

**TOWNSHIP OF ESSA
CONSENT AGENDA
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2021**

A – ITEMS RECEIVED AS INFORMATION

- p.1 1. Correspondence from the Simcoe County Road Supervisor dated November 2021, re: AORS Tradeshow to Simcoe County.
- p. 2 2. Resolution from the Town of LaSalle dated November 15, 2021, re: COVID-19 Testing Requirement at Land Border.
- p. 4 3. Resolution from the City of Kitchener dated November 15, 2021, re: Liquor Licence Sales and Patio Extensions.
- p. 6 4. Resolution from the Township of Alwicks/Haldimand dated November 15, 2021, re: Support of Resolution – Endorsing National Teen Driver Safety Week and Requesting the Ministry of Transportation to Review Measures Impacting Newly Licensed Drivers.
- p. 12 5. News Release from Jim Wilson, MPP Simcoe-Grey dated November 16, 2021, re: Simcoe-Grey Grocers Among Ontario's Best; "Congratulations," says MPP Wilson.
6. Correspondence from the County of Simcoe:
- p. 15 a) County Council Highlights – Meeting Held November 9, 2021.
- p. 23 b) November 15, 2021 – Release – County of Simcoe Breaks Ground on County Orillia Campus Project.
- p. 26 c) November 23, 2021 – Release – Council Approves 2022 County of Simcoe Budget.
- p. 32 d) November 23, 2021 – County of Simcoe Recognizes Community Leaders at Ninth Annual Newcomer Recognition Awards.
- p. 33 e) November 24, 2021 – Celebrate Christmas at the County Museum.
- p. 35 7. Correspondence from Terry Dowdall, MP Simcoe Grey dated November 16, 2021, re: High-Speed Internet.
8. News Releases from Ontario News:
- p. 36 a) November 18, 2021 – Ontario Shifting to Convenient Digital Reminders for Product Renewal Notices.
- p. 40 b) November 23, 2021 – Mobile Live Fire Training Unit Hits the Road.
- p. 43 9. Resolution received from the Township of Severn dated November 18, 2021, re: Growth Plan's Provincial Natural Heritage System.
- p. 46 10. Correspondence received from the Association of Ontario Municipalities (AMO) dated November 23, 2021, re: Navigating Conflict Relationships as an Elected Official – New Dates Added – February 9/10, 2022 and April 6/7, 2022.

B – ITEMS RECEIVED AND REFERRED TO SERVICE AREA FOR ACTION

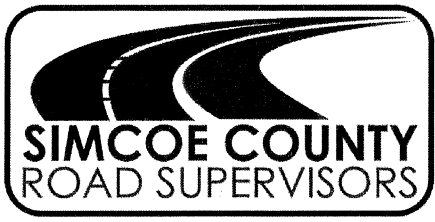
None.

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

None.

AI

Simcoe County Road
Supervisors Association
C/O Karla Musso-Garcia
148 line 7 South
Oro-Medonte,
Ontario L0L 2E0



November 2021

Member Municipalities

Chippewas of Rama First Nations

City of Barrie

City of Orillia

County of Simcoe

Town of Bradford West

Gwillimbury

Town of Collingwood

Town of Innisfil

Town of Midland

Town of New Tecumseth

Town of Penetanguishene

Town of Wasaga Beach

Township of Adjala - Tosorontio

Township of Clearview

Township of Essa

Township of Oro – Medonte

Township of Ramara

Township of Severn

Township of Springwater

Township of Tay

Township of Tiny

To the Mayor and Council,

In 2017 our Association contacted our member Municipalities Councils to request your support in bringing the 2020 AORS tradeshow to Simcoe County.

We were happy to announce that because of your support, the Simcoe County Roads Supervisors Association had been successful and were to host the Association of Ontario Road Supervisors (AORS) 2020 AORS Trade Show June 3rd and 4th, 2020. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 global pandemic put a halt to the 2020 and 2021 events. As Ontario prepares to emerge from the pandemic, we are pleased to announce that the Trade Show has been scheduled to be held on June 1st and 2nd, 2022 at the Sadlon Arena in Barrie.

The AORS Trade Show is the largest of its kind in Ontario with between 200 and 300 exhibitors of Public Works related products and services, and upwards of 2,000 participants. This two day Trade Show provides an opportunity for public and private sector Public Works employees to share information about technical developments in materials, services and equipment required to build and maintain municipal roads and other core infrastructure.

As mentioned in the support letter, there will be no direct cost to your Municipality, however there will be opportunities to further continue your support of the event through staff volunteers to assist in running the Trade Show. Revenues generated through this event will allow for our local Association to continue to support local charities such as the Seasons Centre for Grieving Children, Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre, and provide scholarships to deserving students of Georgian College. The Trade Show will allow our Association to showcase municipalities within the County of Simcoe to people, visitors and municipalities from all over the Province.

We anticipate that we will see excellent attendance from Simcoe County Municipalities so we may continue our charitable efforts as the Simcoe County Roads Supervisors Association.

Karla Musso-Garcia, A.Sc.T
AORS Director – SCRSA

Dan Cole, CRS
Tradeshow Ambassador – SCRSA



Corporation of the Town of LaSalle

5950 Malden Road, LaSalle, Ontario N9H 1S4
 Phone: 519-969-7770 Fax: 519-969-4029 www.lasalle.ca

November 15, 2021

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau
 Prime Minister of Canada
 House of Commons
 Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6
justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau,

Re: COVID-19 Testing Requirement at Land Border

At the November 9, 2021 Regular Meeting of Council, Town of LaSalle Council gave consideration to correspondence received from a resident, dated November 2, 2021, regarding the COVID-19 testing requirement for travelers crossing the land border into Canada.

The following points were considered:

- The vast majority of the population of Essex County, including the Town of LaSalle, is fully vaccinated against COVID-19;
- Essex County, including the Town of LaSalle, has strong economic and social ties to Metropolitan Detroit and southeast Michigan;
- The United States has opened their land border to fully vaccinated Canadians without COVID-19 testing requirements; and
- The City of Windsor has asked the federal government to remove COVID-19 testing as a requirement for fully vaccinated travelers crossing the land border into Canada.

At the Meeting, the following Resolution was passed:

698/21

Moved by: Councillor Renaud

Seconded by: Councillor Carrick

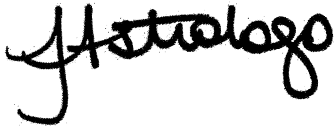
That the Corporation of the Town of LaSalle requests that the Federal Government remove the requirement for Canadian Travelers to be tested for COVID-19 when using a land border crossing into the United States and then returning to Canada after the November 8, 2021 re-opening.



A2

Your favourable consideration of this request is respectfully requested.

Yours Truly,



Jennifer Astrologo
Director of Council Services/Clerk
Town of LaSalle
jastrologo@lasalle.ca

cc. The Honourable Doug Ford
Chris Lewis, MP, Essex
Taras Natyshak, MPP, Essex
Gary McNamara, Warden, County of Essex
All Members of Parliament
All Members of Provincial Parliament
All Ontario Municipalities





CHRISTINE TARLING
Director of Legislated Services & City Clerk
Corporate Services Department
Kitchener City Hall, 2nd Floor
200 King Street West, P.O. Box 1118
Kitchener, ON N2G 4G7
Phone: 519.741.2200 x 7809 Fax: 519.741.2705
christine.tarling@kitchener.ca
TTY: 519-741-2385

November 15, 2021

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

Dear Premier Ford:

This is to advise that City Council, at a meeting held on October 18, 2021, passed the following resolution regarding liquor licence sales and patio extensions:

"WHEREAS the Covid-19 pandemic has been both a health crisis and an economic crisis; and,

WHEREAS the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO), an agency of the Province of Ontario, regulates licensed establishments; and,

WHEREAS the requirements for temporary extension of a liquor licence sales and temporary patio extensions have been relaxed throughout the pandemic, including downloading of certain approvals to the municipality, and proved beneficial to business operators; and,

WHEREAS the Downtown Kitchener BIA has invested \$600,000 into new downtown restaurant patios and the Belmont Village BIA invested in creating a new pedestrian-only patio experience; and,

WHEREAS the City of Kitchener has provided \$100,000 in business recovery grants to support Kitchener restaurants in adapting their patios to respond to the pandemic; and,

WHEREAS the City of Kitchener has developed a seamless system for approving patio expansion during the pandemic, supporting more than 60 restaurant owners across the city; and,

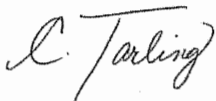
WHEREAS the City of Kitchener would like to provide further opportunities for helping strengthen our economy, continue to support local businesses, and have successfully managed the new licensed-area extension approvals delegated to the municipality;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Kitchener strongly encourages the Province of Ontario to continue the relaxed regulations in perpetuity, including, but not limited to, the following: i) permitting extensions of licensed areas without requiring AGCO approval, subject to municipal authorization; and, ii) flexibility on the requirements for demarcation of the limits of a patio, such as not requiring a prescribed physical barrier;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that should the AGCO propose to complete a comprehensive review of the temporary extension of a liquor licence sales and temporary patio extension regulations, The City of Kitchener wishes to volunteer to participate in any pilot programs that would allow the current regulations that are in effect until 3:00 a.m. on January 1, 2022 to be maintained, as the City would like to continue to show support to our local businesses;

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Premier of Ontario, Tom Mungham, Chief Executive Officer, AGCO, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, Federation of Canadian Municipalities and all other municipalities in Ontario."

