



CORPORATION OF THE UNITED TOWNSHIPS OF HEAD, CLARA AND MARIA AGENDA  
Wednesday, October 15, 2025  
10:00 A.M.

**NOTE:** There will be a break for lunch.

1. Call to Order and Moment of Silence

*Let us take a moment of silent reflection to contemplate in our own way the responsibility we have to collectively use our skills and experience to ensure the mutual long-term benefit of our Municipality and those we represent.*

2. Traditional Land Acknowledgement

*As we gather this morning (afternoon), I would like to acknowledge on behalf of Council and our community that we are meeting on the traditional territory of the Algonquin People. We would like to thank the Algonquin people and express our respect and support for their rich history, and we are extremely grateful for their many and continued displays of friendship. We also thank all the generations of people who have taken care of this land for thousands of years.*

3. Recital of the Municipal Mission and Vision Statements

Vision

To foster a community that is inclusive, progressive in nature, with a commitment to reconciliation.

Mission

To serve our community honestly and ethically, while fostering an inclusive and progressive municipality. We will honour reconciliation, our natural environment, while working together to build a sustainable future for all.

4. Approval of Agenda

Resolution No.: 2025-087

Moved by \_\_\_\_\_ and seconded by \_\_\_\_\_

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the agenda of the Regular Meeting of Wednesday, October 15, 2025, be adopted as circulated.

5. Declarations of Disqualifying Interest (Pecuniary)

6. Mayor's Address

Resolution No.: 2025-088

Moved by \_\_\_\_\_ and seconded by \_\_\_\_\_

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Mayor's Address be received as presented.

7. Approval of the Minutes of the Most Recent Meeting(s)

a. Regular Meeting September 18, and Special Meeting October 7, 2025

Resolution No.: 2025-089

Moved by \_\_\_\_\_ and seconded by \_\_\_\_\_

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 18, and Special Meeting October 7, 2025, be adopted as circulated.

8. Delegations/Presentations

9. Council Direction from the Previous Meeting

## 10. Legislative Matters

- a. Council Working Session (Council will convene to discuss and develop certain municipal policies/programs)
  - i. Hall Rental Policy – Draft Policy Review/Discussion
  - ii. Volunteer Policy
  - iii. Procedure Bylaw – Update
  - iv. Transportation Levels of Service
- b. Consent Agenda (includes items of correspondence not requiring administrative reports/action, committee reports not requiring any action by Council – matters that are for information purposes only).  
(No Items for the Consent Agenda)
- c. Resolution/Bylaws
  - i. Spraying of Herbicides in HCM – Councillor Richer  
Resolution No.: 2025-090  
Moved by        and seconded by  
WHEREAS Hydro One sprays herbicides to kill trees under the hydro wires throughout HCM on a regular basis (years) and this happens on their rights-of-way on private land as well as Crown land within HCM.  
AND WHEREAS if a landowner expresses they do not want chemicals sprayed on their land, Hydro One instead creates employment opportunities to manually remove the trees.  
BE IT RESOLVED THAT to learn more about the possibility of HCM opting out of herbicide spraying on Crown land within municipal boundaries, we direct staff to invite someone from MNR and/or Hydro One to explore options moving forward.
  - ii. Engine Brakes – Councillor Richer  
Resolution No.: 2025-091  
Moved by        and seconded by  
WHEREAS HCM has several residents that live on the highway and on a hill section of Hwy 17.  
AND WHEREAS it would be beneficial to learn the balance between reduced noise from engine brakes vs. safety when required to use engine brakes.  
BE IT RESOLVED THAT staff be directed to invite someone from MTO to help us understand, specifically to our terrain to be able to learn more about no Engine Brakes vs Required Engine Brakes.
- d. Public Hearings: Planning/Zoning Matters (None)
- e. Committee/Local Board Reports
  - i. Library Board  
(None)
  - ii. Police Services Board  
(None)
  - iii. Renfrew County and District Health Unit  
Resolution No.: 2025-092  
Moved by        and seconded by  
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Renfrew County and District Health Unit Report to the Board Dated September 23, 2025, be received.

- iv. Renfrew County  
County Council Summary September 2025  
Resolution No.: 2025-093  
Moved by \_\_\_\_\_ and seconded by \_\_\_\_\_  
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Renfrew County Council September 2025 Summary be received.
- v. Community Emergency Management Control Group  
(None)

#### 11. Administrative Matters

- a. New Business/Reports from Officers/Employees on Various Issues (including reports from departments which require Council approval)
  - i. Deputy Mayor Position  
Resolution No.: 2025-094  
Moved by \_\_\_\_\_ and seconded by \_\_\_\_\_  
WHEREAS Council passed Bylaw 2023-27 appointing a Deputy Mayor for a term of one (1) year and the term expired;  
AND WHEREAS Council passed a resolution extending the term until such a time as Council deemed appropriate.  
BE IT RESOLVED THAT extension of the appointment of Councillor Richer as Deputy Mayor is hereby terminated as of October 15, 2025, and the Deputy Clerk be directed to include a provision in the updated procedure bylaw for the appointment of a Deputy Mayor as may be necessary in the absence of the Mayor.
  - ii. Community Consultation – Deputy Mayor  
Resolution No.: 2025-095  
Moved by \_\_\_\_\_ and seconded by \_\_\_\_\_  
WHEREAS Councillor Richer in her role as Deputy Mayor hosted community consultations on October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025, on municipal property without the express authority of Council;  
BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council does hereby retroactively give permission to Councillor Richer to host such a consultation on October 4, 2025, at the following locations:
    - Mackey Creek boat launch,
    - Stonecliffe landfill,
    - Bisset Creek landfill, and
    - Deux Rivières boat launch.
- b. Financial Update/Statement/Quarterly Variance
- c. Update on Capital Projects
  - i. Report on the Streetlight Project & Mackey Creek Culvert

#### 12. Leadership Issues

- a. Update to Strategic Plan
- b. Five-Year Financial Plan (including Asset Management Plan)
- c. New Policy
- d. Notice of Motion

#### 13. Confirmation of Proceedings

- a. Confirmatory Bylaw 2025-18  
Resolution No.: 2025-096  
Moved by \_\_\_\_\_ and seconded by \_\_\_\_\_  
BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-Law 2025-18 being a bylaw to confirm proceedings of Council at their Special Meeting of October 7 and their Regular Meeting of October 15, 2025, be read and adopted.

