures](#).
- In November 2023, the Ontario government introduced the [Enhancing Access to Justice Act, 2023](#) that will, if passed, make it easier for more victims of crime to sue an offender for emotional distress.

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## Quotes

"We are proud of the work we have done in collaboration with Toronto on the bail dashboard and appreciate the Ontario government's investment to expand it across Ontario. The sustained success of the dashboard and bail compliance initiatives will come from the continued support and investments to deliver and grow this important community safety program."

- Chief Peter Moreira  
Durham Regional Police Service

"The Police Association of Ontario represents over 28,000 police service personnel that service 45 communities provincewide. For years, members have been raising issues with Canada's bail framework and how it was failing to prioritize the safety of our communities. The Government of Ontario's continued support for increased bail compliance and monitoring will allow police to better ensure violent offenders out on bail are unable to commit further crimes and allow officers to continue to keep our communities safe."

- Mark Baxter  
President, Police Association of Ontario

"Violent crimes committed by repeat offenders and individuals released on bail pose a significant risk to public and officer safety. The alarming level of re-offending, especially violence towards police in the execution of their duties, drives home the need for change. The Bail Compliance and Warrant Apprehension (BCWA) Grant program will enhance monitoring and tracking of those out on bail who pose the highest risk of committing further criminal acts and make our communities safer. Everyone in the province can get behind that."

**- Deputy Chief Roger Wilkie**  
**1st Vice-President, Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police**

"The City of Toronto, along with communities across Ontario, continue to deal with a troubling number of incidents of gun and gang violence, many involving individuals who are out on bail. We've heard from community members and organizations who have called for coordination between police, community supports, city resources and all levels of government to address this issue. This funding will support the initiatives our Service is undertaking in the area of bail compliance to ensure these high-risk individuals don't have the opportunity to reoffend. I would like to thank the Ontario government for continuing to support police services across Ontario and the victims of these crimes."

**- Chief Myron Demkiw**  
**Toronto Police Service**

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### Additional Resources

- [Ontario Protecting Communities and Keeping People Safe](#)
- [Community Safety Initiatives and Resources](#)
- [Ontario Takes Action on High-Risk and Repeat Offenders](#)

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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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## NEWS RELEASE

# Ontario Launching New Long-Term Care Home Investigations Unit

New investigations team will strengthen oversight and resident safety

January 15, 2024

[Long-Term Care](#)

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TORONTO — The Ontario government has created a new Investigations Unit to ensure every long-term care resident lives with dignity and experiences the quality of care they deserve. Supported by an investment of \$72.3 million, the new 10-person unit will be an effective deterrent and tool when escalated enforcement is needed to improve compliance and ensure resident safety.

The new unit is now active and will investigate allegations such as:

- failing to protect a resident from abuse or neglect,
- repeated and ongoing non-compliance,
- failing to comply with ministry inspector's orders,
- suppressing and/or falsifying mandatory reports, and
- negligence of corporate directors.

"These new investigators have the authority to add more accountability in the long-term care sector and will help address the most serious forms of non-compliance," said Stan Cho, Minister of Long-Term Care. "The new unit complements what is already the toughest inspection and enforcement program in Canada, helping give residents the safety and quality of care they need and deserve."

The newly appointed investigators completed comprehensive training over 19 weeks which consisted of in-class training, self-study modules and field experience. The training covered all aspects of the inspections program, the relevant legislation and regulation, investigative techniques such as interviewing, search warrant and report writing, as well as court procedures.

The new unit's investigators are designated as Provincial Offences Officers under the Provincial Offences Act and will investigate allegations of offenses under the Fixing Long-Term Care Act. While inspectors identify and address non-compliance

under the Act, investigators determine if there are grounds that an offence under the Act has been committed, which if prosecuted could result in fines and/or imprisonment.

“The creation of this new investigations unit under the *Fixing Long Term Care Act* marks an important step forward to continue protecting Ontario’s long-term care home residents,” said Attorney General, Doug Downey. “By providing investigators with the ability to refer cases to prosecutors as needed, this team will help to improve compliance with the Act, keep residents safe and provide comfort and certainty to residents and their families.”

The work of the Investigations Unit will complement Ontario’s existing robust inspections program and is in addition to a wider suite of changes the government introduced over the last two years to strengthen compliance and enforcement in the long-term care sector. These new measures include [doubling the number of inspectors](#) in the field, implementing a new and more efficient IT system for inspectors to track their work, and introducing [new compliance and enforcement tools](#) like administrative monetary penalties and re-inspection fees.

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

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### Quick Facts

- Ontario is now a leading province in terms of inspector per long-term care home ratio in Canada, with one inspector for every two homes in the province.
- The new Investigations Unit works apart from the inspections stream (however the two complement each other). Also, investigators will only look into allegations around the 11 provincial offences listed in the *Fixing Long-Term Care Act, 2021*.
- The Investigator and Senior Investigator positions will investigate allegations of offences under the Fixing Long-Term Care Act and make recommendations where appropriate for enforcement action, up to and including prosecution.
- 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 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.

- 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.

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## Quotes

"Ontario's long-term care homes who are providers of affordable housing and specialized care are committed to the well-being of their residents and providing high-quality care. There is zero tolerance for abuse. Major transformation is happening across the province as homes seek to replace older buildings and create new models of emotion-focused and person-centred care. We look forward to the province's continued support in addressing long-standing systemic issues including a significant staffing shortage across the health care system and the need to rebuild Ontario's older long-term care homes."

**- Donna Duncan**  
**CEO, Ontario Long Term Care Association**

"We are very pleased to see the launch of Ontario's brand-new long-term care investigations unit and the steps being taken to enhance inspections, enforcement, and accountability within long-term care homes across the province. With this unit and the specialized training of its investigators, we anticipate greater focus on sector-wide systemic issues, heightened inspection standards, and improved resident quality of life and safety."

**- Sam Peck**  
**Executive Director, Family Councils Ontario**

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## Additional Resources

- [2023 Ontario Economic Outlook and Fiscal Review: Building a Strong Ontario Together](#)
- [Your Health: A Plan for Connected and Convenient Care](#)
- [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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## NEWS RELEASE

# Ontario Supporting Community Housing Modernization

Provincial investment will make the sector more efficient and sustainable

January 18, 2024

[Municipal Affairs and Housing](#)

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Aylmer – The Ontario government is providing the Co-operative Housing Federation (CHF) of Canada with \$646,790 over three years to help their members successfully transition to a new regulatory framework under the province’s [Community Housing Renewal Strategy](#).

After extensive consultation with the community housing sector, the government implemented a new regulatory framework in July 2022 that motivates housing providers to remain in the system and encourages new programs to better meet local housing needs. This investment will enable CHF to provide its housing co-op members with the tools and resources they need to adapt to the new regulatory framework. It will also support CHF’s members as they develop asset management plans for 96 housing co-ops and negotiate service agreements between their members and their respective Service Managers.

“Our government is proud of the work we’re doing with our partners to strengthen the community housing system for those who live and work in it,” said Rob Flack, Associate Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. “This important funding will help ensure a smooth transition to the new framework across the sector, and support housing co-ops as they explore opportunities for partnerships and growth.”

These measures will protect critical community housing supply and make sure the system is sustainable over the long-term by:

- Encouraging housing providers to remain in the system by signing service agreements to support the continued delivery of community housing and deeply affordable rents for tens of thousands of households.
- Requiring Service Managers to set local income and asset limits for rent-geared-to-income (RGI) assistance to ensure this assistance goes to those in greatest need.

- Improving access to local forms of housing assistance and updating accountability rules for Service Managers to encourage new programs that meet diverse local housing needs.

The government will continue working with partners in the sector to strengthen Ontario's community housing system.

