

**TOWNSHIP OF ESSA  
CONSENT AGENDA  
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2024**

**A – ITEMS RECEIVED AS INFORMATION**

- p. 1 1. Essa Public Library September 2024 Report.
- p. 3 2. Email from the Thornton Firefighters Association dated August 29, 2024, re: Community Donation.
- p.5 3. Nottawasaga Futures Newsletter.
- p. 14 4. Correspondence from the Townships of Nairn and Hyman, and Baldwin dated October 11, 2024, re: Opposition to the Transportation and Deposition of Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material (NORM) and Mine Tailings from the former Beaucage Mine and Waste Site.
- p. 17 5. Correspondence from Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit dated October 18, 2024, re: New Organizational Structure, January 1, 2025.
- p. 21 6. Correspondence from the Ministry of Transportation dated October 15, 2024, re: Ontario Fighting Gridlock and Making Life Easier for Drivers.
- p. 23 7. Correspondence from Matthews House Hospice dated October 21, 2024, re: Letter of Thanks.
- p. 24 8. Email from Mayor Tom Mraka, Town of Aurora dated October 29, 2024, re: Fair Share of Provincial and Federal Government Financial Support Motion.
- p. 26 9. Correspondence from the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA) re: September 2024 Board Meeting Highlights.
- p. 28 10. Correspondence from AMO:  
a) October 21, 2024 – Policy Update – Advocacy on Transportation, Energy and Housing Policy.
- p. 31 b) Correspondence – Policy Update – Province to Introduce Legislation Governing Bicycle Lanes.
- p. 33 c) October 28, 2024 – Policy Update – Advancing Housing Initiatives, Ontario's Affordable Energy Future and Sustainable OPP Costs.
- p. 36 11. Correspondence from the County of Simcoe:  
a) October 18, 2024 – Advisory – Help Shape the County's New Positive Aging Strategy.
- p. 37 b) October 21, 2024 – Release – County Invests in Regional Hospice and Palliative Care Services.
- p. 39 c) October 11, 2024 – Council Meeting Highlights.
- p. 48 d) October 22, 2024 – Release – Basil Clarke Acclaimed as County of Simcoe Warden for a Second Term.
- p. 49 e) October 23, 2024 – Joint Release – County Aims to Build Up Local Support System for Mental Health and Addictions in Region.
- p. 52 f) October 23, 2024 – Correspondence – Notification of Essa Bursary Recipient.

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- p. 53           g) October 30, 2024 – Advisory – County of Simcoe Celebrates 12<sup>th</sup> Annual  
                  Newcomer Recognition Awards.
- p. 54           h) October 21, 2024 – Release – Council Meeting Highlights.

**B – ITEMS RECEIVED AND REFERRED TO SERVICE AREA FOR ACTION**

None

**C – ITEMS RECEIVED AND REFERRED TO SERVICE AREA FOR REVIEW AND  
REPORT TO COUNCIL**

None.



# Essa Public Library

## September 2024 Report

Prepared by: Emily Nakeff



New members celebrate their first library cards.

### New Memberships

Angus	117
Thornton	5
Year-to-date total	918
<hr/>	
(September 2023)	173)

#### MATERIALS CIRCULATED

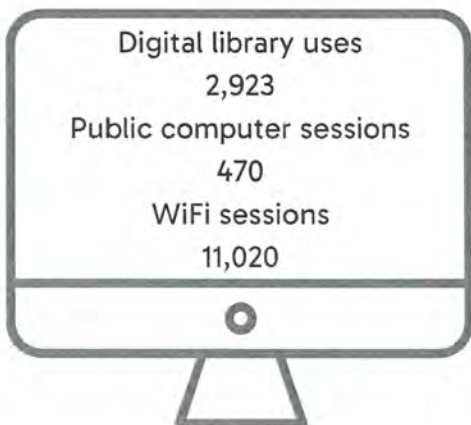
ANGUS	THORNTON
<b>9,464</b>	<b>1,244</b>
57,442 TOTAL IN 2024	

#### MATERIALS USED IN HOUSE

ANGUS	THORNTON
<b>519</b>	<b>61</b>
3,480 TOTAL IN 2024	

#### INTERLIBRARY LOANS

<b>56</b>	Items borrowed from other libraries
<b>53</b>	Items sent to other libraries

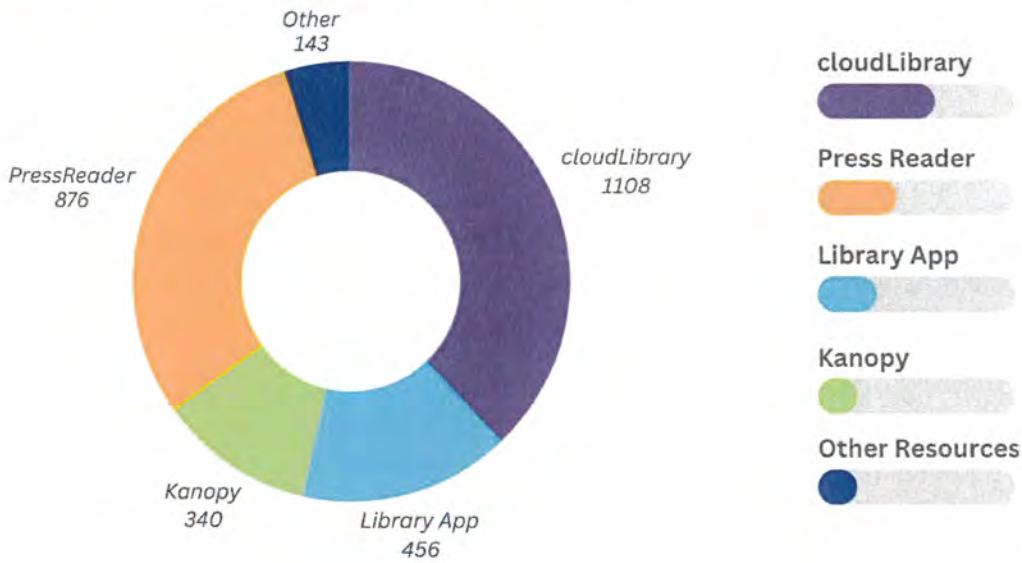


Digital library uses  
2,923  
Public computer sessions  
470  
WiFi sessions  
11,020

“ The library is just so cool! Our house is small, so there's just not enough space to have all these things. But this way, we still get to try them out!”

- Patron comment

# DIGITAL LIBRARY USES



## KIDS

Family Play Zone - AN	81
Let's Learn Spanish	20
Wiggles and Giggles - AN	89
Search & Find- AN	37
PA DAY Crafts -TH	17
Search & Find - TH	17
Growing Together Storytime - AN	1
Songs & Stories - AN	15
Borden BLast Outreach	400

## ADULTS

Cercle de Conversation	16
Hobby Circle - AN	15
Writers Group - AN	2
Movie Night for Adults - AN	11
Angus Book Clubs - AN	21
Thornton Book Club	9
Simcoe Reads Authors Talks	5
Moondance Fall Market	97
Allyship and Confronting Unconscious Bias	3

## SENIORS

Seniors Social - AN	48
Seniors Social - TH	29
Chair Yoga - AN	29
Chair Yoga - TH	17
Grande Parade in Alliston	50



YouTube - Total Subscribers	885
YouTube - Views	6115
Facebook - Total Followers	1800
Instagram - Total Followers	863

“ I feel like we hit the jackpot here today.

- Patron comment

**Sarah Corbett**

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**Subject:** FW: Council Resolution for Thornton Firefighters Association - Community Donation

**From:** Chris Gillard <[cgillard@gmail.com](mailto:cgillard@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** August 29, 2024 4:33 PM  
**To:** Chris Rankin <[crankin@essatownship.on.ca](mailto:crankin@essatownship.on.ca)>  
**Subject:** Thornton Firefighters Association - Community Donation

You don't often get email from [cgillard@gmail.com](mailto:cgillard@gmail.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

Afternoon Chris,

Hope all is well! First and foremost, my name is Chris Gillard, I am the Treasurer of the Thornton Firefighters Association (also a Parks & Rec Manager with the City of Barrie) and I'm writing you today on behalf of the TFFA board. One disclaimer I must start off with, the financial contributions suggested below are just for discussion purposes and are not firm commitments. Donations of any kind require a vote to be passed by The Association and ratified by our Board of Directors.

The Thornton Firefighters Association is looking to do something special for the community insofar as a donation of equipment to our local parks. Something that is both visible and unique. As a result, I have two requests for consideration (one of which may very well need to be taken to council).

These are both preliminary requests. If they need to be made more formal, we are willing to take the time to do so. Essa council is already well familiar with the work the TFFA does and has always been very supportive of our community events like our Christmas/Holiday parade. Likewise, we have supported Essa events in-kind, like retirement parties etc. Hoping we can continue to develop this relationship for the betterment of the Essa, specifically, the Thornton/Baxter/Ivy community.

#### Request 1: Custom Bench Donation

As I understand it, there is a Commemorative Bench Program (that unfortunately closes at the end of this month). We would like to make a significant contribution to this program (roughly 6-12 benches). Due to the higher quantity and the importance the volunteer firefighters play in the Essa community, we were wondering if any further customization of the benches could occur, beyond just the inscription. The disclaimer on the application says "*The bench will be of the same selection as all Township benches*", which we are fine with, but perhaps we could discuss or look into some custom finishes, logos, or art/metalwork with the TFFA logo on it.

