

**TOWNSHIP OF ESSA
CONSENT AGENDA
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 2024**

A – ITEMS RECEIVED AS INFORMATION

- p. 1 1. Essa Public Library Report – February 2024.
- p. 3 2. Correspondence from the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit dated March 14, 2024, re: Income-based Policy Interventions to Effectively Reduce Household Food Insecurity (HFI).
- p. 6 3. Correspondence from the Association of Municipalities Ontario (AMO), re: Policy Update – Provincial Government Advocacy Ahead of the 2024 Budget.
- p. 7 4. Correspondence from The Canadian Wildlife Service Environment and Climate Change Canada dated March 19, 2024, re: *Species at Risk Act* (SARA) for the protection of Chimney Swift and its habitat.
- p. 16 5. Correspondence from the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development dated March 21, 2024, re: Ontario Passes Fourth *Working for Workers Act*.
- p. 19 6. Correspondence from the Office of the Premier dated March 21, 2024, re: Ontario Investing Over \$1.8 Billion to Build More Homes.
- p. 22 7. Correspondence from the Township of Adelaide Metcalfe dated March 22, 2024, re: Motion – Request to Increase Tile Drain Loan Limit.
- p. 24 8. Correspondence from the Town of Fort Erie dated March 22, 2024, re: Architectural Conservancy Ontario – Request Provincial Government to Amend Deadline of Subsection 27(16), *Ontario Heritage Act*.
- p. 27 9. Correspondence from the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority, dated March 26, 2024, re: Celebrate 30+ Years of Sweet Family Fun, Community Activities at Spring Tonic Maple Syrup Festival.
- p. 29 10. Correspondence from the County of Simcoe:
a) March 12, 2024 – County Council and Committee of the Whole Meeting Highlights.
- p. 34 b) March 18, 2024 – Media Release - County and Town Collaborate to Prevent Homelessness and Support Residents.
- p. 36 c) March 26, 2024 – Media Release – County Breaks Ground on New Paramedic Post in Springwater.

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.



February 2024 Report

Prepared by: Emily Nakeff

“ This library is a magical place to get lost.

- Patron comment

Membership

Angus (New)	86
Thornton (New)	5
<hr/>	
<i>Feb 2023 comparison:</i>	<i>58</i>
Year-to-date total	217
Total Active Cards	3,184

MATERIALS CIRCULATED

ANGUS	THORNTON
7,421	1,048
16,277 TOTAL IN 2024	

MATERIALS USED IN HOUSE

ANGUS	THORNTON
507	99
1,236 TOTAL IN 2024	

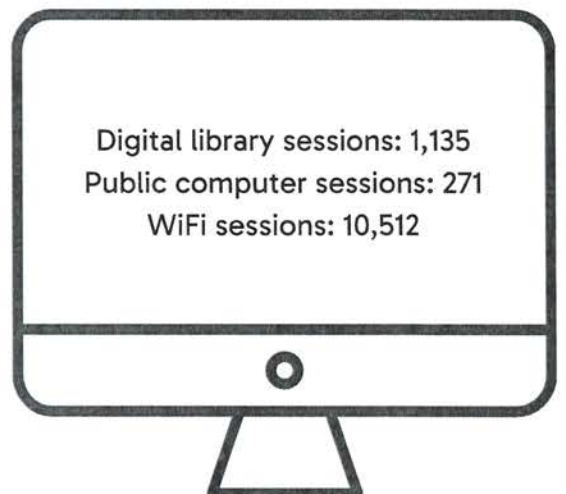
INTERLIBRARY LOANS

61	Items borrowed from other libraries
44	Items sent to other libraries



Library Staff proudly supported Pink Shirt Day among other activities to promote kindness in our community.

Digital library sessions: 1,135
 Public computer sessions: 271
 WiFi sessions: 10,512



A PLACE TO IMAGINE, DISCOVER AND CONNECT

KIDS

Toddler Time - AN	101
Mighty Makers - AN	69
Tinker Tuesday - AN	42
Wiggles & Giggles - AN	94
Mighty Makers - TH	16
Storytime - AN	107
Parachute Play	111
Let's Learn French - AN	55
Storytime - TH	73
Family Movie - AN	2
Search & Find Snowflakes - AN	74
Search & Find Snowflakes - TH	13
Family Open Play - AN	28
Mystery Books / Mystery Book Bundles	34

TEENS

Pen Pals - AN	1
Teen Social - AN	23
Take and Make	23



Teens created 150 Kindness Messages for our community as a volunteer project.

