

**TOWNSHIP OF ESSA  
CONSENT AGENDA  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22, 2023**

**A – ITEMS RECEIVED AS INFORMATION**

- p.1 1. Essa Public Library Report – January 2023.
- p.5 2. Township of Essa Building Department Statistics – February 2023.
- p.6 3. Correspondence from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry dated February 24, 2023, re: Amendments to Ontario Regulation 161/17 Under the *Public Lands Act*.
- p.8 4. Resolutions from the Town of Grimsby:  
p.10 a) February 24, 2023 – Barriers for Women in Politics  
b) February 27, 2023 – Changes to the Municipal Heritage Register
- p.13 5. Correspondence from the County of Simcoe:  
a) February 28, 2023 – County Launches 2023 Age-Friendly Seniors Housing Grant Program
- p.14 b) March 1, 2023 – County Hits the 200,000 Tonnes Mark for Curbside Organics Collected
- p.16 6. Correspondence from the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks dated March 3, 2023, re: Municipal Class Environmental Assessment Amendments.
- p.18 7. Nottawasaga Futures Newsletter dated February 24, 2023.
- p.24 8. Correspondence from the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA), re: NVCA February 2023 Board Meeting Highlights.
- p.27 9. Correspondence from the Federation of Ontario Public Libraries, re: Protecting Local Public Libraries Across Ontario.

**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 Report: January 2023

## IMAGINE DISCOVER CONNECT

### Outcomes



Angus Branch features an inviting spot for families and children in the Kids' Corner.



Seniors' Mindfulness and Meditation Workshop at Angus Branch



Lewis celebrates his 5-year anniversary with EPL.

*"I really enjoyed today's winter bird sketching! Kindly pass along my thanks to our wonderful instructor & my wishes for another class soon. Her process was easy to follow, her comments encouraging and I enjoyed the information on the birds themselves."*

The repairperson in for servicing the Angus Branch LULA lift said he wished he lived closer because we have a great library.

Email comment to Angie:  
*"I really appreciate the selections in the library, as well as your assistance with choosing DVDs I would otherwise have skipped."*

A family who left the P.A. Day movie early, were very excited to be able to borrow a copy of the movie, Lyle, Lyle, the Crocodile to take home and have a movie-night of their very own with their Dad.

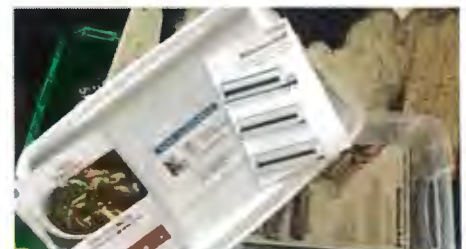
A patron returning a Nintendo Switch game to Holly offered warm thanks. He had requested to have the item added to the collection and was extremely grateful! Holly told him we value his thoughts on what to buy next. He responded, *"This is the best library I've ever been to. Really."*

From a Facebook group:

Posts  
Residents of Essa 😊

Do you have a kitchen Aid stand mixer?  
Have you always wanted to try out the pasta rolling attachments?  
Did you know that our own libraries, one in Thornton and One in Angus, have kitchen appliances for lending?  
I just checked out this kit for pasta making!  
You could also get an ice cream maker. (I've tried that one too and it's as good as Kwartha!  
Or even a buttermaker

Go check out what you can check out!



# Programming Events & Attendance

## Adults

Zoom Cercel de Conversation  
Virtuel: 19

Bookclub - Angus: 3  
Bookclub - Thornton: 6

Tech Learning - (in person/phone/email)  
Angus Branch: 13  
Thornton Branch: 2

Outreach - Geocache  
Angus Branch: offered  
Thornton Branch: offered

Art Display - Angus: continues

Exams: 2

Cards with Colleen: 21

Hobby Circle - Angus: 2

Movie Night - Angus: 15

### Young Adults - Unleash Your Future Grant & more

Pen Pal Program: 4  
Break-in Bags: 7

### Seniors Aging Well

Learn to play Ukelele - Angus: 23

Mindfulness & Meditation -  
Angus: 10

Virtual - Around the feeder sketch  
class:8

Valentine's Day cards-Angus: 9  
Thornton: 8

Tech Tutor Appointments -  
Angus: 5

Tech Tutors VHS conversion: 2  
users/12 tapes

## Social Media

Facebook: 22 posts  
Reactions: 31  
Followers: 1,581

Twitter: 3 tweets  
Reactions: 26  
Followers: 892

Instagram:6 posts  
Reactions: 47  
Followers: 601

Youtube Posts: 1  
Views: 4,462  
Subscribers: 503

### More

*Library Zest* blog posts, videos  
& email campaigns: 0

*Library Zest* site traffic: 31

*Library Zest* unique visitors:  
27

Makerspace: 1

Booksale on at both branches.

### Community Partners

Ontario Parks Passes  
available -  
Angus: 8 Thornton: 5

Home-School Group-  
Thornton: 9

Buddy Up Tutoring - Angus: 14

## Kids

Storytime - Angus: 9

Storytime - Thornton: 6

Toddler Time - Angus: 12

Wiggles & Giggles Baby  
Group - Angus: 34

L'Heure du Conte Bilingual:  
26

Lego Club - Angus:21

Tinker Tuesdays: 23

PA Movie Day - Angus: 29

Family Play Zone - Angus:  
106

Thornton: 3

In-library fun, Snowy Day  
Adventure - Angus:40  
Thornton: 2

In-library fun, Snowflake  
Match - Angus: 59  
Thornton: 12

Family Literacy Day  
"Celebrate your heritage"  
theme Display & handouts  
available.