#### Request 2: TFFA Splash Pad or Park Feature

Being only somewhat familiar with parks and water feature installations, I am not in the best position to guesstimate the cost of a water feature at the next splash pad in Station 1's response area. But we were looking at either donating somewhere in the neighbourhood of \$20k for a piece of equipment and some signage that indicates the park/equipment is sponsored or donated by the TFFA. Depending on what value we could get for our donation, we would also consider going to council and request that the Township match the donation for an even more meaningful contribution. I am of the understanding that the next big splash pad project is being planned for the new residential area in Baxter, entirely funded by DCs. Piggybacking with a project that's already in the works might be a good way to upgrade the planned amenities for a future park without incurring additional cost to the municipality/tax payer and the mutual added benefit of The Association not having to completely fund the installation and planning costs for something net-new. I do believe upgrading the existing splash pad near the Thornton arena would be probably be more costly to explore. But again, if the municipality already has planned capital work to repair/replace some of those

AZ

amenities, it might be an opportunity to upgrade or make improvements that were otherwise scrapped or not considered due to financial constraints.

As far as equipment goes, we would work with your team and take recommendations from you, but we would be looking towards something fire themed like a hydrant, a truck with a nozzle, or a water tower with the TFFA logo on it, that is the kind of creative community impact we are looking for (see concept below).



Would love to know how we can move forward, what is required, what next steps might look like, and open that dialogue. Alternatively, if you have any other suggestions for where a donation could be put to best use and make a significant contribution to our community, we would be happy to entertain those ideas as well and take them back to the Board for consideration.

I can be reached at 416-274-6494, happy to take a call any time or setup a meeting to discuss further.

Thanks for your time and consideration,

Chris Gillard  
416-274-6494  
Treasurer  
Thornton Firefighters Association

[EXTERNAL]



**Nottawasaga Futures is a community  
economic development agency serving the  
South Simcoe Area.**

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# Business Catalyst Centre Workshops

attendees to bring a non-perishable food item for donation to the food bank.

## Mastering Business Insurance

November 12, 2024 - Time 6pm - 7:30 pm

Join Heather Hill for an informative session on business insurance, tailored to help entrepreneurs understand the various types of coverage available.



## Winning Marketing Strategies for Impact

December 5, 2024 - Time 6pm - 7:30 pm

The team from Addictive Design will lead a dynamic workshop on marketing strategies for small businesses.



## Financial Savvy and Business Systems for Entrepreneurs

January 21, 2025 - Time 6pm - 7:30 pm

Paul Oehm will provide a comprehensive session on business financial literacy and systems management.



Workshops will be held at the Community Hub at 177 Church St, Bradford, ON L3Z 2A9



Nottawasaga Futures



This project is funded in part by the Ontario government through the Rural Economic Development Program

Nottawasaga Futures is partnering with the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury to launch a free workshop series for small businesses!

### Upcoming Workshops:

- Mastering Business Insurance: November 12 | 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM
- Winning Marketing Strategies for Impact: December 5 | 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM
- Financial Savvy and Business Systems for Entrepreneurs: January 21 | 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

For more information and to register, visit: <https://www.gotobwg.ca/bcc>.

This project is funded in part by the Ontario government through the Rural Economic Development Program.



South Simcoe Business Week 2024 was a great success!

Knowledgeable and relevant speakers and the opportunity to connect and network with other small businesses and service providers.

Thank you to our partners: Township of Adjala-Tosorontio, Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury, The Business Development Bank of Canada, Township of Essa, Town of Innisfil, Town of New Tecumseth and the County of Simcoe,

As part of our efforts to give back, we asked our attendees to bring non-perishable food items for donation to our local food banks. As a result, we were able to donate over 200 lbs of food and a cash donation. Thank you for your generosity!

**SIMCOE COUNTY**  
**Manufacturers**  
**FORUM**

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2024** **7:30AM-1PM**

Presented by:



Economic  
Development  
Office



In partnership with:




Exciting news! Registration is officially OPEN for the 2024  
Manufacturer's Forum!  
Join us on November 5 at the Nottawasaga Inn for a morning filled with  
learning, sharing, and exploring how to become a manufacturing  
employer of choice.

- Don't miss this excellent opportunity to:
- discuss the future of the industry.
  - Gain insights from industry leaders and experts.
  - Network with like-minded professionals.
  - Discover innovative solutions!

Hurry and secure your spot! Visit <https://offers.emccanada.org/mfg-forum-simcoe> to learn more and register now.

Let's shape the future of manufacturing together! See you at the forum!



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For more information on NT Temps click here [www.nttemps.com](http://www.nttemps.com).

## Don't Be Afraid of Government Contracts: Unlock the Secrets to Selling!

By Procurement Assistance Canada  
and Merx by SOVRA

Join our webinar

Tuesday,  
October 29<sup>th</sup>

12 PM ET

Did you know that Canadian governments purchase billions in goods and services every year, with many contracts awarded to small businesses?

Join the webinar, hosted by Procurement Assistance Canada and Merx, to learn:

- What the government buys
- Who they buy from
- How the procurement process works
- Where to find free resources and support

**[Register now to save your seat!](#)**

# INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY MICRO-GRANT PROGRAM

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[www.linktr.ee/hbec.ip](http://www.linktr.ee/hbec.ip)

 **Georgian** | Henry Bernick  
Entrepreneurship Centre

Do you need assistance to develop, protect, or commercialize your intellectual property?

The Henry Bernick Entrepreneurship Centre at Georgian College has launched the Intellectual Property Micro-Grant Program!

If you qualify, you may receive up to CA\$5,000 to cover essential intellectual property-related costs.

More info: <https://ugc.production.linktr.ee/a73255b7-98f3-4536-85e8...>

To Apply :

<https://airtable.com/appTPcrjnowg8.../pagXv9wogJhTrsRbz/form>

*Funding opportunity:*

## **IEDF Grant**

**The Indigenous Economic Development Fund (IEDF) provides grants and financing to Indigenous entrepreneurs, businesses, communities and organizations.**



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**Ontario** 

*Learn More* →

The Indigenous Economic Development Fund (IEDF) provides grants and financing to Indigenous entrepreneurs, businesses, communities and organizations. The fund helps promote economic development and improve employment opportunities for Indigenous people.

The fund supports projects that:

- diversify Indigenous economies
- increase access to employment and training opportunities
- provide start-up and expansion financing for small and medium-sized businesses
- support financing, skills training and other economic development initiatives through collaboration between Indigenous communities and the private sector

The closing date for applications is November 14, 2024. For more information, please visit: <https://ow.ly/PLTb50TOJka>

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October 11, 2024

Sent via email: [premier@ontario.ca](mailto:premier@ontario.ca)

The Honourable Doug Ford  
Premier of Ontario  
Premier's Office, Room 281  
Legislative Building, Queen's Park  
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

**RE: Opposition to the Transportation and Deposition of Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material (NORM) and Mine Tailings from the Former Beaucage Mine and Waste Site**

On behalf of the Councils of the Corporation of the Township of Nairn and Hyman and the Corporation of the Township of Baldwin, we are formally submitting the attached joint resolution regarding our serious concerns over the proposed transportation and deposition of radioactive naturally occurring materials (NORM) to the Agnew Lake Tailings Management Area (ALTMA).

Our Councils recently convened a Joint Emergency Meeting on October 2, 2024, to discuss this matter in response to information presented at a Town Hall Meeting on September 11, 2024, by the Ministry of Mines, the Ministry of Transportation, and the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission. During our deliberations, it became evident that the materials slated for transport are not correctly categorized as NORM, but rather as mine tailings containing not only radioactive substances like niobium and uranium but also other hazardous heavy metals.

We are gravely concerned about the potential environmental and health impacts this project may have, particularly on Agnew Lake—a critical drinking water source for our communities. Our position is that ALTMA should be remediated using clean materials to mitigate existing contamination rather than accepting additional hazardous materials that could exacerbate environmental harm.

This joint resolution calls upon your government and relevant ministries to halt any further actions related to the transportation of this hazardous product to the ALTMA site. The resolution reads as follows:

**RESOLUTION # 2024-EM2-12**  
**DATED:** October 2, 2024  
**MOVED BY:** Vern Gorham  
**SECONDED BY:** Jason Cote

**WHEREAS** the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Nairn and Hyman and the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Baldwin convened a Joint Emergency Meeting on Wednesday, October 2, 2024 to discuss the proposed plan to transport and deposit radioactive naturally occurring materials (NORM) at the Agnew Lake Tailings Management Area (ALTMA); and

**WHEREAS** the Councils reviewed information received from the Ministry of Mines, the Ministry of Transportation and the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission regarding this proposed plan at the Town Hall Meeting dated September 11, 2024; and

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**WHEREAS** the Councils strongly agree that the materials that are planned to be deposited are not correctly defined as naturally occurring radioactive materials but rather mine tailings that contain not only the radioactive substance Niobium and uranium but also contain heavy metals that pose significant environmental and health risks; and

**WHEREAS** there are significant concerns regarding the potential contamination of drinking water sources, particularly Agnew Lake, which many residents rely on for safe drinking water; and

**WHEREAS** the Councils agree that the Agnew Lake Tailings Management Area (ALTMA) needs to be remediated using clean materials to mitigate the existing environmental impacts, rather than being used for the deposition of additional hazardous materials; and

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Nairn and Hyman and the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Baldwin formally oppose the transportation and deposition of these materials from the former Beaucage Mine and Waste Site, Nipissing First Nations lands and adjacent lands operated by the Ministry of Transportation to the Agnew Lake Tailings Management Area; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Nairn and Hyman and the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Baldwin respectfully demand that the Province of Ontario, the Ministry of Mines, the Ministry of Transportation, the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission provide answers to our questions and that the municipalities receive notification of all forward movements of this project; and


**THAT** a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario; the Honourable George Pirie, the Minister of Mines; the Honourable Prabmeet Sarkaria, the Minister of Transportation; the Honourable Andrea Khanjin, the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks; Chief Toulouse and Sagamok Anishnawbek Council Members; Chief Nootchtai and Atikameksheng Anishnawbek Council Members; Chief Rodney Nahwegahbow and the Whitefish River First Nation Council Members; Chief Patsy Corbiere and the Aundeck Omni Kaning First Nation Council Members; the United Chiefs and Council of Mnidoo Mnising; Ontario Ombudsman; the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission; the Canadian Environmental Law Association; MP Carol Hughes; MPP Michael Mantha; the Association of Ontario Municipalities and all Ontario Municipalities.

