



ENTERPRISE RENFREW COUNTY
ENTREPRISE COMTÉ DE RENFREW



HAPPY NEW YEAR

Reflecting on 2024...

As we kick off a new year, we're thrilled to reflect on our 2024 accomplishments and look ahead to what's in store. From empowering entrepreneurs through our Starter Company Plus and Summer Company programs to a successful Small Business Month in collaboration with partners and sponsors, we're proud of the progress local business owners have made with ERC's support. In this edition, we'll highlight recent program successes, offer some helpful business tips, and share exciting upcoming events!

Small Business Spotlights

Devine Philautia Crystals

Ottawa Valley AIR PADDLE

FRESH START BY DEIDRE cleaning service

ENTERPRISE RENFREW COUNTY
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LAURA ASHLEY
MEDICAL AESTHETICS

BE EMPOWERED

HANDMADE
HERBOLOGY

Ottawa Valley Wellness

CORVUS FINANCIAL
CONSULTING INC.

BSURE

Ontario

Starter Company Plus Fall Cohort 2024

The Starter Company Plus program provides entrepreneurs with mentoring and training over three months supporting business plan and cash flow projection development. At the end of the program there is an opportunity for participants to compete, by pitching their business plan, for a grant of up to \$5,000 to be applied to their business operations.

With 13 dedicated entrepreneurs fast-tracking development of their business, marketing, and financial plans during the training, Enterprise Renfrew County is excited to announce the following individuals successfully earned grant awards totalling \$38,000:

- Tyler Cormack of [BSure Home Services](#) located in the City of Pembroke
- Patricia Daly of [Devine Philautia Crystals](#) located in the Township of Whitewater Region
- Jennifer Daniels of [Corvus Financial Consulting Inc.](#) located in Renfrew
- Scott Fawcett of [Ottawa Valley Air Paddle](#) located in Arnprior

- Jessica Gibson of [Handmade Herbology](#) located in the Township of Killaloe, Hagarty, & Richards
- Samantha MacFarlane of [Ottawa Valley Wellness](#) located in the Township of Whitewater Region
- Laura McKay of [Laura Ashley Medical Aesthetics](#) located in Deep River
- Deidre Myler of [Fresh Start by Deidre](#) located in Petawawa
- Tammara Smith of [Be Empowered](#) located in the City of Pembroke.



Katie White
Unicorn Kitty Balloons



Kyle Radford
Ottawa Valley Grill Doctor



Haley Vanderzwaag
BlueBird Company



Scarlytte Merrill
**"I've Got Your Back"
Babysitting Services**



Cayden McKinnon
On-The-Go Car Care



Isa Jilani O'Brien
SportsHub



Ki Myra
Ki's Creations



Summer Company 2024

This year's Summer Company Program, running from June to September, was a tremendous success! We're excited to announce that seven high school students from across the County launched their own businesses over the summer. Congratulations to these talented young entrepreneurs on their impressive achievements and the exciting journeys ahead!

Congratulations to:

- Katie White of [Unicorn Kitty Balloons](#) from McNab Braeside
- Kyle Radford of [Ottawa Valley Grill Doctor](#) from Eganville/Petawawa
- Haley Vanderzwaag of [BlueBird Company](#) from Westmeath
- Cayden McKinnon of [On-The-Go Car Care](#) from Renfrew
- Ki Myra of [Ki's Creations](#) from Pembroke
- Isa Jilani O'Brien of [SportsHub](#) from Barry's Bay

- Scarlytte Merrill of "I've Got Your Back" Babysitting Services from Deep River.

Small Business Month 2025 - Thank you to Our Partners and Sponsors !

A special thank-you to our partners – the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario (FedDev Ontario), Renfrew County Community Futures Development Corporation, and our municipal sponsors including City of Pembroke, Town of Petawawa, Townships of Laurentian Valley, Whitewater Region, Madawaska Valley, Greater Madawaska, and the Town of Arnprior. Your support makes it possible for us to provide valuable resources, events, and training for our entrepreneurs across Renfrew County.



**Township of Greater Madawaska
& Town of Arnprior**



Township of Madawaska Valley



Township of Whitewater Region



**Town of Petawawa, City of
Pembroke, and Township of
Laurentian Valley**

Sponsorship Opportunities!

Ready to bring a small business month event to your municipality in 2025?

Sponsorship maximizes municipal and partner visibility on social media, email lists, radio, print, and web. Sponsorship highlights your commitment to small business growth by supporting networking and learning events across the Renfrew County region not only for small business month but throughout the year based on level of sponsorship!

To view 2025 sponsors and access the information package, Visit:
[About | Enterprise Renfrew County](#)



Mark Your Calendars: Upcoming Events Just Around the Corner!



ENTERPRISE RENFREW COUNTY
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Community Futures
Development Corporation
Renfrew County

Women's Circle Program Series



Accessing PARO Grants: Jan 15

Forming a Circle: Jan 22

Networking Circle Formation: Feb 19

Free Webinars: 11:00am to 11:30am

Register: www.EnterpriseRenfrewCounty.com



Renfrew



Pembroke

Ontario



More Upcoming Webinars & Events

[January 16 - Succession Planning with BizBridge](#)

[January 21 - Découvrez les services d'appui aux entrepreneur-e-s francophones de la FGA](#)

[January 30 - Tax Essentials with Sequin Financial, Sole Proprietor Tax Essentials](#)

[February 26 - Visit us at the Ontrac Job Fair in Renfrew](#)

[February 27 - T2 Tax Insights: Guide for Corporations with the Canadian Revenue Agency \(CRA\)](#)

[March 4th - Déjeuner de réseautage des entreprises francophones / Francophone Business Networking Breakfast](#)

For more information and to register for a webinar, visit:
<https://www.enterpriserenfrewcounty.com/workshops-events>

Do you know a Francophone Entrepreneur who is dedicated to contributing to their community?