Yours truly,



C. Tarling
Director of Legislated Services
& City Clerk

c: Tom Mungham, Chief Executive Officer, AGCO
Monika Turner, Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Joanne Vanderheyden, President, Federation of Canadian
Municipalities
Ontario Municipalities



November 15, 2021

Honourable Caroline Mulroney
 Minister of Transportation and Minister of Francophone Affairs
 Ministry of Transportation of Ontario
caroline.mulroneyco@pc.ola.org

Dear Honourable Caroline Mulroney:

Re: Support of Resolution – Endorsing National Teen Driver Safety Week and Requesting the Ministry of Transportation to Review Measures Impacting Newly Licensed Drivers

At the Township of Alnwick/Haldimand's Regular Council Meeting held on November 4, 2021, Council received the resolution sent by the City of Vaughan on October 19, 2021 in regards to endorsing National Teen Driver Safety Week and requesting the Ministry of Transportation to review measures impacting newly licensed drivers. Council of the Township of Alnwick/ Haldimand supported and passed the following resolution:

Moved by Deputy Mayor Sherry Gibson, seconded by Councillor Jim Hogg;

"Whereas, correspondence from the City of Vaughan, RE: Resolution Endorsing National Teen Driver Safety Week and Requesting the Ministry of Transportation to Review Measures Impacting Newly Licensed Drivers has been received; and

Whereas, the Province of Ontario has legislative authority over driver licensing, highways, automobile insurance, and the enforcement and prosecution of the federal criminal law; and

Whereas, the Ontario Ministry of Transportation administers the Highway Traffic Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. H.8; and

Whereas, the Ontario Ministry of Transportation published the "Ontario Road Safety Annual Report 2018", being the most recent report issued, containing statistics that demonstrate that the percentage of young licensed drivers, ages 17 to 20, that were involved in vehicle collisions is higher than any other age group; and

A4

Whereas, the Canadian Council of Motor Transport Administrators published "Canada's Road Safety Strategy 2025" and identifies drivers that are either under the age of 25 or have less than two years of driving experience as a 'risk group' based on several contributing factors, some including distracted driving, impaired driving, speeding, passive safety, and road infrastructure; and

Whereas, the Council of the Township of Alnwick/Haldimand wishes to see change effected to Ontario's driving laws under the Highway Traffic Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. H.8, with respect to newly licensed drivers;

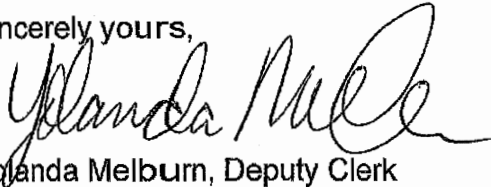
Now Therefore Be It Resolved That, Council of the Township of Alnwick/Haldimand support the correspondence regarding this issue; and

Further That Council direct staff to forward a copy of this resolution to the City of Vaughan, the Ministry of Transportation, the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, the Ontario Provincial Police, the Northumberland Police Services Board and all municipalities in Ontario.

CARRIED.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely yours,



Yolanda Melburn, Deputy Clerk
Township of Alnwick/Haldimand
905-349-2822 ext. 32
ymelburn@ahfwp.ca

Cc: Todd Coles, City Clerk, City of Vaughan (clerks@vaughan.ca)
Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario (premier@ontario.ca)
OPP (Lincoln M. Alexander Bldg., 777 Memorial Ave., Orillia, ON L3V 7V3)
Northumberland Police Services Board
All municipalities of Ontario

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 27, 2021

Item 32, Report No.39, of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on September 27, 2021.

32. ENDORISING NATIONAL TEEN DRIVER SAFETY WEEK AND REQUESTING THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION TO REVIEW MEASURES IMPACTING NEWLY LICENSED DRIVERS

The Committee of the Whole recommends approval of the recommendations contained in the resolution of Councillor Yeung Racco and Regional Councillor Rosati dated September 14, 2021.

Member's Resolution

Submitted by Councillor Yeung Racco and Regional Councillor Rosati

Whereas, City of Vaughan Council is concerned about the continued occurrence of serious motor vehicle collisions involving newly licensed drivers and drivers under the age of 18; and

Whereas, a shocking and tragic collision involving a 16-year old driver occurred on May 16th, 2021 on Athabasca Avenue in the City of Vaughan, resulting in the fatality of two young children; and

Whereas, City of Vaughan Council deferred the Resolution titled "Raising the Legal Age for a Licensed Driver from 16 to 18" on June 1, 2021 to a September Committee of the Whole meeting for further review and research; and

Whereas, the Province of Ontario has legislative authority over driver licensing, highways, automobile insurance, and the enforcement and prosecution of the federal criminal law; and

Whereas, the Ontario Ministry of Transportation administers the Highway Traffic Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. H.8; and

Whereas, the Ontario Ministry of Transportation published the "Ontario Road Safety Annual Report 2018", being the most recent report issued, containing statistics that demonstrate that the percentage of young, licensed drivers, ages 17 to 20, that were involved in vehicle collisions is higher than any other age group; and

Whereas, York Region published "2020 Traveller Safety Report" which provided that, based on collision data from the York Regional Police motor vehicle accident reports, drivers below the age of 25 have a higher at-fault collision rate and higher fatality rate in collisions than any other age group; and

.../2

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 27, 2021Item 32, CW Report 39 – Page 2

Whereas, the Canadian Council of Motor Transport Administrators published “Canada’s Road Safety Strategy 2025” and identifies drivers that are either under the age of 25 or have less than two years of driving experience as a ‘risk group’ based on several contributing factors, some including distracted driving, impaired driving, speeding, passive safety, and road infrastructure; and

Whereas, City of Vaughan Council wishes to see change effected to Ontario’s driving laws under the Highway Traffic Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. H.8, with respect to newly licensed drivers; and

Whereas, Parachute, a Canadian charity, has launched a national awareness campaign to help educate Canadians on road safety and increase awareness on preventing serious and fatal injuries caused by motor vehicle accidents; and

Whereas, National Teen Driver Safety Week, hosted by Parachute and supported by many other Canadian jurisdictions, is a week dedicated to educating the youth about road safety and raise awareness of risks associated with driving to help prevent youth fatalities on the road across Canada.

It is therefore recommended:

1. That City of Vaughan Council request for the Ministry of Transportation of Ontario to undertake a review of the Highway Traffic Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. H.8 with respect to measures impacting newly licensed drivers, such as implementing additional training and penalty provisions, to achieve greater education, and awareness of road safety and increase accountability and responsibility of new and young drivers through the legislative framework; and
2. That City of Vaughan Council unanimously endorse National Teen Driver Safety Week, to be held October 17 to 23, 2021; and
3. That the City Clerk forward a copy of this resolution to the Premier, the Minister of Transportation, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, all municipalities in Ontario, the York Regional Police, the Ontario Safety League, the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police, and Parachute.

MEMBER'S RESOLUTION

Committee of the Whole (1) Report

DATE: Tuesday, September 14, 2021

**TITLE: ENDORSING NATIONAL TEEN DRIVER SAFETY WEEK AND
REQUESTING THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION TO
REVIEW MEASURES IMPACTING NEWLY LICENSED DRIVERS**

FROM:

Councillor Sandra Yeung Racco
Regional Councillor Gino Rosati

Whereas, City of Vaughan Council is concerned about the continued occurrence of serious motor vehicle collisions involving newly licensed drivers and drivers under the age of 18; and

Whereas, a shocking and tragic collision involving a 16-year old driver occurred on May 16, 2021 on Athabasca Avenue in the City of Vaughan, resulting in the fatality of two young children; and

Whereas, City of Vaughan Council deferred the Resolution titled "Raising the Legal Age for a Licensed Driver from 16 to 18" on June 1, 2021 to a September Committee of the Whole meeting for further review and research; and

Whereas, the Province of Ontario has legislative authority over driver licensing, highways, automobile insurance, and the enforcement and prosecution of the federal criminal law; and

Whereas, the Ontario Ministry of Transportation administers the *Highway Traffic Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. H.8; and

Whereas, the Ontario Ministry of Transportation published the "Ontario Road Safety Annual Report 2018", being the most recent report issued, containing statistics that

A4

demonstrate that the percentage of young, licensed drivers, aged 17 to 20, that were involved in vehicle collisions is higher than any other age group; and

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Whereas, City of Vaughan Council wishes to see change effected to Ontario’s driving laws under the *Highway Traffic Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. H.8, with respect to newly licensed drivers; and

Whereas, Parachute, a Canadian charity, has launched a national awareness campaign to help educate Canadians on road safety and increase awareness on preventing serious and fatal injuries caused by motor vehicle accidents; and

Whereas, National Teen Driver Safety Week, hosted by Parachute and supported by many other Canadian jurisdictions, is a week dedicated to educating the youth about road safety and raising awareness of risks associated with driving to help prevent youth fatalities on the road across Canada.

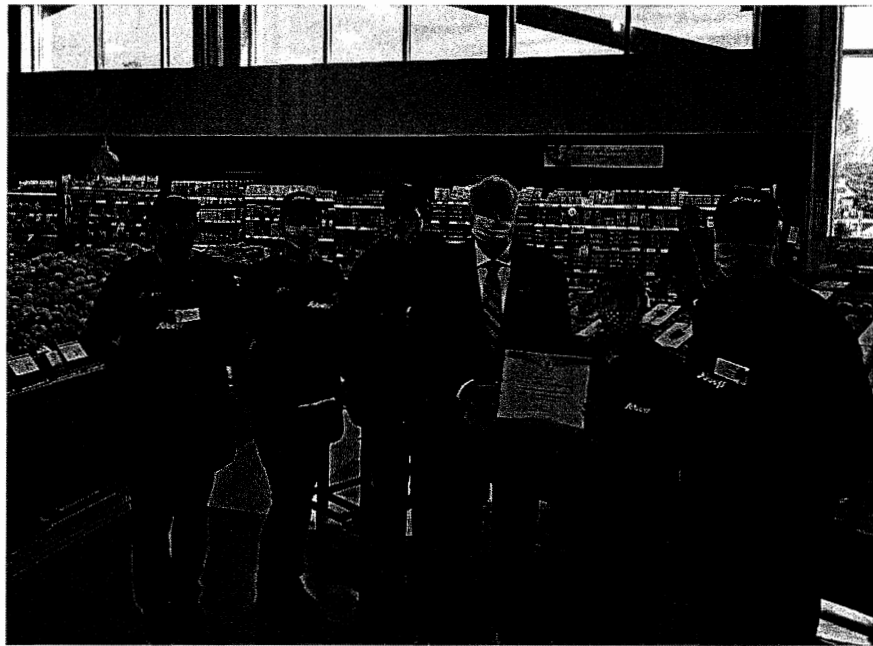
It is therefore recommended:

1. That City of Vaughan Council request the Ministry of Transportation of Ontario to undertake a review of the *Highway Traffic Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. H.8 with respect to measures impacting newly licensed drivers, such as implementing additional training and penalty provisions, to achieve greater education, and awareness of road safety and increased accountability and responsibility of new and young drivers through the legislative framework; and
2. That City of Vaughan Council unanimously endorse National Teen Driver Safety Week, to be held October 17 to 23, 2021; and
3. That the City Clerk forward a copy of this resolution to the Premier, the Minister of Transportation, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, all municipalities in Ontario, York Regional Police, Ontario Safety League, Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police, and Parachute.