**CARRIED**

We respectfully request your immediate attention to this matter and urge the Province of Ontario to prioritize the protection of our community's health, safety, and environmental integrity.

For more information regarding this matter, please contact our municipal office by email at [belindaketchabaw@nairncentre.ca](mailto:belindaketchabaw@nairncentre.ca) or by phone at (705) 869-4232.

Yours truly,



Belinda Ketchabaw  
CAO Clerk Treasurer  
Township of Nairn and Hyman

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Cc:  
Honourable George Pirie, the Minister of Mines  
Honourable Prabmeet Sarkaria, the Minister of Transportation  
Honourable Andrea Khanjin, the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks  
Chief Toulouse and the Sagamok Anishnawbek Council Members  
Chief Nootchtai and the Atikameksheng Anishnawbek Council Members

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Chief Rodney Nahwegahbow and the Whitefish River First Nation Council Members  
Chief Patsy Corbiere and the Aundeck Omni Kaning First Nation Council Members  
The United Chiefs and Council of Mniidoo Mnising  
Ontario Ombudsman  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Canadian Environmental Law Association  
MP Carol Hughes  
MPP Michael Mantha  
Association of Ontario Municipalities  
All Ontario Municipalities

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October 18, 2024

To The Partner Agencies for the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit,

**Re: New Organizational Structure, January 1, 2025**

In order to address critical program pressures, increasingly constrained human resources, and upcoming revisions to the Ontario Public Health Standards (OPHS), the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) Board of Health has approved changes to the SMDHU's organizational structure. Attached you will find a copy of the organizational chart, which will take effect on January 1, 2025.

These changes are necessary to strengthen our capacity in infectious disease and immunization programming, while managing within increasingly limited financial and human resources. To achieve this, personnel from various departments will be assigned to these programs. Additional adjustments will be made to align with expected revisions to the Ontario Public Health Standards that guide our work, and to make optimal use of our resources and leadership.

At the executive leadership level, I would draw your attention to the following changes:

- First, I wish to acknowledge Bruce Parker's decade of dedication and leadership as Vice President of Human Resources and Infrastructure, who retired as of September 2024.
- On January 1, 2025, Karen Ellis-Scharfenberg will commence the role of Vice President of Corporate Services with the merging of the Program Foundations and Finance Department (of which she is presently Vice President) and the Human Resources and Infrastructure Department, while also continuing as the Chief Financial Officer and Privacy Officer.
- Associate Medical Officer of Health (AMOH), Dr. Lisa Simon will commence executive leadership of *Health Equity, Population Health Assessment and Communications* programming within the Office of the Medical Officer of Health, while also continuing with her current AMOH role.
- Vice President of Clinical Services, Natalie Riewe will commence the role of Chief Nursing Officer, while also continuing in her current role.

The following executive leadership members will continue in their present respective roles:

- Carolyn Shoreman, Vice President of Community and Family Health
- Dr. Steven Rebellato, Vice President of Environmental Health
- Dr. Colin Lee, Associate Medical Officer of Health
- Dr. Charles Gardner, Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer

AS

Although our organizational changes will formally take place on January 1, 2025 the transition of staff, and the planning and implementation of program changes will continue throughout 2025. During this period, agency leadership and staff will communicate with our partner agencies to provide details of the changes, ensuring we maintain positive relationships with our partners, clients and the communities that we serve.

We wish to thank and acknowledge our partner agencies whose work and mandates make possible the achievement of our mission; *With our communities, we prevent disease and injury, and promote and protect health for all in Simcoe Muskoka.* During this time of transition, we ask for your patience and support as we restructure, positioning for our sustainability and effectiveness going forward.

Sincerely,

**ORIGINAL Signed By:**

Dr. Charles Gardner, MD, CCFP, MHSc, FRCPC  
Medical Officer of Health

**ORIGINAL Signed By:**

Ann-Marie Kungl  
Chair of the Board of Health for SMDHU

CG:AMK:mn

Enc. (1)

c: Board of Health, Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

☐ **Barrie:**  
15 Sperling Dr.  
P: 705-721-7520  
F: 705-721-1495

☐ **Barrie Clinic:**  
403-80 Bradford St.  
P: 705-721-7520  
F: 705-721-7848

☐ **Collingwood**  
280 Pretty River Pkwy.  
P: 705-445-0804  
F: 705-445-6498

☐ **Cookstown**  
2-25 King St. South  
P: 705-458-1103  
F: 705-458-0105

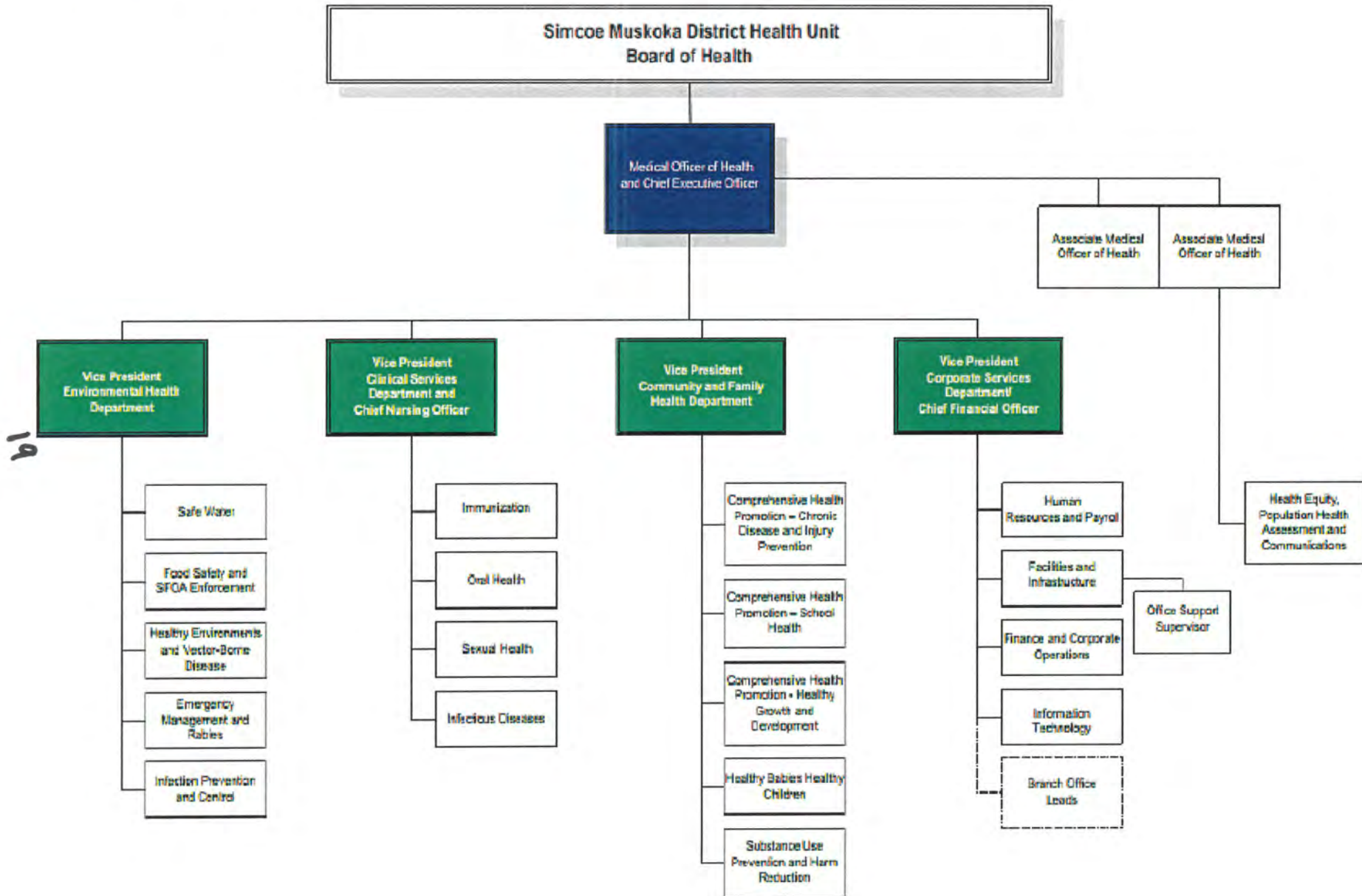
☐ **Gravenhurst**  
2-5 Plineridge Gate  
P: 705-684-0090  
F: 705-684-9887

☐ **Huntsville**  
34 Chaffey St.  
P: 705-789-8813  
F: 705-789-7245

☐ **Midland**  
A-925 Hugel Ave  
P: 705-526-9324  
F: 705-526-1513

☐ **Orillia**  
120-169 Front St. S.  
P: 705-325-9565  
F: 705-325-2091

January 1, 2025 Agency Organizational Chart



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**Sarah Corbett**

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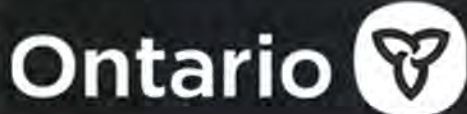
**Subject:** FW: Ontario Fighting Gridlock and Making Life Easier for Drivers

**From:** Ontario News <[newsroom@ontario.ca](mailto:newsroom@ontario.ca)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 15, 2024 9:51 AM

**To:** Lisa Lehr <[llehr@essatownship.on.ca](mailto:llehr@essatownship.on.ca)>

**Subject:** Ontario Fighting Gridlock and Making Life Easier for Drivers



## NEWS RELEASE

# Ontario Fighting Gridlock and Making Life Easier for Drivers

Province proposing restrictions for bike lanes, raising highway speed limits, freezing knowledge and road test fees and fixing potholes

**October 15, 2024**

[Ministry of Transportation](#)

TORONTO — The Ontario government is making life easier for drivers by introducing legislation that would, if passed, require municipalities to receive approval from the province before installing new bike lanes that would result in the removal of lanes for traffic. Municipalities would be required to demonstrate that the proposed bike lanes won't have a negative impact on vehicle traffic.