#### 14. Adjournment

Mayor Grills adjourned the meeting at \_\_\_\_\_.

## **Mayor's Address – Wednesday October 15, 2025**

In my address today I want to touch on just a few reasons this Council is working to create effective partnerships through Collaborative Governance.

As we are learning, collaboration is a process where groups or individuals' partner with others and share a common purpose. We will be stronger, more resilient and efficient when we collaborate because we will have a unified voice to influence policy and bring change; limit duplication and share knowledge.

According to the Ontario Trillium Foundation, collaboration has four key characteristics:

- Every collaboration is unique. To be successful, collaborators need to be able to take risks with new strategies, and evolve based on the circumstances
- The most successful collaborations were created because collaborators identified a shared need.
- To build authentic relationships, there needs to be genuine trust so that all collaborators know they are being treated honestly.
- To address complex issues, you need to be innovative. Being innovative requires a certain level of risk, as the direction of any project will take is unknown.

*What makes an effective Municipal government?*

*Healthy, strong and vital communities work as a "team" toward a common vision for the future. They have developed community plans and implementation strategies.*

Mayor Debbi Grills

THE CORPORATION of the  
UNITED TOWNSHIPS of HEAD, CLARA & MARIA  
**MINUTES**



Minutes of a special meeting of Council held on October 7, 2025.

The following persons were present:

Mayor Debbi Grills, Councillors: Chris Dowser, Fran Kelly-Chamberlain, Karen LeClerc and Rachel Richer.

Meeting Clerk: Peggy Young-Lovelace, Deputy Clerk (E4m)

Staff/Advisors: Wendy Cosgrove, Office Assistant

Leanne Crozier, Deputy Treasurer

Josh Young, E4m (Electronically)

**1. Call to Order and Moment of Silence**

Mayor Grills called the meeting to order at 11:13

*Let us take a moment of silent reflection to contemplate in our own way the responsibility we have to collectively use our skills and experience to ensure the mutual long-term benefit of our Municipality and those we represent.*

**2. Traditional Land Acknowledgement**

*As we gather this morning (afternoon), I would like to acknowledge on behalf of Council and our community that we are meeting on the traditional territory of the Algonquin People. We would like to thank the Algonquin people and express our respect and support for their rich history, and we are extremely grateful for their many and continued displays of friendship. We also thank all the generations of people who have taken care of this land for thousands of years.*

**3. Recital of the Municipal Mission and Vision Statements**

**Vision**

To foster a community that is inclusive, progressive in nature, with a commitment to reconciliation.

**Mission**

To serve our community honestly and ethically, while fostering an inclusive and progressive municipality. We will honour reconciliation, our natural environment, while working together to build a sustainable future for all.

**4. Declarations of Disqualifying Interest (Pecuniary)**

**5. Special Business**

**a. Closed Session**

Resolution No.: 2025-085

Moved by Councillor Dowser and seconded by Councillor Richer

BE IT RESOLVED Council for the Corporation of the United Townships of Head, Clara and Maria does now

move into Closed Session at 11:15p.m. pursuant to section 239(3.1) for the purposes of education and training related to:

- i. Training and guidance on the proper handling of closed session matters, in response to a recent breach, and to review key provisions of the Council Code of Conduct.
- ii. AODA and the *Ontario Human Rights Code*

Resolution No.: 2025-086

Moved by Councillor Kelly Chamberlain and seconded by Councillor LeClerc

BE IT RESOLVED Council for the Corporation of the United Townships of Head, Clara and Maria does now return to Open Session at 2:14 p.m. and reports that Council and staff received training on AODA and the *Ontario Human Rights Code* as well as the requirement to keep closed session matters confidential in compliance with the *Municipal Act* and the Code of Conduct.

## 6. Working Meeting

### a. 2026 Budget initial discussion

The Deputy Treasurer discussed:

- the changes in taxation – PowerPoint presentation;
- the capital projects that were not completed in 2025; and
- 2026 proposed projects

## 7. Adjournment

Mayor Grills adjourned the meeting at 3:02 p.m.

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Mayor

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Meeting Clerk

THE CORPORATION of the  
UNITED TOWNSHIPS of HEAD, CLARA & MARIA  
**MINUTES**



Minutes of a regular meeting of Council held on September 18, 2025.

The following persons were present:

Mayor Debbi Grills, Councillors: Chris Dowser, Fran Kelly-Chamberlain, Karen LeClerc and Rachel Richer.

Meeting Clerk: Peggy Young-Lovelace, Deputy Clerk (E4m)  
Staff/Advisors: Wendy Cosgrove, Office Assistant (Electronically)  
Leanne Crozier, Deputy Treasurer (E4m - Electronically)  
Josh Young, E4m (Electronically)

1. Call to Order and Moment of Silence

Mayor Grills called the meeting to order at 9:47 A.M.