## Circulation Totals & Analysis

<b>CIRCULATION</b>	<b>Jan. 2022</b>	<b>Jan. 2023</b>	<b>YTD 2023</b>
Angus Branch	6,406	8,330	8,330
Thornton Branch	1,782	1,100	1,100
Angus Branch Computer Use	71	184	184
Thornton Branch Computer Use	6	20	20
Angus Branch Wireless Use	n/a	6,040	6,040
Thornton Branch Wireless Use	n/a	20,094	20,094
eAudio & eBooks	877	843	843
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>9,142</b>	<b>36,611</b>	<b>36,611</b>

<b>Circulation Analysis</b>	<b>Jan. 2022</b>	<b>Jan. 2023</b>	<b>YTD 2023</b>
Print	5,483	5,640	5,640
Non-Print	2,634	3,699	3,699
Computer Use/Internet + Wireless	77	26,338	26,388
eAudio Books	191	232	232
eBooks	686	611	611
Interlibrary Loan: Borrowed	33	56	56
Interlibrary Loan: Lent	38	35	35

<b>Materials Used In-Library</b>	<b>Jan. 2023</b>	<b>YTD 2023</b>
Angus Branch	320	320
Thornton Branch	27	27

## Online Resources & New Members

<b>Library website visits</b>	<b>YTD 2023</b>
3,714	3,714

<b>Simcoe County Libraries App</b>	<b>YTD 2023</b>
375	375

<b>Digital Library visits</b>	<b>YTD 2023</b>
1,014	1,014

<b>New Members</b>		<b>YTD 2023</b>
Angus Branch	105	105
Thornton Branch	2	2

## Library Highlights



Thornton Branch 2023:



A new bright space for kids is revealed.



## Feb-23

### Current

Permits Issued	# Permits Issued	# Permits Issued YTD	Monthly Construction Value of Permits Issued	Construction Value of Permits Issued YTD	Monthly Building Permit Fees	Building Permit Fees YTD
Residential	7	25	\$1,365,560.00	\$3,955,222.00	\$21,600.00	\$49,701.02
Commercial		2		\$290,000.00		\$1,016.99
Industrial		1		\$1,200,000.00		\$4,630.63
Institutional		3		\$192,000.00		\$1,699.78
Public Utilities		0		\$0.00		\$0.00
Agricultural		0		\$0.00		\$0.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>\$1,365,560.00</b>	<b>\$ 5,637,222.00</b>	<b>\$21,600.00</b>	<b>\$ 57,048.42</b>

Y.O.Y.	9	17	\$994,074.00	\$1,703,774.00	\$6,123.95	\$10,818.60	<b>427.32%</b>
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### NEW SFD CONSTRUCTION

#### Dwelling Units Created

Type	Current Month	YTD	Dwelling Const. Value	Dwelling Const. Value YTD
SFD/SEMI/ROW	4	8	\$1,312,560.00	\$2,695,560.00
Mult Res Bldgs	0	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Accessory Apt within Existing Res Bldg	0	0	\$0.00	\$90,577.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>\$1,312,560.00</b>	<b>\$2,786,137.00</b>

Reviewed by CBO Pedro Granes



Reviewed by Chief Building Official:

Y.O.Y	1	1	\$542,000.00	\$542,000.00
	<b>300.00%</b>	<b>700.00%</b>	<b>142.17%</b>	<b>414.05%</b>

**Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry**

Policy Division

Director's Office  
 Crown Forests and Lands Policy Branch  
 70 Foster Drive, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
 Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6A 6V5

**Ministère des Richesses naturelles et des Forêts**

Division de la politique

Bureau du directeur  
 Direction des politiques relatives aux forêts et  
 aux terres de la Couronne  
 70, rue Foster, 3e étage  
 Sault Sainte Marie, ON P6A 6V5



February 24, 2023

Hello,

We are writing to let you know that the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry is proposing to make amendments to [Ontario Regulation 161/17](#) under the [Public Lands Act](#) regarding the use of floating accommodations and camping on water over public lands in Ontario. In addition, minor changes (listed below) are proposed for added clarity and consistency in the regulation.

The proposed changes are described in a regulation proposal notice that was posted on Ontario's Regulatory Registry and the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) on February 24, 2023 (ERO number [019-6590](#)).

The proposed changes related to floating accommodations were informed by feedback received by the ministry in response to the March 2022 ERO bulletin titled, "Seeking input about the use of floating accommodations on waterways over Ontario's public lands" (ERO number [019-5119](#)).

We are proposing to amend Ontario Regulation 161/17 to clarify the types of camping units that can be used to camp on water over public land. It is proposed that the definition of 'camping unit' will be clarified to allow for camping on liveaboards and houseboats but will exclude floating accommodations, float homes and barges with residential units or camping facilities.

We are also proposing to change the conditions that must be met when camping on water over public lands in Ontario by:

- reducing the number of days that a person can camp on water over public land (per location, per calendar year) from 21 days to 7 days
- increasing the distance that a person camping on water must move their camping unit to be occupying a different location from 100 metres to 1 kilometre
- adding a new condition to prohibit camping on water within 300 metres of a developed shoreline, including any waterfront structure, dock, boathouse, erosion control structure, altered shoreline, boat launch and/or fill.

In addition, we are proposing to:

- harmonize the conditions for camping on public land so that residents and non-residents are required to follow the same conditions when camping on water over public lands or on public lands
- specify conditions for swim rafts, jumps, ramps for water sports, heat loops and water intake pipes
- clarify that camping on a road, trail, parking lot or boat launch is prohibited
- amend the regulation to add the following to the list of excluded public lands to which section 21.1 of the *Public Lands Act* and Ontario Regulation 161/17 do not apply:
  - lands subject to an agreement authorizing the use of those lands
  - lands subject to an authorization under the *Aggregate Resources Act*.