From: Jim Wilson, MPP <jwilson@ola.org>
Sent: November 16, 2021 1:02 PM
To: Lisa Lehr <llehr@essatowship.on.ca>
Subject: Simcoe-Grey Grocers Among Ontario's Best; "Congratulations," says MPP Wilson



**Simcoe-Grey Grocers Among Ontario's Best;
"Congratulations," says MPP Wilson**





Sobeys Collingwood and Sobeys Angus are among 60 grocery stores in the province recognized this year for their innovative promotion of fresh Ontario food. Simcoe-Grey MPP Jim Wilson was pleased to visit both outlets to offer congratulations, and present them with Gold Foodland Ontario Retailer Award plaques.

The Foodland Ontario Awards program is the province's premier competition recognizing excellence in the display and promotion of Ontario foods. It is co-sponsored by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs in partnership with a number of industry organizations.

"Grocers are key to ensuring that customers are aware of locally grown food in their stores and that they choose to purchase it," said Mr. Wilson. "Buying local food supports a strong agri-food sector that

sustains us, boosts our economy, and helps create good jobs across our region," he added.

The Gold category – awarded to the Angus and Collingwood stores – is based on the number of non-produce items cross-merchandised with Ontario agricultural commodities, compatibility of the products, and appropriate signage.

Presenting the awards, MPP Wilson said to the store employees, "Thank you for taking pride in building creative and innovative displays that encourage shoppers to take home the good things that grow in Ontario."

Ontario is home to almost 46,900 farms that grow more than 200 agricultural products. The sector contributes \$47.7 billion to the province's GDP and employs over 837,000 people – about one in every 10 jobs in Ontario.

Included in the photo in Collingwood is Pauline Mussleman, Darlene Ferguson, Tammy Austin, Anna Miller and Kevin Major. In the picture in Angus is Shirley Van Dusen, Christine Wodchis and Paul Jutras.

Jim Wilson, MPP | Room 1306 Whitney Block, Queen's Park,
Toronto, M7A 1A8 Canada

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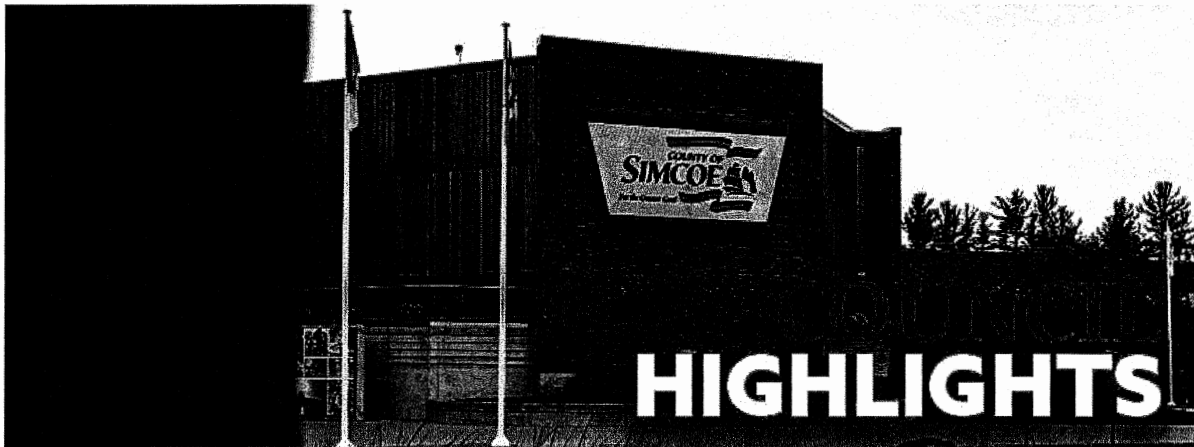
Sent by jwilson@ola.org in collaboration with

From: County Of Simcoe Communications <Communications@simcoe.ca>

Sent: November 15, 2021 3:49 PM

To: Lisa Lehr <llehr@essatownship.on.ca>

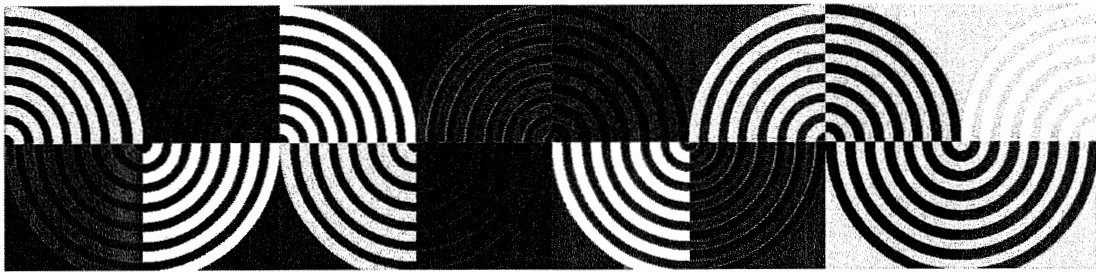
Subject: County Council Highlights - meeting held November 9, 2021



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 agenda from the **Council Meeting on November 9, 2021** and the **Committee Meeting on October 26, 2021**. 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.

- Service Simcoe

LOCAL IMMIGRATION PARTNERSHIP
**PROGRESS
REPORT
2020**



Click on the image above to read the Local Immigration Partnership Progress Report 2020.

Simcoe County Local Immigration Partnership
10-Year Anniversary

There are currently around 90 Local Immigration Partnerships (LIPs) across Canada. LIPs were created in 2008 through a national call for proposals to communities in Ontario. LIPs are considered an indirect service delivery mechanism and engage in community-based planning to foster local engagement in newcomer integration processes; support community-based knowledge sharing and local strategic planning; and improve coordination of services that facilitate immigrant settlement and integration.

On October 26, 2021, Council received a report on the Simcoe County LIP's progress on the goals that have been established since its creation in 2011. Over the past ten years, the Simcoe County LIP has raised awareness of the

growing immigrant demography in local communities, highlighted the needs of immigrant residents, and supported the creation of new service delivery mechanisms to improve outcomes for foreign-born residents. A renewed settlement strategy for Simcoe County will be published in 2023.

National Three-Digit Suicide and Crisis Prevention Hotline

In December 2020, a motion to establish a national three-digit suicide and crisis prevention hotline was unanimously passed by the House of Commons. The motion called on the federal government to take immediate action, in collaboration with the provinces, to establish a national suicide and crisis prevention hotline that consolidates all suicide crisis numbers into one easy-to-remember three-digit hotline that is accessible to all Canadians.

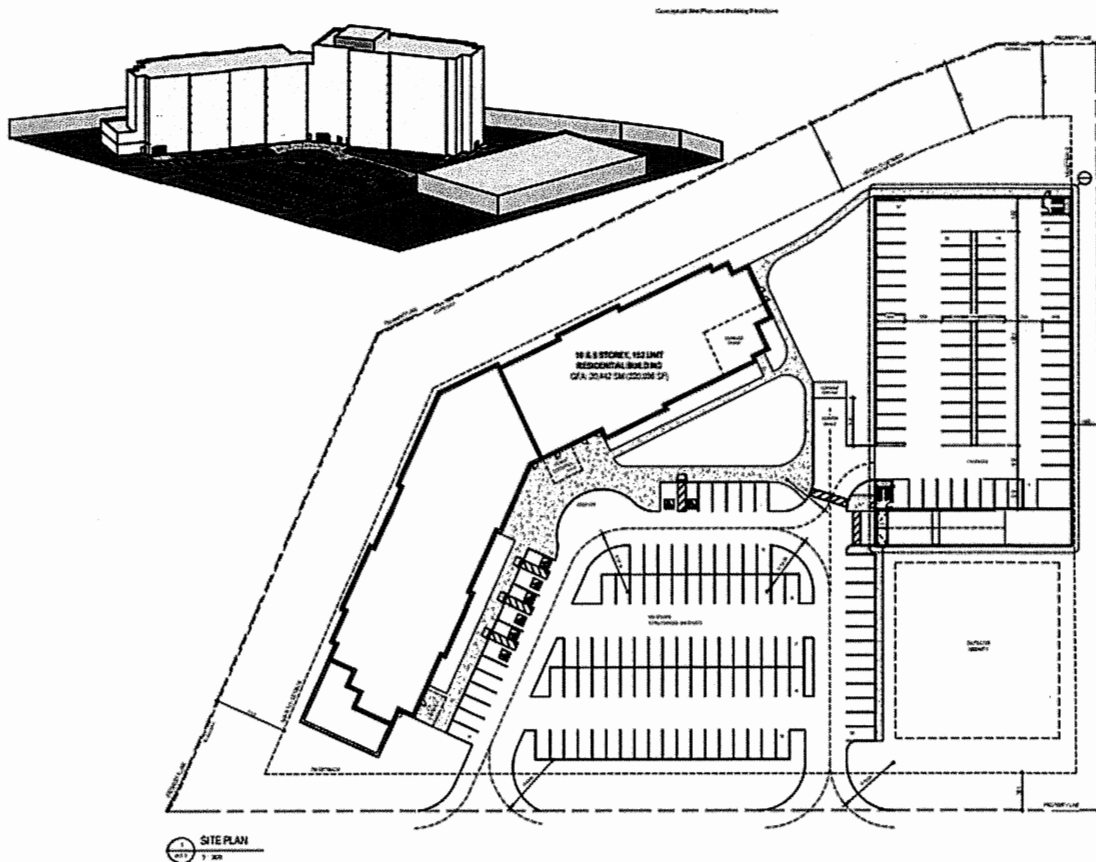
On August 10, 2021, Council requested that staff prepare a report on the national implementation of 988, a three-digit suicide and crisis prevention hotline. On October 26, 2021, Council received this report, which outlined existing local, provincial and national resources already available, and the benefits of a new national hotline.

Simcoe County Housing Corporation Development in the City of Barrie

Aba

A 4.7-acre site located at 20 Rose Street was purchased by the Simcoe County Housing Corporation in 2021. The plot's location is ideal to redevelop to provide a mix of affordable housing and community supports.

On October 26, 2021, Council received a report that included a conceptual site plan for the development that illustrated a potential layout to accommodate a 150-unit building with a mix of one, two, and three-bedroom units. This concept builds on both the financial advantages as well as a client-centred approach that has demonstrated success in the Collingwood development project, as well as being planned as a best practice in both the Orillia and Bradford West Gwillimbury developments. Approximately \$125,000 is included in the draft County 2022 budget for planning application studies, reports and urban design requirements. Construction is projected to start in the spring of 2024.



Economic Development Sub Committee

Workforce Development, Attraction and Retention Initiatives

As outlined in the County's 2021-2025 Economic Development Strategy and COVID-19 Recovery Plan, area employers have identified that a lack of access to skilled and unskilled labour has become a significant barrier to growth. In response, the EDO is leading and partnering on a wide range of initiatives aimed to help address employers' workforce attraction and retention challenges.