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### Quick Facts

- Ontario's Community Housing Renewal Strategy outlines how we work with our partners to stabilize and grow the community housing sector. The new regulatory framework was informed by feedback received through over 30 consultations with municipalities and housing providers, and two Regulatory Registry consultations.
  - Ontario has invested nearly \$4.4 billion over the past three years to grow and enhance community and supportive housing, respond to COVID-19, and to address homelessness for vulnerable Ontarians.
  - Ontario is investing an additional \$202 million each year in Homelessness Prevention Programs -- the Homelessness Prevention Program and Indigenous Supportive Housing Program -- bringing Ontario's total yearly investment to close to \$700 million dollars.
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### Quotes

"Co-op homes are one of Ontario's most resilient housing solutions, particularly in recent years, as housing costs have soared, and households face rising food costs. Funding announced today supports the long-term sustainability of the co-op housing sector across Ontario. As initial mortgage obligations end, co-ops have the opportunity to build plans that allow for the preservation and growth of their communities"

- Tim Ross

**Executive Director of the Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada**

"The Troy Village Housing Co-op has been a successful affordable housing model for this community. I am very pleased that the Province's support will allow us to grow and sustain this approach to providing stable and decent housing for years to come"

- Mayor Jack Couckuyt  
Town of Aylmer

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### Additional Resources

- Learn more about [affordable housing in Ontario](#) and find your local [service manager](#) to see what housing supports are available in your community.
- Read the [2023 Ontario Budget: Building a Strong Ontario](#).

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### 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](#)

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## NEWS RELEASE

# Ontario Helping Rural Communities Grow With More Jobs, Homes and Infrastructure

Province making historic investments to support the unique needs of rural municipalities

January 22, 2024

[Municipal Affairs and Housing](#)

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Toronto — The Ontario government announced the latest steps in its plan to invest in rural communities and municipalities at the annual Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) conference, with measures that will help to strengthen rural economies, get more homes and housing-enabling infrastructure built and increase access to important local services in rural areas.

"Unlike previous governments, our government will never ignore the needs of rural Ontario," said Premier Doug Ford. "We're working shoulder-to-shoulder with our municipal partners to attract new investments and jobs, provide better services closer to home and build the homes and infrastructure rural communities need to grow and prosper."

Premier Ford announced new details regarding the expansion of Ontario's \$1.2 billion Building Faster Fund (BFF) to small, rural and northern municipalities that have not been assigned housing targets by the province. Ten per cent – or \$120 million – of the BFF will be reserved for these municipalities to help them build housing-enabling infrastructure, with the province intending to distribute these funds through an application-based process that will prioritize projects that can get shovels in the ground faster. The province will continue to consult closely with rural municipalities to ensure this process effectively reflects their unique needs.

In the coming months, the province will also begin to roll out BFF funding for municipalities that have met or exceeded their assigned housing targets. Premier Ford announced that the province intends to direct any unspent BFF funds leftover from municipalities that have not met their housing targets into additional housing-enabling infrastructure investments that can be applied for by all municipalities, including those that have already received funding through the BFF. This will ensure



all municipalities continue to receive the support they need to get homes built while also continuing to reward and incentivize municipalities that meet or exceed their housing targets.

“Our government is committed to do what it takes to build more homes as quickly as possible across this province,” said Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. “Our goal is simple: To build more homes than we ever have before. We owe that to hardworking Ontarians, including the thousands of people who came here to make their dreams of home ownership a reality. We will continue to work closely with our small, rural and northern municipal partners to make sure that no part of Ontario is left behind.”

Kinga Surma, Minister of Infrastructure, announced that municipalities will be able to apply for funding beginning January 29, 2024 through the Housing-Enabling Water Systems Fund to support municipal water projects that will help unlock housing opportunities and further protect communities. Through this program, the government is providing \$200 million over three years to help municipalities repair, rehabilitate and expand critical drinking water, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure.

“We have taken action to support municipalities through the Housing-Enabling Water Systems Fund. Programs such as this are proof that our government is making targeted investments to build critical infrastructure in communities which will unlock housing and support our growing population,” said Minister Surma. “We will continue to build a stronger and more prosperous Ontario now and for generations to come.”

The government is taking further action to support rural municipalities and drive economic growth and success in rural Ontario. Lisa Thompson, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs announced the start of consultations to help develop a new Rural Economic Development Strategy. Rural municipalities and the public will have an opportunity to share ideas about how Ontario can improve economic opportunities, create jobs and support growth in rural and Indigenous communities across the province.

Minister Thompson also announced the opening of the 2024/25 Rural Economic Development (RED) Program applications. Municipalities, Indigenous communities and not-for-profit groups have until February 21, 2024 to apply for cost-share funding for projects that will drive economic growth.

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## Quick Facts

- The Housing-Enabling Water Systems Fund is an application-based program that will provide \$200 million over three years for the repair, rehabilitation and expansion of core water infrastructure to protect communities and enable new housing development.
- The [Building Faster Fund provides up to \\$1.2 billion](#) over three years to ensure municipalities have the resources needed to build more homes. The fund is designed to help municipalities pay for critical housing-enabling infrastructure needed to accommodate growth, such as site servicing and building new roads.
- The Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund is providing \$500 million to 390 of Ontario's 444 municipalities in 2024. The funding is unconditional and can be used to support the local priorities and specific needs of each community.
- Ontario increased its annual investment in the [Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund \(OCIF\)](#) by \$1 billion over five years, starting in 2022. OCIF provides funding to help 425 small, rural and northern communities renew and rehabilitate roads, bridges, water and wastewater infrastructure.
- The Ontario government is [investing more than \\$108 million](#) to renew and expand Ornge air ambulance's fixed wing fleet so they can continue to provide Ontarians, especially those living in rural and remote communities, with consistent access to high-quality urgent care.
- As of January 1, 2024, the province is providing stable, sustainable funding to local public health agencies by restoring the 2020 75/25 provincial base funding cost-share model. The province is also providing a one per cent increase in base funding per year, for three years beginning in 2024.

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## Quotes

"Our rural communities are the heart of this province and crucial to Ontario's success. By supporting economic development across the province through initiatives like the RED program as well as a thoughtful strategy, we can create new opportunities and ensure small towns and Indigenous communities prosper."

- Lisa Thompson  
Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

"A strong Rural Ontario is key to the province's prosperity. Over the last few years, ROMA has delved deep into challenges like digital connectivity, affordable housing and access to healthcare in Rural Ontario. We have made dozens of research-based recommendations to unlock Rural Ontario's untapped potential. ROMA's 2024 Report, Fill the Gaps Closer to Home is a comprehensive study into the unique and distinct challenges to accessing health care in Rural Ontario. We thank the Ontario Government for participating in the ROMA conference, and look forward to working together to fill the gaps in Rural Ontario."

- Mayor Robin Jones  
Village of Westport, Chair ROMA

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### Additional Resources

- [Tracking Housing Supply Progress](#)
- [Ontario's Housing Supply Progress](#)
- [Rural Economic Development program](#)
- [Rural Consultations](#)

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### Related Topics

#### Government

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

[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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# Students: Unlock Your Entrepreneurial Potential

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Posted on Monday, January 15, 2024



## RELEASE DATE:

January 15, 2024

**Pembroke, (ON):** Enterprise Renfrew County (ERC) is recruiting students who are ambitious and eager to delve into entrepreneurship and kickstart their own businesses!

The Summer Company program presents a distinctive chance for students returning to school, aged 15 to 29, to establish their own business and assume the role of an entrepreneur. This program empowers participants to become their own boss and guides them in understanding the intricacies of entrepreneurship. Successful applicants receive financial support of \$1,500 towards their business start-up and access business training and mentorship to assist in successfully running a business. Upon completing the program, participants receive an additional financial grant of up to \$1,500.

Past Summer Company entrepreneurs in Renfrew County have included a variety of businesses such as handmade artisanal items, graphic art production, branded apparel, baked goods, market gardens, lawn care services, auto detailing, dog grooming, esthetics, firewood processing, upcycled clothing, handcrafted cottage décor and rustic furniture, children's entertainment, photography, photo restoration and small engine repair. Many Summer Company entrepreneurs continue to run their businesses throughout the year or over consecutive summers.

