



Summer Newsletter 2025

Empowering Local Businesses

At Enterprise Renfrew County, we are dedicated to fostering growth and innovation within our community. Through tailored resources, expert guidance, and ongoing support, we empower local businesses to thrive and succeed. Stay tuned for updates on our upcoming workshops, events, and success stories as we continue to drive entrepreneurial development in Renfrew County.

Celebrating Success: Introducing the Spring Session Grant Recipients



With 20 dedicated entrepreneurs fast-tracking development of their business, marketing, and financial plans during the training, the following individuals earned grant awards totaling \$42,000:

- Daniel Stermac-Stein of [The Herd's Throne](#) (Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan)
- Elizabeth Lepine of [Valley Cap](#) (Township of Madawaska Valley)
- Davis Scheel of [Ottawa Valley Sharpening](#) (Town of Arnprior)
- Kayla Glenn of [pRAWper Pet Treats](#) (Town of Renfrew)
- Sheila O'Brien of [The Paint With Sheila School of Art](#) (City of Pembroke)
- Aaron DiLella of [Grown and Gathered](#) (Township of McNab/Braeside)
- Sigrid Geddes of [GGs Skincare](#) (Township of Killaloe, Hagarty and Richards)
- Kathryn Weatherbed of [Nomadic Smiles](#) (Town of Laurentian Hills)
- James Smith of [Bad Dog Bakery](#) (Town of Deep River)
- Jay Renaud of [Valley Friends](#) (Township of Whitewater Region)
- Emily Prospero of [Snark Coffee](#) (Township of McNab/Braeside)

"The Starter Company Plus program is an invaluable resource for small businesses in Renfrew County. Even though my business has been operational for several years, as an alumnus of the program I can confidently say that Starter Company Plus is not only useful for start-ups, but also small business veterans to help them fill gaps in business knowledge and refine business development and growth strategies. The coaching exceeded expectations,

and the program content not only provided expert guidance on critical business functions, but also opened up valuable networking opportunities."
Hani Morsi, Founder of Montu Canada.

Entrepreneurs interested in taking their business to the next level can now register for the Fall Starter Company Plus Information Sessions. One information session must be attended to receive an application form:
September 9th from 11am to 12pm or September 11th from 1pm to 2pm.

For more information and to register, visit: [Starter Company Plus | Enterprise Renfrew County](#)

Starter Company Plus Information Session Fall Intake

Information sessions will be held September 9th in the morning and 11th in the afternoon. Interested entrepreneurs must attend one information session to receive an application form. Click [here](#) to register for an information session. Generously sponsored by [Renfrew County Community Futures Development Corporation](#).

Business Training & Development



PROGRAM INFORMATION SESSIONS



Sept 9

11AM to 12PM



Sept 11

1PM to 2PM

For more information, visit:

www.EnterpriseRenfrewCounty.com/starter-company-plus



**Community Futures
Development Corporation**
Renfrew County

Ontario

Summer Company 2025

We are excited to introduce the talented young entrepreneurs participating in this year's Summer Company program. These seven ambitious individuals have embarked on diverse business ventures, showcasing their creativity and entrepreneurial spirit.

- Paige Hodgson of [Paiges Projex](#) (Town of Arnprior)
- Noah Obrien of [Wisdom By Words](#) (Township of Madawaska Valley)
- Minnah Rehan of [NoorHenna](#) (Town of Arnprior)
- Hunter Prince of [Moose 3D Designs](#) (Township of Horton)
- Jazmin Clark of [Sprout Wings](#) (City of Pembroke)
- Emmanuel Young of [Manny's Mowing](#) (Town of Arnprior)

- Nella Rosendic of [Nellart Commissions](#) (Township of Killaloe, Hagarty and Richards)

For more information about the program, visit: [Summer Company | Enterprise Renfrew County](#)

The poster for Summer Company 2025 features six student portraits arranged around the central title. The title 'Summer Company 2025' is in large green and blue letters. Below it is the Enterprise Renfrew County logo, which includes a stylized tree and the text 'ENTERPRISE RENFREW COUNTY' and 'ENTREPRISE COMTÉ DE RENFREW'. The sponsors listed are the Township of McNab/Braeside and Ontario.

Summer Company 2025

ENTERPRISE RENFREW COUNTY
ENTREPRISE COMTÉ DE RENFREW

Generously sponsored by:

TOWNSHIP OF McNab/Braeside
Where nature awaits.

Ontario

Nella Rosendic
Nellart Commissions

Paige Hodgson
Paiges Projex

Noah Obrien
Wisdom By Words

Emmanuel Young
Manny's Mowing

Minnah Rehan
NoorHenna

Jazmin Clark
Sprout Wings

Hunter Prince
Moose 3D Designs

Youth Entrepreneurship Takes the Spotlight at HerbFest

On Saturday, July 27, the beautiful Waba Cottage Museum & Gardens in White Lake (McNab/Braeside) was buzzing with energy as community members gathered for a special mid-season highlight at this year's HerbFest.

