

WHITEWATER REGION COUNCIL SUMMARY



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 13, 2024

Here is a brief update from the Regular Meeting of the Council on **November 6th, 2024**. Full agendas can be found here: <https://whitewaterregion.civicweb.net/Portal/>. The video is available on our YouTube page. The next meeting is November 20th, 2024. This summary does not constitute the official record of the meeting and approved Minutes should be consulted for that purpose.

Presentations and Public Meetings

Council received an update from Historical Society President, Janis Tomkinson, about the Ross Museum and its 2024 open season. The Ross Museum is an important asset to our community and its many events are well attended.

Council recognized Julie Bennett on receiving the Trailblazer Award by the Older Adult Centres' Association of Ontario. This award is presented to new professionals in the field of Older Adults and Seniors Active Living Centres whose personal achievements and professional accomplishments have furthered the sector.

Mayor's Address

Mayor Nicholson noted his attendance at 14 meetings and events since the last council meeting. Highlights of the address include:

- In a meeting with provincial reps, the old Haley Minesite future potential was discussed with more conversations to come.
- The Rural Economic Forum held in Pembroke was an excellent conference that highlighted agriculture in the Ottawa Valley. Support for Ag-related businesses was discussed noting that agriculture production is a key GDP generator in our area.
- The increase in OPP costs has affected all municipalities in the County of Renfrew. Our resolution on the subject has received support from our neighbours and ROMA and AMO are advocating on behalf of the municipalities in the province.

Community Development

Council approved the Whitewater Region Activity Guide after receiving a report providing an update on the Community Marketing Project funded by a Rural Economic Development grant from OMAFRA. This project involved extensive public consultation ultimately resulting in the creation of an activity guide that will be used to promote local tourism.

Contact: *Rebecca Gill, Community Development Coordinator*
rgill@whitewaterregion.ca Ext. 129

Environmental Services

Council received the 2023 Annual Report for the Ross Landfill, the biennial report for the closed Cobden Waste Disposal Site, and the MECP Ross Waste Disposal Site Inspection Report. Highlighted was the 2024 Compactor purchase which has increased the life expectancy of the Ross Landfill by an additional 10 to 17 years.

- Council directed staff to proceed with submitting an ECA amendment application for the Ross Landfill and approved an extension of the Environmental Monitoring and Reporting Services for Solid Waste Sites contract with Jp2G Consultants Inc.

Contact: *Deanna Nicholson, Superintendent of Environmental Services*
dnicholson@whitewaterregion.ca Ext. 127

Fire Services

Council received the draft Community Risk Assessment to review. The report, required by Ontario Regulation 378/18, is used to address fire risk in communities and to develop mitigation strategies. Areas of focus found in the report include public education and fire prevention and suppression operations.

Contact: *Jonathan McLaren, Fire Chief*
jmclaren@whitewaterregion.ca

Community Services

Council authorized a memorandum of understanding to continue towards the sale of the CN Rail Line to the County of Renfrew to add the trail to the County's trail network. This strategic sale reduces costs to the municipality for trail maintenance and improvement.

Council received a report regarding the new requirements for verification of liability insurance from all users of Township facilities, such as renting of ice or community halls. Staff have been directed to develop a framework for the provision of insurance for recreation and culture programming going forward.

Contact: *Stephanie Plebon, Manager of Community Services*
splebon@whitewaterregion.ca Ext. 143

Corporate Services

Council received a report relating to the extension for the Audit Services provided by MacKillican & Associates Chartered Professional Accountants for a one-year term. The Municipal Act requires the appointment of an auditor to perform annual audits on municipal financial statements.

Contact: *Kurtis McGonegal, Treasurer*
kmcgonegal@whitewaterregion.ca Ext. 138

Office of the CAO

Council approved the 2025 Council Meeting Calendar. The calendar also includes municipal conferences, Committee of Adjustment meetings, and tax and water due dates.

Council endorsed the Whitewater Region Seniors Active Living and Home Support participation in the Ottawa Valley Ontario Health Team (OVOHT). Council authorized the CAO to enter into a revised collaborative decision-making agreement which allows the Seniors Liaison Coordinator to participate as a wholesome partner of the OVOHT.

Contact: *Ivan Burton, CAO*
iburton@whitewaterregion.ca Ext. 124

Announcements

Members of Council announced the following:

- Deputy Mayor Cathy Regier on behalf of council congratulated Lisa Carmody on her new position as Seniors Liaison Assistant
- Councillor Bell extended appreciation to the Foresters Falls Rec Association's extensive improvement on their outdoor rink
- Councillor Tabbart announced the Whitewater Gardeners 65th anniversary on Nov. 23rd from 4-7 pm at the Westmeath Recreation Hall
- Dawn Dube of Beachburg launched her second book titled 70 Layers of Life. The proceeds of the book sales are being donated to Pembroke Hospital's cancer research.
- Councillor Moore announced that Walking Club is starting at Opeongo Highschool on Dec. 2nd every Monday and Wednesday from 6-8 pm excluding holidays

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Additional information:

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