Nominate them for the 2025 Francophone Entrepreneur Award!

Award will be presented at the networking breakfast March 4. Deadline to nominate is February 16 at midnight.

Program Intake Dates

**Starter Company Plus Information Sessions scheduled for:
April 1st (11am - 12pm) & April 3rd (1-2 pm). (Training starts May 1st)**

We are excited to launch another session of our signature fast-track business development and grant competition program! To apply for Starter Company Plus training, attending an information session is required. Stay updated and receive invites to upcoming sessions by joining our contact list.

For program guidelines, eligibility requirements, and to join the contact list visit [Starter Company Plus | Enterprise Renfrew County](#).

Summer Company 2025

Do you know a student aged 15 to 29 returning to school in September 2025? Do they dream of running their own business? If so, the Summer Company program could be the perfect opportunity!

This program offers valuable business training, mentorship, and a \$1,500 grant to help cover startup costs. Successfully complete the program and students could receive an additional award of up to \$1,500!

Visit [Summer Company | Enterprise Renfrew County](#) to learn more and join the contact list to be notified when applications are open.

Exciting updates from our partners...



Ottawa Valley Tourist Association

Join the OVTA and become a member of a not-for-profit organization dedicated to promoting the Ottawa Valley as a top tourism destination. Membership is free for businesses within Renfrew County, the City of Pembroke, and Indigenous-owned businesses throughout the Ottawa Valley, while businesses outside these areas pay annual fees.

We promote the Ottawa Valley as a place to stay, play and eat highlighting the amazing experiences and hospitality folks can enjoy in our rural destination. If you think you would be a good fit, please visit our [website](#).



Renfrew County **CFDC**

Renfrew County Community Futures Development Corporation

Announcing the Renfrew County Community Development Fund!
The Renfrew County Community Development Fund provides non-repayable funding to support community economic development projects up to 50% of eligible project costs to a maximum of \$5,000. The grant supports projects that:

- address strategic economic development priorities;
- support the business community;
- have a significant, measurable impact;
- demonstrate collaboration with community economic development partners;
- support community capacity for economic development.

To learn more and apply, go to <https://rccfdc.org/financing-funding/> or contact info@rccfdc.org

Funded by the Government of Canada through the [Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario](#) (FedDev Ontario).



UPPER OTTAWA VALLEY
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Upper Ottawa Valley Chamber of Commerce

It's time to pause, pamper yourself, and reignite your passion! Join us for a transformative **Weekend Retreat for the Busy Businesswoman on February 8th and 9th at Spectacle Lake Lodge in Barry's Bay.**

Relax with self-care treatments, reconnect with your well-being through wellness activities, build meaningful connections, and reignite your drive with inspiring workshops. Take a weekend to focus on YOU—because self-care fuels success!

Limited spots available—secure yours today!

<https://upperottawavalleychamber.com/events/#id=212&cid=1836&wid=301>

Join us this **International Women's Day** to honour the achievements of Renfrew County's trailblazing women in business.

When: Friday, March 7th, 11:30 AM

Where: The Butcher's Wife, Pembroke

Enjoy a custom lunch menu, inspiring stories, and networking opportunities. Let's celebrate the women shaping the future of our community!

To register, visit:

<https://upperottawavalleychamber.com/events/#id=210&cid=1836&wid=301>



Renfrew & Area Chamber of Commerce

Call for Directors: Join Our Board of Directors!

The Renfrew & Area Chamber of Commerce is seeking dynamic and dedicated individuals to join our Board of Directors. Help us lead the way to a better future, shape the success of our business community, and redefine the way we do business. Make a real impact in your community by driving meaningful change and supporting local businesses!

The Renfrew & Area Chamber of Commerce is proud to be "*The Voice of Business*," working together to foster a thriving local economy. This is your chance to influence the future of our Chamber and champion the growth of our business community. Collectively, we can make a difference!

We're looking for leaders who are passionate about fostering growth, innovation, and collaboration. As a board member, you'll guide our strategic direction, contribute your expertise, and represent the diverse voices of our membership.

How to Apply

This opportunity is open to all current Renfrew & Area Chamber of Commerce

members. To apply, contact the Chamber office at 613-432-4848 ext. 181 or email info@renfrewareachamber.ca. The deadline for applications is February 21, 2025.

Meeting Details

- Board meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at 8:00 a.m.
- Attend in person at the Town of Renfrew Upstairs Boardroom or via Zoom.



Local Immigration Partnership
Partenariat local pour l'immigration
LANARK & RENFREW

The Local Immigration Partnership (LIP) – Lanark & Renfrew is a government-funded program through IRCC aimed at creating welcoming communities for newcomers. LIP offers free workshops, activities, and events, with major celebrations in June and October during Culture Connect. In 2025, we look forward to expanding our in-person learning opportunities and connecting with more people and organizations across the Ottawa Valley. If you're an organization looking to partner, or a newcomer in need of support, we're here to help!
Reach out at: localimmigrationpartnership@algonquincollege.com.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our valued partners for their dedication to driving economic growth in Renfrew County. Together, we're making a lasting impact on our community's prosperity. Thank you for your unwavering support and collaboration!

As we step into the new year, we're thrilled to unveil our plans for 2025. Stay tuned for exciting updates!



ENTERPRISE RENFREW COUNTY
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Office Locations:
9 International Drive,
Pembroke, ON K8A6W5
&
127 Raglan Street South,
Renfrew, ON K7V1P8

www.EnterpriseRenfrewCounty.com



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

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