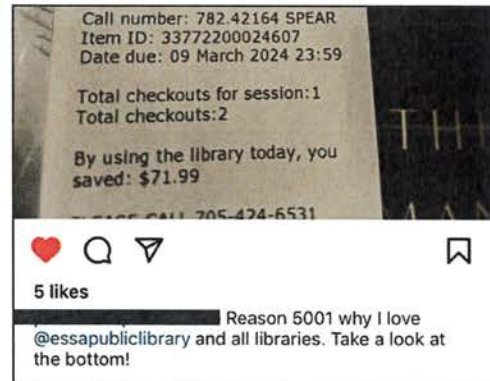
ADULTS

Cercle de Conversation	25
Book Club - AN	6
Book Club - TH	6
Hobby Circle - AN	3
Writers Group - AN	9
Movie Night for Adults - AN	13
Board Game Night - AN	3
Book Speed Dating - AN	2
Blind Date with a Book - AN + TH	74

SENIORS

Seniors Social - AN	33
Painting Workshop - AN	6
Seniors Social - TH	37

SOCIAL MEDIA



YouTube - Total Subscribers	787
YouTube - Views	9,928
Library Zest - Site Traffic	138
Facebook - Total Followers	1,843
X - Total Followers	1,034
Instagram - Total Followers	798



March 14, 2024

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

Email to: premier@ontario.ca

Dear Premier:

Re: Income-based policy interventions to effectively reduce household food insecurity (HFI)

On behalf of the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) Board of Health, I am writing to share that the SMDHU endorses the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHA) [resolution #A23-05](#) Monitoring Food Affordability in Ontario and Inadequacy of Social Assistance Rates.

The SMDHU 2023 Nutritious Food Basket (NFB) survey results indicate that many Simcoe Muskoka residents living on a limited income do not have sufficient income to purchase basic nutritious food. NFB survey results continue to demonstrate that for households with income from Ontario Disability, Ontario Works, minimum wage, Old Age Security, Canada Pension Plan and / or Guaranteed Income Supplement, the cost of food and rent alone can consume most of an individual's or family's income, and in some cases exceed it, without factoring in the cost of other basic needs. These households are food insecure, and they experience inadequate and insecure access to food due to financial constraints. To reduce household food insecurity, income solutions at all levels of government are needed to put more money in people's pockets for food and to help meet other basic needs.

HFI, inadequate or insecure access to food due to household financial constraints, is an urgent public health issue that imposes serious consequences to the health and well-being of Ontarians and the residents of Simcoe Muskoka. Individuals who are food insecure are at higher risk of diet-related diseases and are at higher risk for a wide range of chronic conditions. HFI leaves a significant mark on children's health and well-being now and into adulthood.¹⁻⁵ In Ontario, the healthcare costs of individuals who are the most food insecure can be more than double that of individuals who are food secure.^{1,5}

In 2022, HFI affected more than 2.8 million Ontarians.^{1,6} In Simcoe Muskoka, between 2021-2022, 1 in 5 households experienced food insecurity.⁶ This is the highest prevalence estimate we have ever seen. Simcoe Muskoka's 2023 food affordability monitoring results show that many residents struggle to afford food and housing. As in previous years, there is less money left after residents paid for food and rent than the year before, and in many cases, people are facing deficits.⁷

☐ **Barrie:**
15 Sperling Drive
Barrie, ON
L4M 6K9
705-721-7520
FAX: 705-721-1495

☐ **Collingwood:**
280 Pretty River Pkwy.
Collingwood, ON
L9Y 4J5
705-445-0804
FAX: 705-445-6498

☐ **Cookstown:**
2-25 King Street S.
Cookstown, ON
L0L 1L0
705-458-1103
FAX: 705-458-0105

☐ **Gravenhurst:**
2-5 Pineridge Gate
Gravenhurst, ON
P1P 1Z3
705-684-9090
FAX: 705-684-9887

☐ **Huntsville:**
34 Chaffey St.
Huntsville, ON
P1H 1K1
705-789-8813
FAX: 705-789-7245