"Cities in Ontario have seen an explosion of bike lanes, including many that were installed during the pandemic when fewer vehicles were on the road and their impacts on traffic were unclear," said Prabmeet Sarkaria, Minister of Transportation. "Too many drivers are now stuck in gridlock as a result, which is why our government is bringing informed decision-making and oversight to bike lanes as well as taking steps to increase speed limits safely and clean up potholes."

These proposed changes are part of upcoming legislation that will kick off the fall sitting of the Ontario legislature on October 21, 2024, with a focus on tackling gridlock and getting drivers and commuters across Ontario out of traffic.

Ontario is also moving forward with plans to make life more convenient for drivers by increasing the speed limit to 110 km/h, where it is safe to do so, on all 400-series highways. This builds on the safe and successful increase of [speed limits](#) on more than one-third of provincial 400-series highways to date. The government is also developing a design standard to allow vehicles to travel safely at speeds higher than 120 km/h on new highways.

In addition, to help make Ontario roads safer and prevent accidents and damages that can occur from potholes, the government is consulting with municipalities to develop a potholes prevention and repair

fund to open in the 2025 construction season. The program would support smaller municipalities with road maintenance and set standards to help improve road conditions and promote high-quality roadwork across the province.

The government is also proposing to enshrine in the legislation the current freeze on knowledge and road test fees so that any future increases would require a legislative amendment. The freeze on fee increases, which was scheduled to rise roughly 4.5 per cent a year, will help save Ontarians \$72 million this decade.

## Quick Facts

- The proposed legislation would build on the success of the [Get It Done Act, 2024](#), which has kept costs down by freezing fees for driver's licences and Ontario Photo Cards, automating licence plate renewals, and prohibiting new tolls on provincial highways.
- In July, the province raised the speed limit to 110 km/h on several stretches of Highway 401, Highway 403, Highway 416 and Highway 69.

## Additional Resources

[Get It Done Act, 2024](#)

[Raising speed limits in Ontario](#)

## Media Contacts

Dakota Brasier  
Minister's Office  
[dakota.brasier@ontario.ca](mailto:dakota.brasier@ontario.ca)

Tanya Blazina  
Communications Branch  
[MTO.media@ontario.ca](mailto:MTO.media@ontario.ca)

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[EXTERNAL]



October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024

Township of Essa  
c/o Mayor Sandie MacDonald  
5786 County Road 21  
Utopia, ON  
L0M 1T0



Dear Mayor MacDonald,

We thank the Township of Essa for selecting Matthews House Hospice as the recipient of your much appreciated gift of \$8,450.00 raised at your Annual Golf Tournament. Your donation will help us to continue to offer community and palliative care services, as well as a variety of day programs, social programs, and grief and bereavement counselling.

As we look back on the impact we have had over the last year, we are honoured to have been able to provide community clients compassionate care and support as they navigate their journey of a life-limiting illness, end-of-life, or as they grieve the loss of someone special. We value our ability to be there for our clients, their caregivers, families, and friends. It is with your kind-hearted commitment to Matthews House Hospice that we are able to provide hospice and community services to all in New Tecumseth, Adjala-Tosorontio, Bradford West Gwillimbury, Dufferin County, Essa, Innisfil, and surrounding communities.

At Matthews House Hospice, we walk together with individuals and families through the journey of illness, grief, and bereavement. With the generosity and compassion of people like you, we can continue to be there for our community when we are needed the most. Your donation makes a difference in the support and compassionate care Matthews House is able to provide for our residents, families, and caregivers. Thank you, your gift is very much appreciated.

With Gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "M. Bachle".

Margaret Bachle  
CEO

23

**Sarah Corbett**

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**Subject:** FW: Motion - Fair Share  
**Attachments:** image001.jpg

**From:** De Bartolo, Betty <BDeBartolo@aurora.ca> on behalf of Mrakas, Tom <TMrakas@aurora.ca>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2024 2:44:39 PM  
**To:** Mrakas, Tom <TMrakas@aurora.ca>  
**Subject:** Motion - Fair Share

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [tmrakas@aurora.ca](mailto:tmrakas@aurora.ca). [Learn why this is important](#)

Good day Elected Official,

For many years, we have advocated for our fair share of funding from both Provincial and Federal governments. Through FCM and AMO, we've pushed for reforms and for sustainable, predictable funding for municipal infrastructure. With both Provincial and Federal elections approaching, I believe it's time for us to unite and propose a solution for municipalities' fair share.

As we're asked to meet growth targets, our municipalities urgently need predictable, long-term funding to support critical infrastructure, including roads, bridges, and public transit. We need all levels of government to collaborate on a solution that doesn't rely solely on property taxes to fund essential infrastructure in our communities. That's why we're calling on the Province to allocate a portion of the Land Transfer Tax, and on the Federal Government to allocate a portion of the GST from new home sales—no new taxes, just a fair distribution of our own funds for our communities!

Bellow is a Motion I respectfully ask you to bring forward at your council.

This motion ensures that we have the resources to build and maintain the infrastructure that keeps our municipalities running smoothly, without increasing property taxes.

Please consider adding this Motion to your Council agendas. It is essential that our collective voices are heard. Local governments deserve predictable, long-term funding to support critical infrastructure. Together, we can build a brighter future for all Ontarians.

*Motion: Request the Redistribution of the Provincial Land Transfer Tax and GST to Municipalities for Sustainable Infrastructure Funding*

*Whereas municipalities face growing infrastructure needs, including roads, bridges, public transit, water systems, and other critical services, which are essential to community well-being and economic development; and*

*Whereas the current sources of municipal revenue, including property taxes and user fees, are insufficient to meet these increasing demands for infrastructure investment; and*

*Whereas the Province of Ontario currently collects the Land Transfer Tax (LTT) on property transactions in municipalities across the province, generating significant revenue that is not directly shared with municipalities; and*

AG

Whereas the Federal Government collects the Goods and Services Tax (GST) on property transactions, a portion of which could be directed to municipalities to address local infrastructure needs; and

Whereas redistributing a portion of the Provincial Land Transfer Tax and GST to municipalities would provide a predictable and sustainable source of funding for local infrastructure projects without creating a new tax burden on residents or homebuyers; and

Whereas a redistribution of a portion of the existing Land Transfer Tax and GST would allow municipalities to better plan and invest in long-term infrastructure initiatives, supporting local economic growth and improving the quality of life for residents;

1. Now Therefore Be It Hereby Resolved That \_\_\_\_\_Municipality\_\_\_\_\_ Council formally requests the Provincial Government to consider redistributing a portion of the Land Transfer Tax collected on property transactions to municipalities; and

2. Be It Further Resolved That \_\_\_\_\_Municipality\_\_\_\_\_ Council calls on the Federal Government to allocate a percentage of the GST collected on property sales to municipalities; and

3. Be It Further Resolved That this redistribution of the Land Transfer Tax and GST should be structured to provide predictable and sustainable funding to municipalities, allowing for better long-term planning and investment in infrastructure projects that benefit local communities, thus ensuring that local governments receive a fair share of the revenue to address critical infrastructure needs; and

4. Be It Further Resolved That copies of this resolution be forwarded to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Premier Doug Ford, the Ontario Minister of Finance, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, local Members of Parliament (MPs) and Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs); and

5. Be It Further Resolved That copies of this resolution be forwarded to all 444 Municipalities in Ontario, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) for their endorsement and advocacy.

Regards,

Tom Mrakas  
Mayor Town of Aurora  
416-543-1624



**Confidentiality Note:** The information contained in this communication is confidential and is intended only for the use of the individual or entity to whom it is addressed. The contents of this communication may be subject



## NVCA September 2024 Board Meeting Highlights

**Next Meeting: October 25, 2024, held virtually**

*For the full meeting agenda including documents and reports, visit [NVCA's website](#).*

### NVCA 2025 Draft Budget

Sheryl Flannagan, NVCA's Director, Corporate Services gave a presentation on [NVCA's Draft 2025 Budget](#) in this board meeting.

The budget is accompanied by NVCA's 2025 [Program Overview](#), which highlights the work that each program area does for the watershed.

The NVCA Board of Directors has approved the draft budget and program overview for circulation to municipalities for a 30-day review period. The final budget vote will be on December 13, 2024.

In the August 2024 board meeting, staff were directed to develop a draft budget with a \$400,000 increase to municipal operation levy.

Through looking at three-year trends, finding savings in expenditures, and increasing potential revenues (including applying for as many grants as possible), staff are pleased to present a budget with an increase of \$200,000 in general levy as well as an additional \$200,000 for two additional staff.

### Resolution on Recycling resolutions

Vice Chair Scott shared a correspondence with the NVCA Board of Directors regarding calling on the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks to amend Ontario Regulation 391/21 to include small IC&I locations as eligible sources to ensure Producer Responsibility Organizations are required to service these locations as part of their residential collection contract.

The correspondence also asks the Minister to amend Regulation 103/94 to expand the application of the IC&I waste regulatory

framework to additional businesses and institutions.

The NVCA Board of Directors resolved to endorse these requests.

### Hiring of Engineering Technologist

As part of the 2025 budget discussions with the Board, staff identified the need to add a contract engineering position to assist with file review.

