Reconstruction of Downtown/Highway 60 from: Hall Ave. to Bridge St.; Plaunt St.; and Barnet Blvd.; will be completed by year end.

Should private property adjacent to the work—lawns, pathways, gardens, parking areas and/or driveways be disturbed—those areas will be reinstated once work is complete, at no cost to you. We appreciate your patience and your co-operation. Please stay safe. Slow down. Follow the detours and flag persons’ instructions. There will be inconveniences but we will make every effort to minimize them.

Stage Two: Plaunt Street Reconstruction
Most of the work on Plaunt Street between Railway and Munroe streets—storm and sanitary sewer replacement, watermain replacement and road reconstruction including sidewalk, curbs, landscaping, and new water and sanitary services to the property line—was completed last fall. Council awarded this project to Bonnechere Excavating Inc. The rest will be finished by early summer. Work on Plaunt St. N. will be complete this fall. This project is funded by the Clean Water and Wastewater Fund.

Barnet Boulevard
Grant A. Crozier Excavating is reconstructing Barnet Boulevard from Raglan St.S. (County Road 52) to Gillan Rd. (County Road 6), a contract awarded by Council this spring.

Work on Barnet Blvd. between Raglan St.S. and Eighth St. consists of reconstruction and paving, a multi-use pathway, curbs, landscaping, a Millennium Trail pedestrian crossing control signal system, sanitary sewers and laterals services to the property line (Raglan Street South to First St. only), storm sewers, and street lighting. This portion is funded partially by the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund. Renfrew Council added the reconstruction and paving of Barnet Blvd., from Eighth St. to Gillan Rd.

Downtown/Highway 60 Reconstruction
Council awarded the construction of Downtown/Highway 60 to Bonnechere Excavating Inc. this spring. Underground works are in full swing and the project is generally on schedule. The portion of the project on Raglan St. and Bridge St. is funded partially by the Ministry of Transportation of Ontario’s (MTO) Connecting Link Program. Work must be completed in 2018.

Council added the reconstruction of 10 side streets between Plaunt and Argyle streets. Work starts next spring with completion slated by December 2019. More on-street parking will be available. Storm, sanitary, watermain, sidewalks and curbs, and new asphalt will be updated where needed.

What’s happening underground
The existing watermain—almost 100 years old—and water service connections will be replaced using conventional trenching methods. PVC pipe will be used as it’s less likely to cause discoloration of the water from corrosion—the main issue with the existing cast iron pipes.

Sanitary sewer and service laterals will be relined—a trenchless technology. This will reduce the amount of excavation needed and will limit disruption. If they cannot be relined, digging may occur. Minor upgrades to storm water services will be limited to individual buildings. More catch basins will improve road drainage.

What’s happening at the street surface
- Downtown/Highway 60 will be regraded and paved, bringing it up to MTO standards.
- Unit paver sections of sidewalks will be replaced with concrete, and several entrances into businesses will be levelled—eliminating existing steps or partial elevations.
- New decorative street poles and energy-efficient lighting will be installed.
- Traffic signals will be upgraded with LED lighting and countdown timers installed for pedestrian crossings.
- A dedicated left turn lane for vehicles turning from Raglan St. onto Opeongo Rd. will be added.
- The Opeongo Road crossing will be eliminated, and the Prince Ave. crossover will be relocated to the south (Opeongo Rd.) side of the intersection to remove conflicts at Opeongo.
- That new crossover and the Railway and Prince avenue crossovers will have curb bump-outs and pedestrian-activated flashing signals. The bump-outs will improve the visibility of pedestrians crossing at crosswalks and shorten the distance across the road—the latter, a benefit for people using strollers and those with mobility issues.
- Substantial landscaping includes patterned saw-cut sidewalks, trees and planting beds, benches, waste and recycling receptacles, and bike racks.
- Gathering and rest areas will be situated conveniently.

Access & safety
- Work areas will be barricaded with fencing. Please respect the signs and safety measures.
- Temporary, accessible walkways will be available where possible during construction.
- Access to doorway entrances may be interrupted temporarily. Notice will be given to businesses and work timed to minimize disruption. Ramps may be used to access properties.
Business retention—Supporting local business by building stronger connections and partnerships

Existing businesses are already invested in the Town of Renfrew and typically create many new jobs. Helping them continue to be successful is the driving force behind the Town of Renfrew’s Business Retention & Expansion (BR&E) program.

The Town is gathering information using in-person interviews, and online and hard copy surveys to ask local businesses what they need to thrive and expand, and to identify issues that stand in the way—to date, 30 surveys have been completed.

Survey participants will be invited to attend a retreat on June 19th facilitated by the Town’s BR&E coordinator, Victoria Thomas, and a provincial BR&E representative. Businesses, Renfrew Town Council and staff, County of Renfrew staff, Renfrew and Area Chamber of Commerce, Renfrew BIA and Renfrew Industrial Commission will work together to establish directions.