*Let us take a moment of silent reflection to contemplate in our own way the responsibility we have to collectively use our skills and experience to ensure the mutual long-term benefit of our Municipality and those we represent.*

2. Traditional Land Acknowledgement

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3. Recital of the Municipal Mission and Vision Statements

Councillor Dowser recited the Vision and Mission Statements

**Vision**

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**Mission**

To serve our community honestly and ethically, while fostering an inclusive and progressive municipality. We will honour reconciliation, our natural environment, while working together to build a sustainable future for all.

4. Approval of Agenda

Resolution No.: 2025-073

Moved by Councillor Kelly Chamberlain and seconded by Councillor Dowser

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the agenda of the Regular Meeting of Thursday September 18, 2025, be adopted as

circulated.

CARRIED

5. Declarations of Disqualifying Interest (Pecuniary)  
None were declared

6. Closed Session

Resolution No.: 2025-074

Moved by Councillor Kelly-Chamberlain and seconded by Councillor LeClerc

BE IT RESOLVED Council for the Corporation of the United Townships of Head, Clara and Maria does now move into Closed Session at 9:50 a.m. Pursuant to section 239(2) (b) personal matters about an identifiable individual, d) labour relations or employee negotiations, (f) advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications for that purpose, and (k) a position, plan, procedure, criteria or instruction to be applied to any negotiations carried on or to be carried on by or on behalf of the municipality or local board to consider:

- i. Municipal Administrator Leave of Absence
- ii. HR Matters related to Resignation Municipal Works Foreman/Lead
- iii. HR Matter related to Deputy Treasurer/Administrative Assistant Learning Plan
- iv. HR Matters related to employment contracts with:
  - Waste Disposal Site Attendant
  - Administrative Assistant
  - Corporate Services Coordinator

CARRIED

Return to Open Session

Resolution No.: 2025-075

Moved by Councillor Richer and seconded by Councillor Kelly-Chamberlain

BE IT RESOLVED Council for the Corporation of the United Townships of Head, Clara and Maria does now return to Open Session at 2:17 p.m. and reports that a number of human resources matters were discussed and direction was given to the municipality's Lawyer and Deputy Clerk.

CARRIED

7. Mayor's Address

Mayor Grills provided an oral address.

8. Approval of the Minutes of the Most Recent Meeting(s)

- a. Regular Meeting June 19, and Special Meeting August 8, 2025

Resolution No.: 2025-076

Moved by Councillor Dowser and seconded by Councillor Richer

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 19, and Special Meeting August 8, 2025, be adopted as circulated.

9. Delegations/Presentations

None

10. Council Direction From the Previous Meeting

- a. Hall/Office Barrier Free Upgrades – Council was updated on the issues that have been experienced by the contractor. Further direction given to determine when access to the washroom for Library staff/volunteers will be available and provide an update.

11. Legislative Matters

- a. Council Working Session (Council will convene to discuss and develop certain municipal policies/programs)



i. Library MOU – OLS Comments on Draft MOU

Council reviewed the comments made by the OLS and gave directions for the preparation of the MOU and to invite the Library Board to a future meeting to discuss.

Not Approved

ii. Hall Rental Policy – Rental Rate Discussion

Council discussed hall rental rates and directed that the draft policy be brought to the next regular meeting for review.

- Grand Re-Opening

Council discussed options for a grand re-opening of the hall.

iii. AODA Compliance Audit

Council was updated on the feedback received from the recent AODA Compliance audit. The findings were reviewed, and any required follow-up actions will be addressed as follows:

- Training – Council/Staff training will take place on Tuesday October 7, 2025
- New Picnic Tables – Council discussed Mackey Park and the removal of one (1) old picnic table to achieve compliance.
- Update to Multi-Year Accessibility Plan – Council gave direction regarding the update to the MYAP.

iv. General Government/Administration Levels of Service

Council had a preliminary discussion and directed that the office remains open Friday only while the renovation continues.

- b. Consent Agenda (includes items of correspondence not requiring administrative reports/action, committee reports not requiring any action by Council – matters that are for information purposes only).

(No Items for the Consent Agenda)

- c. Resolution/Bylaws

- d. Public Hearings: Planning/Zoning Matters (None)

- e. Committee/Local Board Reports

i. Library Board

Library Board Resolution No.: 2025-077

Moved by Councillor LeClerc and seconded by Councillor Dowser

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Library Board Council Representative Report be received.

**CARRIED**

ii. Police Services Board

(None)

iii. Renfrew County and District Health Unit

Resolution No.: 2025-078

Moved by Councillor Kelly-Chamberlain and seconded by Councillor LeClerc

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Renfrew County and District Health Unit Report to the Board dated June 24, 2025, be received.

**CARRIED**

iv. Renfrew County

County Council Summary June and August

2025 Resolution No.: 2025-079

Moved by \_\_\_\_\_ and seconded by \_\_\_\_\_

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Renfrew County Council Summary for June and August 2025, be received.