☐ **Midland:**
A-925 Hugel Ave.
Midland, ON
L4R 1X8
705-526-9324
FAX: 705-526-1513

☐ **Orillia:**
120-169 Front St. S.
Orillia, ON
L3V 4S8
705-325-9565
FAX: 705-325-2091

A2



Research indicates that income-based responses are needed to address household food insecurity. Sufficient income to meet basic needs supports individuals to be physically and mentally healthy, to make meaningful contributions to society, and lead productive lives.^{1,4} Effective income-based policy interventions to reduce food insecurity could offset considerable public expenditures on healthcare and improve overall health by reducing demands on healthcare services, decreasing healthcare costs, creating more equitable communities, reducing social isolation and stigma, supporting economic development, improving community connectedness and enhancing student learning and success.¹⁻⁵

The SMDHU has been engaging with community partners for many years to raise awareness and encourage action on income-based policy solutions. In May 2023, the SMDHU Board of Health passed a resolution endorsing a set of income-based policy interventions to effectively reduce HFI that can be actioned at the municipal, provincial and/or federal level (e.g., raise social assistance rates to match real living costs indexed to inflation, implement a basic income initiative, lower taxes for those living with low income, implement employment standards that support jobs with livable wages, regular hours and benefits).

In addition to the actions recommended in the alpha resolution, SMDHU also urges the provincial government to meet commitments outlined in [Ontario's poverty reduction strategy](#) (2020-2025) and continue to report regularly on achievements; enhance workplace legislation that supports jobs with livable wages, regular hours and benefits, increase investment in public initiatives that make life more affordable for lower income populations (e.g., attainable housing), and work with the federal government to implement a Basic Income initiative.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue. Income-based policy interventions are effective, preserve dignity, give choice of which foods to buy, and ensure the basic right to food. We urge you to take action on income-based policy solutions that will reduce food insecurity.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL Signed By:

Ann-Marie Kungl
Chair, Board of Health
Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

AK:CG:CS:VH:sh

cc: The Honorable Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health
The Honorable Michael Parsa, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services
Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health
Members of Provincial Parliament in Simcoe Muskoka
Members of Parliament in Simcoe Muskoka
Municipal Councils in Simcoe Muskoka
alpha

□ **Barrie:**
15 Sperling Drive
Barrie, ON
L4M 6K9
705-721-7520
FAX: 705-721-1495

□ **Collingwood:**
280 Pretty River Pkwy.
Collingwood, ON
L9Y 4J5
705-445-0804
FAX: 705-445-6498

□ **Cookstown:**
2-25 King Street S.
Cookstown, ON
L0L 1L0
705-458-1103
FAX: 705-458-0105

□ **Gravenhurst:**
2-5 Pineridge Gate
Gravenhurst, ON
P1P 1Z3
705-684-9090
FAX: 705-684-9887

□ **Huntsville:**
34 Chaffey St.
Huntsville, ON
P1H 1K1
705-789-8813
FAX: 705-789-7245

□ **Midland:**
A-925 Hugel Ave.
Midland, ON
L4R 1X8
705-526-9324
FAX: 705-526-1513

□ **Orillia:**
120-169 Front St. S.
Orillia, ON
L3V 4S8
705-325-9565
FAX: 705-325-2091



References:

1. Li T. Fafard St-Germain AA. Tarasuk V. Household food insecurity in Canada, 2022. [Report online]. Toronto: Research to identify policy options to reduce food insecurity (PROOF); 2023 [Last accessed 2024 February 13]. Available from: <https://proof.utoronto.ca/resource/household-food-insecurity-in-canada-2022/>
2. PROOF Food Insecurity Policy Research. The Impact of Food Insecurity on Health. [Internet]. Toronto: Research to identify policy options to reduce food insecurity (PROOF); 2016 [Last accessed 2024 February 13]. Available from: <https://proof.utoronto.ca/resource/the-impact-of-food-insecurity-on-health/>
3. Dietitians of Canada. Prevalence, Severity and Impact of Household Food Insecurity: A Serious Public Health Issue. [Report online]. Toronto: Dietitians of Canada; 2016 [Last accessed 2024 February 13]. Available from: <https://www.dietitians.ca/DietitiansOfCanada/media/Documents/Resources/HFI-Position-Statement-and-Recommendations-DC-FINAL.pdf?ext=.pdf>
4. Ontario Dietitians in Public Health (ODPH). Position Statement and Recommendations on Responses to Food Insecurity. [Report online]. Ontario: ODPH; 2020 [Last accessed 2024 February 13]. Available from: <https://www.odph.ca/membership/documents/5578>
5. Tarasuk V. Cheng J. de Oliveira C. Dachner N. Gunderson C. Kurdyak P. Association between household food insecurity and annual health care costs. Canadian Medical Association Journal [Article online]. 2015; 187(14):E429- E436. Available from: <http://www.cmaj.ca/content/early/2015/08/10/cmaj.150234.full.pdf+html>
6. Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario). Household food insecurity estimates from the Canadian Income Survey: Ontario 2019-2022. Toronto, ON: King's Printer for Ontario; 2023. Available from: <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/Data-and-Analysis/Health-Equity/Household-Food-Insecurity>
7. Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit: Nutritious Food Basket Survey 2023 [data file]. Barrie, ON: Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit. Available from: <https://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org/Health-Stats/HealthStatsHome/Resources/DataSources/NutritiousFoodBasket>

Barrie:
 15 Sperling Drive
 Barrie, ON
 L4M 6K9
 705-721-7520
 FAX: 705-721-1495

Collingwood:
 280 Pretty River Pkwy.
 Collingwood, ON
 L9Y 4J5
 705-445-0804
 FAX: 705-445-6498

Cookstown:
 2-25 King Street S.
 Cookstown, ON
 L0L 1L0
 705-458-1103
 FAX: 705-458-0105

Gravenhurst:
 2-5 Pineridge Gate
 Gravenhurst, ON
 P1P 1Z3
 705-684-9090
 FAX: 705-684-9887

Huntsville:
 34 Chaffey St.
 Huntsville, ON
 P1H 1K1
 705-789-8813
 FAX: 705-789-7245

Midland:
 A-925 Hugel Ave.
 Midland, ON
 L4R 1X8
 705-526-9324
 FAX: 705-526-1513

Orillia:
 120-169 Front St. S.
 Orillia, ON
 L3V 4S8
 705-325-9565
 FAX: 705-325-2091

Sarah Corbett

Subject:

FW: AMO Policy Update – Provincial Government Advocacy Ahead of 2024 Budget



Policy Update – Provincial Government Advocacy Ahead of 2024 Budget

Ontario's provincial and municipal governments share a commitment to making Ontario a leading jurisdiction in innovation, productivity, and social and economic opportunity. AMO's proposed [Social and Economic Prosperity Review](#) would create a provincial-municipal forum to explore new and innovative ways to deliver and finance the services and infrastructure that people and businesses rely on most.

In addition to AMO's proposed Social and Economic Prosperity Review, AMO highlighted for Ministers a number of other critical areas ahead of Budget 2024:

- **[Ministry of Infrastructure](#)**: highlighting investment needs for both growth-related infrastructure and for continued funding levels through programs that address maintenance backlog for existing infrastructure.
- **[Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing](#)**: ensuring that housing in Ontario is affordable for low-income residents and that those experiencing homelessness can be housed with the supports they need.
- **[Ministry of Health](#)**: emphasizing growing challenges in accessing health care, the need for investments in public health service delivery, municipal representation for planning and governance on Ontario Health Teams, stronger support of mental health and addictions, leadership from the provincial government in increasing supply of supportive housing and expanding health support for unhoused Ontarians beyond Toronto.
- **[Ministry of Community and Social Services](#)**: emphasizing the impact that social assistance transformation can have across the province, including specific investments in social assistance to support low-income and vulnerable individuals.
- **[Ministry of Long-Term Care](#)**: calling on the province for long-term, predictable funding to support aging communities as well as a provincial, sector-wide health human resources strategy to improve access to health services.
- **[Ministry of Finance](#)**: commenting on recent signals regarding limiting investment opportunities of public pension plans.



19 March 2024

Canadian Wildlife Service
Environment and Climate Change Canada
4905 Dufferin Street
Downsview ON M3H 5T4

Dear Municipality,

We are writing to request your support in raising awareness of legal requirements under the federal *Species at Risk Act* (SARA) for the protection of Chimney Swift and its habitat.