In partnership with the Township of McNab/Braeside, the event proudly showcased Summer Company students—a group of talented young entrepreneurs from across Renfrew County. Attendees had the chance to meet these inspiring youth, explore their innovative business ideas, and support their ventures.

It was a vibrant day filled with creativity, community spirit, and local flavour, all set against the picturesque backdrop of the Waba Gardens. Thank you to everyone who came out to celebrate and support the next generation of local business leaders! Be sure to keep an eye out for these thriving entrepreneurs at local markets across the County.

Upcoming Webinars



Small Business Month

An inspiring four-part event series is on the way — designed exclusively for local entrepreneurs and small business owners across the County. Get the latest information and stay up to date with registration information by visiting our [website](#).



BRIDGES TO BUSINESS GROWTH



LINKING PASSION, PURPOSE & PROFIT

To Register Visit: www.EnterpriseRenfrewCounty.com/workshops-events

**Join us for this dynamic four-part event series
held across Renfrew County in celebration
of Small Business Month!**

**Designed for entrepreneurs at every stage,
to gain practical learning, meaningful connections,
and actionable insights to help
grow your small business with confidence.**



Presented in Partnership with the [Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario \(FedDev Ontario\)](#)

**From Renfrew County Community
Futures Development Corporation
(RCCFDC):**



New Loan Program: CANtrade™ Now Available in Renfrew County

Renfrew County Community Futures Development Corporation is excited to announce the launch of **CANtrade™**, a new repayable loan program designed to help local businesses adapt to today's evolving trade landscape.

Whether you're shifting supply chains, growing inter-provincial trade, or expanding exports of locally made products, CANtrade™ offers flexible financing to support your next move.

Loan highlights: \$5,000 to \$150,000 Interest rates from prime to prime +2%
Interest-only payments for the first 6 months No prepayment penalties
Click the link to [Learn More & Apply](#)

For more information, please contact Cyndy Phillips, Executive Director for RCCFDC.



Available Funding Opportunities from the Ontario Government



Rural Ontario Development Program

The Rural Ontario Development (ROD) program replaces the Rural Economic Development (RED) program. The ROD program supports the objectives of Enabling Opportunity: Ontario's Rural Economic Development Strategy.

Deadline to Apply: Sept. 24, 2025, at 5 p.m

For more information, click [here](#).

Ontario Investing \$7.5 Million to Help Businesses Go Digital

The Ontario government is investing \$7.5 million to protect small and medium-sized businesses across the province, helping them modernize and grow by adopting digital technologies. The [Digitalization Competence Centre](#) (DCC) helps companies to transition and find made-in-Ontario digital solutions with expert guidance, training and up to \$115,000 in targeted grants. Funds are limited and will be applied on a first-come, first-served basis. To learn more and apply, click [here](#).

Stay up-to-date on what funding is currently available from the Government of Ontario, if you're eligible, and how to apply. For more information, click [here](#).

County of Renfrew Launches Regional Incentive Program- HYPE

The County of Renfrew is now accepting applications from local municipalities for its regional incentive program – HYPE (Helping Your Place Excel) – which provides matching grant funding – up to 50% – to stimulate private sector investment, attract and retain businesses, and improve business and community appeal.



Aligned with the County's strategic priorities, the HYPE Program drives economic development by offering financial incentives that support local municipal Community Improvement Plans (CIPs). The HYPE Program promotes and supports a wide range of economic goals, including affordable housing, tourism, business retention and expansion, and investment readiness. Eligible projects may include, but are not limited to, private sector investment, enhancing tourist accommodations, growing attainable and affordable housing, fostering agriculture development, revitalizing downtowns, expanding trail networks, improving accessibility and energy efficiency, and advancing projects with positive environmental impacts.

For more information visit: www.investrenfrewcounty.ca/HYPE



From the Upper Ottawa Valley Chamber of Commerce:



Business Excellence Awards

Presented annually by the Upper Ottawa Valley Chamber of Commerce, the [Business Excellence Awards](#) recognize and celebrate outstanding achievements and contributions in the region's business community, across a wide range of categories. The Lifetime Achievement Award is the highest honour, reserved for individuals whose work has left a lasting mark on the economic and civic life of the Ottawa Valley.

For more information on these events and to reserve your tickets, visit: <https://upperottawavalleychamber.com/2025-business-excellence-awards/> or contact the Upper Ottawa Valley Chamber of Commerce at 613-732-1492

From the Renfrew & Area Chamber of Commerce:



New to the Frew - Save the Date! New to the Frew Community Showcase is coming soon! Join us as we welcome new residents, businesses, and community members to Renfrew & the area in a fun and engaging way. If you would like to showcase your business or organization, contact the Chamber office and reserve your spot.