The Summer Company program is delivered by Enterprise Renfrew County on behalf of the Province of Ontario. It is a highly sought-after initiative; therefore, interested students are strongly encouraged to submit their application at their earliest convenience. The application deadline is midnight on May 15, 2024.

For more information visit [www.enterpriserenfrewcounty.com/summercompany](http://www.enterpriserenfrewcounty.com/summercompany).

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



January, 04 2024

### In This Issue

- AMO has moved!
- New Housing Enabling Water Systems Fund.
- Data Standards for Planning and Development Applications.
- IESO Procurement #2 – Feedback on Proposed Process.
- Register for the IESO's Energy Webinars
- Renewal of Ontario Invasive Species Strategic Plan.
- Public Safety Personnel Mental Health Support.
- Applications Open: Rural Transit Solutions Fund.
- ROMA Conference 2024: Pre-Register by January 15.
- AMO Hotel Release – Tuesday, January 9 at 10am.
- Free webinar – Check out the latest version of RETScreen Expert!
- Future of Aging Summit in May 2024.
- Careers: AMO, County of Frontenac and City of Thunder Bay.

### AMO Matters

AMO's new address:

*Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)  
155 University Ave, Suite 800  
Toronto, ON, M5H 3B7*

Telephone and fax remain the same. Please amend your records with our new address.

### Provincial Matters

[Ontario's Housing Enabling Water Systems Fund](#) allows municipalities to nominate water infrastructure projects for funding (up to \$35 million). Applications and information webinars start early 2024. For details, e-mail [HEWS@ontario.ca](mailto:HEWS@ontario.ca).

The Digital Governance Standards Institute has opened public review on [terminology](#) and planning application [data fields](#) that establishes consistency in data requirements for planning and development applications in Ontario.

IESO is [seeking feedback](#) on the proposed next round of procurements for energy projects including requirements for municipal support prior to applications being submitted.

The Independent Electricity System Operator will host [two webinars on January 15 & 17, 2024](#) for municipalities and Indigenous communities to learn about Ontario's energy transition and new initiatives underway.

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

[PSPNET](#) offers free online cognitive behavior therapy for Canadian public safety personnel (PSP) dealing with mood, anxiety, and posttraumatic stress. They provide therapist-guided and self-guided courses.

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.

## Federal Matters

Infrastructure Canada is now accepting applications for the Planning and Design Projects Stream of the Rural Transit Solutions Fund (up to \$50,000). Visit their [website](#) for information and [webinar dates](#).

## Education Opportunities

There is still time to register for the ROMA 2024 Conference! [View the program](#) and [register](#) before January 15th. On-site registration rates will apply as of January 16.

Do not miss the opportunity to book your hotel of choice for AMO 2024 in Ottawa. Hotel bookings open 10am sharp on Tuesday, January 9. We encourage you to book online [here](#).

## LAS

Thinking of a low carbon retrofit but need a software to model your project? [RETScreen International](#) and LAS are offering a free municipal-focused webinar to showcase the latest version of RETScreen Expert. Space is limited so be sure to [register today](#). Attendees will receive a free 14-day RETScreen trial license.

## Municipal Wire\*

The Future of Aging Summit in Toronto from May 15-17, 2024 will bring together policymakers and others focused on building age-friendly societies. See the speaker lineup and register at [agingsummit.ca](#).

## Careers

[Policy Intern - AMO](#). Closing Date: January 22, 2024

[Chief Administrative Officer - County of Frontenac](#). Closing Date: January 22, 2024

[Manager, Capital Facility Construction - City of Thunder Bay](#). Closing Date: January 21, 2024

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## 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!

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[Conferences/Events](#)

[Policy and Funding Programs](#)

[LAS Local Authority Services](#)

[MEPCO Municipal Employer Pension Centre of Ontario](#)

[ONE Investment](#)

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January, 11 2024

### In This Issue

- AMO has moved!
- Survey: Help advance Ontario's modular housing sector.
- Applications open: Rural Transit Solutions Fund.
- ROMA Conference 2024: Pre-register by January 15.
- AMO Education 2024.
- Come to the City of Orillia for the 2024 OSUM Conference and Trade Show.
- Blog: Three Strategies to Streamline Ontario Municipal FOI Programs.
- Free webinar - Check out the latest version of RETScreen Expert!
- Helpful condo living tips for Ontario residents.
- Data standards for planning and development applications.
- IESO Procurement #2 - Feedback on proposed process.
- Register for IESO's energy webinars.
- Future of Aging Summit in May 2024.
- Careers: AMO, The Nation Municipality and City of Peterborough.

### AMO Matters

AMO's new address:

*Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)*  
155 University Ave, Suite 800  
Toronto, ON, M5H 3B7

Telephone and fax remain the same. Please amend your records with our new address.

### Provincial Matters

The province is conducting a [survey](#) to shape the development of a modular housing strategy. Share your insights on barriers and opportunities for modular and innovative home construction by Feb 4, 2024.

### Federal Matters

Infrastructure Canada is now accepting applications for the Planning and Design Projects Stream of the Rural Transit Solutions Fund (up to \$50,000). Visit their [website](#) for information and [webinar dates](#).

### Education Opportunities

There is still time to register for the ROMA 2024 Conference! [View the program](#) and [register](#) before January 15th. On-site registration rates will apply as of Sunday, January 16.

AMO has developed a number of new educational opportunities for its members to continue to learn and advance your leadership skills and understanding of critical matters as municipally elected officials. You can see everything available to you in AMO Education [here](#).

Mark May 1 - 3 in your calendar for the OSUM 2024 Conference in Orillia. Check back [here](#) for more information soon.

### LAS

As a municipal leader, you may have noticed that your front-line Freedom of Information staff are working harder than ever. This week's [blog](#) suggests ways to ease the process while staying on budget.

Thinking of a low carbon retrofit but need a software to model your project? [RETScreen International](#) and LAS are offering a free municipal focused webinar to showcase the latest version of RETScreen Expert.

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.

**Municipal Wire\***

The Condominium Authority of Ontario's [2024 Winter Information Kit](#) offers useful and shareable tips to help Ontario condo residents navigate the ins and out of condo living this season.

The Digital Governance Standards Institute has opened public review on [terminology](#) and planning application [data fields](#) that establishes consistency in data requirements for planning and development applications in Ontario.

IESO is [seeking feedback](#) on the proposed next round of procurements for energy projects including requirements for municipal support prior to applications being submitted.

The Independent Electricity System Operator will host [two webinars on January 15 & 17, 2024](#) for municipalities and Indigenous communities to learn about Ontario's energy transition and new initiatives underway.

The Future of Aging Summit in Toronto from May 15-17, 2024 will bring together policymakers and others focused on building age-friendly societies. See the speaker lineup and register at [agingsummit.ca](#).

**Careers**

[Policy Intern - AMO](#). Closing Date: January 22, 2024

[Chief Administrative Officer - The Nation Municipality](#). Closing Date: January 26, 2024

[Program Manager, Facilities Preventive Maintenance - City of Peterborough](#). Closing Date: January 17, 2024

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**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!

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**AMO Contacts**

[AMO Watchfile](#) Tel: 416.971.9856

[Conferences/Events](#)

[Policy and Funding Programs](#)

[LAS Local Authority Services](#)

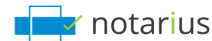
[MEPCO Municipal Employer Pension Centre of Ontario](#)

[ONE Investment](#)

[Media Inquiries](#)

[Municipal Wire, Career/Employment and Council Resolution Distributions](#)

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January, 18 2024

### In This Issue

- AMO podcast: Looking back and moving forward.
- Webinars for New Housing Enabling Water Systems Fund.
- Survey: Help advance Ontario's modular housing sector.
- Applications open: Rural Transit Solutions Fund.
- AMO Education 2024 - February workshops.
- New Year's resolution - Upgrade LEDs in municipal buildings!
- Free webinar - Check out the latest version of RETScreen Expert!
- Climate change resources for residents.
- Helpful condo living tips for Ontario residents.
- Data standards for planning and development applications.
- IESO Procurement #2 - Feedback on proposed process.
- Future of Aging Summit in May 2024.
- Careers: AMO, Windsor and Simcoe.

