

# COUNCIL REPORT



**April 25, 2024**

This report highlights items considered by County Council at its last regular meeting on April 25, 2024. It is a summary and is provided for the interest of County employees.

County Council met in Council Chambers and virtually via Zoom, which was livestreamed on the County Facebook page.



## Warden's Report to Council

- His Honour began his remarks by stating the Land Acknowledgement to recognize the traditional First Nations, Métis, and Inuit territories of land in Canada and honour the original occupants of these lands.  
Warden Mullin and CAO Dorey visited multiple member municipalities' Council meetings to do a presentation on Hastings County's Strategic Plan, including Tudor and Cashel, Madoc Township, Town of Deseronto, and Marmora and Lake.

His Honour attended the Annual General Meeting of Conservation Ontario in Toronto on April 15th, and the Good Roads Conference, also in Toronto, from April 21st - 24th, where he presented two delegations along with Marmora and Lake.



Warden Mullin attended the grand opening of It's Your Time Fitness Centre in Tweed. They offer online and in-person classes, training, open gym and more. Also in attendance was, Owner Terry-Lynn Storms, Tweed Mayor Don DeGenova, Denise Gray on behalf of MP Shelby Kramp-Neuman and MPP Ric Bresee, and Tweed Community Development Coordinator Cindy Chow, as well as their friends, family, and community members.

## Delegation - Eastern Ontario Regional Network



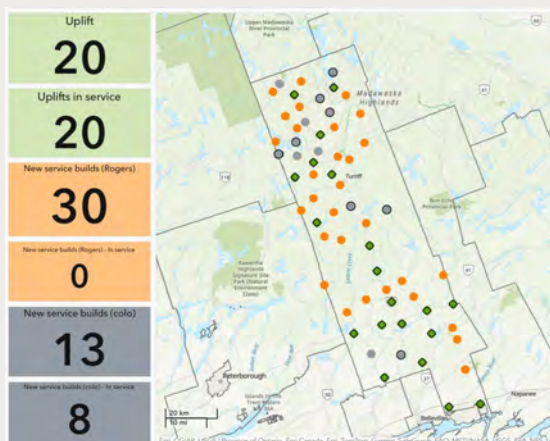
Jason St. Pierre, CAO, and Jim Pine, Indigenous Lead, from the Eastern Ontario Regional Network (EORN) gave an update to Council on the Cell Gap Project and other items.

Information regarding project goals, funding details, and the steps to construction, including the duty to consult with Indigenous communities and organizations by the Crown, were presented.

By the end of the project, the following updates will occur:

- a total of 312 upgrades to existing towers, including 20 in Hastings County
- 257 new towers built by Rogers, including 30 in Hastings County
- 75 new towers that are co-located with other providers, including 13 in Hastings County

To see the full presentation, click [here](#).



### About Communal Servicing Systems

- Communal services, also known as shared drinking water and sewage systems, provide water and wastewater treatment to clusters of residences and businesses.
- They are also to be referred to as decentralized systems or cluster systems.
- These systems operate on principles similar to conventional municipal services but without the reliance on a single central facility where municipal water and sewer services are either non-existent, or beyond the fiscal capacity of local government.



**EORN**

### Why Communal Servicing?

- Unlocks rural land and development hindered by lack of traditional infrastructure.
- Reduces costs and wait times associated with traditional infrastructure.
- Increases density and land efficiency.
- Increases opportunities for mixed-use development.
- Not new technology! Proven technology already in use.



**EORN**

They also spoke about EORN initiatives for 2024, including the 7 in 7+ Regional Housing Plan, and the development of a strategic plan.

They concluded by speaking about the benefits of Communal Servicing Systems, also known as shared drinking water and sewage systems that provide water and wastewater treatment to clusters of residences and businesses. These systems operate on principles similar to conventional municipal services but without the reliance on a single central facility where municipal water and sewer services are either non-existent, or beyond the fiscal capacity of local government.

# CAO's Report

CAO Dorey began by announcing the signing of Dr. Jonathan Villa Alvarez, the 24th physician to sign on to Hastings County's Family Physician Recruitment Program. Mr. Dorey also spoke regarding the Memorandum of Understanding for Regional Physician Recruitment that Hastings County will be signing along with the City of Belleville, Prince Edward County, the City of Quinte West, and Municipality of Brighton. More information on both of these items will be given under the Finance, Property and Personnel Committee update.