After discussions with NVCA's Senior Management Team, Chair and Vice Chair, NVCA is expediting the hiring of the contract engineering technologist position recommended as an immediate priority, rather than in the 2025 budget cycle.

The new position will allow NVCA's Engineering team to be in a better position to review a backlog of files and address the current bottleneck that is limiting the overall efficiency development planning & permits review process.

This position will help improve review timelines and enhance customer service for internal staff and external partners, agencies and the public.

### Review of Conservation Areas Strategy Vision & Objectives

As part of the changes to the *Conservation Authorities Act*, conservation authorities are required to prepare a Conservation Areas Strategy.

NVCA's strategy outlines current uses on NVCA conservation lands and develops a framework for long-term decision-making process to support the management of NVCA's conservation areas.

A9

The Board of Directors and the public were invited to comment on the overarching vision and 4 objectives for NVCA's Conservation Areas Strategy.

The Board of Directors will have the opportunity to review and approve the entire draft document prior to the December 31, 2024, deadline.

## Upcoming Events

### TD Tree Days

Thanks to funding from the TD Tree Days program, the Stewardship Team will be hosting potted stock plantings.

**Date:** October 19, 2024

**Location:** Creemore - Ganaraska Trail, 2186 S Nottawasaga Concession 6, Creemore, ON, L0M 1G0

### Tiffin Nature School

At Tiffin Nature School, children aged 2.5 to 10 are invited to explore and connect with the natural world. We nurture their innate curiosity, offering immersive outdoor experiences that inspire discovery and growth.

**Dates:** Tuesdays & Thursdays until May 29, 2025

**Location:** Tiffin Centre for Conservation

### PA/PD Day Camp Tiffin

Camp Tiffin encourages outdoor exploration, guided excursions in the forest fueled by student interest. Every day will be guided by student inquiry, seasonal changes, and weather and program availability.

**Date:** Friday, October 25, 2024 from 9:00 a.m. – 4 p.m.

**Location:** Tiffin Centre for Conservation

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**Sarah Corbett**

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**Subject:** FW: AMO Policy Update – Advocacy on Transportation, Energy and Housing Policy

**From:** AMO Policy <[policy@amo.on.ca](mailto:policy@amo.on.ca)>

**Sent:** Monday, October 21, 2024 6:05 PM

**To:** Lisa Lehr <[llehr@essatownship.on.ca](mailto:llehr@essatownship.on.ca)>

**Subject:** AMO Policy Update – Advocacy on Transportation, Energy and Housing Policy



## **AMO Policy Update - Advocacy on Transportation, Energy and Housing Policy**

### **Responding to *Bill 212: Reducing Gridlock, Saving You Time Act***

The Minister of Transportation tabled [\*Bill 212: Reducing Gridlock, Saving You Time Act\*](#) that proposes a series of changes to:

- Expedite highway construction for Highway 413, Bradford Bypass, Garden City Skyway Bridge (and future potential priority highway projects) including accelerating property acquisitions and facilitating 24/7 construction, among other measures
- Create a faster environmental assessment process for Highway 413 and the extensions of Highways 410 and 427, and exempt certain nearby early works
- Require municipalities to receive approval from the province before installing new bike lanes that would result in the removal of lanes for traffic
- Freeze fees for driver testing
- Make a Tow Zone Pilot permanent on four sections of 400-series highways in the GTA

- Provide the Minister of Infrastructure with the ability to use an expedited expropriations process for establishing easements that internet service providers require to install and build new broadband infrastructure

AMO will submit comments and seek to speak at Standing Committee to relay the challenges some of the Bill's components create for municipalities. As a start, AMO recently [outlined](#) that municipal expertise is best positioned to make decisions on bike lanes and local transportation planning, and these proposed changes are an overreach into municipal jurisdiction.

In addition to the Bill, the government announced related [proposals](#) including plans to consult with municipalities on a new pothole fund for the 2025 construction season. This fund would help small municipalities maintain their roads, which are often difficult to fund due to limited tax bases. AMO will collaborate with the province on the development and rollout of this new fund.

## **Ontario Announces New Electricity Distribution Funding Legislation**

The Minister of Energy and Electrification [has announced](#) plans to introduce legislation that would allow the province to regulate electricity distribution infrastructure costs for new homes and businesses. The Minister has also directed the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) to implement recommendations from its [Housing Connections Report Back](#) to the Minister which was recently made public.

This proposal would allow distributors to spread the costs of new infrastructure over 40 years instead of 25. It would also require the OEB to review the current practice of collecting upfront costs from early connectors within the first five years and convene a table with municipalities, utilities, and builders to explore ways to reduce the costs of new connections.

This direction aligns with AMO's June [submission to the OEB](#), which advocated for a series of principles to guide funding model changes. In particular, it advances the principle of fairness by ensuring that the upfront costs of new electricity infrastructure are balanced between existing and new residents.

## **Advancing Advocacy on Energy Procurements**

AMO has [sent the IESO comments](#) to support the design of the upcoming [LT2 Procurement](#) process. Submissions for LT2 projects are expected to be

open from December 2024 to Fall 2025, and municipalities are likely to be contacted by proponents seeking municipal support during this time.

Our advocacy stresses the importance of ensuring municipalities have support to make sound local decisions on energy projects and encouraging energy builders to engage early and often with municipalities. This includes calling on the IESO to ensure LT2 is clear on requirements for project location (including incentives for siting on Crown land and in northern communities), agricultural protection, and Indigenous participation.

AMO has also called for community benefit agreements (CBAs) to become a standard part of energy procurements. This would ensure municipalities receive revenue to offset costs to service energy project sites, and to hire experts to support local energy approvals including energy or legal consultants.

## Improving Ontario's Housing Data

Questions and concerns persist on how housing targets are being measured. AMO has worked closely with the province, municipalities and the CMHC to improve data to maximize municipal Building Faster Fund allocations this year. In a recent [letter to Minister Calandra](#), we urged the province to fix 2024 allocations and commit to implementing advice from the sector on how to improve housing data.

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\*Disclaimer: The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) is unable to provide any warranty regarding the accuracy or completeness of third-party submissions. Distribution of these items does not imply an endorsement of the views, information or services mentioned.

Association of Municipalities of Ontario

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155 University Ave Suite 800 | Toronto, ON M5H 3B7 CA

**[EXTERNAL]**



Sarah Corbett

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Subject:

FW: AMO Policy Update - Province to Introduce Legislation Governing Bicycle Lanes



## AMO Policy Update - Province to Introduce Legislation Governing Bicycle Lanes

Yesterday, the Government of Ontario announced it will introduce legislation that would require municipalities to receive approval from the province before installing new bike lanes that would result in the removal of lanes for traffic. [According to the government news release](#), “municipalities would be required to demonstrate that the proposed bike lanes won’t have a negative impact on vehicle traffic.”

Bicycle lanes are an essential element of urban transportation planning and road safety. Requiring provincial approval would be a significant overreach into municipal jurisdiction. Based on local knowledge and community input, municipalities develop transportation plans that balance traffic flow with planning priorities like active transportation, multimodal transportation and environmental and health protection. AMO is not aware of any consultation with municipalities regarding bicycle lanes or of the evidence the province considered in its decision.

It is unclear how the Ministry of Transportation will be in a better position than municipalities to make decisions about local transportation matters. Rather than micromanaging bike lanes, the Ministry of Transportation could focus on accelerating its own approval processes to help support new housing.

A106

There have been recent examples of unintended consequences when the province has tried to take over local decision-making. We urge the province to respect local decision-making when considering transportation improvements, and not repeat its mistakes of the past.

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Association of Municipalities of Ontario

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**[EXTERNAL]**

**From:** AMO Policy <[policy@amo.on.ca](mailto:policy@amo.on.ca)>

**Sent:** Monday, October 28, 2024 6:10 PM

**To:** Michael Mikael <[mmikael@essatownship.on.ca](mailto:mmikael@essatownship.on.ca)>

**Subject:** AMO Policy Update – Advancing Housing Initiatives, Ontario’s Affordable Energy Future and Sustainable OPP Costs



**AMO**  
**Policy**



## **AMO Policy Update - Advancing Housing Initiatives, Ontario’s Affordable Energy Future and Sustainable OPP Costs**

### **AMO Knowledge Exchange on Community and Supportive Housing**

On October 1st and 2nd, AMO held a gathering of over 200 municipal, Indigenous, and sector leaders to share understandings, insights, and actions to advance and grow Ontario’s community and supportive housing system.

Municipalities fund more than \$1 billion in social housing per year, yet the need for deeply affordable housing continues to rise across the province. The scale of this need surpasses the fiscal capacity of municipalities to address it.

Housing is a top priority in AMO’s call to the province for a Social and Economic Prosperity Review. The stability and sustainability of municipal governments are critical to ensuring that important municipal services continue to support the quality of life of residents and the economic and social prosperity of communities.

AMO is working hard to drive change across Ontario, and we are pleased that so many municipalities joined us at this important event and in our work.

Learn more about the key outcomes of the Knowledge Exchange through reading the [summary of proceedings](#).

### **Provincial Vision for Ontario’s Energy Future, and Introduction of Bill 214, *The Affordable Energy Act***

Last week the Minister of Energy and Electrification released [Ontario’s Affordable Energy Future](#), which set out a vision for meeting rising electricity demand while keeping costs down and reducing emissions. Electricity demand is expected to increase by 75% by 2050. Key elements of this vision are:

- Meeting 2030 emissions targets by investing in a mix of energy sources including nuclear, hydro, renewables, natural gas and storage solutions

- Developing an integrated energy resource plan to coordinate planning across all energy partners, including municipalities
- Modernizing local distribution corporation (LDC) funding models to support grid upgrades
- Expanding energy efficiency programs to help people save money on their energy bills
- Exporting electricity

To begin implementing this energy vision, the province [has introduced](#) Bill 214, *The Affordable Energy Act*. This legislation provides a framework for advancing key priorities such as developing an integrated energy plan, prioritizing nuclear generation, and expanding energy efficiency plans.