### AMO Matters

[Listen to the AMO ON Topic podcast](#) for a look back at our work in 2023. In 2024, AMO is calling on the province to work with us on a social and economic prosperity review.

### Provincial Matters

Join free webinars to get [Housing Enabling Water Systems Fund](#) details. [Register](#) for the January 24 program overview session. Registration for the February session to be shared later.

The province is conducting a [survey](#) to shape the development of a modular housing strategy. Share your insights on barriers and opportunities for modular and innovative home construction by Feb 4, 2024.

### Federal Matters

Infrastructure Canada is now accepting applications for the Planning and Design Projects Stream of the Rural Transit Solutions Fund (up to \$50,000). Visit their [website](#) for information and [webinar dates](#).

### Education Opportunities

Registration is now open for the following February AMO Education workshops: Antisemitism: Then and Now, Municipal Codes of Conduct: Essential to Good Governance, Councillor Training 101. [View full details](#) on these and all the AMO Education offerings.

### LAS

Is updating your lighting systems on your list of New Year's resolutions? We've got a program for that! From interior lighting to baseball diamonds/outdoor lights, the [LAS Facility Lighting Service](#) is an easy choice. [Contact us](#) for a free quote.

Thinking of a low carbon retrofit but need a software to model your project? [RETScreen International](#) and LAS are offering a free municipal-focused webinar to showcase the latest version of RETScreen Expert. Space is limited so be sure to [register today](#). Attendees will receive a free 14-day RETScreen trial license.

### Municipal Wire\*

The Intact Centre for Climate Adaptation has [released resources for municipalities](#) on basement flooding, extreme heat and wildfire protection to be shared through municipal websites and tax notices.

The Condominium Authority of Ontario's [2024 Winter Information Kit](#) offers useful and shareable tips to help Ontario condo residents navigate the ins and out of condo living this season.

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.

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### Careers

[Policy Intern - AMO](#). Closing Date: January 22, 2024

[Commissioner, Corporate Services - City of Windsor](#). Closing Date: February 16, 2024

[City Engineer & Commissioner, Infrastructure Services - City of Windsor](#). Closing Date: February 16, 2024

[Senior Accounting Clerk - County of Simcoe](#). Closing Date: February 5, 2024

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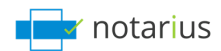
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# Arnprior Public Library Newsletter Winter 2024

Our Black and White Literary-themed New Year's Eve Gala welcomed the new year and new beginnings at the Arnprior Library!



The long awaited restoration work to our lower level has begun and we're hopeful the library will be full-functioning again by March.

The damage associated with the September 7th flood / sewer backup was extensive, but limited to walls, flooring and some furniture. All books and archival materials were spared.

When work is completed, public access to the entire fiction collection in the lower level will be restored. Community organizations will regain access to all our meeting spaces and we anticipate the resumption of our adult programming.

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The theme was *Kindness and Empathy* for our author visits in October. It is the library's goal to provide service through the lens of kindness throughout 2024 and beyond. Below are photos of our conversations with Whit Fraser moderated by our Book Club members; and the duo of Dr. Brian Goldman and Rt Honourable David Johnston moderated by Arnprior Mayor Lisa McGee.



## Great weekend of author visits




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Music filled the library in November as we hosted Ottawa's Strings of St John's Orchestra to a capacity audience.




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Continuing throughout 2024 will be our monthly **Busker's Cafe**. Typically held the last Tuesday of each month, a variety of musicians will be performing in the acoustically pleasing Scharf Hall - our new expansion with windows facing the riverfront.



The concept is to provide beautiful music while you visit and browse through the library. Given the interest, there's also plenty of seating available too!

This program is supported by Tim Hortons, Arnprior.



**Stop by Tuesday January 23rd between 5:30 and 6:45 to hear Fred Dellamico and Jill Jeffrey as they perform original storytelling songs.**

Library patrons love a good read. Here are the Top Picks of the last year:

Top 10 Adult Fiction titles  
as read by Arnprior Library  
members in 2023

1. World of Curiosities by Louise Penny
2. The Maid by Nita Prose
3. Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus
4. Four Winds by Kristin Hannah
5. Demon Copperhead by Barbara Kingsolver
6. No Plan B by Lee Child
7. House in the Pines by Ana Reyes
8. Sleeping and the Dead by Ann Cleeves
9. Secluded Cabin Sleeps Six by Lisa Unger
10. Without a Trace by Danielle Steel





## Top 10 Adult Non-Fiction titles 2023

1. Spare by Prince Harry
2. Light We Carry by Michelle Obama
3. True North Rising by Whit Fraser \*
4. Empathy by David Johnston \*
5. Ducks by Kate Beaton (Canada Reads Winner)
6. Has Populism Won? by Daniel Drache
7. Master Slave, husband wife: epic journey from slavery to freedom by Ilyon Woo
8. Minimalista: Your step by step guide to a better home, wardrobe and life by Shira Gill
9. Power of Kindness by Dr. Brian Goldman \*
10. Escape Artist: the man who broke out of Auschwitz to warn the world by Jonathan Freedland

\*As a result of author visits in October 2023

From the Children's Department, the perennial favourite - **Diary of a Wimpy Kid** series led the juvenile fiction circulation and **Minecraft** books are ever popular from the children's non-fiction collection.

You can reserve any of our books by visiting our [online catalogue](#). Your ID is your 6 digit library card and the default password is your last name (first letter capitalized). If you need assistance, simply give us a call during regular hours and we'll assist! 613-623-2279

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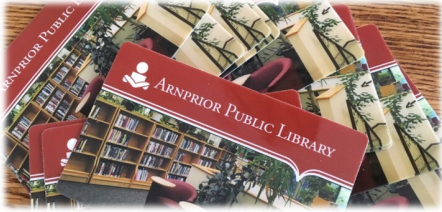
## 2023 saw the library's highest ever circulation!

Patrons borrowed an impressive 142,761 items. 77% of that circulation were physical materials (books, magazines, DVDs, audio books, museum passes, WiFi hotspots, radon detectors etc). The remaining 33,372 were digital books, eMagazines, streaming and other database searches (including Consumer Reports) and downloads. It also includes language learning via Mango Languages and Health Databases (among others) from Ebsco. If you haven't discovered all the resources available for free with your membership, have a look at our [Virtual Library](#) and if you need a little more guidance, why not book an information / training [session](#) with our friendly staff!

We've also welcomed 2,300 new library users in the last 2 years. We look forward to introducing you to our full range of services as soon as the lower level restoration work is

completed.

*The Library Board is hopeful to secure some increased funding so the library can re-introduce some fantastic adult programming and provide services sought by our growing community.*



Currently, the library provides a number of self directed programs including our Monday morning Whatknots Knitting Circle, Tuesday afternoon Chess Club, monthly Busker's Cafe, two Arnprior 10 Book Clubs (currently at capacity) and Friday morning ESL training for newcomers. We're looking to relaunch our French Conversation Group, Spanish Conversation Group, and new to the mix: meet-ups to help with resumes and job searching skills with an HR professional (details to come in the next few weeks) and launch a Mahjong Meet-up for which we've already started an interest list. Let us know if you'd like to participate and we'll start planning for a schedule in early spring. For more information on these and other adult programs, please [consult our website](#).

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### *News from the Youth Services Department*



There's always something going on for kids. From weekly class visits, Friday morning drop in story times, a host of registered programs to planning for upcoming March Break and the Summer Reading Club.

