



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

For Immediate Release

(Pembroke, Ontario, March 2, 2026)

RCDHU to Enforce Suspension of Students Aged 4–17 with Incomplete Immunization Records

Renfrew County and District Health Unit (RCDHU) is announcing the next steps in its annual immunization surveillance for all students attending school in Renfrew County and District (RCD), as required under the *Immunization of School Pupils Act*.

Initial notices were issued to students who are missing required vaccines or whose immunization records have not been reported to RCDHU.

In the coming days, all students who have not yet met their immunization requirements will be mailed a second immunization notice alongside a suspension order.

If RCDHU does not receive updated immunization records or a valid exemption, student suspension orders will take effect on the morning of **April 15, 2026**.

Suspensions are lifted immediately once the necessary immunization records are submitted, required vaccines are received, or a valid exemption is provided.

RCDHU strongly encourages families to update their records well before April 15 to avoid school suspension.

If you receive a suspension order, parents and guardians are asked to **take the following steps**:

1. Contact your health care provider to obtain any missing immunizations.
2. Submit updated immunization records to RCDHU using one of the following methods:
 - o **Online:** ICON tool [Immunization Connect Ontario Tool](#)
 - o **Email:** immunization@rcdhu.com
 - o **Fax:** 613-735-3067
 - o **Phone:** 613-732-9436 or 1-833-773-0004

If you do not have a health-care provider, you may book an appointment at an **RCDHU School Immunization Catch-Up Clinic** by visiting the main Immunization webpage and

selecting the **Online Booking link**. Clinics are available at multiple locations across Renfrew County.

If you experience barriers—such as transportation challenges, difficulty accessing a provider, or technology issues—please contact the immunization line at **613-732-9436** or **1-833-773-0004**. RCDHU will work with you to find a solution.

RCDHU remains committed to supporting families and promoting the health and safety of students across Renfrew County and District.

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Renfrew County and District Health Unit

Fax: 613-735-3067

media@rcdhu.com

www.rcdhu.com

Council and Committee Monthly Summary

February 2026

Below you will find highlights of the County of Renfrew County Council and Committee meetings held February 11 and February 25, 2026.

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

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

The [February 11, 2026](#) and [February 25, 2026](#) meetings are on YouTube.

Warden's Address

Key highlights

- At the February 11 meeting, Warden Jennifer Murphy acknowledged February as Black History Month, a time for honouring the legacy, leadership, and enduring contributions of Black Canadians in shaping our communities and our country. She noted this annual observance invites us not only to celebrate achievements but also to reflect on the ongoing work needed to advance equity, inclusion, and justice in every space we serve.
- On Thursday, February 5, she attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the [Renfrew County Mesa HART Hub](#). She thanked MPP Billy Denault and Parliamentary Assistant John Jordan for attending. The Warden was touched by the opportunity to speak directly with several clients of the Renfrew County Mesa HART Hub, who generously shared their journeys with addiction, recovery, and the challenges of being unhoused. Hearing firsthand how the Renfrew County Mesa HART Hub has provided stability, support, and a safe place to be during some of the most difficult periods of their lives was profoundly meaningful for Warden Murphy.
- The Warden also participated in the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the County's new Electric Vehicle Charging Stations. These stations, located at the County Administration Building in Pembroke and Renfrew County Place in Renfrew, represent an important step forward in expanding sustainable infrastructure within our region. She thanked staff and partners for their hard work in bringing this project to completion. This initiative reflects the County's continued commitment to environmental stewardship, innovation, and supporting the evolving transportation needs of residents and visitors across Renfrew County.
- She extended congratulations on the 50th anniversary of the Bonnechere Cup. She was honoured to bring greetings on behalf of County Council and to celebrate this longstanding event in the community.
- The Warden highlighted an opportunity to hear the Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, speak in Toronto on the topic of *Protecting the Dream of Homeownership*. She noted this event was attended at the invitation of the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus and provided valuable insight into current provincial thinking around housing affordability and supply issues that continue to be of direct relevance to municipalities across Eastern Ontario, including here in Renfrew County.
- She acknowledged the Township of Whitewater Region's recognition as an Ontario Age-Friendly Community at the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) Conference and MPP Billy Denault's recent presentation of the official certificate to Council, staff and community partners.