Survey results and key findings will be discussed together with highlights of two previous reports: The ‘Town of Renfrew Community Improvement Plan grants for property and accessibility Improvements.’

**Economic Development Action Plan Recommendations** by Explorer Solutions, and the Town of Renfrew Resident Attraction Marketing Plan by Queen’s Business Consulting. Emerging priority goals and objectives, tasks, and timelines will be folded into the draft economic development action plan. The draft plan will be available for public review before it is presented to Renfrew Town Council in September.

**Community Profile**

It’s for potential investors and is a reference tool for business owners and residents—the qualitative and quantitative data provides up-to-date information about the Town of Renfrew and its “market ready” position.

Copies are available at: http://renfrew.ca/community-profile/

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**Downtown Renfrew presents**

**Saturdays in the Square**

Join us at Low Square!

**Family friendly events & activities**

**June**

- June 16: Father’s Day in the Square & Raffle (10 a.m.)
  - Please register in advance
- June 23: Free Movie at O’Brien Theatre (10 a.m.)
- June 30: Carnival Games (10 a.m.)
- July 7: Saturday Science (10 a.m.)
- July 14: Music in the Square

**July**

- July 21: Superhero Training Day (10 a.m.)
- July 28: Board Games & Bingo (10 a.m.)
- August 6: The Water Olympics (10 a.m.)
- August 18: Ice Cream Saturdays (1 p.m.)
- August 25: Yoga in the Square w/Ro (10 a.m.)
- September 1: Back to School Bash (10 a.m.)

Events are subject to change and may be cancelled due to inclement weather.

613-433-6079 • info@DowntownRenfrew.ca • Facebook: @DowntownRenfrew

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**Parking**

- 3 hour parking at municipal parking lots
- Plaunt and Argyle streets
- Overflow parking at St. Francis Xavier Church, St. Paul’s Anglican Church, and the Renfrew Curling Club
- No more than 50% of available parking spaces along Raglan St. S. will be affected at any given time.

**Signage**

Watch for wayfinding signs in the construction zone and on Plaunt and Argyle streets.

**Speed Limits**

Please obey the posted speed and be prepared to slow down in the construction zone. Workers may be just feet away. Follow flag persons’ instructions and detour signs.

**Water**

The contractor will connect affected properties to temporary waterlines.

**Information**

Weekly construction and road closings updates: www.renfrew.ca, in the local media or call the Development and Works Department at (613) 432-8166.

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**Construction Hours**

From sunrise to sunset—there is much work to do in a limited timeframe.

**Detours:** Plaunt St., Lochiel St., and Argyle St. as well as side streets will be used.

**Detour for Truck Traffic:** Construction notices posted on the Ontario 511 Traveler Information Services website alert truckers planning to travel to Highway 60 and 132.

**Dust, noise & vibrations:** Best efforts will be made by the contractor to apply calcium to control dust but some dust, noise and vibrations will be unavoidable.

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**Community Improvement Plan grants for property and accessibility improvements.**

- Many downtown businesses have entrances at the back of their shops. Businesses are being encouraged to improve back entrances by taking advantage of funding through the Town’s Community Improvement Plan grants for property and accessibility improvements.

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**Survey results and key findings will be discussed together with highlights of two previous reports: The ‘Town of Renfrew Community Improvement Plan grants for property and accessibility improvements.‘**

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**Construction notices posted on the Ontario 511 Traveler Information Services website alert truckers planning to travel to Highway 60 and 132.**

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**Dust, noise & vibrations:** Best efforts will be made by the contractor to apply calcium to control dust but some dust, noise and vibrations will be unavoidable.
Council considers tender results for Ma-te-way Activity Centre expansion

Renfrew Town Council will consider tender results for the proposed Ma-te-way Activity Centre expansion at a special meeting on June 26.

The fully accessible expansion calls for a second ice surface, walking track, fitness centre, gymnasium, and multi-purpose rooms with an opening next summer. It will be the new home of the NHA/NHL Museum. The repurposing the Renfrew Recreation Centre is part of the plan.

Five general contractors prequalified for the bidding process. Design documents were prepared by N45 Architecture Inc.

The Town of Renfrew is seeking financial support to help fund the expansion. Staff are reaching out to individuals, businesses and organizations who want to raise their profile, support their community, and receive lasting recognition through naming rights, sponsorship opportunities, and leasing opportunities. Applications for grants to offset some of the costs also are being sought. Here are some of the initiatives underway:

- Naming rights and sponsorship opportunities for the entire complex, as well as the rink, hall, walking track and lobby—expressions of interest have been received from local businesses, groups and organizations
- Five local businesses have expressed interest in leasing space
- Applications have been made by staff for a Jumpstart Grant ($500,000), Farm Credit Canada’s AgriSpirit Fund ($25,000) and an Enabling Accessibility Grant through Employment and Social Development Canada ($500,000)
- A fundraising package will be released to the public once the tender has been awarded.