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To that end, we're getting ready to post a **summer student job**. We're looking for a Children's Programming Assistant to help with the planning and delivery of summer library programs for children ranging in age from 1 to 11 years. We are looking for a creative and enthusiastic student who will inspire the children participating in our programs to read, learn and explore at the library over the summer months. The successful candidate will possess strong verbal and



written communication skills, the ability to work effectively as a member of a team, solid organizational skills and experience working with children. Previous experience working in a library setting is an asset. Did you grow up attending programs at the library? Do you have a

love of reading? Are you crafty and innovative? Do you enjoy the energy of young children? This may be an ideal job for you! \$17/hour; 35 hours a week Monday to Friday. Resumes should be forwarded to the attention of the Carolyn Swayze, Youth Services Librarian [youth@arnpriorlibrary.ca](mailto:youth@arnpriorlibrary.ca).

Submission deadline is March 31st, 2024.

### **On the calendar:**

**Monday January 15** - Baby Rhyme Time [registration](#) will open online on for the session running from February 7 to March 6. This story time for babies from 5-12 months of age and their grown-ups is a wonderful way to introduce babies to books, action rhymes and social time with other young ones. This is a free program, but does require library memberships for both babies and caregivers.



**Friday January 19** - Our friends from BIAK will be joining us at 10am for Toddlers and 11am for Preschoolers to share drumming and Indigenous stories. Parents and children are invited to join us for this free, drop-in program!

**January 22 and January 24** - We welcome back our Teen Study Sessions from 3 - 5pm as you prepare to write high school exams. We provide a dedicated space for studying, snacks and we also have visits from a lovely dog, Nell, who drops in for pets and snuggles (and treats!). Details will roll out on social media and our website. This is a free drop-in program.

**Saturday January 27** is Family Literacy Day. Stop by between 10am and 2pm and participate in our Book Scavenger Hunt. Completed scavenger hunt sheets will be entered into a prize draw!

**February** will see the return of our Tuesday after school LEGO Lounge program, and Friday morning story times. We ask that you register your child (aged 5+) for [LEGO](#)

## Lounge

Friday morning story times resume **February 3rd** and run on a drop-in basis, but do require library membership to attend. Toddlers and their grown-ups meet at 10am, and preschoolers attend independently at 11am.



Our partnership with Let's Talk Science continues! Let's Talk Science connects the world of science, technology and innovation with education, bringing STEM to life in meaningful ways that build diversity and inclusion, and awareness of future opportunities. The library receives monthly deliveries of science-based activities for children to take home and explore. Please ask for your free LTS kit at the circulation desk the next time you're in.



There's always something to explore at the library. Most recently, we added to our extensive collection of French beginner readers. *Les echos de l'île de la Tortue* is a series of Indigenous titles at a wide range of reading levels.

## TIDBITS



## Did you know...

The library offers printing, copying, scanning and faxing (yes, faxing is STILL a service, primarily for medical and legal documents). You can submit your [print request online](#) and we'll prepare it for you.

The library provides a Homebound Delivery service for those members who are unable to come to the library on their own. Call us for more information or send us an email: [homebound@arnpriorlibrary.ca](mailto:homebound@arnpriorlibrary.ca) We can also register you for CELA. The Centre for *Equitable Library Access* is an accessible *library* service, providing books and other materials to *Canadians* with print disabilities.

Our [museum passes](#) circulate for a full week giving free family access to many of the national museums for free!

You can stream movies, documentaries and learning videos on [Kanopy](#). It's available free with your library card. Follow the link on our website, or via the Libby app. You can also stream on [Hoopla](#).

You have access to more than 4000 digital [magazine](#) titles on the Libby app and they're always available, no waiting.

[Cantook Station](#) is your destination for eBooks in French.

The Libby app gets you access to [digital books and eAudio titles](#).

The library loans Radon Detectors, Watt Meters and WiFi Hotspots. Ask for yours at the circulation desk.

You can access Ancestry.ca for FREE in the library. Use one of our internet stations or bring your laptop to connect to our unlimited WiFi.

### Stop by for a visit during our regular hours:

- **Monday & Tuesday ... 11am - 7pm;**
- **Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 10am - 5pm;**
- **Saturday 10am - 2pm**

Our friendly staff is always ready to help! 613-623-2279



Even the plants are getting ready to greet you. Happy 2024!

**December 21, 2023**

***Hello. I am pleased to share with you the Holiday 2023 edition of our Community Connection public newsletter.***

***As you take some time to rest over Christmas and the days that follow, I am happy to share with you some of the great things that are taking place at PRH.***

***Featured in this edition is news about our significant investment in Epic, a new health information system that will revolutionize our day-to-day operations and greatly improve the patient experience.***

***In addition, I have provided an update on our strategic planning exercise and construction projects.***

***We have also shared some details of work being done in Mental Health Services to improve patient access, continued progress being made to introduce innovative staffing models, and how our hospital is being recognized for improved cancer care wait times and support of organ and tissue donation.***

***This and some other updates will give you a glimpse into some of the activity taking place at the Pembroke Regional Hospital as we head into 2024.***

***I wish you are peaceful and healthy Christmas and New Year.***

**Sincerely,**



**Sabine Mersmann, President and CEO  
Pembroke Regional Hospital**



# Community Connection



## Pembroke Regional Hospital

### Holiday 2023



Phone (613) 732-2811 Email/Version Françaises Disponibles au pr@prh.email

Website pembrokeregionalhospital.ca - Facebook/Instagram pembrokeregionalhospital - Twitter @PRHhospital

### Mental Health Services Partners With Local Pharmacies To Improve Client Access To Vital Medication Injections

In order to better serve a growing number of clients who require long-acting injections for the management of Schizophrenia, Mental Health Services of Renfrew County has partnered with local pharmacists who are receiving education and training in order to help provide this vital medication within their community-based pharmacies. In many cases, the increased numbers and need have been attributed to a lack of family physicians who are able to provide the service.



**Lisa MacQueen**

Project Lead Lisa MacQueen who is a Registered Nurse with Mental Health Services' ACT (Assertive Community Treatment) team, explained that the team has partnered with Doug Butchart from Janssen Pharmaceuticals and some local pharmacies in order to expand the pharmacy role by administering these injections for local clients. Such a partnership has been successful in other locations. Until this point, the service gap was being filled temporarily through an injection clinic staffed by nurses from other MHS programs.

As part of a gradual rollout, Ms. MacQueen said, the pharmacists are now offering walk-in injections to those clients who receive their regular oral and injectable medications at those locations. Program feedback to date has been positive. Not only is the improved access helping the clients but the pharmacists are finding it very rewarding to be in partnership with PRH and provide assistance to this client base.

Given the early success, plans are being made to expand the service to other pharmacies in more rural parts of the county. This will not only result in care closer to home for some clients, reducing travel time and costs, but it will also make use of the pharmacists' full scope of practice.

### PRH Enables Safe Patient Dropoff/Pickup With Free 10-Minute Parking Lot Access

For the safety of all patients and those dropping them off or picking them up, all gated parking areas offer complimentary 10-minute access, eliminating the need for vehicles to stop or pullover on Deacon and Mackay streets.



Simply take a ticket to enter the lot and drop off or pick up the patient. When exiting, insert the ticket and if no more than 10 minutes has passed since entry, the gate will open and you can exit without needing to pay.

When you do need to pay for parking, please note that the gate machines now allow for contactless debit and credit card payment with tap.

### Exciting Investments At PRH Are Paving The Way For Future Health Care Needs

A tremendous amount of activity has taken place at the Pembroke Regional Hospital over the past several months, all of which has been centered around patient experience improvements, strategic planning for the next five years and infrastructure upgrades.

#### Board Approves Epic Investment

First and foremost we are very excited to share that our Board of Directors has given the green light to proceed with a significant investment in *Epic*, a new health information system which will completely transform our hospital from a paper-based patient record to a fully integrated electronic system.



**Sabine Mersmann**

*Epic* uses the latest technology to securely store, organize, and access patient records while maintaining patient privacy and providing a comprehensive digital health record for every patient.

By implementing *Epic*, we will become part of a fully integrated network of 10 hospitals in our region using this state-of-the-art and best-in-class health information system. The Ottawa Hospital is the host hospital for this system which means that Pembroke Regional Hospital will have the same access to standardized care pathways and best practices as TOH.