This designation reflects a great deal of dedicated work focused on creating inclusive, supportive, and accessible communities for residents of all ages. It is an example of strong community collaboration.

- Warden Murphy congratulated Gerald Tracey on the sale of The Eganville Leader, which for more than 120 years has been a trusted voice for communities across the Ottawa Valley – recording stories, celebrating successes and connecting the region. She also wished new owners Ray Stanton and John Hueston success for the publication in the years ahead.
- February 25 was Pink Shirt Day – commonly known as anti-bullying day – with members of County Council and staff wearing pink in support of the idea of promoting kindness, inclusion and standing up against bullying and harassment.

Operations Committee

Presented by: Glenn Doncaster, Chair

- The general repairs Capital Budget will be used to replace a cross culvert under County Road 52 (Raglan Street South), approximately 90 metres south of Highway 60, in the Town of Renfrew. It is anticipated that the works will be completed in early March, subject to water levels and *Fisheries Act* restrictions. The replacement is expected to take one to two weeks. Staff are currently reviewing whether the work will be completed in stages or require a full road closure.
- Committee received the Trail Enforcement Reports from July to December of 2025. Over this six-month period, a total of 93 patrols occurred, multiple vehicles were stopped on each patrol, and 10 fines were issued.
- The approved contracts/tenders were as follows:
 - For the rehabilitation of County Road 70 (Ruby Road), from Wolfe Road to 125m East of Zadow Road, approximately 4.5km, in the Township of Bonnechere Valley, awarded to Bonnechere Excavating Incorporated, Renfrew, Ontario in the amount of \$1,288,223.63.
- At the February 25 meeting, Public Works and Engineering Director Lee Perkins presented the 2026 Capital Program, outlining an estimated \$30 million in investments that include 48.64 km of road rehabilitations, four bridge replacements, two bridge rehabilitations, four culvert replacements, 9.8 km of Algonquin Trail improvements, three trail bridge rehabilitations, roundabout utilities, four bridge designs, seven culvert designs, five trail bridge designs, the Scratch Coat Program, and traffic signal upgrades.
- At the February 25 meeting, Taylor Hanrath, Manager of Capital Works, presented the Transportation Master Plan, a guiding/planning document outlining recommended improvements/common standards for transportation policies for the County of Renfrew. Following the discussion, it was determined a dedicated meeting to discuss the Transportation Master Plan is required and one will be scheduled later.

Corporate Services Committee

Presented by: Peter Emon, Chair

- Effective January 1, 2026, mileage rates have transitioned to 67 cents, aligned with the non-restricted automobile allowance rate approved by the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA).
- County Council approved a by-law to appoint Gregory Belmore as Deputy Treasurer for the County of Renfrew.
- County Council approved several changes to the Non-Union Staff Salary Grid within Employment By-law #1, including the removal, reclassification, creation of positions. Details are available

from our Human Resources department. This also includes a Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) of 2.0%.

- A Standard Operating Procedure for Social Media Commenting and Moderation was introduced as information. The SOP was created because of a growing volume of negative and hostile comments; increased misinformation and repetitive disruptive posting; heightened personal attacks directed at staff and elected officials; and increased staff time required to monitor and manage comment threads. The result was that commenting will be turned off for posts where allowable by the platforms.
- The CAO overviewed the Consent Report; a report on the Buy Ontario Act. Council members expressed concerns that the proposed Buy Ontario Act regulations could create rigid, burdensome requirements, especially for rural municipalities, by mandating Ontario-made sourcing, extensive documentation, and compliance processes that may disadvantage local and small suppliers. County Council approved a resolution directing staff to submit a response on behalf of County Council stressing that the provisions of any Act that is being brought forward remain flexible and has local context in mind and do not create additional undue burden to limited resources and capacity at both the municipal level and among smaller vendors in Ontario.