The province's vision responds to AMO's recent calls for a provincial energy plan that commits to decarbonization and sets out a path for meeting Ontario's growing energy needs. AMO will continue to advocate for these commitments and a plan that ensures residents and businesses have access to clean, reliable and affordable energy.

### **AMO Advances Advocacy on Additional Residential Units**

AMO [submitted comments](#) to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing on a [proposed regulation](#) that seeks to remove barriers to Additional Residential Units (ARUs) by limiting some local zoning by-law requirements for ARUs, such as maximum lot coverage, etc. AMO supports removing barriers to building new housing so long as municipalities have the appropriate tools and flexibility to responsibly manage local growth. At the same time, we remain concerned about the cumulative impact of continued changes to Ontario's land use planning framework. AMO's comments call on the province to provide certainty so municipalities and builders can focus on delivering new housing instead of catching up to policy changes.

### **OPP Billing**

AMO has heard ongoing concerns from members related to sizeable increases on their bills from the Ontario Provincial Police. We understand that the Ministry of the Solicitor General and Ontario Provincial Police have heard these concerns and are interested in working with municipalities to mitigate their concerns. AMO will continue to work with the provincial government and share additional information as it becomes available.

### **Province's 2024 Housing Forum**

Last Friday, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing brought together community partners and municipal representatives to discuss how Ontario can best continue to work closely with its partners to remove barriers and get more homes built faster. The forum included presentations and discussion components on:

1. Housing-enabling infrastructure, focusing on municipal service corporations and private communal sewage systems. AMO and its members were strong on the critical need for provincial and federal funding to build housing-enabling infrastructure and highlighted key insights from [AMO and MFOA's Water & Wastewater Municipal Services](#)

Corporations Backgrounder.

2. An update on factory-built (modular) housing indicating that the province is developing a "Factory-Built and Innovative Housing Strategy."

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## Help shape the County's new Positive Aging Strategy

**Midhurst/October 18, 2024** – The County of Simcoe is hosting a series of community focus groups aimed at gathering input for its new Positive Aging Strategy. These sessions will play a crucial role in shaping initiatives that promote inclusivity, accessibility, and well-being for older adults across the region.

This new strategy follows up and expands on the recommendations initially outlined in [2018-2023 Simcoe County Positive Aging Strategy: Older Adults Strengthening our Communities](#).

The County invites older adults, caregivers, and stakeholders to participate in these focus groups, where participants can share their insights and experiences regarding age-friendly practices and services. The information gathered will help guide the development of a comprehensive strategy that addresses key areas such as transportation, housing, health services, and community engagement.

For more details or to learn how you can host a focus group, [click on this link](#), email [agefriendly@simcoe.ca](mailto:agefriendly@simcoe.ca) or call 705-726-9300 ext. 3127.

### **About the Simcoe County Age-Friendly Community Program**

The Age-Friendly Community Program was established in 2016 to increase awareness of the County's aging population and help businesses and organizations evaluate their environment and service delivery. The County continues to provide resources and assessment tools to help organizations implement age-friendly goals and strategies and adapt to our aging population. For more information on our Age-Friendly Community program, visit the [website](#), email [agefriendly@simcoe.ca](mailto:agefriendly@simcoe.ca) or call 705-726-9300 ext. 3127.

### **About the County of Simcoe**

County of Simcoe is composed of sixteen member municipalities and provides crucial public services to County residents in addition to providing paramedic and social services to the separated cities of Barrie and Orillia. Visit our website at [simcoe.ca](http://simcoe.ca).

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## County invests in regional hospice and palliative care services

**Midhurst/October 21, 2024** – Last week County of Simcoe Councillors presented representatives from the Simcoe County Hospital Alliance with a cheque for \$427,782 towards building up local residential hospice and palliative care services across the region.

These funds are part of the County's five-year \$2.5 million commitment between 2021 to 2025, to support with community expansion and capital projects, along with Infection Prevention and Control upgrades at regional hospice centres.

This year's allocation of was issued in the following amounts to Alliance partners:

- Hospice Georgian Triangle - \$55,156
- Hospice Simcoe - \$107,072
- Matthews House Hospice - \$94,993
- Mariposa House Hospice – \$170,561

### Quotes

"Funding regional hospice care is investing in dignity and compassion. By building up hospice services, we ensure that individuals and their families receive the comfort, respect, and quality care they deserve during life's most challenging moments. We also hope that our support encourages greater awareness and funding for these extremely important agencies in our communities." - County of Simcoe Warden Basil Clarke

"That the County of Simcoe recognizes the value of hospice care and is willing to support us with important capital projects is crucial. The hospices in our county are nimble, charitable organizations that remain close to their respective communities and rely on donated and public funds to provide exceptional end-of-life care." ~ Ted Markle, Executive Director, Mariposa House Hospice

### About the Simcoe County Hospice Alliance

The Alliance was formed to look at regional planning and project capital needs across Simcoe County for area hospice centres. This group is comprised of representatives from [Hospice Georgian Triangle](#) in Collingwood, [Hospice Huronia](#) in Midland, [Mariposa House Hospice](#) in Orillia, [Matthews House Hospice](#) in Alliston, and [Hospice Simcoe](#) in Barrie. From 2017 to 2019, the County also provided \$1.5 million as part of its previous three-year commitment towards creating greater access.

### About the County of Simcoe

County of Simcoe is composed of 16 member municipalities and provides crucial public services to County residents, in addition to providing paramedic and social services to the separated cities of Barrie and Orillia. Visit our website at [simcoe.ca](http://simcoe.ca).

- 30 -

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County Councillors joined with Township of Severn Council members and representatives from the County of Simcoe and Simcoe County Hospice Alliance to celebrate this investment.



**Sarah Corbett**

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**From:** Lisa Lehr  
**Sent:** October 11, 2024 3:12 PM  
**To:** Sarah Corbett  
**Subject:** Fw: County Council Highlights - Meeting Held October 8, 2024

Consent

Kindest regards,

**Lisa Lehr, CMO**  
Manager of Legislative Services / Municipal Clerk  
Township of Essa  
Phone: 705-424-9917 ext. 117  
Fax: 705-424-2367  
[www.essatownship.on.ca](http://www.essatownship.on.ca)



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**From:** County Of Simcoe Communications <Communications@simcoe.ca>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 11, 2024 1:52 PM  
**To:** Lisa Lehr <llehr@essatownship.on.ca>  
**Subject:** County Council Highlights - Meeting Held October 8, 2024



Council Highlights are intended to provide a summary of Council proceedings only. The information contained within the Highlights is based

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on approved material from within the associated agenda packages, linked at the bottom. These reports were part of the agendas from the **Council Meeting** on October 8 and **Committee of the Whole** meeting on September 24, 2024. For more information on any item covered in the Highlights, each article is hyperlinked to the appropriate report, which can be accessed by clicking on the title. Images are also linked to relevant resources.

A recording of these sessions is also available for public viewing on the [County's YouTube channel](#).

- Service Simcoe



## **County Council pursues change to an appointed full-time County Warden**

County Council approved a motion to move to an appointed, full-time County Warden. The motion includes one additional member of Council, who will be appointed by the 32-member Council as full-time Warden. This appointed Warden will be chosen by Council among eligible electors. To take effect, this decision must be approved through a triple majority process. If approved, this decision would take effect for the 2026-30 term.

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Similar structures with appointed heads of Council are utilized in many Regions and Districts across Ontario, including the neighbouring municipalities of York Region and Muskoka District.

Approval by County Council to proceed with the full-time, appointed Warden position is the first step in the legislative process. The next step will be a requirement to hold a public meeting to consider a draft by-law that would change the composition of County Council. If the by-law is ultimately passed by County Council, it would then be sent to the 16 lower-tier member municipalities where a majority of their Councils must consent to the by-law (the majority of municipalities consenting must also represent a majority of electors in the County).

If approved, the current structure (with a part-time Warden elected from amongst County Councillors) will continue for the remainder of the current term. It is important to note that County Council may address further guidelines related to the full-time Warden position at future meetings.

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

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## Reaching Home 2024-2028 Community Plan

The Community Plan outlines a four-year investment strategy for \$8.2 million in federal funds through the Reaching Home program, a community-based program aimed at preventing and reducing homelessness in Canada. The plan prioritizes capital investments and housing services, focusing on creating new housing opportunities and resources.

Developed through community consultations and surveys, the plan emphasizes building community infrastructure, implementing data systems, and establishing a Coordinated Access system. Funding allocations vary over the four years, with higher amounts in the first two years (\$3,490,154 each) and reduced funding in the latter two (\$601,782 each).

Investment priorities include transitional and supportive housing, rental subsidies, and short-term rental assistance. The strategy aims to build sustainability by focusing on capital sub-projects in the first two years to offset funding reductions in later years.

The plan also maintains flexibility, allowing for adjustments in funding priorities over time. It seeks to balance immediate housing needs with long-term infrastructure development to address homelessness effectively in Simcoe County.

To read the full report, please click [here](#).

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## **Implementation of the Medical Priority Dispatch System (MPDS)**

On November 13, County of Simcoe Paramedic Services will join services throughout the province in implementing the new Medical Priority Dispatch System (MPDS). This initiative marks a significant step forward in enhancing our emergency medical response and reflects a commitment to public safety across the County.

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The purpose of the new system is to ensure that Paramedics are more readily available to be dispatched to urgent, life-threatening calls, faster. The Ontario Government has previously launched this program in the City of Toronto, Peel Region, City of Ottawa, among others, and will continue to roll it out across the province.