On November 9, 2021, Council received a report outlining some of the key economic development activities supported by the County and area partners, including the Work In Simcoe County Website, Virtual Job Fair Events, Workforce Retention Training, Western Ontario Workforce Strategy and RED Funding.



2022 Draft Budget



2022 Budget

In a Joint Session of Council and Committee of the Whole on June 22, 2021, Council approved 2022 High Level Budget Assumptions, including a proposed 2% tax rate increase. On November 4, 2021, Committee of the Whole convened for a Special Budget Meeting to review each area of the proposed 2022 budget. The budget was then referred to the regular Committee of the Whole meeting on November 9, 2021 for review and recommendation.

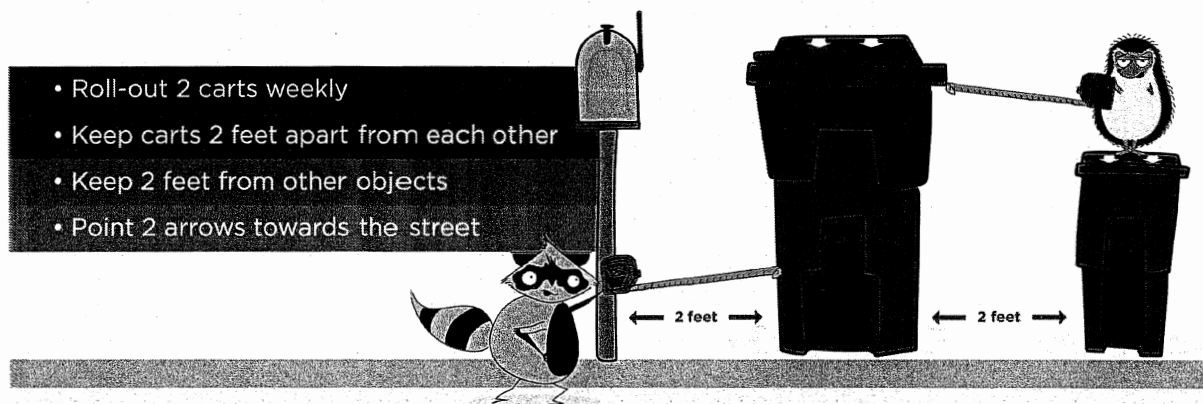
The draft 2022 budget presented to Committee on November 9, 2021, included:

- COVID-19 impacts totaling over \$7.4M
- Supports for tourism and business sector's COVID-19 recovery

- Enhancements to paramedic services across the County
- Homelessness prevention initiatives, including affordable housing, poverty reduction, COVID-19 impact mitigation, and community development
- Continued implementation and promotion of automated cart waste management system
- Continued funding in Economic Development, Tourism, and of our area hospitals and Georgian College
- Simcoe Village Redevelopment Project
- Housing development projects in Orillia, Bradford West Gwillimbury and Barrie

A recommendation regarding the overall budget for consideration will go before Council on November 23, 2021.

FOLLOW THE RULES OF 2:



On November 1, the County implemented automated cart collection and moved to a new four-day curbside waste collection schedule. Remember the

Rules of 2 when setting out your materials. For more information on setting out your carts, visit carts.simcoe.ca, or click the image above.

[Committee Meeting Agenda - October 26, 2021](#)

[Council Meeting Agenda - November 9, 2021](#)



FOLLOW US



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

County of Simcoe breaks ground on County Orillia Campus Project

Midhurst/November 15, 2021 – The County of Simcoe has officially broken ground on the County Orillia Campus Project, marking the start of construction for this important affordable housing and community hub infrastructure intended to service the Orillia area. The multi-generational hub development is designed to include 130 mixed affordable residential units which will house seniors, families and individuals. It will also include a number of community services, primarily on the ground level with resources and supports including Ontario Works, Children Services, Social Housing offices, and community agency stakeholders.

The affordable housing component of this site will provide increased access to affordable housing for households from across the area with the maximum rents capped at 80 per cent of average market rates as determined by the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. This innovative hub model, implemented successfully at other County affordable housing developments, will help to alleviate barriers to accessing essential community and social services, with a variety of support programs on site for residents and those living in the broader community.



The design also incorporates elements that pay tribute to the site's heritage, including a memorial arboretum featuring a cupola from the original ODCVI building, kindly donated to the project by Orillia Councillor Ralph Cipolla.

In line with the existing funding formula, the County of Simcoe will provide \$55M towards the project. The City of Orillia's contribution is estimated at \$4.15M, with additional funding from other partners.

Quotes:

"County Council has been proud to support this project, which will ensure that 130 seniors, families, and individuals have a comfortable place to live. The County Orillia Campus Project is one that we know the community will be able to look to as a sign of hope and pride in what we are able to accomplish when we all work together for the greater good. As we work to surpass our 10-year housing targets, we're proud to invest in affordable housing across the County, with multiple impactful projects in the north, south, east and west completed, underway or planned in the years to come."

– *George Cornell, County of Simcoe Warden*

"Orillia is experiencing a remarkable increase in demand for affordable housing and Council has been looking forward to seeing this important project come to fruition. The multi-generational hub located on the former ODCVI property will increase the number of affordable housing units in our area, which we are in critical need of, and will provide access to important services our community relies on. As a key partner in this project and throughout the development approval process, Orillia is proud to work with the County to address the need for affordable housing, especially amidst rising house and rent prices."

– *Steve Clarke, City of Orillia Mayor*

Quick Facts:

Anticipated Timeline:

- Groundbreaking – fall 2021
- Construction begins – early spring 2022
- Anticipated completion date – late 2023

Impact on Housing Targets:

- In 2014, the County set a target to create 2,685 new units of affordable housing across the County of Simcoe including:
 - 164 units in Orillia
 - 392 units combined throughout Orillia, Oro-Medonte, Ramara, and Severn
- As of June 30, 2021, 2,443 new affordable housing units have been created across the County of Simcoe
- Despite the target already being achieved in the City of Orillia, the County recognizes the need for affordable housing remains and that urban settings such as Orillia are still a “draw” for households in nearby municipalities who need housing in close proximity to employment, community services and public transit

Development Construction – highlights of our drive towards 2,685 new units:

- 2015:
 - 38 affordable rental units (Barrie)
- 2016:
 - 75 affordable rental units (54 in Barrie, 21 in Penetanguishene)
- 2017:
 - 5 affordable rental units (Barrie)
- 2018:
 - 4 affordable rental units (Wyevale)
- 2019:
 - 80 affordable rental units (20 in Alliston, 55 in Innisfil, 5 in Barrie)
 - 117 affordable rental/mixed use units, plus 30 replacement Rent-Geared-to-Income units (Collingwood)
 - 23 supportive housing units (18 in Barrie, 5 in Midland)
- 2020:
 - 140 affordable rental units (99 in Wasaga Beach, 41 in Tay)
- 2021:
 - 20 supportive housing units in Orillia

In process:

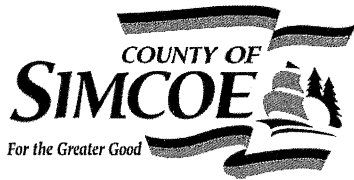
- 2023:
 - 127 net new affordable rental/mixed use units in Orillia, plus 3 replacement Rent-Geared-to-Income units
 - 50 affordable rental/mixed use units in Bradford West Gwillimbury
- 2024:
 - 150 new affordable rental units in Barrie

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.

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Release

County of Simcoe, Office of the Warden and CAO
 1110 Highway 26, Midhurst, Ontario L0L 1X0
 simcoe.ca

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Council approves 2022 County of Simcoe Budget

Midhurst/November 23, 2021 – On November 23, 2021, County of Simcoe Council approved a \$638 million budget for 2022, which focuses on the resources necessary to maintain existing services, support our continued recovery from the pandemic and address significant growth in our communities. The budget also includes strategic allocations that enable the County to continue to invest in services and assets such as Infrastructure, Long-Term Care, Paramedic Services, Affordable Housing, the Lake Simcoe Regional Airport, Waste Collections, Transit, Economic Development, Tourism and enhancements to our Road network.

At the direction and approval of County Council, residents will see a two per cent increase on the County portion of their municipal property taxes in 2022. This represents an increase of approximately \$5.47 per \$100,000 property assessment across the region. To maintain a two per cent increase on municipal property taxes, the County will be utilizing some reserves.

The overall budget expenditures increased from 2021 to 2022 due to COVID-19 pressures, areas of growth, investment and initiatives directed by Council to enhance service levels while increasing efficiencies.

“County Council knows that since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, residents and local businesses have faced challenges,” said Warden George Cornell. “In 2021, the first budget of the pandemic, County Council committed to not raising taxes and approved a zero per cent increase on the County’s portion of municipal taxes in order to help residents, families and businesses. This 2022 budget is a responsible budget, addressing rising costs to complete vital infrastructure and capital projects and enabling us to invest in our essential services and programs as growth continues. At the County, we employ long-term care nurses, PSWs, paramedics and staff working in employment assistance and affordable housing sectors. These essential services will continue to see increased demand in 2022 and beyond. Efficiencies in our operations, combined with the County’s prudent fiscal management, ensure that we can keep supporting our residents and communities while keeping our 2022 tax rate below inflation.”

The County maintains a strong financial position having received, for the eighth year in a row, an AA long-term issuer credit rating from S&P Global Ratings, a provider of high-quality market intelligence in the form of credit ratings and research. The 2022 budget ensures the County continues along this path of long-term fiscal stability and contains items that address areas of growth, as well as initiatives directed by Council to enhance and maintain service levels for the region, support infrastructure, increase efficiencies, and prepare for the future of our region.

2022 Budget Highlights include:

Total County Expenditures for 2022: **\$638 million:**

- LTC - Homes and Seniors Services **\$104 million**
- Paramedic Services **\$64 million**
- Children Services **\$46 million**
- Social Housing **\$102 million**
- Ontario Works **\$88 million**
- Transportation and Engineering **\$57 million**
- Solid Waste Management **\$77 million**

ABC

Attached to this news release is the 2022 County of Simcoe Budget Overview.

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.

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2022 COUNTY BUDGET OVERVIEW



Responsibly Managing Your Services

The 2022 County of Simcoe budget is a total of \$638M operating and capital expenditures. The total revenue is \$595M with a taxation levy amount of \$192M.