Health Committee

Presented by: Michael Donohue, Chair

- The County of Renfrew entered a partnership with the Ottawa Valley Ontario Health Team (OVOHT) to deliver Supported Attachment Initiative Services for unattached patients for the 2025/26 fiscal year. The Renfrew County Virtual Triage and Assessment Centre (RCVTAC) will serve as the primary clinical entry point for unattached patients, with a focus on comprehensive onboarding to ensure patients are fully prepared for attachment to a new primary care provider. This includes gathering consent, medical and medication histories, clinical documentation, and coordinating warm handoffs to local providers with capacity. RCVTAC will stabilize patients, address immediate health needs, and ensure they are ready to transition seamlessly onto a physician's roster. The Community Paramedic will complement this work by identifying patients, providing outreach, and delivering community-based health and social supports, collectively improving continuity of care, reducing avoidable emergency department use, and advancing the OVOHT goal of full patient attachment across the region by 2029.
- Health Canada's Emergency Treatment Fund (ETF) provided support in 2025 for the development of a new Integrated Systems Navigation Tool for Renfrew County. The tool, currently called Wayfinder – your way forward, has been developed over the past five months to help residents quickly identify and access appropriate supports related to substance use and overall wellbeing. The project was co-created with community health partners, community members, the County of Renfrew Emergency Services, and the GIS team, resulting in a user-friendly, culturally informed mapping tool designed to connect individuals to the right services at the right time.
- Bonnechere Manor's Pinnacle North Resident Home Area has achieved Level 1 Butterfly Home Accreditation, the highest designation awarded by Meaningful Care Matters. The January 20, 2026 audit highlighted an exceptional culture of person-centred care, noting strong relationships, meaningful engagement, and an environment where residents and staff were observed to be "free to be me." The audit described Pinnacle North as a warm, inclusive home with a strong sense of connection, wellbeing, and shared community.

Development & Property Committee

Presented by: James Brose, Chair

- County Council authorized the Warden, on behalf of the Corporation of the County of Renfrew, to write letters of support for the establishment of a provincial Ontario Airport Capital Assistance Program (OACAP) in support of the Pembroke and Area Airport and the Arnprior Airport. Within the County of Renfrew, the Pembroke and Area Airport and the Arnprior Airport provide critical infrastructure for local communities and are essential to residential safety, emergency preparedness, and regional connectivity, and would likely benefit from the establishment of an OACAP.
- County Council declared the cell tower located on the Algonquin Trail corridor in the Town of Arnprior surplus to the needs of the County of Renfrew, and directed staff proceed with the disposal process in accordance with County Policy.
- The County of Renfrew has updated its residential new build activity dashboard to include data for 2025. Please note that the information is based on Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) data and unit completion records. As a result, there may be differences between MPAC completion dates and the number of building permits issued by local municipalities. Over the past six years, an average of 450 units have been constructed annually. In the past year, residential construction was below this average, with 309 new units completed across the County. The [updated dashboard](#) is publicly available.
- The County of Renfrew is hosting the 2026 Ontario Professional Foresters Association Annual Conference & AGM, which will be held at the Best Western Pembroke from April 21-23, 2026. The conference will include a full-day field tour, two days of dynamic hybrid conference sessions, in-person workshops and social events that will support local businesses. More information is available on the [OPFA Conference website](#).

On February 25, Heather Inwood-Montrose, Small Business Advisor, Enterprise Renfrew County (ERC), made a presentation to committee. She noted ERC provides 300+ consultations annually, supporting entrepreneurs across Renfrew County. It delivered major economic outcomes (2022–2025): 191 new businesses, 346 jobs, \$352K in grants, \$1M+ leveraged investment. She also noted core provincial funding has been stagnant for more than 10 years, creating an annual \$35,000 budget shortfall. ERC is expanding revenue through sponsorships (growing to \$12,500 in 2025) and new fee-based services and paid programs launching in 2026, with long-term revenue potential estimated at \$10,000–\$20,000 annually once fully implemented.

Community Services Committee

Presented by: Anne Giardini, Chair

- The Committee reviewed [Community Services statistics](#) including the number of licensed spaces available and the total number of children served; Community Housing Waitlist statistics, as of December 31, 2025; Ontario Works caseload totals; and Emergency Assistance and Homelessness Prevention applications by municipality for 2025.