The new and improved MPDS system prioritizes calls based on urgency and available resources. With MPDS in place, patients with non-life-threatening needs may receive a delayed response from paramedics as a result. However, the ultimate end goal is to ensure that Paramedic resources are getting to urgent or life-threatening calls as quickly as possible.

For full details on the MPDS system, please visit [www.simcoe.ca/MPDS](http://www.simcoe.ca/MPDS) or read the full Council report [here](#).

Communications to the public and stakeholders started earlier this fall and will continue in late October and early November prior to launch.

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## Simcoe County Forest accepts donation of land in Innisfil

The County of Simcoe has acquired a parcel of land located in Innisfil through a generous donation made by the Sinclair family. The 17.1-hectare tract, which will be known as 'Montclair Woods' is located near Yonge Street and Killarney Beach Road and will be protected for future generations as part of the Simcoe County Forest.

The Montclair Woods will be open to the public at a later date once adequate parking and access are established.

The County of Simcoe thanks the entire Sinclair Family for their generous donation and helping grow the Simcoe County Forest.

Read the full news release [here](#).

Allc



## County Give-A-Lift Fundraising Campaign surpasses goal

The County of Simcoe celebrated a major milestone, surpassing its goal of raising more than \$600,000 towards the purchase of four new accessible buses for its long-term care and seniors services homes.

The Give-A-Lift Fundraising Campaign launched in early 2019 to support each of the County's four long-term care homes – Georgian Manor and Village in Penetanguishene, Simcoe Manor and Village in Beeton, Sunset Manor and Village in Collingwood and Trillium Manor in Orillia – in purchase new accessible buses.

Throughout the Give-A-Lift Campaign, the County held a number of fundraising events and activities, including the Warden's Ski Day, Warden's Golf Tournaments, as well as smaller plant and cookbook sales, classic car shows, cookoffs and holiday markets.

To read more, click [here](#).



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Council Agenda - October 8, 2024

Committee of the Whole Agenda - September 24, 2024

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# Release

County of Simcoe, Office of the Warden and CAO  
1110 Highway 26, Midhurst, Ontario L9X 1N6  
simcoe.ca

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Basil Clarke acclaimed as County of Simcoe Warden for a second term**

**Midhurst/October 22, 2024** – County Council held mid-term nominations during its meeting on October 22, 2024. Basil Clarke was acclaimed as Simcoe County Warden for 2025-2026. Warden Clarke was elected as Warden for 2023-2024 and will continue in the role until the 2026 Municipal Election.

Additionally, Jennifer Coughlin was acclaimed as Simcoe County Deputy Warden for 2025-2026. Deputy Warden Coughlin was also elected as Deputy Warden for 2023-2024 and will now continue in the role until the 2026 Municipal Election.

Bios for Warden Clarke and Deputy Warden Coughlin can be found [here](#).

"I am humbled and honoured to receive the support of our Council and to continue representing them, our residents and communities as Simcoe County Warden," said Basil Clarke. "In my opinion, Simcoe County is one of the best places to live in Ontario and I'm committed to continuing to help our communities thrive. I also look forward to continuing to work with Deputy Warden Jenny Coughlin as we address both challenges and opportunities across our great region."

During its meeting on November 26, 2024, County Council will elect Chairs and Vice Chairs for its three Business Section Committees for 2025-2026.

### **About the County of Simcoe**

County of Simcoe is composed of sixteen member municipalities and provides crucial public services to County residents in addition to providing paramedic and social services to the separated cities of Barrie and Orillia. Visit our website at [simcoe.ca](http://simcoe.ca).

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Barrie and Area Ontario Health Team



Canadian Mental Health Association

Gambling, Substance Use and Mental Health Services

Alle

## Joint Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

# BUILDING UP

## County aims to build up local support system for mental health and addictions in region

**Midhurst/October 23, 2024** – The County of Simcoe, along with identified key partners recognizes a considerable need for integrated community-based services to address a homelessness health crisis through the establishment of a [Homelessness & Addiction Recovery Treatment \(HART\) Hub](#). As such, the County of Simcoe has applied to the Government of Ontario to host one of ten HART facilities in the province.

Primary partners included as part of the application are Barrie and Area Ontario Health Team, Barrie Native Friendship Centre, Canadian Mental Health Association – Simcoe County Branch, (CMHA SCB), Mamaway Wiidokdaadwin IIPCT/ Barrie Area Native Advisory Circle (BANAC), Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre (RVH), Waypoint Centre for Mental Health Care, and Barrie Cares.

Since launching its [10-point Homelessness Prevention Strategy](#) in 2023, the County has been making significant investments and enhancements to social services programs and supports in Barrie and our communities. Within this 10-point plan, the pillars we have created include improving safety and well-being, creating easier ways to access services, enhancing our community shelter services and standards, and finding new opportunities. The HART Hub is one more tool that is available to us to complement these pillars and provide even better support for this vulnerable population within our community.

In addition to supporting this pillar, we also believe this project will help increase our efforts to move residents who have been living “rough” or staying in shelters to more stable housing outcomes. We’ve seen this by providing wraparound supports in our Supportive Rapid Rehousing Program (SRRP), transitional and supportive housing, and we believe this project presents this same opportunity in addition to the support with addictions and mental health.

Communities whose applications have been approved to house one of the ten provincial HART Hubs will be announced by the Ontario Ministry of Health in December 2024.

This is just one more way that the County is **#BuildingUp** our communities. For updates on how the County of Simcoe is investing in our communities, visit [simcoe.ca/BuildingUp](https://simcoe.ca/BuildingUp).

## Quotes

"We know that within the unhoused population in Simcoe County, a large majority of people are in need of greater supports than simply housing. That is why, when we saw the Ontario Government's proposal to facilitate these new HART facilities across the province, we knew that with our existing 10-point Homelessness Prevention Strategy, we were prepared to take this on for our communities and support those who need it."

~ Basil Clarke, Warden, County of Simcoe

"The Barrie and Area Ontario Health Team (BAOHT) is committed to ensuring everyone in our community – including those facing challenges of homelessness and addiction - can access the care they need, when they need it. With the application for a new HART Hub, we have the opportunity to bring these much-needed mental health and addiction supports directly to this vulnerable population. By working together with our partners, we can create a space where individuals can access safe and compassionate care that can truly transform their lives. We're proud to support this initiative and look forward to making a meaningful impact within Simcoe County."

~ Tracey Fletcher, Chair, BAOHT and

Operations Director, Medicine, Innisfil Health and Wellness Centre (Rizzardo), RVH

"We know that mental health and addiction challenges cannot be separated from the broader issues of homelessness and social instability. The proposed HART Hub will offer a vital, integrated response that meets individuals where they are, providing the services they need to heal and thrive. We are eager to see the positive impact this collaboration will have on our community."

~ Dr. Jennifer Fillingham, Interim CEO, CMHA SCB

"Collaborative and trauma-informed initiatives that address mental health and addictions needs have been identified as Indigenous key priorities in the region. As an Indigenous led and Indigenous governed organization, BANAC is proud to support this initiative as an Indigenous collaborator and to work with partners to support Indigenous communities."

~ Lynn Monague-Sauve, President, Barrie Area Native Advisory Circle

"RVH's purpose is to be there for our community in providing the care they need when they need it. To be effective in meeting this purpose, we look for opportunities to collaborate with partners, combining expertise and resources to best serve our community. Between all the partners and RVH's ability to support with the addiction recovery aspect of the HART Hub, we will be able to support the treatment, recovery and housing needs of the most vulnerable individuals within our community."

~ Gail Hunt, President and CEO, RVH

"Our HART Hub application will offer a range of services to our community's most vulnerable. This includes Indigenous health and wellness programming, substance use treatment, specialized mental health care and transitional and supportive housing. Through taking a collaborative approach we are confident that we can build a truly innovative and highly impactful model."

~ Dr. Kevin Young, Vice President, Medical Affairs & Chief of Staff  
Waypoint Centre for Mental Health Care

"Barrie Native Friendship Centre supports and responds to the needs of the urban Indigenous community in Barrie and is hopeful the services that will be provided by the HART Hub will improve the lives of all community members served by this process and lead to a more integrated approach in addressing addictions and homelessness."

~ Samantha Kinoshameg, Executive Director, Barrie Native Friendship Centre

**About the HART Hub model**

HART Hubs serve clients with complex service needs (i.e. those experiencing a range of overlapping issues and marginalization including homelessness, substance use, mental health, social service support needs and unemployment) through the provision of specialized community supports. These supports may include mental health, primary care, substance use, addiction, case management for income security, employment and social service needs. These services allow for clients to start to receive treatment, addressing presenting needs and providing a platform for positive long-term treatment outcomes with access to longer-term stabilizing services, including bed-based services.

**About the County's 10-point Homelessness Prevention Strategy**

The plan provides a strong, data-driven strategy to help vulnerable residents and our communities. It includes considerable added investment, enhancements, and support for the unhoused population in our communities.

The plan takes a collaborative approach to building up communities, service providers, the business community, and residents. Through this strategy, the County continues to work collaboratively with partners and municipalities to continue to prevent and end chronic homelessness. For further details and ongoing updates to the homelessness prevention plan, visit [simcoe.ca/HomelessnessSystem](http://simcoe.ca/HomelessnessSystem).

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October 23, 2024

Essa Township  
5786 Simcoe County Road 21  
Utopia, ON L0M 1T0

Dear Township of Essa,

As a participating municipality in the County of Simcoe Bursary Program we are pleased to provide an update on the Bursary Program. This year we received a record-breaking number of applications, reflecting the growing interest and enthusiasm within our communities for continuing education. Our Bursary Committee reviewed each application and after careful deliberation identified the recipients who best demonstrated exceptional promise, commitment to their community and alignment with the program's objectives.