We encourage you to review the proposal notice (ERO number [019-6590](#)) and provide feedback through the ERO. The comment period for the proposal closes on **April 11, 2023**.

### Online Information Sessions

We invite you to attend an online information session during which ministry staff will present an overview of the regulatory proposal and answer questions. Sessions will be held on the following dates:

Session 1 – Wednesday, March 8: 10:00 am to 11:30 am

Session 2 – Monday, March 20: 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm

If you wish to attend an online information session, please register by emailing [public.lands@ontario.ca](mailto:public.lands@ontario.ca) with the subject line “Regulatory Proposal Information Session” and indicate your preferred session date. You will receive a reply to your email with the session start/end times and information on how to join.

Sincerely,

Peter D. Henry, R.P.F.  
Director, Crown Forests and Lands Policy Branch  
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

c: Pauline Desroches, Manager, Crown Lands Policy Section  
Michelle Dano, Senior Program Advisor, Crown Lands Policy Section





**The Corporation of the Town of Grimsby  
Administration**  
Office of the Town Clerk  
160 Livingston Avenue, Grimsby, ON L3M 0J5  
**Phone:** 905-945-9634 Ext. 2171 | **Fax:** 905-945-5010  
**Email:** [bdunk@grimsby.ca](mailto:bdunk@grimsby.ca)

February 24, 2023

SENT VIA E-MAIL

Premier of Ontario  
Legislative Building  
Queen's Park  
Toronto ON M7A 1A1

Attention: Doug Ford, Premier

Dear Mr. Ford

**RE: Barriers for Women in Politics**

Please be advised that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Grimsby at its meeting held on February 21, 2023 passed the following resolution:

**C-23-055**

Moved by: Councillor DiFlavio; Seconded by: Councillor Freaque

WHEREAS, the Town of Grimsby values equality and inclusivity in all areas of life, including politics;

WHEREAS, women have historically been underrepresented in politics, and continue to face barriers and discrimination in their pursuit of elected office;

WHEREAS, misogyny and harassment have been identified as significant challenges for women in politics, both in Canada and around the world;

WHEREAS, the Town of Grimsby believes that all individuals have the right to participate in a political environment that is free from discrimination, harassment, and misogyny;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Grimsby expresses its support for women in politics and their right to participate in a political environment that is free from misogyny and harassment, and where everyone feels equal.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of Grimsby commits to taking steps to ensure that our political environment is inclusive and welcoming to all individuals, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or other identity factors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of Grimsby encourages other municipalities in Ontario and across Canada to join us in supporting women in politics and promoting gender equality in all areas of society.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to all Ontario Municipalities for endorsement, the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Grimsby's MP and MPP, and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario to express the Town of Grimsby's commitment to this issue and encourage action at the provincial level to create legislation to ensure equality, safety, and security.

**UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**

If you require any additional information, please let me know.

Regards,



Bonnie Nistico-Dunk  
Town Clerk

cc.

All Ontario Municipalities  
Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
Dean Allison, MP – Niagara West  
Sam Oosterhoff, MPP – Niagara West  
Association of Municipalities of Ontario



**The Corporation of the Town of Grimsby  
Administration**

Office of the Town Clerk

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Phone: 905-945-9634 Ext. 2171 | Fax: 905-945-5010

Email: [bdunk@grimsby.ca](mailto:bdunk@grimsby.ca)

February 27, 2023

438 University Ave  
6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto, ON  
M7A 1N3

SENT VIA E-MAIL

Attention: Hon. Neil Lumsden, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport

**RE: Changes to the Municipal Heritage Register**

Please be advised that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Grimsby at its meeting held on February 6, 2023 passed the following resolution:

WHEREAS the Municipal Heritage Register is an important tool for the preservation and protection of cultural heritage properties within the Town of Grimsby and throughout the province of Ontario;

WHEREAS cultural heritage properties are those which have potential cultural heritage value or interest but have yet to be formally evaluated as per the process prescribed in the Ontario Heritage Act;

WHEREAS listed properties are labelled as such as they are 'listed' in the Town of Grimsby's Municipal Heritage Register, which identifies all municipally-recognized cultural heritage resources;

WHEREAS the Municipal Heritage Register allows municipalities to regulate demolition on properties protected under section 27 of the Ontario Heritage Act, ensuring that their cultural heritage value is preserved for future generations;

WHEREAS "listing" a property on the municipal heritage register recognizes a property's cultural heritage value, and is generally less complex, time-consuming, and

economically burdensome to local municipalities than pursuing the designation of a property as outlined within the existing process, which requires extensive research and documentation;

WHEREAS the “listing” of properties on the Municipal Heritage Register provides a measure of protection, ensuring that these properties cannot be demolished without the approval of the municipality;

WHEREAS it is important to list properties of cultural heritage value or interest, including those that are not currently designated, in order to ensure their preservation for future generations;

WHEREAS the 60-day demolition provision in the Ontario Heritage Act provides a short time frame for the municipality to consider the heritage value of a property before it may be demolished;

WHEREAS the new requirements of the Ontario Heritage Act mandate the assessment of an unreasonable amount of resources for a local municipality within a 2-year timeline;

WHEREAS the new requirement of removal after the 2-year anniversary leaves resources exposed, and unprotected for up to 5 years;