This prudent financial plan, which achieves an overall 2% increase on the County portion of municipal property taxes in 2022, focuses on the resources necessary to maintain or improve the existing crucial County services and contains expense impacts of approximately \$7.4M directly related to COVID-19.

The final component of the budget addresses areas of growth and initiatives directed by Council to enhance service levels, increase efficiencies, and plan for the future.

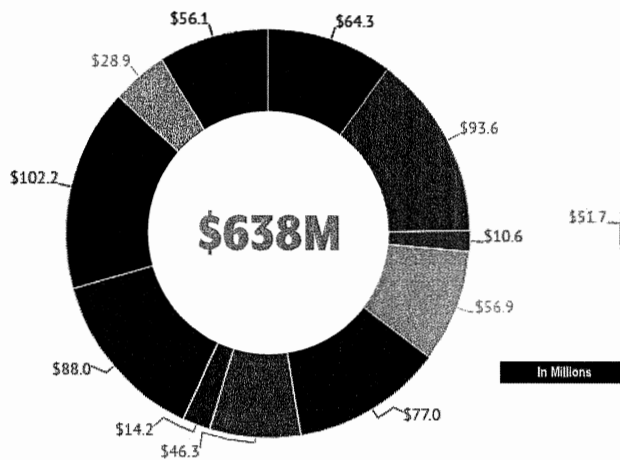
The County is entering the ninth year of its 10-year Affordable Housing and Homelessness Prevention Strategy and continued investment in 2022 builds upon the 2,443 new affordable housing units created from January 2014 to June 2021, through new rental development, secondary suites, affordable homeownership and rent supplements/housing allowances.

The County has a target of 2,685 units by 2024, which includes development projects in Bradford and Orillia.

Because significant growth in the region impacts demand for all County services, we continue to work closely with our community and municipal partners to ensure residents receive the best value for their tax dollars.

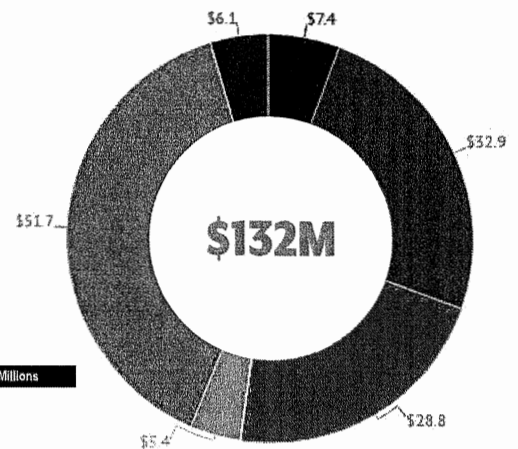
The budget directs additional spending in Health and Emergency Services, including resources for Paramedic Services to address demand and a new base in Bradford to optimize response time performance. In addition, funds are included to continue the

Total County Expenditures \$638M Operating and Capital



- Paramedic Services
- Long Term Care Homes
- Seniors Services
- Transportation & Engineering
- Solid Waste Management
- Children Services
- Community Services
- Ontario Works
- Social Housing
- General Municipal Services
- Other Departments

County Capital Expenditures \$132M



- Paramedic Services
- Long Term Care Homes
- Transportation & Engineering
- Solid Waste Management
- Simcoe County Housing Corporation
- Other



Continued investment in 2022 builds upon the 2,443 new affordable housing units created from January 2014 to June 2021, including Tay Township (above).

planning and design phase for the redevelopment of Simcoe Manor.

LINX transit will operate all six planned conventional transit routes, and LINX+ will operate specialized transit services for the entire year. The planned update of the Transportation Master Plan will

include a review of transit service delivery across the County to recommend the next steps.

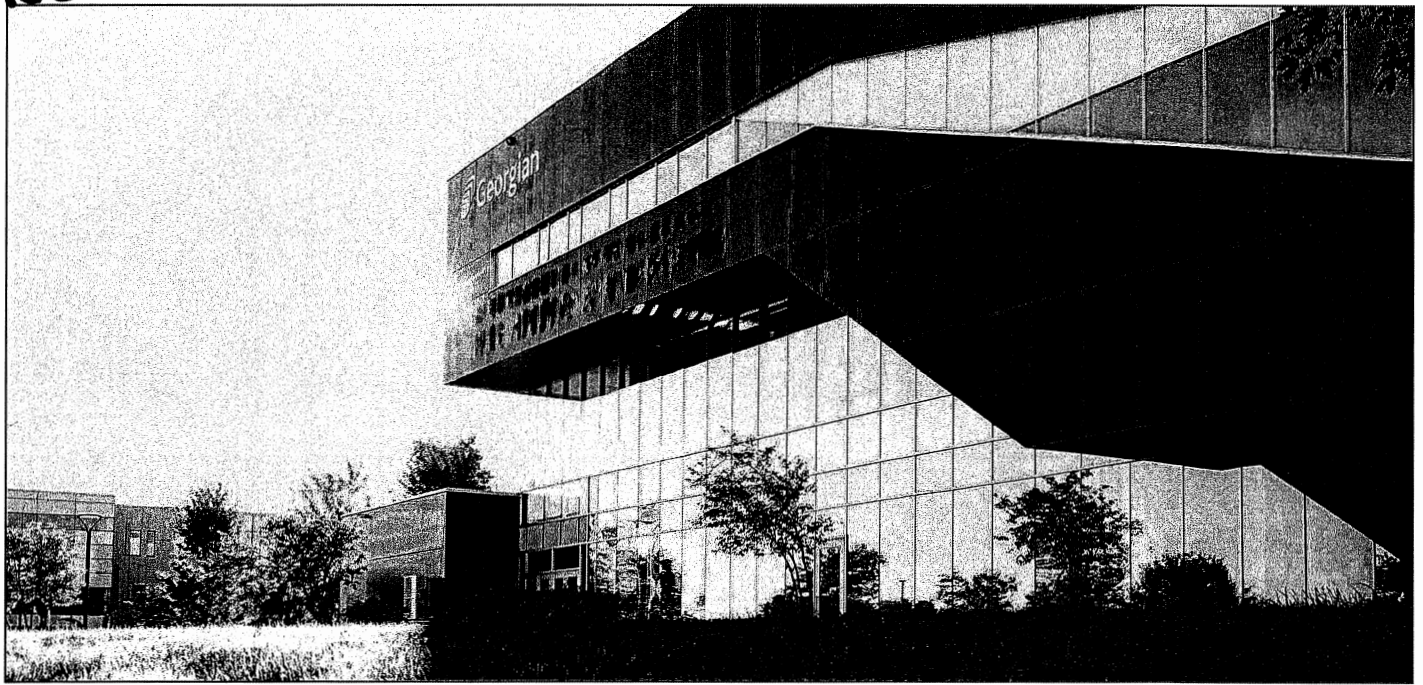
Major road projects for 2022 include planned expenditures of \$26M.

County Council continues to make strategic non-mandated

investments in our communities for the benefit of all our residents' needs. This includes major community financial investments and commitments to local hospitals, hospice, and post-secondary education institutions.

The 2022 budget also allows the County to maintain its important role in our communities and set in motion the required initiatives to meet the increasing demands of our residents, while continuing to keep a strong long-term financial outlook.

For the eighth year in a row, the County's strong financial position is confirmed by having received an AA long-term issuer credit rating from S&P Global Ratings, a provider of high-quality independent market intelligence in the form of credit ratings and research.



County Council will also continue its major financial commitments to local hospitals, hospice, transportation, and post secondary education institutions, such as Georgian College (above).

Working together for the greater good

The County of Simcoe understands that strong community partnerships play a vital role in providing high-quality services to residents. To maintain and foster these established partnerships, the County provides strategic funding to other community services. Some strategic investments the County is proud to support in 2022 include:

- **Simcoe County Hospital Alliance**
\$3.0 million
- **Post-secondary capital support**
\$1.5 million
- **Hospice capital funding**
\$0.5 million
- **Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit**
\$6.4 million
- **Age Friendly grant**
\$0.6 million
- **YMCA initiative**
\$0.5 million

expenditure **breakdown**

Engineering, Planning and Environment

The Engineering, Planning and Environment division is responsible for the County road system, Solid Waste Management, Planning, Economic Development, Forestry, Transit and Lake Simcoe Regional Airport.

TRANSPORTATION AND ENGINEERING 2022 Expenditures: \$57M

The 2022 budget includes construction and road maintenance projects totalling more than \$26.6M. Expenditures include Capital projects such as continued construction on County Road 21 (Innisfil Beach Road), County Road 4, trail construction on the The Barrie-Collingwood Railway, as well as a number of other road and bridge rehabilitation and construction projects.

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT 2022 Expenditures: \$77M

The Solid Waste Management Department is responsible for waste disposal facilities and collection of curbside waste and diversion programs.

Capital project requirements are for normal replacement of existing fleet and equipment that have reached the end of their reasonable service life, additional fleet to manage service changes in the waste we transport, as well as support of new programs, such as cart collection.

Additionally, there are projects for site

remediation/closures and development/redevelopment of existing sites to improve customer service and storage and processing capacity.



expenditure **breakdown**

Health and Emergency Services

LONG TERM CARE AND SENIORS SERVICES

2022 Expenditures: \$104M

The County of Simcoe provides a broad range of Long-Term Care and Seniors Services to residents living throughout the region, supporting more than 1,000 seniors.

The County operates four long-term care homes accredited with “Exemplary Standing” by Accreditation Canada, and offers supportive housing, retirement living, assisted living, affordable housing,

life lease suites and garden homes, adult day programming, and home support.

This vast diversity of programs and services addresses a wide spectrum of needs that support residents to age in place and assists in a seamless transition for individuals as they move across the continuum of care.

Funding is also allocated towards the Simcoe Village Redevelopment project.

PARAMEDIC SERVICES

2022 Expenditures: \$64M

Paramedic Services provides land ambulance services at a Primary Care Paramedic and Advanced Care Paramedic level of service, training programs, public education, Public Access Defibrillators, and Community Paramedicine programs.

The 2022 budget includes costs associated with equipment replacements and upgrades related to emergency medical responses for the region, including the separated cities of Barrie and Orillia, with annual call volumes/responses of more than 83,000. Capital projects include facility development and vehicle and equipment replacements.