In addition, when a patient is transferred between hospitals, critical information will be available immediately to their new health care team and the patient will not have to repeat their medical history over and over. The result is more seamless, coordinated care.

The launch of *Epic* will also give our patients better access to their own health information through the *MyChart* portal which enables patients to see their medical history, diagnostic test results, upcoming appointments, lists of allergies and medications and even educational materials anytime, anywhere.

There are many other great things about this digital transformation which will be taking place and we can't wait to share them with you as we go forward. Given the magnitude of the change this represents to our hospital, it will take approximately one year to implement which means we will be launching it in 2025.

#### Five-Year Strategic Plan For PRH

I'm also excited to share with you the status of some of the work that has taken place as part of our strategic planning exercise. Over the past couple of months, a facilitator has helped gather local health, service utilization and demographic data as well as internal information that helps to paint a collective picture of health care trends and future needs.

Continued on Page 2

### PRH Recognized By Trillium Gift Of Life Network With Two Awards For 2022/2023

Since partnering with TGLN in 2013, Pembroke Regional Hospital has supported two organ donors who had six organs recovered and transplanted - saving the lives of five individuals, and 70 tissue donors who have enhanced the lives of many others.

This year, PRH was one of two hospitals in Ontario to receive 100% Routine Notification Rate (RNR) awards, with 134 notifications. Routine notification is the rate at which hospitals notify TGLN when a patient has died and there's potential for organ and/or tissue donation. Routine notification is an important step taken by our team to connect potential organ donors with TGLN. Through this process, we're able to honour our patients' wishes, recognize donation opportunities



**Celebrating these awards are just some of the team who support and play an important role in facilitating organ and tissue donation.**

and save lives. PRH has received the *Routine Notification Rate Award* five times!

Also, for the first time, our hospital received the *Provincial Eligible Approach Rate Award*, recognizing hospitals who demonstrate leading practices by facilitating a donation discussion between TGLN and eligible patients and/or families of patients at the end of life. Our hospital has achieved a 100% eligible approach rate!

Both awards demonstrate how we continue to follow leading practices and consistently offer the opportunity for organ and tissue donation to every eligible patient as part of high-quality, end-of-life care.

## Exciting Investments Are Paving The Way...Continued From Front

They have also conducted broad consultation with over 800 of our staff, health care partners and the public at large through surveys, interviews and focus groups in order to identify areas for strategic focus. In addition, we heard from our provincial leaders, Ontario Health, the Ontario Hospital Association, our local Ottawa Valley Ontario Health Team leads and others about the future role of hospitals and some key areas of focus.

Some of the emerging themes from these consultations include:

- The need for hospitals to continue to lead and be anchor organizations
- The need to identify and implement new models of care to address staffing challenges
- Enhanced focus on equity, diversity and inclusion in health care, particularly with our indigenous partners
- A greater focus on the frail elderly, mental health and addictions and the unattachment crisis
- The need for targeted communication and strong feedback mechanisms
- The importance of taking full advantage of advancements in technology and innovation
- Finding more ways to address care gaps for the community's most vulnerable

Direct feedback from all groups also yielded some very positive comments about our health care team, the care that is provided and the

collaborative spirit our hospital brings to partnerships, while suggesting ways to improve care, services and the workplace over the next five years.

Having examined the data, we are not surprised by what we have seen and heard. In fact, the feedback has validated, in many ways, that we are on the right track with some of the improvement work we are doing, and it has strengthened the need to prioritize other aspects.



**Members of the hospital's Board, Senior Leadership Team and Strategic Planning Steering Committee reviewed feedback and data as part of a planning session.**

In the coming weeks, the Board, physicians and administrative leaders will use this information to craft a plan that will help guide our priorities and improvement efforts over the next five years. Plan approval will take place in March and we will broadly share the results at that time.

### Construction Update

And finally, tremendous progress is being made

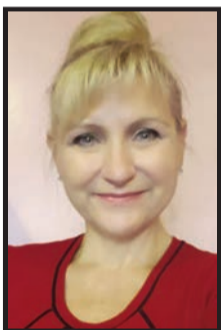
on various construction and renovation projects throughout our facility. I, among others, have had the opportunity to visit some of the areas being transformed and can say with certainty that our patients will benefit greatly from the improvements being made.

In terms of updates:

- We plan to go to tender this month with Phase 2 of our Cancer Care Project involving Medical Daycare and Chemotherapy.
- We are within eight months of completing the Surgical Redevelopment Project and will be able to use some of the space in the early new year.
- The Tower C Ground Floor Renovations are still under discussion with the hope of a start time early next year and a 12-month completion target. This will certainly be disruptive at times for our patients and visitors but the end result will be an incredible transformation as we are building a new front entrance to our facility.
- Work is also being done in many clinical areas to prepare for the installation of new Automated Medication Dispensing units which are best-practice in the health care industry and represent a \$2.2 million investment in the way we deliver medications to patients.

In the coming months, we will be sharing many more details and photos about the work and enhancements taking place. I wish you all a very Merry Christmas.

## Patient Advisor Shares Positive Feedback About Patient Experience



**Tracy Gagne**

Every patient experience holds a unique tale, and we are delighted to recount the story of Tracy Gagne, a resident of Laurentian Valley, who encountered a water accident this past summer.

After sustaining a fractured ankle and an extensive break to her fibula during a sea-doo incident, Tracy was beyond grateful for the support of the Renfrew County Paramedics who came to her aid to help stabilize her and transport her to the hospital's Emergency Department.

With all the chaos of the first few hours, Tracy specifically recalls the important role of the staff in the Emergency Department. "All the staff were amazing, comforting, and they let me know what they were doing at each step." For Tracy, this was particularly important. She had many concerns and the time staff took to help support her with her questions gave her the peace and reassurance that she needed in light of this traumatic event.

The extent of her injuries resulted in the need for a couple of surgeries and a four-day stay on the hospital's Surgical unit. Tracy noted that, for all her procedures, she was quickly put at ease by everyone involved and expressed appreciation for the detailed explanations of everything that was taking place. "I can't say enough about how well I was treated by the staff, so to them I owe a world of gratitude."

This gratitude extended to the kind and compassionate care provided by so many members of the interdisciplinary team. From the nurses for taking the time to explain so much important information, to the Pharmacist team for ensuring her medication history was accurate, to the Physiotherapists for playing a critical role in helping Tracy adapt to using a walker and wheelchair.

Tracy commended the entire team on ensuring she was well prepared for discharge. She was equipped with knowledge, tools and plans for followup which included a visit to the hospital's fracture clinic where Dr. George Mathew and the nursing team fitted her for an aircast and provided her with some much needed reassurance on her journey to recovery.

Today, Tracy, who previously maintained an active lifestyle, is well on her way to a full recovery and remains optimistic about achieving her personal aspiration of climbing Mount Everest. She expresses gratitude to the remarkable orthopedic team/program, recognizing their crucial role in keeping her goal alive.

Tracy, who volunteers as one of our hospital's Patient Advisors said that she looks forward to bringing this positive first-hand patient experience to the hospital's Patient and Family Advisory Council as an enhanced perspective on ways to go forward and improve care for others. Being a Patient Advisor is an important opportunity to help improve the patient and family experience for yourself and for others. We'd love to tell you more about these opportunities. If interested, please call (613) 732-2811, extension 6161.

## SHARE Program Turns 25!

It was a milestone moment for our SHARE (Self Help Through Awareness, Recreation and Education) program as the team recently celebrated its 25th anniversary and took the opportunity to reunite with many who have been involved with the program over the past two-and-a-half decades.

The peer-led support group is a program offered by Mental Health Services of Renfrew County which provides emotional and social support to those living with mental illness. Membership in the program is through self-referral.

SHARE Coordinator Helen McLeod attributed the success of the program to hard work, dedication and compassion, among other things as well as the involvement of the members themselves. "Our voices, experiences, and contributions are the lifeblood of SHARE. It is through listening to each member and creating a safe environment for dialogue that we have thrived," Ms. McLeod said.