WHEREAS the new requirements do not allow the municipality to further assess our nationally significant resources, more specifically resources connected to the War of 1812, our indigenous communities and culture, people of colour, LGBTQ+, and impacts our community’s commitment to ensure preservation of our inclusive history.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Town of Grimsby addresses this resolution to the government of the Province of Ontario, affirming the importance of the Municipal Heritage Register and its role in preserving the cultural heritage of municipalities throughout the province;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Council of the Town of Grimsby encourages the government of the Province of Ontario to make changes to the Ontario Heritage Act which promote the retention and expansion of the Municipal Heritage Register, including

the listing of properties of cultural heritage value or interest that are not currently designated;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Council of the Town of Grimsby encourages the government of the Province of Ontario to change the Ontario Heritage Act to protect the 60-day demolition provision indefinitely, rather than for a maximum of 2 years in order to provide adequate time for the municipality to consider the heritage value of properties before they may be demolished;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Council of the Town of Grimsby circulate this notice of motion to the municipalities of Ontario for endorsement and circulation to the Province.

If you require any additional information, please let me know.

Regards,



Bonnie Nistico-Dunk  
Town Clerk

cc. All Ontario Municipalities



# Release

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

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### County launches 2023 Age-Friendly Seniors Housing Grant Program

**Midhurst/February 28, 2023** – The County of Simcoe is once again providing \$500,000 in funding to support eligible applicants in creating additional age-friendly housing in Simcoe County.

“We know that our seniors have created the strong, vibrant region that we are proud to live in today. That’s why we are enhancing support services and resources to meet the needs of our aging population and working hard to address affordable housing in our area,” said Warden Basil Clarke. “Since this program began in 2018, we have provided annual funding through the Age-Friendly Seniors Housing Grant, and I am thrilled to say that we have been able to support almost 300 projects through this innovative program. We look forward to working with our community through these grants to help grow the availability of age-friendly accommodations across the County of Simcoe.”

The grant program was recommended within the Simcoe County 2018-2023 Positive Aging Strategy, which identified a number of recommendations for the County and its municipalities to prepare for the region’s aging population. The program funds projects that incorporate accessible, adaptable and inclusive designs, which allow seniors to continue to live independently in their communities for as long as possible.

Grants will be awarded under three streams: accessible housing design for seniors; design for individuals with dementia; and the provision of support services for housing that incorporates enhanced aspects of accessibility over and above compliance with the Accessibility of Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) and building code standards for residential units.

Applicants eligible for this grant include those completing housing projects located within Simcoe County (excluding the cities of Barrie and Orillia). Applicants who were successful in obtaining an Age-Friendly Seniors Housing grant in the past three years are not eligible to apply in 2023. Applicants can be homeowners of principal residences or developers, who wish to include accessible, adaptable and inclusive design modifications for occupants aged 60 or older. Grant amounts will be distributed based on the number of applications received and ability to meet funding criteria.

An Age-Friendly Grant Selection Sub-Committee will evaluate each grant submission in accordance with established evaluation criteria. The deadline for 2023 application submissions is May 31, 2023. For further details, or to apply to the Age-Friendly Housing Seniors Grant program, please visit [simcoe.ca/age-friendly](https://simcoe.ca/age-friendly).

The 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](https://simcoe.ca).

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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

## County hits the 200,000 tonnes mark for curbside organics collected

**Midhurst/March 1, 2023** – Today, County of Simcoe is thanking residents and businesses for helping the County reach an important milestone in its successful organics (green cart) collection program. The County has successfully collected more than 200,000 tonnes of organic material from County households and businesses since 2008, saving the equivalent of four years of local landfill capacity and offering countless environmental benefits.

In 2008, the County became early adopters in the Province of Ontario by offering a weekly curbside organics collection program. During the past 15 years, the program has seen steady growth in participation rates, with the highest increases year over year being seen since the move to bi-weekly recycling/garbage collection in 2020, and further growth of nearly 10 percent since introducing automated cart collection in 2021, which increased organics capacity. Removing organic materials from the regular garbage stream has many environmental benefits, including conserving valuable landfill capacity, turning waste material into useable compost or soil amendments, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

“It’s the small things we do each day that often have the largest impact, and we truly thank our residents and businesses for doing your part to help us reach this milestone,” said Warden Basil Clarke. “Working with our residents and businesses, we’ve made huge progress towards a greener, more sustainable future, reducing the emissions to the equivalent of 4,000 vehicles off our roads each year, which is no small achievement. Thank you for your efforts, but don’t stop here as there is still room to grow your green cart!”

During County Council, staff also brought forward a report that further demonstrated our regional commitment to diversion. Recent municipal Datacall figures placed the County second out of all participating municipalities, with an overall residential waste diversion rate of more than 63 per cent.

“Our team is very proud of reaching 200,000 tonnes of organics collected and continuing to be recognized among municipal leaders in diversion and waste management practices,” said Rob McCullough, Director of Solid Waste Management, County of Simcoe. “However, we are always striving to offer innovative programs and education that will help decrease the quantity of waste going to landfill in Simcoe County. Our most recent waste audit shows that we still have room for improvement, with opportunity to continue to properly sort. Over 50% of the materials by weight in our garbage could still be diverted easily in our existing other programs, the majority of this is organics.”

Common items that staff often see in garbage carts that should go in organics carts are: edible food, food scraps, soiled paper items (paper towel/tissues), and pet waste. Residents are encouraged to use up edible food prior to disposing, however should there be no other option food should always go in the green cart.

To further support residents, the County recently launched the *Simcoe Sorts* game on the Simcoe County Collects app, which quizzes and helps educate residents on sorting their waste materials. Residents can download the free Simcoe County Collects app through GooglePlay or the App Store. In addition to the new game, the app hosts customizable waste collections notifications for regular and special curbside programs, as well as access to the Waste Wizard, which allows users to look up items and learn how to dispose of them.