**CARRIED**

Not Approved

- v. Community Emergency Management Control Group  
(None)

## 12. Administrative Matters

- a. New Business/Reports from Officers/Employees on Various Issues (including reports from departments which require Council approval)
  - i. Request from Councillor Richer for Meeting Date Change  
Resolution No.: 2025-080  
Moved by Councillor Dowser and seconded by Councillor Kelly-Chamberlain  
BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council amends its meeting schedule for the months of October and November, and that the Regular Meeting of October 16, 2025, be rescheduled to October 15, 2025, at 10:00 a.m., and the Regular Meeting of November 20, 2025, be rescheduled to November 24, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. to accommodate Councillor Richer's schedule.  
**CARRIED**
  - ii. Correspondence from E. Villeneuve Junior RE: Fire Ban and Bylaw 2012-20 Update  
Resolution No.: 2025-081  
Moved by Councillor Dowser and seconded by Councillor Richer  
BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council acknowledges and receives correspondence from Mr. Villeneuve, dated August 27, 2025, regarding concerns related to the application of municipal fire bans and Municipal Bylaw 2012-20;  
AND THAT Bylaw 2012-20 be considered during Council's discussions on the Protection to Persons and Property Level of Service.  
**CARRIED**
- b. Financial Update/Statement/Quarterly Variance Report  
Resolution No.: 2025-082  
Moved by Councillor Dowser and seconded by Councillor Kelly-Chamberlain  
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Un-reconciled Variance Report dated August 31, 2025, be received.  
**CARRIED**
- c. Update on Capital Projects
  - i. Report from Municipal Works Lead/Labourer  
Resolution No.: 2025-083  
Moved by Councillor Dowser and seconded by Councillor Richer  
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Municipal Works Lead/Labourer Report be received.  
**CARRIED**

## 13. Leadership Issues

- a. Update to Strategic Plan
  - i. Review of 2023-2027 Strategic Plan
    - Discussion of 2026 Priorities
- b. Five-Year Financial Plan (including Asset Management Plan)
- c. New Policy
- d. Notice of Motion

14. Confirmation of Proceedings

a. Confirmatory Bylaw 2025-17

Resolution No.: 2025-084

Moved by Councillor Kelly-Chamberlain and seconded by Councillor LeClerc

BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-Law 2025-17 being a bylaw to confirm proceedings of Council at their Regular Meeting of September 18, 2025, be read and adopted.

15. Adjournment

Mayor Grills adjourned the meeting at 3:15 p.m..

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Note: Alternate formats and communication supports are available upon request.



## Medical Officer of Health Report to the Board

Tuesday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025

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### Health Protection

#### ***Infectious Diseases***

##### *Measles in Renfrew County and District (RCD):*

In July, Renfrew County and District Health Unit (RCDHU) confirmed an additional measles case associated with the Ontario-wide outbreak. Once again, RCDHU took a proactive approach with case and contact management. Targeted post-exposure vaccination clinics were quickly stepped up to prevent further cases. Overall, RCDHU identified, followed up with, and communicated with approximately 120 contacts.

Ongoing efforts focus on engaging at-risk populations to promote immunization and ensure completion of the measles immunization series.

##### *Measles Outbreak in Ontario:*

RCDHU continues to monitor provincial measles epidemiology closely. There have been significantly fewer cases across the province since mid-June, and fewer than 10 weekly cases since the beginning of August.

Over the course of the outbreak, the majority (73%) of cases were among infants, children, and adolescents, 96% of whom were unvaccinated.

##### *Respiratory Indicators:*

Since the beginning of July, respiratory illness indicators have been low with some variability in outbreaks and COVID-19 test percent positivity. RCD is experiencing less than 1 outbreak per week. Local influenza and RSV test percent positivity is low. COVID-19 percent positivity is beginning to trend upward into the high range; however, overall COVID-19 indicators are lower than they were at this time last year. Hospital bed occupancy due to respiratory illness is low. Emergency department visits related to respiratory illness remain low.

#### ***Immunization***

##### *Grade 7 School Based Immunization Program:*

RCDHU staff have initiated the first round of school-based Grade 7 immunization clinics for the 2025-2026 school year. Approximately 1100 Grade 7 students across the region are eligible to receive Hepatitis B, Meningococcal, and Human Papillomavirus vaccines through these clinics. Up to 42 school-based clinics have been scheduled throughout

the fall, with plans for round two clinics in the spring of 2026. As of September 10, 2025, 3 school clinics had been successfully completed.

#### *Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV):*

Starting this fall, Ontario is expanding the publicly funded RSV prevention program to include all individuals aged 75 years and older. This is in addition to adults aged 60 to 74 who meet high-risk criteria or live in higher risk settings. Only individuals who have not received a previous dose are eligible, as the vaccine provides multiple years of protection. RSV vaccination will be available through residents' healthcare provider or through RCDHU community immunization clinics. RSV vaccinations will not be available through pharmacies.

Ontario has also announced that the infant RSV prevention program will resume this fall. This program includes all infants born after March 31, 2025 and children under 2 years of age with high-risk medical conditions. Together with healthcare partners, RCDHU will ensure access to RSV immunization for this high-risk population.

#### *Influenza and COVID-19 Annual Fall Campaign:*

This year's updated influenza and COVID-19 vaccines are expected by the end of September. RCDHU will offer mobile clinics to retirement homes and congregate care settings, along with community immunization clinics in October for high-risk individuals. Starting in November, the general population will be eligible, and RCDHU will continue community immunization clinics for both the influenza and COVID-19 vaccines. Furthermore, the pharmacy channel will continue to serve as an access point to receive both vaccines.

### **Healthy Environments**

#### *Rabies Control Program:*

RCDHU public health inspector staff continue to investigate potential human rabies exposures as part of the health protection mandate. RCDHU has seen an unprecedented increase in bat exposures this year, particularly over the warm summer months. These exposures resulted in a greatly increased need for post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) vaccination and immunoglobulin for those exposed, with PEP administered to 65 people in July and August. Furthermore, there have been 64 bat-related exposure investigations completed so far in 2025. Overall, in 2025, 36 animals have been submitted for rabies testing. Of these, 27 were bat submissions and one of those was positive for rabies in July. As a result, RCDHU issued a [media release](#) to notify the public and reinforce public health and safety messaging.