The County of Simcoe is delighted to share that your resident **Emalee Grace Alderson** has been selected by the Bursary Committee to receive a Simcoe County Bursary and has been notified as such. In submitting their application, applicants have agreed to have their name posted publicly on your website and/or an upcoming agenda should you wish to do so.

While we were unable to grant the bursary to all applicants due to the overwhelming response, we want to extend our sincere appreciation to everyone in your municipality who took the time to apply. We also would like to thank Council of the Township of Essa for their continued support and commitment to the Simcoe County Bursary Program.

Thank you once again for your support and we look forward to sharing details about the upcoming 2025 Bursary Program!

Regards,

County of Simcoe



# Advisory

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## County of Simcoe celebrates 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Newcomer Recognition Awards

**Midhurst/October 30, 2024** – On Thursday, November 7th, media are invited to attend the 12th annual Newcomer Recognition Awards taking place at Tangle Creek in the Township of Essa.

The Newcomer Recognition Awards ceremony was created more than a decade ago by the Simcoe County Local Immigration Partnership to recognize community leaders and champions who take action to enhance the lives of newcomers in Simcoe County.

Award recipients are nominated by their peers through an open submission process that ran from August 19 to September 20, 2024. Awards winner from the following categories will be honoured: Career Mobility; Culturally Diverse Workforce; Ethnocultural Group; Immigrant Artist; Immigrant Mentor; Inclusive Housing Practices; Newcomer Inclusive Service Delivery; Service Excellence; Small Business Owner; Teaching Excellence; Welcoming Work Environment; and Youth Community Champion.

<b>EVENT:</b>	<b>Annual County of Simcoe Newcomer Recognition Awards</b>
<b>Where:</b>	Tangle Creek 4730 Sideroad 25 Thornton, ON
<b>When:</b>	Thursday, November 7, 2024 6 to 9 p.m. <i>Note: Media are asked to contact the County of Simcoe Communications and Events Team to confirm attendance by emailing <a href="mailto:communications@simcoe.ca">communications@simcoe.ca</a>.</i>

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**Sarah Corbett**

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**Subject:** FW: County Council Highlights - Meeting Held October 22, 2024

**From:** County Of Simcoe Communications <[Communications@simcoe.ca](mailto:Communications@simcoe.ca)>

**Sent:** Friday, October 25, 2024 11:01 AM

**To:** Lisa Lehr <[llehr@essatownship.on.ca](mailto:llehr@essatownship.on.ca)>

**Subject:** County Council Highlights - Meeting Held October 22, 2024



Council Highlights are intended to provide a summary of Council proceedings only. The information contained within the Highlights is based on approved material from within the associated agenda packages, linked at the bottom. These reports were part of the agendas from the **Council Meeting** on October 22 and **Committee of the Whole** meeting on October 8, 2024. For more information on any item covered in the Highlights, each article is hyperlinked to the appropriate report, which can be accessed by clicking on the title. Images are also linked to relevant resources.

A recording of these sessions is also available for public viewing on the [County's YouTube channel](#).

- Service Simcoe



11/15



## **Basil Clarke acclaimed as County of Simcoe Warden for second term**

County Council held mid-term nominations during this meeting, which saw Basil Clarke acclaimed as Simcoe County Warden for 2025-2026. Warden Clarke was first elected as Warden for 2023-2024 and will continue in the role until the 2026 Municipal Election.

Additionally, Jennifer Coughlin was acclaimed as Simcoe County Deputy Warden for 2025-2026. Deputy Warden Coughlin was also elected as Deputy Warden for 2023-2024 and will now continue in the role until the 2026 Municipal Election.

During its meeting on November 26, 2024, County Council will elect Chairs and Vice Chairs for the three Business Sections of Committee of the Whole for 2025-2026.

To view the full news release, please click [here](#).

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## **Temporary Road Closure of County Road 4 in Bradford West Gwillimbury**

County Road 4 between Line 9 and 11 as well as Line 10 between Sideroad 10 and County Road 4 in Bradford West Gwillimbury will be closed to through traffic from October 21, 2024, until December 13, 2024. This temporary road closure is necessary to facilitate the replacement of the Scanlon Creek culvert that is located at the intersection of County Road 4 and Line 10.

County Road 4 represents one of the County's largest road infrastructure investments to date, demonstrating commitment to enhancing the county's road network.

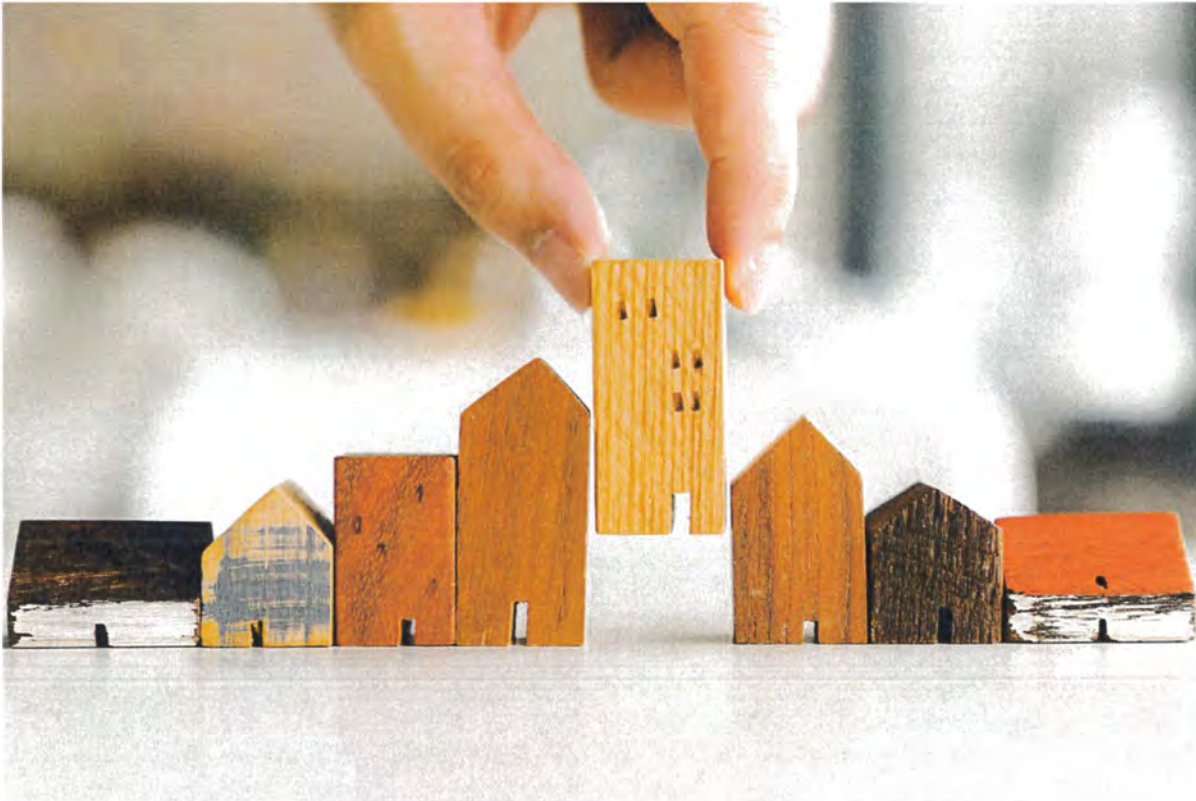
The long-term benefits of this project will be substantial. The significant upgrades to County Road 4 will result in improved traffic flow efficiency, enhanced capacity for future growth, and better connectivity to major transportation routes.

A11b

By implementing a full closure there is an estimated 25% cost savings compared to a partial closure. A full closure is safer for the travelling public and workers, and if a partial closure was used the work would have taken two construction seasons instead of one.

To read the full report, please click [here](#).

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## **YMCA of Simcoe Muskoka 2024 Capital Funding Request**

The YMCA of Simcoe Muskoka is requesting \$5 million total from the County of Simcoe for a new multi-use facility in Barrie – this includes the original \$2.5 million that was approved in 2019, plus an additional \$2.5 million due to inflationary considerations and increased construction costs since 2019.

Council moved to defer the item to the November 12, 2024 Committee of the Whole Meeting.

Staff's recommendation was to approve the full \$5 million requested from the YMCA of Simcoe Muskoka contingent on the development of a multi-use facility to service the City of Barrie that includes transitional housing for youth and enabling the leadership of a multicultural centre in partnership with the Simcoe County Local Immigration Partnership. The \$5 million would be paid in installments: \$500,000 in 2024, \$1.5 million in 2025 and \$3 million in 2027 upon completion of construction.

The project has already received \$29.9 million in construction funding from the provincial government, and a 50-year land lease from the City of Barrie.

To read the full report, please click [here](#).

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## Long-Term Care Home Molecular Point-of-Care Testing

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The Ontario Ministry of Health has implemented the ID Now program, a rapid COVID-19 testing system, in various healthcare settings including Long-Term Care homes.

Four County of Simcoe Long-Term Care homes (Trillium Manor, Sunset Manor, Simcoe Manor and Georgian Manor) have been approved as testing sites. The ID Now test provides results in 15 minutes versus days or weeks for traditional PCR tests.

Results must be reported through Ontario's health information systems and to local public health units. Key benefits include faster treatment initiation, reduced isolation time, and better outbreak control.

The equipment and supplies are provided by Ontario Health at no cost to the County, with only approximately \$1,000 per home per year needed for quality control testing, covered by the existing 2024 budget.

To read the full report, please click [here](#).

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## **Statement regarding approval of salary increase for Councillors**

Council approved a three-year incremental adjustment to their compensations, as well as the compensation of the Warden. The incremental increases will lessen the impact on the budget, while slowly bringing the rates of compensation up to the levels of other municipalities.

As this occurs, we will continue to work through the legislative process to approve an appointed, full-time Warden starting in the 2026 term.

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