For more information on the County's waste diversion strategy, waste facility information, curbside cart collection program and special collections such as our textiles, battery, leaf and yard waste, and electronics collections, visit [simcoe.ca/waste](http://simcoe.ca/waste).

**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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Ministry of the Environment,  
Conservation and Parks

Environmental Assessment  
Modernization Branch

135 St. Clair Avenue West  
4th Floor  
Toronto ON M4V 1P5

Ministère de l'Environnement, de  
la Protection de la nature et des Parcs

Direction de la modernisation des processus  
d'évaluation environnementale

135, avenue St. Clair Ouest  
4<sup>e</sup> étage  
Toronto ON M4V 1P5



March 3, 2023

Good morning/afternoon,

Ontario is taking action to streamline and modernize its almost 50-year-old environmental assessment process that is too slow, unnecessarily burdensome and costly, to build Ontario while continuing to protect the environment. As part of this plan, we are making practical changes that would ensure strong environmental oversight while reducing delays to get shovels in the ground on projects that matter most to Ontario communities.

Today, on behalf of the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, I am writing to let you know that the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (EA) has been amended as part of the ministry's work on EA modernization.

Over the last three years, our modernization efforts have focused on ensuring strong environmental oversight while reducing delays on infrastructure projects that matter most to Ontario communities. This process includes considering input from stakeholders and Indigenous communities and streamlining requirements for low-risk municipal infrastructure projects, while maintaining strong environmental oversight and protection.

In 2019, the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks invited the proponents of class environmental assessments to review their assessment process and to propose changes to reduce duplication and better align assessment requirements with risk. We started consulting with municipalities, government agencies and Indigenous communities on the proposed amendments to the Municipal Class EA in 2020. I want to thank all who have offered feedback on the proposed amendments, through submitting comments, participating in webinars and correspondence. We have considered all comments received during the consultation, in addition to conducting our own analysis before the minister decided on the proposed amendments to the Municipal Class EA.

After careful consideration, the decision was made to approve many of the proposed amendments to the Municipal Class EA, including amendments proposed by the ministry. Various changes were made to the Municipal Class EA to update project schedules to better align the level of assessment with the environmental impact of the project. By looking at smarter, more modern ways of doing business, we're making sure important public services and infrastructure projects can get off the ground faster without unnecessary costs and delays.

Amendments to the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment  
Page 2.

Based on input received from Indigenous communities and Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism (formerly the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport) regarding the need to ensure the protection of archaeological resources and burial sites, an archaeological screening process will be required for various project types that are now eligible for exemption. The exemption will be conditional on the completion and outcome of the screening. The archaeological screening process consists of three questions with links to various tools and criteria developed under the *Ontario Heritage Act*. Proponents must carry out the specified research and consultation to accurately respond to each question, including consultation with Indigenous Communities, municipal governments, and Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism, and may require the assistance of a licensed archaeologist. A project that the screening process applies to would not be exempt unless the archaeological screening process is completed as required, project documentation maintained and all mitigation measures that are identified through the screening process are implemented.

Please see Appendix 1 of the Municipal Class EA for more information on the new archaeological screening process.

Detailed information on the approved amendments to the Municipal Class EA, including the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks' reasons for making the amendments, can be found at: <https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/019-5069>. The changes are effective as of the date of posting on the Environmental Registry of Ontario, March 3, 2023.

Proponents authorized to proceed with projects through the Municipal Class EA are required to proceed in accordance with the transition provisions set out in the amended Municipal Class EA, as it came into effect on March 3, 2023. Municipalities should review the amended Municipal Class EA to determine the impact on their project.

If you have any questions, please contact Stephen Deneault, Project Officer, by e-mail at: [Stephen.Deneault@ontario.ca](mailto:Stephen.Deneault@ontario.ca) and the Environmental Assessment Modernization Team at: [EAModernization.MECP@ontario.ca](mailto:EAModernization.MECP@ontario.ca).

Sincerely,



Annamaria Cross  
Director, Environmental Assessment Modernization Branch  
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

**From:** Robin Brown <[robin@nottawasaga.com](mailto:robin@nottawasaga.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 24, 2023 11:17:50 AM  
**To:** Colleen Healey <[chealey@essatownship.on.ca](mailto:chealey@essatownship.on.ca)>  
**Subject:** Nottawasaga Futures Newsletter



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



Nottawasaga Futures is a non-profit community-based organization that provides financing and business support services to entrepreneurs and small businesses in South Simcoe. Our goal is to help create and retain jobs, support economic growth and diversification, and enhance the overall quality of life in the region. We offer various programs and services such as business loans, advisory services, training and networking events, and other resources to help businesses start, grow,

and succeed.

For more information [www.nottawasaga.com](http://www.nottawasaga.com)



Nottawasaga Futures

FM 92 SOUTH SIMCOE



futurpreneur

# Business Plan COMPETITION

Open To All Youth




**WIN  
\$1,000**  
Contribution toward  
the success of your  
business!

**March 31, 2023  
Submission Deadline**

For submission details *scan the QR code*  
or email: [martin@nottawasaga.com](mailto:martin@nottawasaga.com)

- ♦ **April 20, 2023 | Pitch Night**  
Pitch Night will be from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.  
at the *Gibson Cultural Centre, Alliston, ON*
- ♦ **May 25, 2023 | Awards**  
South Simcoe Business Excellence Awards  
at the *Gibson Cultural Centre, Alliston, ON*

Have Questions? Contact Martin Kuzma  
Email: [martin@nottawasaga.com](mailto:martin@nottawasaga.com)  
Call: 1-800-509-7554

Scan the  
QR code   
View the  
full submission  
details online.