#### *Safe Water Program:*

Public Beach Sampling occurs during the busy summer season when recreational swimming is most popular. The sampling program started at the end of June and ended in the last week of August. No beaches needed to be posted as unsafe to swim due to bacteria levels this summer. However, there was one beach posting due to the presence of a blue-green algae bloom.

#### *Vector borne Disease Control Program:*

RCDHU completed the mosquito testing program once again this past summer (over a

10-week period). A total of 119 mosquito pools were tested for West Nile virus from 48 trapping locations across RCD. All mosquito pools tested negative for West Nile virus this year.

### **Emergency Preparedness and Response**

RCDHU responded to four multi-day heat events and two multi-day air quality events from June to the end of August. In each instance, RCDHU issued timely notifications to both community partners and the public, accompanied by health and safety messaging to mitigate risks associated with extreme environmental conditions.

To further support vulnerable populations, RCDHU invited municipal partners to share information about any cooling centres or clean air shelters they were operating. This information was used to enhance public awareness and ensure targeted outreach to priority populations. RCDHU also provided recommendations to agencies and organizations serving these groups.

Following the confirmed measles cases in April, RCDHU facilitated structured debrief sessions with staff and management. These sessions focused on identifying lessons learned and opportunities for quality improvement to strengthen future emergency outbreak response and coordination.

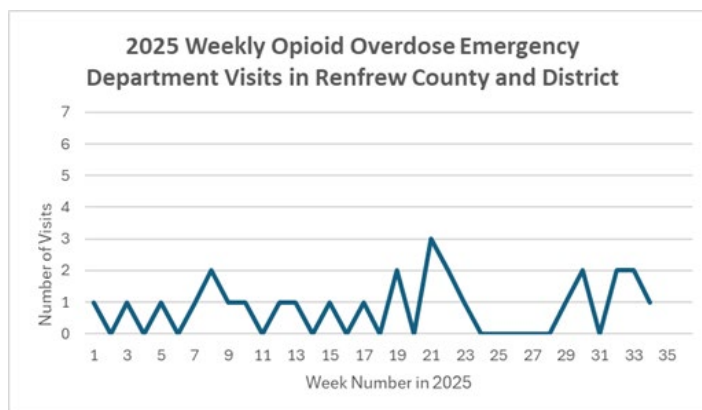
## **Health Promotion**

### **Renfrew County and District Drug Strategy (RCDDS)**

Implementation of the priorities of the RCDDS is underway and a mid-year [progress report](#) and [media release](#) were published in July to update the public and partner organizations on some of the early successes across the four pillars of the RCDDS.

#### *RCDDS Substance Use Harm Indicators:*

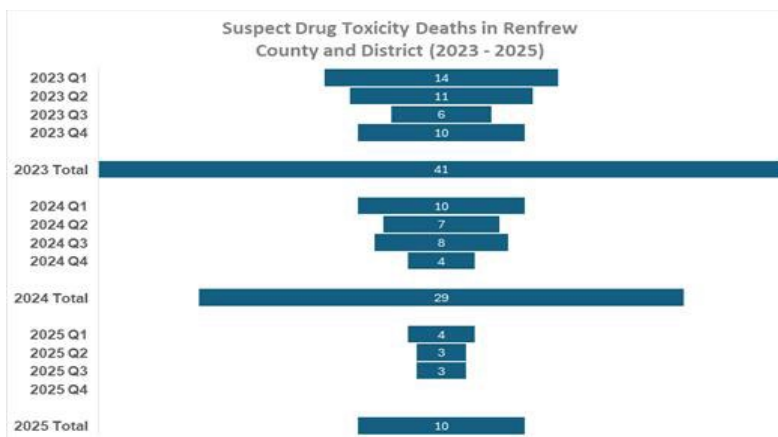
As of August 24<sup>th</sup>, there were 28 emergency department visits related to opioid overdoses, which is an increase of 8 since the June update. This represents a 59% decrease, when compared to the 69 visits that occurred during the same period in 2024.



As of August 28<sup>th</sup>, there had been 3 additional suspect drug toxicity deaths since our



previous update and 10 since the beginning of the year. This represents a 60% decrease, when compared to the 25 deaths that occurred during the same period in 2024 and a 68% decrease in contrast to 2023.



### **Outreach Team and SPRITE Testing**

The Outreach Team continues to bring RCDHU services to clients across RCD and forge new partnerships with community agencies. In 2025, as of the end of August, the Outreach Team had completed 76 visits to 19 different sites across RCD. During those visits, 384 naloxone kits were distributed and 241 new people were trained in their use. The Team had over 1700 interactions with clients throughout these visits. The Team continues to provide harm reduction and sexual health supplies, offer sexual health testing, and connect clients to other RCDHU services or community partners where needed.

SPRITE testing continues to be offered at Outreach Team events and at RCDHU's Pembroke office. As of Aug 31<sup>st</sup>, 188 tests for syphilis, HIV, and hepatitis C have been completed under this program. Individuals that test positive have been successfully referred for follow-up and treatment. Most of the clients tested are at high risk for acquiring sexually transmitted and blood-borne infections and do not have a family doctor or the means to seek out testing on their own.

### **Measles Redeployment**

In response to a reported case of measles in the community in July, Health Promotion nurses and support staff were redeployed to assist with measles contact management and testing. In-home testing for measles was completed by the Outreach Team. Staff from the Healthy Babies Healthy Children, Sexual Health, and Outreach programs supported the response with measles vaccinations, contact management, and workload coverage for other infectious diseases.