A Special Resolution was supported by Council with regard to the interruption of the National Housing Strategy. The Resolution was brought forth from the Housing Strategic Committee which represents the 47 Service Managers in Ontario. The Committee raised the alarm this past week that there is still no resolution between the provincial and federal governments. The Resolution is to address the pausing in \$357 million in funding from the federal government for social housing support in Ontario as of April 1st, and is being brought forward to all service managers to be supported at their councils. This interruption is causing significant disruption to households and programs supported through this funding (Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative, Ontario Priorities Housing Initiative, and the Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit). In Hastings County, there are many residents who rely on these programs through rent supplement agreements, housing benefits, and housing allowances. The funding is also critical to maintaining the existing social housing stock. It is hopeful that this Resolution will help to resolve this situation as soon as possible.

## Community and Human Services Committee Update

The Backyard Bonanza, free summer day camp program for children 4-12 residing in Community Housing in Belleville and Quinte West, will be fully in-person this summer for the first time since the pandemic interrupted it in 2020.

Hastings County received \$2.34 million in funding for 2024-2028, and \$292,000 in winter top-up funds under Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy. Reaching Home is a community-based program aimed at preventing and reducing homelessness. The City of Belleville is a designated Reaching Home Community and Hastings County is the Community Entity responsible for receiving and administering this funding in alignment with the Reaching Home directives.

Hastings County is going to pursue funding opportunities to support the Community Response Team (CRT), an outreach team dedicated to supporting vulnerable homeless individuals. CRT members are located in Belleville (4 staff), Quinte West (1 staff), Madoc (1 staff) and Bancroft (.5 staff) but are responsive to Hastings County as a whole. In Belleville specifically, the CRT is engaged with the Drop-in Centre at Bridge Street United Church. In February 2024, due to a tainted drug supply that caused numerous overdoses at the drop-in, concern has mounted for the safety of the homeless population who use substances and frequent the Centre. To immediately increase support to this vulnerable population, the CRT and Hastings County Community Paramedics have partnered in an outreach capacity. More information will be provided in the Hastings/Quinte Emergency Services Committee summary.





Congratulations and thank you to Joanna Dickie for 10 years of service with Hastings County. Joanna was recognized at the Community and Human Services Committee meeting by Warden Mullin, Sheri-Lynn Collyer, Manager of Facilities Maintenance, and Committee Chair, Chris Malette.



Congratulations and thank you to Charlene Cripps for 10 years of service with Hastings County. Charlene was recognized at the Community and Human Services Committee meeting by Warden Mullin, Marilyn Forestell, Program Support Services Supervisor, and Committee Chair, Chris Malette.



Congratulations and thank you to Sheri-Lynn Collyer for 15 years of service with Hastings County. Sheri-Lynn was recognized at the Community and Human Services Committee meeting by the Director of Facilities, Matt Carty, Committee Chair, Chris Malette, and Warden Mullin.



Congratulations and thank you to Shannon-Tummon-Graham for 15 years of service with Hastings County. Shannon was recognized at the Community and Human Services Committee meeting by Assistant Manager of Housing, Michelle Lang, Committee Chair, Chris Malette, and Warden Mullin.



Congratulations and thank you to Sierra Scanlon, Community Response Team Caseworker, on 15 years of service with Hastings County!

# Hastings/Quinte Emergency Services Committee Update

Paramedic Services is purchasing the remaining 20 ambulance onboard computers that they began replacing in 2023.

Hastings County is entering into a new agreement with Quinte Health to continue to provide offloading services at Belleville General Hospital (12 hours/day, 7 days/week) and Trenton Memorial Hospital (8 hours/day, 7 days/week).