*Nottawasaga Futures is a community economic development agency serving the South Simcoe Area with offices in Alliston, Bradford and Innisfil.*



Exciting news for all young entrepreneurs in South Simcoe!

Nottawasaga Futures, in partnership with **RBC Royal Bank Of Canada** and **Futurpreneur** and **FM92 South Simcoe** is now accepting applications for the Nottawasaga Futures Youth Business Plan Competition.

This is a fantastic opportunity for local youth between the ages of 15-29 to showcase their business ideas and receive valuable feedback from community business leaders.

The winner of the competition will receive a cash prize of \$1000 and a year of mentorship through the Nottawasaga Futures Business Resource Centre. Don't miss out on this chance to turn your passion into a successful business!

Submit your business plan by March 31, 2023 and join us at the Pitch Event on April 20, 2023 at the Gibson Centre in Alliston.

Get all the details and submit your plan today!

<https://youthbusinessplancompetition.lpages.co/nottawasaga-futures-youth-business-plan-competition/>



Nottawasaga Futures is proud to support White Tuque and the County of Simcoe's Cybersecurity CDAP Top-Up grant. Focusing on rural-based businesses in the County of Simcoe, White Tuque will assess the strengths and weaknesses of your business's cybersecurity program and provide you with an implementation plan to help you protect and defend your business from ever-changing cyber threats.

The cost to you if you're eligible? \$0.

The Canada Digital Adoption Program (CDAP) is part of the Government of Canada's department of Innovation, Science and Economic Development's (ISED) goal of improving the digital posture of small and medium-sized Canadian businesses.

To learn more about the program click here: <https://lnkd.in/gp6ngmfF>

## Financial Support and Resources

- [Nottawasaga Futures Community Investment Fund](#)
- [Canada - Ontario Job Grant](#)
- [Ontario Business Registry](#)
- [Business Benefits Finder](#)
- [Canada Business App](#)
- [Delia: Funding for Women-owned Enterprises](#)
- [Ontario Automotive Modernization Program](#)
- [Southwestern Ontario Development Fund](#)
- [Business advisory services for small & medium-sized businesses](#)
- [Youth Small Business Program](#)

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## NVCA February 2023 Board Meeting Highlights

**Next Meeting: March 24, 2023, held virtually**

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

### Board Orientation

NVCA's Senior Management Team conducted an orientation presentation to the Board of Directors.

Topics covered in the presentation include an overview of the Nottawasaga Watershed, history of the NVCA, responsibilities of each NVCA department, board governance and issues facing the Nottawasaga Watershed.

### Presentation on 2023 Draft Budget

Sheryl Flannagan, Director, Corporate Services, gave a presentation on [NVCA's 2023 Draft Budget](#).

In November 2022, NVCA's previous board approved the preliminary budget guidelines to increase municipal levy by \$150,000. Based on this approval, staff prepared a draft budget that came in considerably below the targeted number.

The NVCA Board of Directors has approved the draft budget and program overview for circulation to municipalities for a 90-day review period. The final budget vote will be on March 24, 2023.

### NVCA's Source Water Risk Management Officials

Nine municipalities in the Nottawasaga Watershed have transferred responsibilities of the enforcement of Part IV policies in the South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Plan to NVCA.

NVCA has appointed Sarah Thompson appointed as a Risk Management Official and Risk Management Inspector and Taryn

Arsenault appointed as an Alternate Risk Management Official and Inspector.

### Administrative Memorandum of Understanding

Through changes to the *Conservation Authorities Act*, NVCA will be negotiating and executing Memorandums of Understanding and Service Level Agreements with partner municipalities to deliver services deemed non-mandatory. These services fall into three categories

- Category 1 – services prescribed as mandatory by the province
- Category 2 – services delivered on behalf of municipalities
- Category 3 – services that further the conservation, restoration, development and management of natural resources

The NVCA Board of Directors have approved the CAO and staff to use the Administrative MOU to complete apportioned cost agreement negotiations between municipal partners and NVCA.

The apportioned cost agreement is based on the Current Value Assessment provided the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry.

### Funding from Federal government's Freshwater Action Plan

NVCA's Chair and Vice Chair will submit a resolution with an accompanying letter to the federal government to renew their commitment to invest \$1 billion to restore the Great Lakes.

In 2017, the federal government announced \$44.84 million over five years in funding to enhance, restore and protect the Great Lakes

through the Fresh Water Action Plan. In 2021, the government renewed their commitment with a promise of \$1 billion over ten years to restore major bodies of water across the country. However, only 19.6 million was budgeted for the Freshwater Action Plan in 2022.

The Nottawasaga Watershed has a strong connection to the Great Lakes as all streams and rivers in the watershed flow into Georgian Bay (Lake Huron).

As the watershed faces challenges such as climate change, invasive species, exposure to toxins and beach contamination, NVCA will join organizations across Canada to advocate that the federal government invest \$1 billion in a strengthened Freshwater Action Plan in 2023.

### Permits Approvals under the CA Act

NVCA's permit application service timelines are governed by the [Conservation Authority Liaison Committee](#) (CALC), which requires NVCA to complete a policy review within 21 days, and complete a technical review within 30 days for minor applications and 90 days for major applications.

NVCA Regulations staff provided a summary of the permits issued during the period June 13, 2022 to December 31, 2022. A total of 432 permits and clearances were approved by staff for this time period, with 96% of the permits were processed within the provincial timelines.