### **Oral Health**

#### *Summer Community Dental Screening Clinics:*

Over the summer months, RCDHU's school oral health Registered Dental Hygienists (RDHs) hosted 8 community dental screening clinics across RCD, in partnership with

local public libraries. Alongside RCDHU staff, Service Canada staff attended to promote and enroll clients in the federally funded oral health program, the Canadian Dental Care Plan (CDCP). RCDHU staff integrated the feedback from last year's screening clinics, making this year even more successful. RCDHU staff screened and assisted a total of 113 RCD residents, including 13 infants, 42 children, 41 adults, and 17 seniors.

In addition to dental screenings, RCDHU staff provided 22 fluoride applications and directly enrolled 12 individuals into provincially funded oral health programs. They also addressed a wide range of oral health questions and helped connect families with appropriate dental coverage to ensure they can access the care they need. Clinics were hosted in Petawawa, Whitney, Arnprior, Killaloe, Deep River, Pembroke, Renfrew, and Calabogie.



Samantha Zadow, RDH (left) and Michala Vanderploeg, RDH (right) at the Petawawa Public Library.

Submitted by:

Dr. Jason Morgenstern, Medical Officer of Health  
Renfrew County and District Health Unit

# Council and Committee Monthly Summary

## September 2025

Below you will find highlights of the County of Renfrew County Council and Committee meetings held September 10 and September 24, 2025.

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

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

The [September 10, 2025](#) and [September 24, 2025](#) meetings are on YouTube.

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## Warden's Address

### Key highlights

- At the September 24 meeting, Warden Peter Emon recognized the passing of John Hildebrandt, former Mayor of the Township of Madawaska Valley and former County Councillor. He noted Mr. Hildebrandt was a larger-than-life presence whose deep love for family, community, and service shaped everything he did. Whether through his leadership in municipal government, his contributions to local healthcare and heritage, or his role as a business owner and mentor, his impact on Barry's Bay and the broader Valley was profound. He extended condolences to his beloved wife Beth, their children and grandchildren, and all who had the privilege of knowing him.
- The Warden expressed his pride and thanks to the team which participated in a [cleanup](#) along the Algonquin Trail and Ottawa River on September 16. This included County staff from Public Works and Trails, Community Services, Paramedic Service, HART Hub as well as City of Pembroke staff, Community Mental Health workers and staff from the Renfrew County District Health Unit along with Councillor Michael Donohue and Mesa clients. Together the group gathered a truckload of debris and brushing was later conducted along the trail to open up views of the Ottawa River.
- He highlighted the fifth Recovery Day held in Renfrew on September 19, which was a powerful celebration of hope, healing, and resilience. This year's event shone a spotlight on youth, with a focus on prevention and awareness. Recovery Day honours those we have lost, supports individuals on their recovery journey, and works to break down stigma surrounding addiction and mental health. Renfrew County is proud of the compassionate, community-driven efforts underway to help individuals recover and thrive.
- On September 20 the Warden attended the Global Day of Action in Eganville, where diverse groups from all across the world marched to ask governments to increase their efforts for a healthier world, free from war, with a just transition away from fossil fuels and the need for migrant dignity in troubled times, which was named Draw the Line March.

- The Warden highlighted the recent Strategic Alignment Workshop for council and staff. He said the conversations throughout the day were both meaningful and thought-provoking and it was clear that everyone came well-prepared, having done their homework as requested. He appreciated the level of engagement and thoughtful contributions from both staff and Council.
- Warden Emon also marked the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the triple femicide of Carol Culleton, Anastasia Kuzyk and Nathalie Warmerdam, three women whose lives were taken in an act of intimate partner violence that devastated Renfrew County and reverberated across Ontario. Their deaths led to a coroner's inquest that produced 86 recommendations aimed at addressing systemic failures in how we respond to gender-based violence. He noted while some progress has been made, including widespread recognition of intimate partner violence as an epidemic, much more work remains. As we mark this solemn anniversary, he said we must recommit to the work ahead not only with remembrance, but with meaningful change that protects others from the same fate.

## Delegation

- At the September 10 session of County Council Anya Gansterer, Artistic Director with Ottawa Valley Community Arts and Emily Stovel, Manager of Culture and Curator of Arnprior District Museum, made a presentation about the Art Gallery of the Ottawa Valley (AGOV) Project. The presentation highlighted the transformative impact of Ottawa Valley Community Arts, which has delivered over 30 projects, raised more than \$1 million, and engaged 50,000+ people across more than 20 communities. AGOV fosters resilient, connected communities and drives economic growth through public art, tourism, and creative industry development. With a vision for accessible public art within a 30-minute drive for all Renfrew County residents, AGOV seeks municipal support to establish a dedicated fund, integrate arts into planning, and partner with local artists.

## Announcements

- Members of County Council and staff gathered at the Noojimokamig Garden for a ceremony in recognition of the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation with representatives from the Circle of Turtle Lodge. The vigil led by Aimee Bailey honoured survivors and victims of Residential Schools and supported the ongoing journey of truth, healing and reconciliation. It included a smudge and tobacco ceremony. During his remarks, Warden Emon offered an apology on behalf of the County of Renfrew and the municipalities across our region. In part the apology read, "We acknowledge the deep and lasting harm caused by past policies and systems, including the residential school system, the Sixties Scoop, and other government actions that sought to erase Indigenous cultures and disrupt families and communities. He also acknowledged that an apology alone is not enough, as he noted reconciliation is a journey and is one that requires meaningful action, consistent effort, and honest reflection.