Additional Information

Craig Kelley, Chief Administrative Officer/Deputy Clerk

613-735-7288

Letter to the Editor

I have written before to express my deep concerns about the 'shenanigans' of the present Killaloe, Hagarty and Richards members of council. However I have much deeper concerns now that their agenda has been laid bare and this vicious attempt to discredit the Mayor and strip him of his perceived powers is finally revealed.

David Mayville was duly elected by us, the ratepayers of Killaloe, Hagarty and Richards to the position of Mayor of this municipality and since the beginning of his term he has been met with negativity by all members of council on such important issues as cost of Killaloe water and sewage, unpaid back taxes, review of human resources and policies, budgets, etc. The issues of the potential number of councillors and elimination of the ward system have been on the table since the beginning of this councils' term in office. They have refused to make a decision on either of these issues in spite of surveys indicating that ratepayers want a change in the present system. This manufactured delay will cost the ratepayer as there will now be no change in either until at least 2030.

In classic "let them eat cake" fashion, some on council have assumed the 17% tax increase (followed by another 3% and who knows what is to come) has been forgiven. Mayor Mayville pointed out that the 17% tax increase included many accounts overestimated which affected the tax increase and the amount of dollars we had to take out of reserves to balance the budget, yet Council had no concern about that.

Subsequently, he proposed that Council have productive meetings to try to figure out what was so wrong that such an exorbitant increase was necessary. Council's response was to pass a resolution to block any further finance meetings.

I listened to Tony Fleming, the Integrity Commissioner, deliver his report and have reviewed it carefully. The recommendations were ultimately at the discretion of Council, which has a statutory duty to exercise its own independent judgment.

In doing so, Council needed to act fairly, avoid pre-judgment, consider the mayor's defense, and ensure the process is procedurally fair. Council simply rushed the vote, refused a reasonable delay and declined to consider responses.

Council treated the Integrity Commissioner's report as binding. Those actions can raise serious procedural fairness concerns.

In an orchestrated campaign to discredit the Mayor, they chose to use the complaint as a battering ram against Mayor Mayville. Neither this report, nor the public flogging in its wake provided procedural fairness to the Mayor. He is our voice and we have been muzzled.

The commissioner recommended sanctions that are not authorized in law under the Municipal Act. The KH and R council, in a gleeful rush to judgement refused to allow the Mayor's reasonable request to allow time to obtain legal advice before the harsh sanctions and gag order be debated and adopted. There was no debate. They wanted their 'pound of flesh'. Perhaps they got it, but at what cost... a divided community and a hefty legal bill for us to pay. Municipal councils do not operate like this in a democratic society, except here.

Those who voted for Dave did so because they wanted transparency and change. He's been cut off at the knees every time he has attempted this as if it would be a dreadful thing to provide ratepayers with truth and clear information.

Instead of using the years since the last election to improve our municipality, the time has been used to push back, bicker and undermine the Mayor.

Integrity, indeed!

Sincerely,

Kathy Marion

Join our Board of Directors



ST. FRANCIS
VALLEY HEALTHCARE
Foundation
Advancing local healthcare in our community



Make a difference. We want to hear from YOU!

Who We Are

The St. Francis Valley Healthcare Foundation raises funds for our three local healthcare partners in the community, including St. Francis Memorial Hospital, Valley Manor long term care home and Madawaska Valley Hospice Palliative Care.

A Unique Opportunity

We are seeking potential candidates from the community to join the Foundation's Board of Directors. In return, you will develop new skills, meet some fantastic new people, and make a real difference in ensuring the future of local healthcare. This is a volunteer position. Specifically, ideal candidates will bring one or more of the following:

- Fundraising experience/strong networking skills
- Leadership capabilities
- Financial expertise

How to Apply

Send your CV along with a brief cover letter to:

Pat Pilgrim, Recruitment Chair

SFVH Foundation

7 St. Francis Memorial Drive

Barry's Bay, ON K0J 1B0

Phone: 613-756-3045 ext. 217

Email: office@sfvhfoundation.com

Closing date: March 27, 2026

For more information, visit www.sfvhfoundation.com