### Customer Satisfaction Report

In 2013, NVCA adopted a Customer Service Charter and Strategy that sets out the authority's commitment to providing excellence in customer service. Continuous improvement is a key element of the charter.

[Please visit NVCA's website to view the 2021 Customer Service Satisfaction Report.](#)

### Regulations

In 2022, 42 individuals and organizations completed a client survey on the NVCA permit application process. The survey is sent to all those receiving NVCA permits.

Between 60% and 83% of those completing the client survey rated their overall experience with

NVCA's permit application process as good or excellent. In general, the responses that were ranked as good or excellent in 2022 was 68%, lower than the 90% rating received in 2021.

The Planning Services team saw significant staff turnover in 2022, which caused customer satisfaction to decrease from previous years.

Recognizing that our customer service needed to be enhanced, NVCA took measures to better service watershed residents. These include:

- Prioritized files to increase efficiency.
- Assigning planning and regulation files according to the strength of staff.
- Finding the best way to automate data management
- Contracting a consulting firm to examine current fees and opportunities to expand the level of service meet the needs and expectations of our partners and watershed residents.

### Lands

Two (2) respondents provided feedback regarding parking for two of NVCA's conservation areas.

NVCA's conservation areas received 5-star ratings on Google's business listings.

### Education

In 2021, 16 teachers submitted feedback surveys on NVCA's virtual environmental education programs.

Of those responding, 100% of the respondents ranked the Grade 4 program as excellent or good for the following criteria

- opportunities to interact with the natural world
- first-hand investigation of the environment, appreciation of wild spaces
- real-world and/or hands-on curriculum connections and student collaboration.

### Stewardship

NVCA's stewardship services include Forestry, the Healthy Waters grant program, and other projects to protect and enhance our watershed. Comments received from funders and

landowners generally describe the expertise and dedication of NVCA's stewardship staff.

### **Weddings**

In 2022, the Tiffin Centre for Conservation was host to 19 wedding celebrations. Four (4) of these couples responded to a wedding feedback survey. Of those responding, 100% rated NVCA's customer service as excellent, and 100% said they would recommend Tiffin Centre as a wedding venue to others.

## **Upcoming Events**

### **Spring Tonic Maple Syrup Festival**

Hosted by the Rotary Club of Barrie, the Spring Tonic Maple Syrup Festival is a tradition spanning more than three decades.

Visitors will take a trip back in time to explore how Indigenous people and Pioneers made maple syrup. After that, they will return to current times and see how maple syrup is made today! End the tour with pancake and sausage breakfast with fresh maple syrup and join in many other activities.

**Date:** April 1 and 2, 2023.

**Location:** Tiffin Centre for Conservation  
8195 8th Line, Utopia, ON L0M 1T0

### **Tiffin Nature Program**

Geared towards pre-K and children in kindergarten, the Tiffin nature program will help children gain knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the natural world and our amazing planet.

**Date:** 6-week sessions from September 20, 2022 to June 13, 2023.

**Location:** Tiffin Centre for Conservation  
8195 8th Line, Utopia, ON L0M 1T0

### **PA/PD Day Camp**

Offered on PA/PD Days only, kids will enjoy lots of physical activity, and be mentally stimulated as they explore ever changing scenery and landscapes. They will be able to move away from excess screen time, and learn how to integrate nature into their everyday lives.

**Dates:** October 24, 2022, November 18, 2022, January 27, 2023, April 28, 2023, June 2, 2023

**Location:** Tiffin Centre for Conservation  
8195 8th Line, Utopia, ON L0M 1T0

### **Homeschool Programs**

Tiffin's Homeschool Program is designed for homeschool families who want to spend structured time outside to develop a sense of wonder, appreciation and respect for the natural world.

**Date:** One Friday a month from October 15, 2022 to June 23, 2023

**Location:** Various locations throughout the Nottawasaga Watershed



# Protecting Local Public Libraries Across Ontario

## 2023 Pre-Budget Submission

**Public libraries are an essential part of communities across Ontario – but many who depend on them are still falling through the gaps.**

- Public libraries are Ontario’s farthest-reaching, most cost-effective public resource and community hubs.
- Millions of Ontarians rely on local public libraries in their communities: to work, to learn, to connect to community and government services, and to find or train for a job.
- Public libraries continue to provide access to important digital and in-person resources, including:
  - **Job training** – and re-training – programs and resources
  - **Small business support** and community economic development
  - **Equitable, reliable access to broadband** internet in underserved areas
  - **Frontline access and support for digital government services** through ServiceOntario
  - **Affordable, high-quality children’s programs** for young families
  - **Community and residence-based** seniors programming
  - **Direct supports and partnerships with service agencies** to support vulnerable populations, including connecting to support services, food banks, and space for group programs
- Despite these essential supports, many individuals and families across the province are struggling and unable to access the local public library resources they need.
- Many of these challenges existed prior to the pandemic, but the impact of the pandemic health emergency brought them to a critical point for many communities across Ontario.
- The situation for public libraries located on First Nations Reserves in Ontario is even more challenging, as these libraries do not receive funding from municipal taxes. This has overburdened an unsustainable local funding model that has left many public libraries on reserve closed or with severely reduced access.

## **Investing in public libraries will directly support people, their communities and local economy.**

Through carefully targeted investments, the Ontario Government can make sure that all Ontarians – no matter where they live or learn – will continue to have access to modern, cost-effective resources and services through their local public libraries.