Social and Community Services

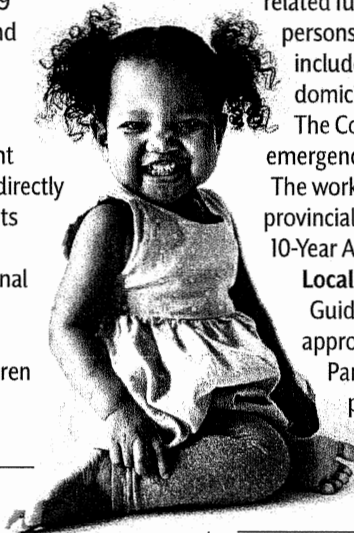
CHILDREN SERVICES

2022 Expenditures: \$46M

As the Consolidated Municipal Service Manager for the region, the County is responsible for local system management, leadership, and related funding administration. This supports more than 195 licensed childcare programs, 39 EarlyON Child and Family Centre locations, and three Special Needs Resourcing Programs.

Examples of system funding administered by the County include operating grants, wage enhancements, and program/equipment supports. Licensed Child Care Fee Subsidy is directly administered by the County to support parents who are in the workforce or attending school.

The County additionally provides professional development and learning opportunities intended to support and enhance capacity building across the system. The work of Children Services is guided by provincial, federal, and municipal policy / guidelines.



COMMUNITY SERVICES

2022 Expenditures: \$14M

Homelessness Prevention

Within its role of Municipal Service Manager, the County provides local system management, leadership, collaborative community planning, and related funding administration for programs, services, and supports to persons experiencing homelessness. Examples of funded programs include homeless shelters, transitional housing, supportive housing, domiciliary care, street outreach, meal programs, peer support, etc. The County also continues to work with area shelters to sustain the emergency motel shelter program during this time of need.

The work of homelessness prevention is undertaken in accordance with provincial and federal policy/guidelines, in conjunction with the County's 10-Year Affordable Housing and Homelessness Strategy.

Local Immigration Partnership

Guided by federal policy/guidelines and in conjunction with the County approved Community Settlement Strategy, the Local Immigration

Partnership provides leadership to community-based collaborative planning intended to support improved social and economic outcomes for immigrants and newcomers. Planning is undertaken through a Local Partnership Council comprising of leaders from many sectors.

SOCIAL HOUSING

2022 Expenditures: \$102M

The County is responsible for the administration and funding of numerous mandated social housing programs. In addition, the County participates in a number of initiatives that enhance the range of affordable housing options/programs available to our residents, including the Simcoe County Housing Corporation and other housing providers.

There are approximately 3,946 community housing units within the County's housing portfolio, of which approximately 2,700 are rent-geared-to-income. The 2022 capital budget includes affordable housing rental development projects as well as capital repair projects to maintain the existing housing infrastructure.

ONTARIO WORKS

2022 Expenditures: \$88M

The County of Simcoe is the designated Municipal Service Manager for delivery of the Ontario Works program, with a projected monthly caseload of 7,500, providing life stabilization supports that include both financial and employment assistance to individuals in financial need. Program outcomes focus on individual goals that lead to financial independence and self-reliance such as:

- Development of a client-centred action plan to address individual goals and objectives through targeted, locally focussed employment and educational programs to address current and emerging skilled trade requirements
- Enhanced supports for clients with multiple barriers.

ABC



How your tax dollars work

While the County's expenses are \$638M, they are offset by County revenues and funding from both provincial and federal levels of government. Residents will see a 2% increase on the County portion of their municipal property taxes in 2022. Overall, due to revenues and provincial funding, the County's actual tax requirement of \$192M is broken down as follows:

LEVY SUPPORT AREA	%*	(\$000s)*	PER \$100,000 RESIDENTIAL ASSESSMENT VALUE*
Paramedic Services	11.1%	21,423	\$31.10
LTC - Homes/Seniors Services	6.6%	12,655	\$18.37
Ontario Works	2.2%	4,233	\$6.15
Children Services	1.6%	3,066	\$4.45
Community Services	1.3%	2,549	\$3.70
Social Housing	10.2%	19,674	\$28.56
Transportation & Engineering	10.9%	20,977	\$30.45
Solid Waste Management	29.2%	56,172	\$81.55
Planning, Economic Development	3.3%	6,415	\$9.31
Transit	1.7%	3,206	\$4.65
Administrative & Statutory Support **	5.8%	11,228	\$16.30
General Municipal Services ***	8.5%	16,346	\$23.73
Allocation of Operating to Capital	7.4%	14,259	\$20.70
Total Taxes based on Services	100.0%	192,206	\$279.03

* All numbers are rounded

** CAO, Clerks, Service Simcoe, Corporate Performance

*** SMDHU, MPAC, Age Friendly Grant, Hospital, Educational Support, Strategic land purchase

APPROXIMATE TAX INCREASE PER RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY ASSESSMENT		
County Tax Rate Increase		
%	\$	per \$100,000 assessment
2.0	3.7M	\$5.47

NOTE: Actual Taxation impacts do not parallel assessment change because of Ontario's variable tax rate system. Tax rates vary by property class and assessment based on tax ratios, as well as local municipal and education taxes, which affect the distribution of the tax levy across classes. The numbers noted reflect the County's 2022 Budget Plan for illustration of the County's services and expenditure financing.

How to contact us



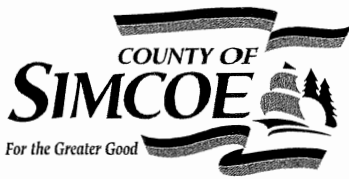
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Trevor Wilcox, General Manager trevor.wilcox@simcoe.ca
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

County of Simcoe recognizes community leaders at ninth annual Newcomer Recognition Awards

Midhurst/November 23, 2021 – On November 22, 2021, the County of Simcoe virtually launched the ninth annual Newcomer Recognition Awards. Seven individuals and two organizations were recognized for their contributions to developing welcoming communities across Simcoe County.

The award winners were joined by local immigration partners, elected officials and guest speaker Dr. Krishana Sankar, an award-winning science communicator and medical researcher.

“Over the past 10 years, our Local Immigration Partnership has continued to collaborate with regional partners to support and celebrate the incredible accomplishments of our newcomers”, said Warden George Cornell. “The wealth of experience, ideas and diversity that newcomers bring to our communities helps to broaden our perspectives and strengthen our economies. These award recipients are great examples of community champions and it’s my honour to thank them for the roles they play in helping Simcoe County thrive. I am also grateful to our staff, partners and residents who continue to support newcomer residents.”

This year’s Newcomer Recognition Award Winners are:

- Community Champion – Wazeer Rahman
- Youth Community Champion – Ishaan Sachdeva
- Ethno Cultural Group – Barrie Persian Association
- Immigrant Entrepreneur – Cecilia Doucette
- Multiculturalism in Education – Educator – Amy Hsaio
- Service Excellence – Isabel Oliveira
- Immigrant Youth - Ishaan Sachdeva
- Immigrant Mentor – Gretel Montenegro
- Immigrant Artist - Gurpartap Singh, Bhangra Crew Ontario
- Marketing & Outreach – Barrie Indian Association

Submissions were received from across Simcoe County and reviewed in an open nomination process. Recipients were chosen by the Newcomer Recognition Selection Committee.

The virtual ceremony remains available for viewing on [YouTube](#).

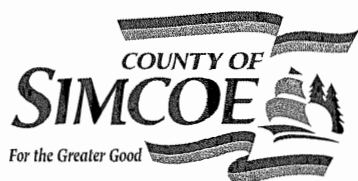
The Simcoe County Local Immigration Partnership hosts this event to recognize outstanding individuals, businesses and organizations who are champions within their local communities. Thank you to our sponsors, including Georgian College, Innovative Automation, and the Barrie Public Library, for their support of this initiative. Visit [our website](#) for details on the Newcomer Recognition Awards.

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](#).

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Celebrate Christmas at the County Museum

Midhurst/November 24, 2021 –This December, the County Museum presents a Simcoe County Christmas. Share the holidays with friends and family at the Simcoe County Museum, and join us between December 3 and 17 to take part in various Christmas-themed activities that are fun for everyone.

A Simcoe County Christmas

A Simcoe County Christmas is an in-person guided tour celebrating some of the different ways Christmas has been celebrated throughout Simcoe County's history. Travelling through the decorated museum galleries, heritage buildings and grounds by lamplight, costumed interpreters will share stories from Christmases past. Victorian customs, early settler treats, Sinterklaas and our own recent Christmas traditions are featured in this program. Participants will be offered light refreshments outdoors by the fire, as well as a Christmas gift of treats, crafts and activities to enjoy at home.

Where	Simcoe County Museum - 1151 Highway 26, Minesing, Ontario L9X 0Z7
When	Every 20 minutes between 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Every Friday between December 3 and December 17, 2021
Register	Please book in advance online Admission is \$8 per person Participants are encouraged to bring an unwrapped toy for the Paramedic Toy Drive

Christmas Workshops

Christmas is officially here, which means it's time to break out the eggnog and a few beloved holiday decorations. Back in the 1970s, tabletop ceramic Christmas trees became all the rage. These tiny tabletop decorations were likely handmade in a nearby ceramics class. Now it's your turn to create some custom retro Christmas decorations of your own. Light up your tabletop this season with your very own ceramic Christmas tree, Victorian Glass ornaments and Christmas crackers in our Christmas Workshop. Now you can impress your family and friends with your very own unique handcrafted Christmas gifts.

Where	Simcoe County Museum - 1151 Highway 26, Minesing, Ontario L9X 0Z7
When	Morning (9 a.m. – noon) and Evening (1 p.m. to 4 p.m.) sessions available Saturday, December 4, 2021
Register	Please book in advance online \$125.00 per person for the 3-hour workshop (this workshop is geared to adults) Pre-registration is required. Space is limited to 10 participants per workshop Cost includes one 14" Ceramic Christmas Tree and instruction, two glass ornaments, take home kit for four Christmas Crackers, light refreshments (eggnog, apple cider, tea, coffee, cookies)

Abe

COVID-19 Safety Precautions

Effective Saturday, November 6, 2021, all Museum visitors aged 12 and older must be fully vaccinated. Proof of COVID-19 vaccination is required to enter the Museum. Acceptable proof of vaccination includes an Ontario Enhanced Vaccine Certificate, or paper copy of proof of vaccination status, and official government issued identification. Physical distancing and masking measures are still in effect.

Take the Infinite Journey with the Simcoe County Museum, a cultural exploration of our historical past and exciting future. The Simcoe County Museum is owned and operated by the County of Simcoe and offers year round exhibits, events and educational programs for visitors of every age. Visit our website at museum.simcoe.ca for further details.