She noted that SHARE members come together family-style to prepare meals, share conversation, and clean up, collectively. "This time is precious, as it allows us to connect, learn from one another, and provide essential support, especially for those who live alone," she said, adding that one member described the program as "their anchor", which, she said, is among the highest compliments the program could ever receive.



**Mental Health Services of Renfrew County Director Mireille Delorme, left, SHARE Coordinator Helen McCleod and SHARE Manager Rob Wynja take part in the program's anniversary celebrations.**

To learn more about the regional services, visit [accessmha.ca](http://accessmha.ca).

## Hospital Welcomes New Clinical Scholars

As part of a new Ministry of Health funded program, we are excited to introduce full time Clinical Scholars Kerri Timm (Registered Practical Nurse), top right, and Allyssa Rabishaw (Registered Nurse), bottom right.

In their new roles, these experienced nurses are responsible for providing clinical support and guidance to new graduate nurses, internationally trained nurses, nurses transitioning to a new unit and/or any nurse looking to upskill.

Regularly available to staff on any clinical unit, the Clinical Scholars can often be found supporting new nursing grads in skills, communication, and orientation to a new unit and they also make themselves available by phone or email for questions.

Clinical Scholars also assist and provide support with psychomotor skills, soft skills, critical thinking, decision making and problem solving. To date, the Clinical Scholars have been well received in all areas of the hospital. The Clinical Scholars program is currently funded by the Ministry of Health through March 31, 2024.





## Improving Cancer Care Wait Times

Regionally, over 8,500 people are newly diagnosed with cancer each year. Reducing the impact that cancer has on our population is one of the missions and visions that unites us together as health care professionals, researchers, and leaders.

We do so, collectively and continuously by improving the care we provide and advancing new therapies as part of a refreshed Regional Cancer Program strategy, while keeping the patient and their loved ones at the centre of our compassionate approach. Over the past year alone, there have been countless quality improvement initiatives linked to this strategy in the Champlain region - from cancer screening programs and diagnosis to novel treatments and supportive care.

At PRH, in addition to a wide variety of cancer-related services that are provided, over 150 patients annually receive elective cancer surgery treatment in our operating rooms, while many other oncology procedures are performed on an outpatient basis.

To improve the service our patients receive, cancer surgery wait times are monitored internally, regionally and provincially. This data is measured against provincially set target timelines to represent the best possible outcome for our patients. It is our responsibility to work collaboratively to meet those timelines.

Recently, we were recognized for a 17.7% improvement in our *Wait Time 2* category for the first quarter of this year (April to June, 2023). This represents the period from when patients first meet with the surgeon and make a decision to treat, to the time the patient receives their surgery in the operating room. This means that 93% of our cancer surgery patients had their surgery within the

target timelines which could range from 14 to 84 days depending on the assigned priority level for the cancer type. The provincial target is 90%.

Ontario Health also recognized PRH for meeting two of the province's annual improvement targets:

- *Wait Times performance indicator from the Ontario Breast Screening Program (OBSP)*. This covers the time from an abnormal screening to receipt of diagnosis for patients who had a tissue biopsy.

- *Colon Cancer Check Wait Times* which represents the time from when a patient has an abnormal fecal immunochemical test (FIT) to the time they receive their hospital colonoscopy.

Ensuring that all patients receive their appointments in a timely fashion has always been a priority not only for our hospital, but for our region.

"Everyone plays a critical role in supporting our patients and families throughout their journey. It is the synergy of these diverse skills and responsibilities that allows us to provide comprehensive and compassionate care to those who depend on us," said Beth Brownlee, Vice-President of Clinical and Support Services and Chief Nursing Executive.

All of these data points, and those in other areas of the hospital are extremely important and helpful to track as they help guide decision-making and planning to improve access to care for surgical and other patients, Mrs. Brownlee said.



**Beth Brownlee**

## PRH Supported By Clinical Externs

Staffing shortages triggered by the pandemic continue to impact hospitals across the province, including ours. One of the innovative ways that PRH is addressing these is through the provincially-funded Clinical Extern Program, created by the Ministry of Health to provide additional health care support to hospitals.

Clinical Externs are senior university and college students in nursing, occupational therapy, respiratory therapy and paramedic programs who are hired to work as part of a team under the supervision of Registered Nurses and Registered Practical Nurses.

While externs are not yet registered health care professionals, they make significant contributions by helping with tasks they're allowed to perform as unregulated care providers such as bathing, personal hygiene care, dressing, eating, mobilization, and companionship and support for patients and their families. Externs can also complete other tasks, depending on their area of care and patient population, when delegated by a regulated health care professional.

At PRH, we hired 19 externs this past May, the majority of whom were RN and RPN students ranging in training from first to fourth year, in addition to one paramedic student.

The externs were assigned to different units throughout the hospital and on each unit, they were paired with an RN or RPN "mentor". Based on their year of education, each student was able to use specific nursing skills.

The program not only helped the students practice their skills under supervision, but it enabled them to enhance their communication skills with patients and their families, while learning to work as part of an interdisciplinary team with other nurses, staff and physicians.

We are thrilled to share that six Clinical Externs have stayed with us beyond the summer months in a casual capacity based on their availability and school schedule. Given the success of the first group, we are hoping to hire additional externs in 2024 based on funding availability.



## Join Us As A Patient Advisor Or Part Of Our Patient And Family Advisory Council

Patient advisors provide feedback and ideas to help us improve the quality and safety of the care we provide. We have openings on our Patient And Family Advisory Council, our Accessibility Committee and in our clinical units (Acute Mental Health, Obstetrics, Diagnostic Imaging, Medical Quality Team).

To apply, or learn more, please call (613) 732-2811, extension 6161 or email [laurie.tomasini@prh.email](mailto:laurie.tomasini@prh.email)

Now anyone in the Ottawa Valley who needs a **Pap test** can get one.

### Eligibility checklist:

- ✓ You have a uterus
- ✓ You're aged 25 to 69
- ✓ 3 years or longer since your last Pap test
- ✓ No family doctor or nurse practitioner

### SCREENING MATTERS.

The Pap test is the best way to detect and treat cervical cancer EARLIER for better outcomes.

### Clinic locations:

- Arnprior
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- Barry's Bay
- Deep River
- Petawawa

### Book now:

Book online at [www.rcvtac.ca/paptest](http://www.rcvtac.ca/paptest)

Or call VTAC at 1-844-727-6404

\*If you have a family doctor or nurse practitioner, please contact them to book your next Pap test.



**Ottawa Valley**  
ONTARIO HEALTH TEAM



### OUR PARTNERS



## Pet Therapy Returns To PRH As Part Of Volunteer Program

As our hospital continues to ramp up and expand volunteer services following the pandemic, we are excited to see the return of Pet Therapy on our Acute Mental Health Unit thanks to the local SPCA and *Watch My 6* Therapy Dog Program.

On a weekly basis, our furry friends provide love and comfort as part of the Unit's recreation program. The Pet Therapy program not only enhances the patient experience, but helps improve patient energy levels, social skills and mood while educating participants on the work of the SPCA and *Watch My 6*.

Based on the success of the program to date, we anticipate expansion of the program in the weeks and months ahead.

To learn more about volunteer opportunities at PRH, please contact Jackie Morrison at (613) 732-2811, extension 7103 or email: [jaclynn.morrison@prh.email](mailto:jaclynn.morrison@prh.email).

We would love to discuss the opportunities that may suit your schedule and priorities best.



**Pictured above are Heather Jobe (SPCA), left, and Tina McNish (WM6). The dogs' names are Breacher, left, and Rayne.**



www.PRHFoundation.com (613) 732-2811 extension 7408



**Special Promo Pricing! \$50 savings**

when you purchase your plaque before December 31st, 2023.

Regular pricing:

**\$350 for a single named plaque / \$500 for a double named plaque**

We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to the families and organizations who continue to make donations In Memory and as a Tribute to the lives of those who impacted them and will never be forgotten. Your thoughtful donations stay in our community, support our health care advancements and enrich the lives of local families today and for years to come. Purchasing a space on our *Wall of Tributes* will permanently honour a loved one's legacy for all to see.