## Development & Property Committee

### Presented by: James Brose, Chair

- County Council directed the Warden and Chief Administrative Officer/Deputy Clerk to execute a Memorandum of Understanding with the Town of Renfrew regarding the development project at Bonnechere Manor.

- The Economic Development Division and Renfrew County Community Futures Development Corporation (RCCFDC) are co-hosting an Economic Development Summit on November 25, 2025, at the Best Western Pembroke Inn. Under the theme – *Rooted in Resilience* – the goal of the summit is to bring the business and municipal community together for a day of learning and networking. Session topics include human resources, succession planning and youth perspective in community development. Program details and registration will launch after Thanksgiving.
- County Council directed the Warden and Chief Administrative Officer/Deputy Clerk to execute a Memorandum of Understanding with Arnprior Regional Health regarding the utilization of a portion of the surplus building (Old Grove) located at 275 Ida Street North, Arnprior, for seniors' transitional housing initiatives, campus of care, and/or other related collaborative projects. As part of the proposed Memorandum of Understanding, the County of Renfrew will undertake the retrofitting of the agreed-upon portion of the Old Grove building to create self-contained housing units with the intent to operate and manage the transitional housing units upon completion.
- On September 12, local elected officials and staff participated in an agricultural tour organized with the Renfrew County Agriculture Economic Development Committee. The tour featured diverse sectors, including dairy, beef, sheep, cash crops, beekeeping, maple syrup, and agricultural organizations. Key issues raised included the urgent need for large-animal veterinarians, regulatory barriers around livestock protection and interprovincial transport, improvements to the Deadstock Capacity Initiative, and the importance of consulting farmers when developing policies and by-laws.
- The Helping Your Place Excel (HYPE) Review Panel, comprised of Planning and Economic Development staff and the Director of Development and Property, has reviewed and approved the first round of applications received for the 2025 HYPE program, including nine received from the Town of Petawawa and one from the Township of Laurentian Valley.
- The Ottawa Valley Tourist Association's (OVTA) annual tourism conference will be held on November 3, 2025, at the Ottawa River Barn in Foresters Falls. Programming and registration will be announced in October.
- As part of the Ottawa Valley Tourist Association's pilot project with OHTO and regional partners, new tourism data reveals that 73.9% of visitors to Renfrew County were Canadian, with a strong sentiment score of 79/100. International visitors made up 26.1%, with Germany leading in satisfaction (81.3/100), followed by the UK, France, and the U.S. Overall, visitor sentiment remains positive across all markets, with international travellers expressing slightly higher satisfaction. The data highlights the continued strength of domestic tourism and the growing appeal of Renfrew County to global audiences.
- The Bridges to Business Growth Small Business Month series is a dynamic four-part event series happening in-person across Renfrew County in celebration of Small Business Month. Designed for entrepreneurs and small business owners, this series offers practical learning, meaningful connections, and actionable insights to help entrepreneurs grow with confidence in the topics of financial and tech management, marketing, building strategic partnerships, homesteading and food safety. For more information or to register, visit Enterprise Renfrew County's [workshops and event page](#). The Bridges to Business Growth Small Business Month series is hosted in partnership with Renfrew County Community Futures Development Corporation (RCCFDC) and sponsored by the Townships of Whitewater Region, McNab/Braeside, Madawaska Valley and Laurentian Valley, Town of Petawawa and City of Pembroke.

## Operations Committee

**Presented by: Glenn Doncaster, Chair**

- County Council has formally endorsed a phased 2+1 highway program for Highways 17 and 11 — a safer, more cost-effective alternative to full four-laning. The Warden has sent a [letter](#) to Prime Minister Mark Carney and Ontario Premier Doug Ford outlining the resolution.
- County Council adopted a by-law authorizing the approval of a Community Safety Zone along County Road 52 (Raglan Street South) between Civic Address 577 and Civic Address 3847, a total distance of 1.0 kilometre. Due to expressed concerns and complaints from residents and the proximity of St. Joseph's Catholic High School and St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic School, County of Renfrew staff have reviewed this area and recommend the implementation of a Community Safety Zone (CSZ).
- County Council adopted a by-law to acquire Part 6 on Plan 49R-20192, located in the geographic Township of Sebastopol, Township of Bonnechere Valley, from Ray and Luella Heideman for the sum of \$2,500. The property will be dedicated as part of the public highway upon registration of the transfer documents.
- County Council adopted a by-law to amend Schedule 'A' of By-law to Consolidate all By-laws with Respect to Roads and Bridges included in the County Road System, to add Banting Drive, from Highway 17 to Hillcrest Avenue, into the County Road system, subject to the adequate rehabilitation of the roadway.
- The approved contracts/tenders were as follows:
  - For Engineering Services for the Rehabilitation/Replacement Study on Algonquin Trail Structure AT032 (Bissett Creek and Highway 17) as submitted by Dillon Consulting, Ottawa, Ontario, in the amount of \$108,848, plus applicable taxes.
  - For the purchase of Concrete Gutters and Grates at the White Water Road Patrol to G.P. Splinter Forest Products Ltd., Pembroke, in the amount of \$47,914.77.
  - For the purchase of Overhead Doors at the Cobden Patrol to Draper Doors Inc., Harrowsmith, Ontario in the amount of \$59,900.
  - For Winter Sand in Calabogie to Town and Country Forming Ltd., Renfrew, Ontario in the amount of \$30,585.
  - For Loader Rentals for the Winter 2025/2026 at the Calabogie Garage to Paul Neill of Arnprior, Ontario, in the amount of \$17,500 and for the Cobden and Goshen Patrols to Bonnechere Excavating Inc., Renfrew, Ontario in the amount of \$21,350.