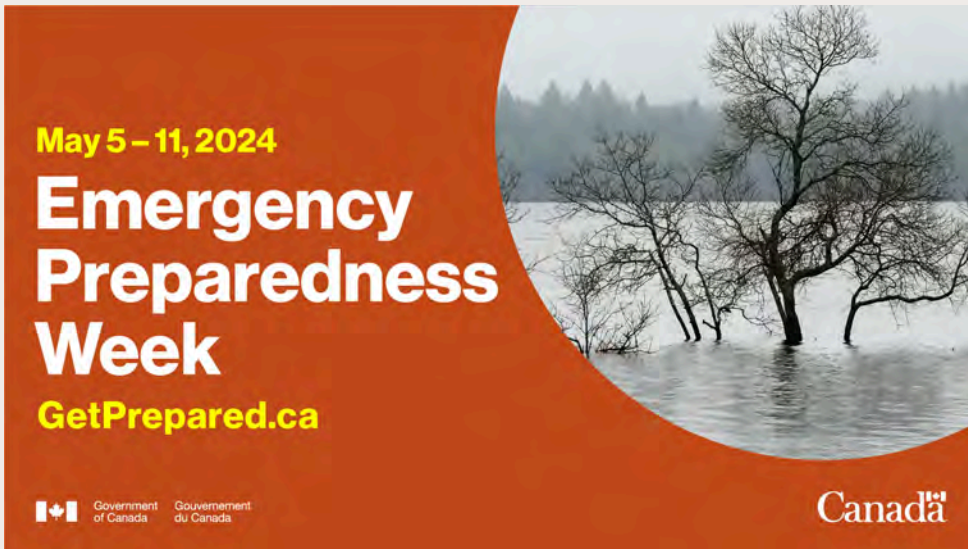
In February 2024, due to a tainted drug supply that caused numerous overdoses at the drop-in, the Community Response Team (CRT) and Hastings County Paramedics have partnered in an outreach capacity to help ease some of the pressures on emergency services while bolstering support for the homeless community. Together they provide a focused response to the Drop-in Centre and surrounding areas. The Canadian Mental Health Association (Hastings & Prince Edward) has also joined this partnership with the provision of mental health support staff. The goal of the partnership is to provide low barrier emergent medical, mental health and substance use supports, alongside the longer-term wraparound stability and housing supports provided by the CRT for the homeless community while also easing pressures on emergency services. In the first week of operation, 911 calls dropped from 3.5 to 1.5 calls per day at the Bridge Street Church, with only 2 calls occurring during the operating hours of the outreach team. Hastings County is working with local community services and healthcare partners on a comprehensive proposal to address mental health and addictions in this area and will be seeking funding opportunities to support associated initiatives.







Hastings/Quinte Paramedic Services joined police and fire department partners and Quinte Health at their four hospitals to help raise awareness for Organ and Tissue Donation Month.



Warden Mullin declared May 5 - 11 as Emergency Preparedness Week. The week is a national awareness campaign coordinated by Public Safety Canada and is aimed at increasing individual preparedness in the event of an emergency. This year's theme is "Plan for every season."



Warden Mullin also declared May 19 - 25 as Paramedic Services Week in support of the Ontario Association of Paramedic Chiefs and the Paramedic Chiefs of Canada.

## Hastings/Quinte Long-Term Care Committee Update

Hastings and Centennial Manors signed and submitted their required Annual Declaration of Compliance as part of the Long-Term Care Homes Service Accountability Agreement with Ontario Health.

Hastings Manor is applying for a grant of just over \$10,000 to the Royal Canadian Legion Ontario Provincial Command Branches and Ladies Auxiliaries Charitable Foundation for the purchase of a lift and Centennial Manor is applying for just over \$7,500 for the purchase of two vital signs machines.

Hastings Manor will be using funds from their donation contributions to purchase one

cybercycle recumbent bike, five blanket warmers, and six computer stations to enhance care, services, and quality of life to the residents.



Congratulations and thank you to Nancy Allman who celebrated 15 years of service supporting the residents at Hastings Manor in 2023!