At the May 15th Committee of the Whole meeting, staff presented the results of a survey to gauge interest in an aquatic facility. The survey was mailed to 12, 500 residents and businesses in the Town of Renfrew, the Townships of Admaston-Bromley, Horton, Greater Madawaska, McNab-Braeside and parts of Whitewater Region and Bonnechere Valley.

Parks and Recreation staff were asked to research eight to ten pools in similarly-sized communities, and pools built in the last decade. Memberships, public swimming attendance, lesson enrolments, and revenues and expenditures will be analysed. A tour of pool facilities will be based on the findings. Funding for an aquatic facility has been included in the 10-year capital forecast in 2023.

The expansion reflects a continuous process by the Town to plan, cost, and build affordable amenities that support healthy and active lifestyles and the local economy—residents, visitors and teams participating in programs, and attending sporting events, receptions, entertainment, and cultural and other special events. There are lots of returns on this worthwhile investment.

Budget—how your municipal taxes are spent

Going forward, the Town’s 2018 operational budget of $10.7 million provides $1.5 million for capital investments. The 2018 municipal tax increase which includes the needs of the County of Renfrew and school boards will be less than a quarter of one percent based on 2017 assessment or $3.29 per $100,000 in residential assessment. The Town is the bill collector for the County of Renfrew and your local school board and has no control over those costs.

Here comes summer… and with it tons of fun at RPL! You will find a mix of old and new this season. We believe some classics are worth holding on to, such as, the TD Summer Reading Program for children! Kids get to “Geek Out @ the Library!” by discovering and exploring their passions—in areas that already fascinate them, dabble in others for new inspiration, and discover how their passions have the potential to transform them, their friends, and their world! The “Kick-Off to the Geek Out” is Saturday, June 16 from 10 a.m.–noon, but children are welcome to join anytime throughout the summer. So “Geek Out” and come visit!

We will be celebrating Seniors’ Month in June with a local seniors’ art display definitely worth checking out! Canada Revenue Agency’s Nicole Cook discusses how to take advantage of valuable benefits and credits; Elder Abuse Ontario hosts an anti-scam workshop for seniors.

There are author readings, Make ‘n Take Craft Days, the Renfrew Reads Author Reveal and so much more. KnitWits continues for those loving and/or wanting to learn to knit, Tech Help will be increasing and expanding this summer, AND we’re hiring a summer student who will ensure the teens are not forgotten either!

Want more details? Subscribe to our newsletter, follow us on Facebook, check out our website or even better, stop by for a visit!
Mayor’s Message

Dear residents,

Downtown Renfrew is undergoing an impressive transformation—a major accomplishment in co-ordination and collaboration. We will do our best to limit inconveniences in the coming months. By year end, a much improved Highway 60 will wind its way through our vibrant and historical downtown.

Street features build on the sense of neighbourhood where people meet, shop, dine, choose a place to relax outdoors, or enjoy downtown activities—at Low Square. Accessibility features will help those with mobility issues navigate easier.

The proposed make over of the Post Office, one of our remarkable landmarks into a boutique hotel in which the interior is restored to reveal its historic beauty, will offer another great choice for visitors, tourists and staycationers alike! Businesses can join in the downtown remake by taking advantage of Community Improvement Program funding.

Like all other municipalities, our town depends on funding from provincial and federal governments to renew and construct infrastructure we use everyday—water and sewer pipes, roads and trails, public buildings, and vehicles and equipment needed by emergency and other vital services. Our staff works diligently to maximize funding from these agencies. The downtown reconstruction is a good example—we received funding to add to our contribution making this project possible. The proposed expansion of the Ma-te-way Activity Centre is another where funding is being sought.

It is not just where the money needs to be spent but where the money will come from to maintain safe and reliable infrastructure. That’s why Renfrew Council has adopted a new, longer fiscal horizon—a 10-year capital financial forecast. The forecast sets a path and implies commitment and goals. It will help us monitor changes in funding or priorities, the impact, and what we need to do to maintain a stable environment and tax base.

On another level, we welcome Ontario’s plan to fund the St. Joseph’s High School addition to alleviate overcrowding, and to replace St. Thomas Apostle Catholic Elementary School with a contemporary 21st-century learning space. Great learning environments are fundamental to our children’s future, and these projects are excellent signs of healthy growth in our community.

It can’t be all work and no play! Enjoy some great events starting with our wonderful Canada Day celebrations, Renfrew’s Bluegrass Festival, Sawtech Log & new Rural Expo, Renfrew’s Taste of the Valley, and Frewtober’s Craft Beer & Food Truck Festival.

And don’t forget Renfrew Downtown’s events every Saturday at Low Square running through to September 1!

Have a safe and happy summer!

Sincerely,

Mayor Don Eady