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Terry Dowdall
Member of Parliament
Simcoe—Grey

The Honourable Gudie Hutchings
Minister of Rural Economic Development
Confederation Building, Room 386
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

November 16th, 2021

Dear Minister,

Congratulations on your appointment as Minister of Rural Economic Development. As a fellow member from a rural riding, I am certain that you can appreciate the challenges faced by our residents when trying to access high-speed internet. In my riding of Simcoe—Grey, it is especially frustrating for many residents who – in some parts of the riding – are close enough to Toronto to commute there daily for work but suffer from atrocious internet speeds at home. When the pandemic hit, internet locally ground to a halt in many cases, forcing kids to miss class and parents to suffer all sorts of trouble trying to work remotely.

High-speed internet is an important file for me. It has consistently been one of the most identified priority issues by residents in my riding. I appreciate the work done by your predecessor to speed up the delivery of high-speed internet, but more can be done. I have attached a resolution from the Township of Essa. It is addressed to the Ontario Minister of Infrastructure, but I am sharing it with you to highlight the issue. Essa is one of those areas which is close to Toronto, but most residents suffer from poor internet. Rarely a day goes by without someone from Essa contacting my office with frustrations about their internet quality.

Essa asks to be prioritized for the roll-out of high-speed internet. It makes sense for municipalities like Essa to be prioritized because it is close to a major centre and the extension of urban-based infrastructure can be fast-tracked here. The infrastructure needed to support more remote regions takes more time to build, but places like Essa and the rest of Simcoe—Grey can be completed quite quickly with the right dedication. Prioritizing the regions near major centres will help to accomplish even faster your government’s goal of connecting 95% of Canadians to high-speed internet by 2026. I urge you to consider this request.

Minister, I wish you the best of luck on this difficult file. If there is any way that I can be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me directly or have your staff connect with my office.

Yours sincerely,

Terry Dowdall
Member of Parliament
Simcoe—Grey

CC: Mayor and Council, Township of Essa

From: Ontario News <newsroom@ontario.ca>

Sent: November 18, 2021 9:02 AM

To: Colleen Healey <chealey@essatowship.on.ca>

Subject: Ontario Shifting to Convenient Digital Reminders for Product Renewal Notices



NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Shifting to Convenient Digital Reminders for Product Renewal Notices

Eliminating mailing paper renewal notices will save \$29 million for Ontarians

November 18, 2021

Ministry of Government and Consumer Services

TORONTO — The Ontario government is continuing to improve access to modern and customer-focused services by eliminating mailing paper renewal notices in favour of convenient digital reminders. By eliminating paper renewal notices, Ontario will be saving up to \$29 million over five years in postage and mailing costs with funds being re-invested into critical programs and services like education. Further, it will benefit the environment by saving approximately 80 million pieces of paper – roughly 16,000 boxes or 362 tonnes – over five years, reducing unnecessary waste and protecting our forests.

“Our government is taking another big step in our digital first approach by shifting away from snail mail to a modern alternative, saving taxpayer dollars and eliminating excess paper waste. Providing Ontarians with digital reminders is a fast and convenient way to ensure they don’t miss their renewal deadlines,” said Ross Romano, Minister of Government and Consumer Services. “As part of our commitment to improving access to government services for the people and businesses of our province, Ontarians can now benefit from secure and timely reminders and renew their products right from the comfort of their own homes.”



Moving to a digital model for renewal notices builds on the numerous initiatives the government has taken to make services more convenient, accessible, and easier to use for Ontarians, including:

- Enabling over 40 services online through ServiceOntario with 24/7 access, with products mailed directly to you and the option to print proof of renewal right at home.
- Launching the new Ontario Business Registry to support businesses and not-for-profit corporations at every stage of their lifecycle with quick and easy access to over 90 transactions online, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.
- Making the land registry completely paperless as an accessible web portal that provides worldwide remote access to search land registration records.
- Enabling the online renewal of permanent Accessible Parking Permits and Ontario Photo Cards.
- Providing more payment options for driver and vehicle products.

“More seamless digital services make it easier for people across Ontario to access important information such as licence renewals either at home or on the go,” Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance. “Our government continues to provide more opportunities to deliver in-demand digital services in a way that meets people’s needs where they are and where they are going.”

Ontarians with products that expired on or after March 1, 2020, and were not renewed because of the temporary extensions that were put in place due to the COVID-19 pandemic, will receive a final letter in the mail letting them know that it’s time to renew. For a complete list of renewal deadlines, visit Ontario.ca/RenewalDeadlines.

“Our government is building a strong foundation for a digital Ontario and will continue to modernize for better, faster services,” said Kaleed Rasheed, Associate Minister of Digital Government. “Ontarians expect and deserve digital services at their fingertips.”

Earlier this year, the government introduced the option for Ontarians to receive digital reminders 30 and 60 days in advance of their renewal date. Nearly one million voluntary subscriptions have been completed to deliver digital reminders, allowing Ontarians to keep up to date with important renewal deadlines.

Quick Facts

- Some Ontarians will continue to receive paper renewal letters in the mail for these products. For a full list of exceptions, visit [Ontario.ca/Reminders](https://www.ontario.ca/reminders).
- Ontarians can continue to receive courtesy renewal reminders for driver's licences, licence plate stickers, and health cards by email, text, or phone call by signing up at [Ontario.ca/Reminders](https://www.ontario.ca/reminders).
- A renewal notice is not required to renew any product with ServiceOntario. Most driver's licences, licence plate stickers, and health cards expire on your birthday.
- Signing up for digital reminders is easy, free, and secure. Eligible Ontarians can sign up at [Ontario.ca/Reminders](https://www.ontario.ca/reminders).
- On September 1, 2021, the government announced the reinstatement of renewal requirements for driver's licences, licence plate stickers, Ontario Photo Cards, Ontario health cards, and other products that were temporarily extended due to the COVID-19 pandemic. For a complete list of renewal deadlines, visit [Ontario.ca/RenewalDeadlines](https://www.ontario.ca/renewaldeadlines).
- It's fast and easy to renew products at [ServiceOntario.ca](https://www.serviceontario.ca). Over 40 services are available online with 24/7 access, and products will be mailed directly to you with the option to print proof of renewal right at home.

Additional Resources

- [Individuals Who Will Continue to Receive Courtesy Paper Renewal Notices](#)
- [Ontario Making it Easier to Renew Documents](#)
- [Ontario Reinstating Renewal Requirements for Driver's Licences, Licence Plate Stickers and Health Cards](#)
- [Learn more about *Ontario Onwards: Ontario's COVID-19 Action Plan for a People-Focused Government*](#)

Media Contacts

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From: Ontario News <newsroom@ontario.ca>

Sent: November 23, 2021 10:32 AM

To: Colleen Healey <chealey@essatownship.on.ca>

Subject: Mobile Live Fire Training Unit Hits the Road



NEWS RELEASE

Mobile Live Fire Training Unit Hits the Road

New units available for firefighter training across the province

November 23, 2021

Ministry of the Solicitor General

BRADFORD — Ontario is launching the first of two new Mobile Live Fire Training Units to help support fire services' firefighter training needs. The new mobile training units, part of the province's plan to expand and modernize access to firefighting training, will bring additional high-quality, hands-on training directly to fire services in all regions of the province.

"As we work to build safer communities across Ontario, ensuring that firefighters continue to have access to the latest world-class training is critically important," said Solicitor General Sylvia Jones. "With the introduction of these new mobile live fire training units, fire services will be able to have access to high quality, live fire training in their own communities. These units are a critical part of our government's plan to expand fire training by making the investments needed to help ensure public safety."

The units, which are 16m long, are designed to operate across the province, including at Regional Training Centres and local fire departments. The first unit, launched today in Bradford, is available immediately to fire services in southern and central Ontario. The second unit, expected to be completed by December 2021, will be available to fire services in northern Ontario in early 2022.

As part of the training offered via the mobile training units, firefighters will experience real flames, extreme heat, high humidity, severely restricted



visibility, and thick smoke during their real-world training. The fire simulation firefighter training meets the job performance requirements outlined in National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) training standards.

“The new Mobile Live Fire Training Units simulate real situations involving fire – which forms an important part of firefighter training and complements in-class learning. The introduction of the mobile live fire training unit is designed to ensure firefighter training is accessible, affordable, attainable and scalable to all fire services across the province,” said Jon Pegg, Ontario Fire Marshal.

These new mobile units provide additional training opportunities for departments, which are already supported through courses available online, at local fire departments, through 28 Regional Training Centre and other partnerships. The Ontario government also previously supported fire services across the province with a \$5 million grant to support their training needs in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“We are very pleased to see the unveiling of Ontario’s new Mobile Live Fire Training Units,” said Kevin McNeilly, President of the Firefighters Association of Ontario. “Firefighters in Ontario now have the ability to get this invaluable live fire training close at hand or from Regional Training Centres. The FFAO would like to thank the Solicitor General and Ontario Fire Marshal’s Office for putting firefighters safety first once again.”

“The health and safety of our firefighters and the public is the Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs’ main concern and priority.” said OAFCA President, Chief Mark MacDonald. “One of the best ways to accomplish this is through widely available modern training practices, equipment, and facilities. These two mobile live fire training units represent a good first step towards modernizing firefighter training and bringing training closer to home.”

“The launch of these mobile training units is a positive step forward towards enhancing access to firefighter training in Ontario,” said Carmen Santoro, President of the Ontario Professional Firefighters’ Association. “These units will assist in achieving standardized training across the province.”

Quick Facts



- There are 441 fire departments in Ontario including 32 large municipal services consisting of full-time fire personnel, 215 composite fire departments made up of full-time and volunteer personnel, and 194 small municipal fire services or communities without municipal organization and are made up solely of volunteers.
- Municipal fire departments work closely with the Office of the Fire Marshal to deliver educational and training programs for firefighters.
- The Mobile Live Fire Training Units were manufactured in Ontario by Dräger Safety Canada. Dräger is an international leader in medical and safety technology with over 130 years of experience.
- The National Fire Protection Association is an internationally recognized organization that develops fire service training standards used in Ontario.

Additional Resources

[Ontario Providing Support to Local Fire Services During COVID-19](#)

[Ontario Expanding Firefighter Training Across the Province](#)

Media Contacts

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Township of

SEVERN

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November 18, 2021

Minister of Natural Resources & Forestry
Honourable Greg Rickford

Minister of Colleges and Universities,
Honourable Jill Dunlop

Attorney General
Honourable Doug Downey

Deputy Government House Leader
Honourable Andrea Khanjin

Minister of Transportation
Honourable Caroline Mulroney

Minister of Municipal Affairs & Housing
Honourable Stephen Clark

Dear Ministers;

RE: Growth Plan's Provincial Natural Heritage System

Council of the Township of Severn passed the following motion at its November 18, 2021 Special Meeting:

THAT the Township of Severn send correspondence to the Minister of Natural Resources & Forestry as well as the Minister of Colleges and Universities Dunlop, Attorney General Downey, Deputy Government House Leader Khanjin, Minister of Transportation Mulroney as well as the Minister of Municipal Affairs & Housing Clark expressing the Township's continued and ongoing concerns with the accuracy of the Growth Plan natural heritage system and agriculture system mapping and the very limited process to permit refinements to the mapping through the County Municipal Comprehensive Review process; AND FURTHER THAT the correspondence be copied to the County of Simcoe and all municipalities within the County.