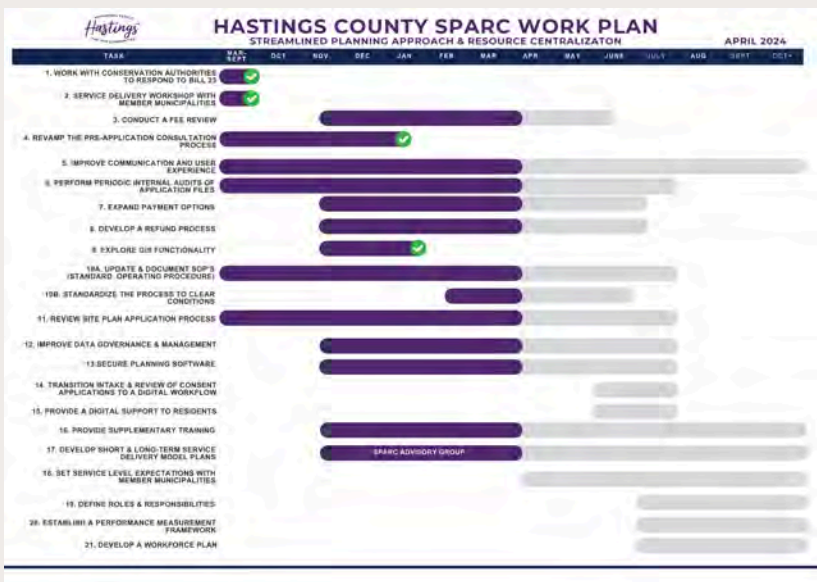


Congratulations and thank you to Tim Fobert on 15 years of service supporting residents at Hastings Manor!



Warden Mullin declared May 6 - 12 as Nursing Services Week in Hastings County.

# Planning and Development Committee Update



Council received an update on the SPARC (Streamlined Planning Approach and Resource Centralization) workplan that will implement centralized planning services to support member municipalities.





Hastings County has rented and designed new billboards along Highway 62. Two billboards are in Madoc, and one is in Hastings Highlands. The billboards are a part of our “Be The One” campaign to inspire people to invest and open a business here in Hastings County and advertise our Small Business Coordinator resource.



We celebrated the grand opening of Skinkle's Pet Supplies & More! Located in Stirling, they are a one-stop shop for all pet supply needs. In attendance pictured L to R: Hastings County Economic and Tourism Development Manager, Andrew Redden, Township of Stirling-Rawdon Economic Development Officer, Michelle Detlor, Manager of Constituency Services for MPP Ric Bresee, Anita Ramski, Hastings County Councillor and Mayor of Tweed (on behalf of the Warden), Don DeGenova, owners Melissa and Josh Skinkle, Shelby Kramp-Neuman, MP and Store Manager Krystan.



We officially launched The Wildly Authentic Adventures of Timmy Boyle videos on YouTube and Social Media that see local Comedian Timmy Boyle experience some of the best that Hastings County has to offer in terms of Wildly Authentic Experiences. The videos can be found [here](#).



# Finance, Property and Personnel Committee Update

Hastings County is entering into a Memorandum of Understanding for Regional Physician Recruitment with our neighbouring municipalities - City of Belleville, City of Quinte West, Prince Edward County, and the Municipality of Brighton. Due to the shortage of family physicians in Ontario and Canada, many municipalities have developed recruitment programs and incentives similar to Hastings County, including our neighbouring municipalities. Through the Health PULSE (Partners United in Local Solutions for Everyone) partnership it was determined that it would be beneficial to develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between local municipalities that sets forth basic principles and guidelines with respect to supporting regional physician recruitment and retention.



Warden Bob Mullin announced that Dr. Jonathan Villa Alvarez has signed on to practice family medicine under the Family Physician Recruitment Program.

"Jonathan is the 24th physician to sign on to our program and will be joining Gateway Community Health Team in Tweed to begin practicing this summer," said Warden Bob Mullin.

Dr. Villa Alvarez went to medical school at the University of Ottawa and is completing his family medicine residency at Queen's University. "I am delighted to be signing on to practice family medicine in beautiful Hastings County," stated Dr. Villa Alvarez. "After experiencing the warmth and professionalism of the Gateway Community Health Centre firsthand, I couldn't be more excited. Their model of care resonates deeply with me, and I can't wait to contribute to this wonderful community starting in the summer!"

"The County's program has made a major impact on addressing the primary care needs across all of Hastings County," stated Warden Mullin.

Further information regarding other decisions approved by County Council and the full agenda package is available [here](#).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Dorey'.

Connor Dorey, Chief Administrative Officer