- Maintain critical provincial funding for Ontario’s public libraries at current levels and work with municipalities and the Federal government to prevent unsustainable cuts to public library funding.
- Working alongside First Nations Public Library leaders, rapidly implement a sustainable funding model for public libraries on reserve to ensure that these important local hubs are fully-funded and viable. This includes enhancing the existing direct provincial funding support for public libraries on reserve to sustainably fund library operations and ensure a living income for frontline library staff in these communities.
- Provide critical e-learning support and fair access to modern, digital resources for all Ontario public libraries through the creation of an Ontario Digital Public Library, thereby leveraging the province’s significant purchasing power to give all Ontarians access to a common core of high-quality e-learning & online resources and more e-books.

## **Priorities**

### **1. Maintain critical provincial funding for Ontario’s public libraries at current levels and work with municipalities and the Federal government to prevent unsustainable cuts to public library funding.**

- Unlike most sectors in Ontario, provincial funding for public libraries has been frozen for over 25 years.
- Despite no net increase in provincial or municipal funding over this period, public libraries have effectively managed their resources, evolved to meet the needs of their communities and embraced major leaps in technology.
- The Ontario government’s 2022/23 Budget maintained funding support for Ontario’s public libraries sector at \$25.2 million.
- While the majority of public library budgets are municipally supported, the provincial portion (the Public Library Operating Grant) of funding is critical to support operations, shared resources, broadband connectivity and pay equity.
- Continuing to maintain this critical provincial funding at existing levels is vital to supporting the sustainability of local public libraries and the services they provide.
- OLA and FOPL strongly urge the Ontario government to work with the Federal government and municipalities to ensure that our communities have the funding they need to protect jobs and the vital importance of local public libraries.
- *Projected cost:* no change to present annual provincial funding.

**2. Working alongside First Nations Public Library leaders, rapidly implement a sustainable funding model for public libraries on reserve to ensure that these important local hubs are fully-funded and viable. This includes enhancing the existing direct provincial funding support for public libraries on reserve to sustainably fund library operations and ensure a living income for frontline library staff in these communities.**

- Public libraries on reserve serve as an accessible gathering place and information sharing resource for First Nations communities. They are deeply important to maintaining a sense of community and to minimizing social isolation in these communities, many of which are remote or face systemic social and economic challenges.
- Furthermore, public libraries on reserve perform a unique role in the preservation of their communities' memory, archiving community photos and historical information, and in revitalizing First Nations languages through cultural resources, language learning programming, storytelling events, and craft groups.
- Public libraries on reserve are chronically under-funded. The municipal tax revenue used to support most public libraries does not exist for public libraries in First Nation communities. Provincial funding through the Public Library Operating Grant (PLOG) and the First Nation Salary Supplement Grant (FNSS) provides on average \$15,000/year to each of the existing public libraries on reserve. Band Councils must therefore allocate essential funding support such as rent, hydro, internet, fax and telephone services.
- There is little to no funding available for collections, programming and technology resources.
- Librarians rely on one-time grants or donations to develop their collections, and many librarians contribute personally to purchase programming supplies and food.
- Many public libraries on reserve operate with only one staff person who is expected to perform many functions – librarian, archivist, community liaison, fundraiser, administrator, tech support, and more. Public libraries on reserve need additional funding to provide staff with a living wage and to increase staffing levels so that they can meet their communities' needs for library programs and services.
- Of the 133 First Nations communities in Ontario, only 39 have public libraries. The number has steadily dropped in recent years and the pandemic has only made this situation worse, with four public libraries on reserve closing their doors due to inadequate funding over the past 20 months.

*Recommended Priority:*

- As an immediate first step, the First Nations Salary Supplement must be increased to ensure that all existing staff of public libraries on reserve are fairly compensated for the work they perform.
- *Projected cost:* \$2 million / annually (First Nation Salary Supplement increase for existing public libraries on reserve).

### 3. Provide critical e-learning support and fair access to modern, digital resources for all Ontario public libraries through the creation of an Ontario Digital Public Library, thereby leveraging the province's significant purchasing power to give all Ontarians access to a common core of high-quality e-learning & online resources and more e-books.

- Ontario's Public Libraries are essential to equitable, reliable access to broadband internet and computers. They are especially vital for many First Nation, rural and Northern communities where at home connectivity is limited, and for hundreds of thousands of Ontarians that cannot afford in-home internet services.
- The Ontario Government has recognized the crucial importance of public libraries to broadband internet access, making a \$4.8 million investment to install or upgrade broadband connectivity at over 100 public libraries across the province.
- In particular, people rely on local public libraries for access to digital and online resources, which contribute to student success and life-long learning, as well as towards entrepreneurship and job readiness.
- However, these resources are expensive, especially when purchased on a patchwork, library-by-library basis.
- Many public libraries in Ontario, particularly in smaller and First Nation communities, struggle to pay for or are unable to afford these high-quality resources.
- People living in communities of less than 5,000 have access to less than half the e-books and less than a third of the online databases as those living in Toronto – despite accessing them twice as often per capita as people in large urban communities.
- Creating an Ontario Digital Public Library through a targeted provincial investment would leverage the province's significant purchasing power to give all Ontarians – no matter where they live – access to a common set of high-quality digital resources and more e-books through their public library.
- *Projected cost: \$9.4 million / annually.*

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#### Ontario Library Association / Federation of Ontario Public Libraries

The **Ontario Library Association (OLA)** is the oldest continually-operating non-profit library association in Canada, with over 5,000 members comprised of library staff and supporters from public, school, academic, and special libraries.

The **Federation of Ontario Public Libraries (FOPL)** represents 237 public library systems in Ontario, including 39 Public Libraries on Reserves.

Together, OLA & FOPL are committed to ensuring that libraries can continue to play a critical role in the social, education, cultural and economic success of our communities and schools.