## Corporate Services Committee

**Presented by: Jennifer Murphy, Chair**

- County Council approved the following 2026 Budget Guidelines – Increase the capital levy contributions by \$3,000,000 over the 2025 budget; all revenue associated with weighted CVA growth for the 2026 year be contributed to the Growth Reserve; and departmental net operating budgets increase by no more than 3% over the 2025 budget.
- Committee discussed a proposal brought forward by Warden Emon to have the Warden for the County of Renfrew elected at-large. Direction was given to staff to explore this option and bring a report back to the committee in the second quarter of 2026.



## Community Services Committee

**Presented by: Anne Giardini, Chair**

- The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing has confirmed a 2025-2026 investment of \$3,569,200 under the Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP), consistent with the allocation provided for the previous fiscal year. However, ongoing pressures, including increasing rates of homelessness, escalating rental costs, a critical shortage of affordable housing, and social assistance rates that have remained unchanged since 2018, continue to place significant demands on this limited budget. The attached recommendations for the 2025-2026 fiscal year reflect a review of expenditures during the first five months and propose a strategic reduction in the number of programs supported. This approach aims to concentrate available resources on the areas of greatest need, while acknowledging that the current funding is insufficient to meet the full scope of local demand. The Community Services Committee approved the Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP) Investment Plan for 2025-2026 to be submitted to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

## Health Committee

**Presented by: Michael Donohue, Chair**

- The Ministry of Health has formally approved the County of Renfrew Paramedic Service to proceed with the implementation of the Low Acuity Disposition Patient Care Model, also known as SMART Transportation. Over the past year, paramedic services across the region have been actively training their staff in preparation for this important initiative. This model represents a significant cultural shift and marks the future of paramedicine delivering the right care, at the right time, in the right place. SMART Transportation is a province-wide initiative that enables paramedics to utilize clinical care pathways to treat and refer patients directly to local services such as Mesa, RC VTAC, and Clinical Assessment Centres. This approach helps ensure individualized care, reduces avoidable emergency department visits, and improves overall patient outcomes. From October to December 2024, the County of Renfrew delivered training to all paramedics, with costs reimbursed by the City of Ottawa through Ontario Health. The Paramedic Service is enthusiastic about advancing clinical knowledge and skills, and we remain optimistic about the evolving role of paramedics within these new care pathways; working to better serve the residents of Renfrew County.
- County Council approved an additional 1,824 hours per year of part-time Food Service Worker hours for Bonnechere Manor effective October 1, 2025.
- County Council approved an additional 3,368 hours per year of part-time Personal Support Worker hours for Miramichi Lodge effective October 1, 2025.
- County Council approve a business case to add one Nurse Practitioner in community programs to the County of Renfrew Paramedic Service.
- County Council approved a business case to add Casual Administrative Commanders to the County of Renfrew Paramedic Service.

## Additional Information

**Craig Kelley, Chief Administrative Officer/Deputy Clerk**

613-735-7288



## THE CORPORATION OF THE UNITED TOWNSHIPS OF HEAD CLARA AND MARIA

### BYLAW NUMBER 2025-18

#### BEING A BYLAW TO CONFIRM THE PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL

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#### **Legal Authority**

##### **Scope of Powers**

Section 8(1) of the *Municipal Act*, 2001, S.O. 2001, c.25, ("*Municipal Act*") as amended, provides that the powers of a municipality shall be interpreted broadly so as to confer broad authority on municipalities to enable them to govern their affairs as they consider appropriate, and to enhance their ability to respond to municipal issues.

##### **Powers of a Natural Person**

Section 9 of the *Municipal Act* provides that a municipality has the capacity, rights, powers and privileges of a natural person for the purpose of exercising its authority under this or any other Act.

##### **Powers Exercised by Council**

Section 5 (1) of the *Municipal Act* provides that the powers of a municipality shall be exercised by its Council

##### **Powers Exercised by By-law**

Section 5(3) of the *Municipal Act* provides that a municipal power, including a municipality's capacity, rights, powers and privileges under section 9, shall be exercised by bylaw unless the municipality is specifically authorized to do otherwise.

#### **Preamble**

Council for the Corporation of the United Townships of Head, Clara and Maria ("Council") acknowledges that many of the decisions it makes during a meeting of Council, regular, special, or otherwise, are done by resolution. Section 5 (3) of the *Municipal Act* requires that Council exercise their powers by Bylaw.

Council further acknowledges that the passing of resolutions are more expedient than adopting Bylaws for each decision.

#### **Decision**

Council of the Corporation of the United Townships of Head, Clara and Maria decides it in the best interest of the Corporation to confirm its decisions by way of Confirmatory Bylaw.



## **Direction**

**NOW THEREFORE** the Council of the Corporation of the United Townships of Head, Clara and Maria directs as follows:

1. The Confirmatory Period of this By-Law shall be for the Special Council Meeting October 7, and Regular Council Meeting of October 15, 2025.
2. All By-Laws passed by the Council of the Corporation of the United Townships of Head, Clara and Maria during the period mentioned in Section 1 are hereby ratified and confirmed.
3. All resolutions passed by the Council of the Corporation of the United Townships of Head, Clara and Maria during the period mentioned in Section 1 are hereby ratified and confirmed.
4. All other proceedings, decisions, and directives of the Council of the Corporation of the United Townships of Head, Clara and Maria during the period mentioned in Section 1 are hereby ratified and confirmed.
5. This Bylaw takes effect on the day of its final passing.

Read and adopted by Resolution 2025-096 this 15<sup>th</sup> day of October 2025.