Join us on Wednesday September 17, 2025, from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm., at The myFM Centre. Come out to connect, learn more about what makes Renfrew and area special, and discover all the amazing local organizations, services, and businesses in our community.



NEW TO THE FREW

COMMUNITY SHOWCASE EVENING

6-8 pm

Wednesday, September 17, 2025

myFM Centre

1 Ma-te-Way Dr. Renfrew, ON

This event is open to everyone, whether you're new to the area or have been a long-time resident. It's a perfect opportunity to connect with local organizations, discover new services, and celebrate the unique spirit of our community!

Presented by:







NOMINATIONS ARE NOW OPEN FOR THE

Pinnacle Of Business Excellence Awards

The Pinnacle of Business Excellence Awards is a prestigious program that recognizes outstanding achievements and excellence in various business sectors. These awards celebrate organizations that have demonstrated exceptional performance, innovation, and leadership in their respective fields.

FOLLOW THE LINK TO NOMINATE NOW
Pinnacle of Business Excellence Awards Nomination Form

The awards ceremony will be held on Thursday, October 23, 2025
at the myFM Centre



PINNACLE OF BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARDS

- Business of the Year Award
- Breakout Business of the Year
- Lifetime Achievement Award
- Employee of the Year Award
- Youth Employee of the Year Award
- Young Entrepreneur of the Year
- Hospitality Award

Pinnacle of Business Excellence Awards - We are excited to announce that nominations are now open for all businesses in the [Township of Admaston/Bromley](#), [Township of Greater Madawaska](#), [Township of Horton](#) and the [Town of Renfrew](#). This is your chance to nominate a Business, Young Entrepreneur, Youth Employee, Breakout Business, Employee of the Year, Hospitality Award, and Lifetime Achievement of the Year. Submit your nominations here.
<https://renfrewareachamber.ca/pinnacle-of-business.../>

Questions? Contact Renfrew & Area Chamber of Commerce, info@renfrewareachamber.ca or call 613-432-4848 ext 181.





Check out our website:
www.TOTV.ca

EGANVILLE
SATURDAY, JULY 26
Eganville Arena | 178 Jane St
10 am to 3 pm

LAURENTIAN VALLEY
SATURDAY, AUGUST 23
Alice & Fraser Recreation Centre | 1 Henan Rd
10 am to 3 pm

CALABOGIE
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20
Calabogie Community Hall | 574 Mill St
10 am to 3 pm

COBDEN
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18
Cobden Fairgrounds | 43 Astrolabe Rd
10 am to 3 pm

PEMBROKE
HOLIDAY MARKET
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13
Knights Of Columbus Hall | 170 Ellis Ave
10 am to 3 pm



Promote your upcoming events at no cost on the OVTA [Events & Festivals calendar](#). They're actively driving traffic to their website through social media — so take advantage of the exposure and let them help spread the word about your event!

Volunteer Needed

The Lanark & Renfrew Immigrant Settlement Services (LRISS) Program is looking for passionate, caring volunteers to help welcome and support newcomers in Renfrew County. Whether you have a few hours a month or can help more regularly - we'd love to hear from you!



We need help with:

- Informal ESL Conversation Circles
- Client support and accompaniment to appointments
- Event assistance at cultural celebrations, potlucks, and workshops
- Administrative support for special projects
- Community outreach and information booth staffing



SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER TODAY!



More information :

settlement@lanarkcounty.ca
www.lanarkcounty.ca/living/immigrant-settlement-services/

Funded by:  Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada
Financé par :  Immigration, Réfugiés et Citoyenneté Canada

Stay in Touch

Starting or Growing a Business in Renfrew County?

Enterprise Renfrew County (ERC) is here to support you! Whether you're a new or existing entrepreneur, we offer free, confidential business coaching, monthly webinars, and training

programs to help you succeed. Network, learn, and grow with us!

Melissa Marquardt

Manager of Enterprise Renfrew County

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Hillary Panke

Acting Small Business Advisor/ Program Coordinator

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Heather Inwood-Montrose

Small Business Advisor

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Enterprise Renfrew County acknowledges that the land of which we are situated is the traditional, unceded, and unsundered territory of the Algonquin and Anishnabek people covered by the Upper Canada Treaties. We also recognize the enduring presence of all First Nation, Métis, and Inuit peoples on the land on which we gather. We are grateful to be present in this territory today, and we honour the reconciliation process by bringing the 7 grandfather teachings of love, respect, bravery, truth, honesty, humility, and wisdom into our offerings and daily lives. Meegwetch.

Enterprise Renfrew County | 9 International Drive | Pembroke, ON K8A6W5 CA

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