AA

The Township of Severn has previously expressed significant concerns to the Province and to the County of Simcoe regarding the accuracy and application of the Growth Plan Natural Heritage System (GP-NHS) mapping prepared by the Province as required by Section 4.2.2.1 of the Growth Plan.

While the language of the amended Growth Plan (2020) would appear to provide flexibility for the County of Simcoe to undertake a true and accurate refinement of the GP-NHS mapping, the Provincial guidelines and technical criteria currently in effect have significantly limited and restricted the work to date by the County and its consultants.

The Council of the Township of Severn is committed to identifying and protecting the significant natural heritage system. However, the current broad-brush GP-NHS and the automated, algorithmic refinement methodology based on four (4) very narrow criteria required by the Province does not permit the County and its lower-tier municipal partners to get the refined GP-NHS mapping right – getting it right, should be the objective of this exercise.

Not getting the mapping right at this point in time will cause significant impacts throughout the local planning processes and will have huge impacts on existing and approved developments throughout Simcoe County.

The Province is requested to update its guidelines and technical criteria from 2018, which predate this Government's amendments to the Growth Plan, to provide greater flexibility to the County of Simcoe to refine the GP-NHS mapping in keeping the policy goals and principles of the Provincial Policy Statement.

We also recommend that the Province take a critical look at Section 4.2.2.3 and Section 4.2.2.4 of the Growth Plan.

Section 4.2.2.3 has far reaching implications on existing developed properties across the Growth Plan Area, even if refinements to the GP-NHS are undertaken. It is our recommendation that what is included in Section 4.2.2.3 does not belong in a Provincial Policy document, and may not belong in a County Planning Document. These sections were added by the previous Government and it is our suggestion that Section 4.2.2.3 is much too restrictive of a policy regime for a Provincial Plan. Rather, Section 4.2.2.3 includes policies that one would expect to find in a local or single-tier Official Plan.

Yours Truly,

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SEVERN


Mayor Mike Burkett

C. County of Simcoe
All Simcoe County municipalities

Natural Heritage System Mapping


Township of Severn

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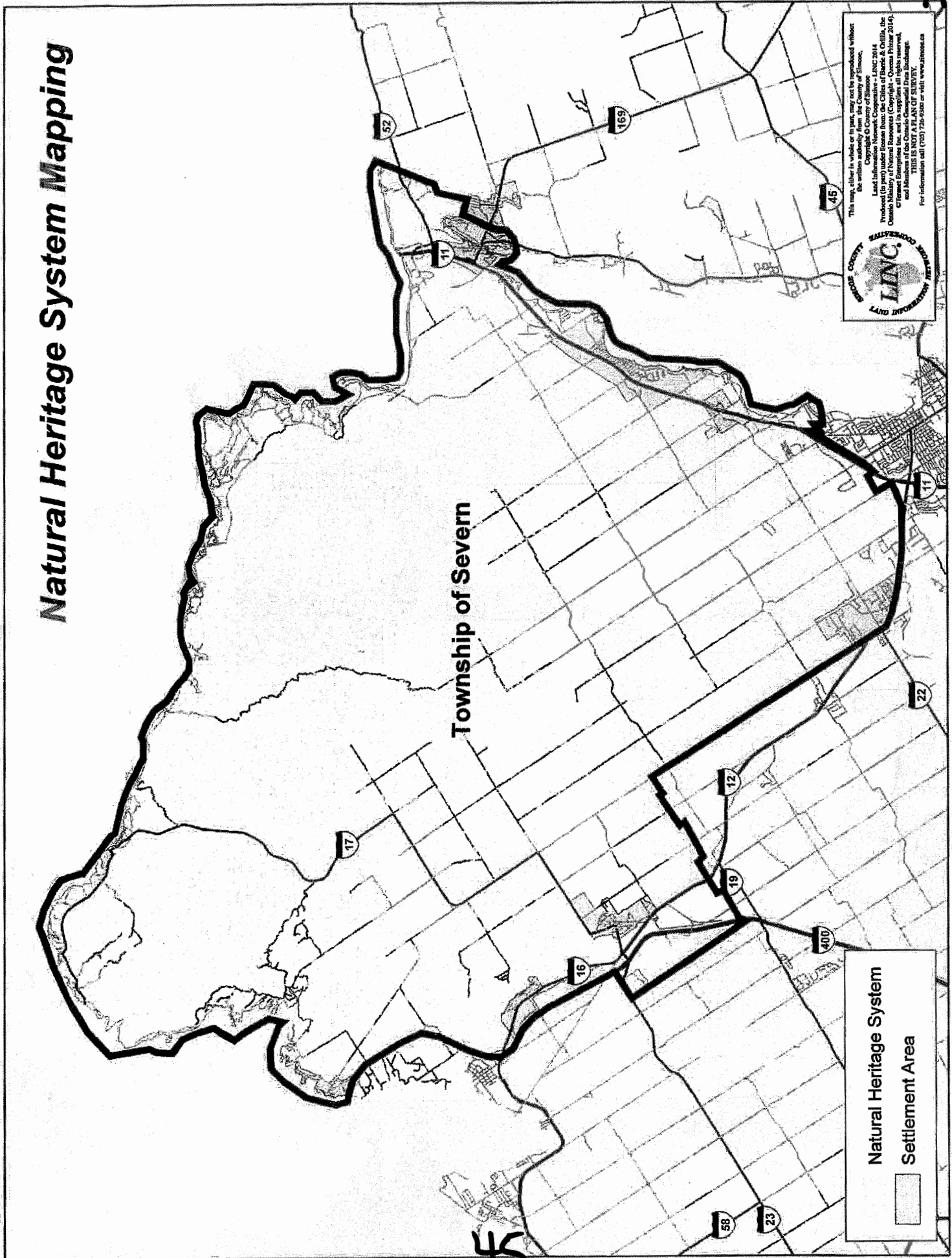
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Natural Heritage System

Settlement Area



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From: AMO Events <events@amo.on.ca>
Sent: November 23, 2021 9:00 AM
To: Lisa Lehr <llehr@essatownship.on.ca>
Subject: Navigating Conflict Relationships as an Elected Official - New Dates added

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Add events@amo.on.ca to your safe list



ONLINE TRAINING

November 23, 2021

Navigating Conflict Relationships as an Elected Official New Dates added - February 9/10, 2022 and April 6/7, 2022

This training is an opportunity to gain skills in building collaborative relationships and negotiating difficult ones in your role as an elected municipal official.

Elected officials run for municipal office for a variety of reasons which include providing leadership, stewardship and improving their local communities.

However municipal life is very much a people-oriented business, meaning elected representatives must engage in and build a wide variety of relationships with constituents, municipal staff, other elected officials, other orders of government and community organizations to name a few.

Not all relationships are smooth sailing and conflicts are inevitable. Sometimes the waters become choppy especially when navigating challenging relationships and conflict situations. Having conflict-free and collaborative relationships can play a significant role in helping locally elected officials carry out their collective responsibilities as decision-makers of their communities.

During this 2-part virtual, interactive workshop, we will explore the constructs, traps and pitfalls of conflict relationships, why relationships may go wrong and how to approach, plan and execute relationships successfully using practical tips, tools and real-world examples.

Who Should Attend?

Locally elected municipal representatives.

Learning Objectives:

- The typical patterns of behaviour that give rise to creating “conflict traps” and how to escape from them.

- The secrets of neuroscience and how this knowledge can give us a heads-up on what we should do in the moment.
- Understanding conflict styles and how these can create obstacles or pave the way toward collaboration.
- The importance of moving from a position-based to an interest-based approach in order to create a win-win, value-add relationship.
- The roles of empathy and assertiveness in relationship formation.
- Learning effective and practical communication tools which include:
 - Avoiding communication blockers,
 - First words to use,
 - The difference between Acknowledging vs. Agreeing,
 - A simple yet powerful 4-step technique to assist in having better and more collaborative conversations.

DATES:**February 2022**

Part 1: February 9, 2022 -10am - 12:30pm

Part 2: February 10, 2022 – 10am - 12:30pm or,

April 2022

Part 1: April 6, 2022 - 10am - 12:30pm

Part 2: April 7, 2022 - 10am - 12:30pm

Registration:

\$200.00 + HST

Limited to 20 participants (first come first served)

** A \$50.00 cancellation fee applies**

[Register here.](#)



Session Facilitator: Sharad Kerur

Sharad Kerur created and leads Resolution Pathways as its CEO which assists people and organizations to resolve conflicts.

Sharad has a Bachelor of Commerce (Honours) and Master of Industrial Relations from Queen's University, with a focus on negotiation theory and alternative dispute resolution methods.

For over 30 years, Sharad held senior level positions in the union and association sectors. His most recent position was Executive Director of the Ontario Non-Profit Housing Association (ONPHA), Canada's largest non-profit housing association. As a result, he has a strong grasp on the "business" of non-profit organizations and associations, and real-world experience in negotiation and mediation.

He is Harvard-trained having obtained a Certificate in Mediating Disputes and a Certificate in Negotiating Difficult Conversations from the Harvard Negotiation Institute (Harvard Law School) and also holds a Certificate in Dispute Resolution and an Advanced Certificate in Dispute Resolution, both from the University of York located in Toronto.

Sharad holds a Q.Med (Qualified Mediator) designation from the ADR Institute of Ontario, is an accredited C.C.Med (Chartered Community Mediator) from the Ontario Community Mediation Coalition, is a CINERGY® Certified Conflict Management Coach, and is a Certified Workplace Fairness Analyst accredited by the Workplace Fairness Institute of Canada.

He has also obtained a Certificate in Civil Procedures for Non-Lawyer Mediators from the ADR institute of Ontario.

Currently he is on the Community Mediation Roster and Associate Mediation Roster with St. Stephen's Community House (Conflict Resolution & Training), where he has also served as an instructor in their mediation and conflict resolution training programs and the mediation roster for the Office of the Independent Police Review Director (OIPRD).

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