**www.PRHFoundation.com OR call the Foundation Office at (613) 732-2811 extension 7408 to order yours today!**



TOTAL PRIZES WORTH OVER \$46,000

IN SUPPORT OF Pembroke Regional Hospital Foundation and Cancer Care

Purchase tickets at [www.AutoLotto.ca](http://www.AutoLotto.ca)



**LET'S CLOSE THE CANCER CARE CAMPAIGN!**

The \$3.5 million *Cancer Care Campaign* is almost complete thanks to the generous donations from our community! Help us to close out this essential campaign before the close of 2023!

The *Cancer Care Campaign* will provide updates and overall improvements to the Chemotherapy and Medical Daycare Unit waiting areas, treatment areas, and the Pharmacy where the chemotherapy medications are prepared. These spaces are vital to the treatment and care of each and every cancer patient they serve and, through this campaign, our goal is to make these spaces comfortable, easily accessible and state-of-the-art.

We hope that you are excited about these continued improvements for your regional hospital.

In 2022, more than 176 individuals made 1,231 visits to the Pembroke Regional Hospital to receive their much-needed cancer treatments. Cancer is a disease that will affect nearly two in five people in their lifetime and its effects can be life-changing for the patients and their families.



- Help support local cancer patients.
- Help to expand the Chemotherapy treatment areas to care for even more local cancer patients.
- Help make a difference with a one time donation or every month by joining our *Monthly Giving Club*.

The goal of this campaign is to *Keep Cancer Care Close to Home*. Together, we continue to advance chemotherapy and cancer treatments for Renfrew County families. It is truly amazing what we can accomplish as a community!

You can be part of this remarkable journey by making a donation using the donation form below or by becoming a monthly donor.

**YES, I WANT TO SUPPORT THE Cancer Care Campaign**



Please complete this donation form and return it with an enclosed payment, if applicable, to **Pembroke Regional Hospital Foundation at 705 Mackay St, Pembroke, ON, K8A 1G8**  
A tax receipt will be issued for gifts of \$10 or more. Charitable Registration No. 870047610RR0001

**DONOR INFORMATION**

One-time donation of  Recurring monthly donation of

\$500    \$250    \$100    \$50    \$20    prefer to give \$\_\_\_\_\_

I wish to pay by:

Cash    Visa    MasterCard    American Express

Cheque (payable to Pembroke Regional Hospital Foundation)

Card #: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_    Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Donor Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town: \_\_\_\_\_

Province: \_\_\_\_\_    Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Providing your email helps us to keep costs low with electronic receipting

**By selecting "Recurring Monthly Donation," you can make a gift that keeps on giving and help us purchase our highest priority needs, as we need them! For additional information please call (613) 732-2811 extension 7408 or email: [foundation@prh.email](mailto:foundation@prh.email). To make an online donation visit [www.PRHFoundation.com](http://www.PRHFoundation.com).**



Committee of Adjustment for the Town of Arnprior

File No.B1/24

**Notice of Public Hearing**  
Application for Consent

In The Matter of Section 53, Chapter P.13 of the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990; and  
In The Matter of an application for consent, with respect to the following:

**Location of Property:** 30 Arthur Street, Arnprior, Lot 42, Plan 137

**Purpose and Effect of Consent Application:**

The purpose of the application is to sever a parcel of land 19.81 metres x 30.18 metres to be added to 229 Isabella Street and to retain a parcel of land 30.18 metres x 25.27 metres being 30 Arthur Street. The retained parcel is occupied by a single detached dwelling. The severed parcel contains two small storage sheds.

Parcel	Frontage	Area	Structures
Retained – 30 Arthur St	30.18 metres	762.64 m <sup>2</sup>	Single detached dwelling
Severed – to be added to 229 Isabella Street	0 frontage on the street	597.86 m <sup>2</sup>	Two small storage sheds

The effect of the proposed lot line adjustment is a reconfiguration of the two lots, reducing the rear yard of one and enlarging the rear yard of the other. Both resulting lots meet the minimum requirements of the Zoning By-law.

Take notice that the consent application will be heard by the Committee of Adjustment for the Town of Arnprior on **Thursday, February 1st, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Town Hall, 105 Elgin Street West, Arnprior.**

A key plan is attached. Application B1/24, as well as additional related information are available for inspection during regular office hours. Please contact the Planning Department prior to attending the Township Offices to set up an appointment.

If you wish to make written comments on this application, they may be forwarded to the Secretary-Treasurer of the Committee of Adjustment at the address below. If you do not attend the hearing, it may proceed in your absence. If you wish to be notified of the decision of the Town of Arnprior Committee of Adjustment in respect of the proposed consent, you must make a written request to the Town of Arnprior Committee of Adjustment.

If a person or public body that files an appeal of a decision of the Town of Arnprior Committee of Adjustment in respect of the proposed consent does not make a written submission to the Town of Arnprior Committee of Adjustment before it gives or refuses to give a provisional consent, the Ontario Land Tribunal may dismiss the appeal.

Dated this 16th day of January, 2024.

**Robin Paquette,**  
Secretary-Treasurer, Committee of Adjustment  
(613)-623-4231 or [planning@arnprior.ca](mailto:planning@arnprior.ca)  
Town of Arnprior  
105 Elgin Street West  
Arnprior, ON K7S 0A8

**Key Plan:**

Subject Lands to be severed: 





Committee of Adjustment for the Town of Arnprior

File No. B1-B4/23

**Notice of Public Hearing**  
Application for Consents

In The Matter of Section 53, Chapter P.13 of the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990; and  
In The Matter of applications for consent, with respect to the following:

Location of Property: Arthur Street, Arnprior, ON

**Purpose and Effect of Consent Applications:**

The purpose and effect of the applications is to sever 4 residential lots, leaving one retained lot as indicated below:

Parcel	Frontage	Area	Structures
Lot 1 (B1/23)	11.65m	575.93 m <sup>2</sup>	Proposed Semi-detached unit
Lot 2 (B2/23)	9.76 m	441.80 m <sup>2</sup>	Proposed Semi-detached unit
Lot 3 (B3/23)	9.76m	441.66 m <sup>2</sup>	Proposed Semi-detached unit
Lot 4 (B4/23)	9.76m	441.48 m <sup>2</sup>	Proposed Semi-detached unit
Retained Lot	27.45m	1,208.72 m <sup>2</sup>	Proposed single detached dwelling unit

Take notice that the consent application will be heard by the Committee of Adjustment for the Town of Arnprior on **Thursday, February 1st, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Town Hall, 105 Elgin Street West, Arnprior.**

A key plan showing the approximate location of the proposed lots is attached. Applications B1-B4/23, as well as additional related information, are available for inspection during regular office hours. Please contact the Planning Department prior to attending the Town Hall to set up an appointment.

If you wish to make written comments on this application, they may be forwarded to the Secretary-Treasurer of the Committee of Adjustment at the address below. If you do not attend the hearing, it may proceed in your absence. If you wish to be notified of the decision of the Town of Arnprior Committee of Adjustment in respect of the proposed consent, you must make a written request to the Town of Arnprior Committee of Adjustment.

If a person or public body that files an appeal of a decision of the Town of Arnprior Committee of Adjustment in respect of the proposed consent does not make a written

submission to the Town of Arnprior Committee of Adjustment before it gives or refuses to give a provisional consent, the Ontario Land Tribunal may dismiss the appeal.

Dated this 17th day of January, 2024.

**Robin Paquette,**  
Secretary-Treasurer, Committee of Adjustment  
(613)-623-4231 or [planning@arnprior.ca](mailto:planning@arnprior.ca)  
Town of Arnprior  
105 Elgin Street West  
Arnprior, ON K7S 0A8

**Key Plan:**



**Severance Sketch**

Project No. 22-7050B  
Prepared by: KC | Reviewed by: AH  
Date: August 2023