The Chimney Swift is a threatened migratory bird that consumes flying insects and plays an important role in managing insect populations. Chimney Swifts typically nest and roost in chimneys with interior walls constructed of stone, brick, cement, concrete or tile, but can occasionally be other vertical structures such as barns, silos, woodsheds, artificial towers or abandoned buildings. A description of the species' residence is attached and is available online here: <https://species-registry.canada.ca/index-en.html#/documents/667>. Publicly available bird survey data indicate that Chimney Swifts nest and roost within your municipal boundaries.

Environment and Climate Change Canada understands that chimneys and other structures used by Chimney Swift require periodic maintenance or may need to be removed for health and safety reasons or as part of development projects. **Given that redevelopment or other major projects will require a municipal building permit, your staff may be well-positioned to notify those project proponents of potential for Chimney Swift to be present and the legal obligations under SARA when projects involving the alteration or removal of chimneys (or similar structures) are brought forward in building permit applications.** Often, landowners are not aware that a chimney on their property may be used by Chimney Swift and that their project may have the potential to impact this species. Environment and Climate Change Canada's Canadian Wildlife Service can provide assistance in determining what, if any, regulatory requirements exist under SARA.

The Chimney Swift is listed as Threatened under both SARA and Ontario's provincial *Endangered Species Act*. Under SARA, the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) is required to develop a recovery strategy for Threatened and Endangered species, to help guide the actions needed to stop or reverse their decline. The final *Recovery Strategy for the Chimney Swift in Canada* provides information about the species, identifies major threats to the species and its habitat, and recommends strategies to conserve and recover the species. It is available on the Species at Risk Public Registry: <https://species-registry.canada.ca/index-en.html#/consultations/2971>.

The federal SARA contains measures for the protection and recovery of species at risk in Canada. It contains prohibitions against the killing, harming, harassing, capturing, taking, possessing, collecting, buying, selling or trading of individuals of endangered, threatened and extirpated species listed on

A4

Schedule 1 of the Act (s.32). The Act also contains a prohibition against the damage or destruction of their residences (i.e., dwelling place) (s.33). The federal *Migratory Birds Convention Act* (MBCA) also protects the Chimney Swift, their nests, and eggs. The protections under SARA and the MBCA apply wherever migratory birds are found in Canada. Provincial protections and restrictions also apply.

The Questions & Answers document provides more information on the Chimney Swift and what can be done to help its recovery for your information: <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/species-risk-public-registry/related-information/questions-answers-conservation-chimney-swift.html>.

We would appreciate if you could direct proponents that will be undertaking activities that can affect this species and their habitat to the following website: <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/species-risk-public-registry/related-information/chimney-swift-conservation-permitting.html>. Likewise, proponents can contact ECCC-CWS at wildlifeontario@ec.gc.ca for advice about SARA permitting. In addition to federal requirements, there may also be provincial requirements. Proponents can contact the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) for more information: SAROntario@ontario.ca.

Thank you for your support in helping to recover this species. If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact SpeciesAtRisk.Ontario@ec.gc.ca to arrange for a discussion.

Sincerely,

Canadian Wildlife Service – Ontario Region
Environment and Climate Change Canada

Attached:

- Description of Residence for the Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*) in Canada

Description of residence for the Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*) in Canada

Preface

Section 33 of the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA) prohibits damaging or destroying the residence of one or more individuals of a listed threatened, endangered, or extirpated species if a recovery strategy has recommended the re-introduction of the species into the wild in Canada (hereafter 'listed wildlife species'). SARA defines residence as: "a dwelling-place, such as a den, nest or other similar area or place, that is occupied or habitually occupied by one or more individuals during all or part of their life cycles, including breeding, rearing, staging, wintering, feeding or hibernating" [s.2(1)].

The prohibition comes into effect in different ways depending on the jurisdiction with overall management responsibility for the species and on the location of the residence.

With respect to a listed wildlife species that is an aquatic species or a species of bird protected under the *Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994*, the prohibition applies automatically upon listing wherever the residences are found in Canada. For any other listed wildlife species, the prohibition applies automatically when the residence of the species is on federal lands in a province, or on Environment and Climate Change Canada or the Parks Canada Agency lands in a territory, and will only apply on other lands if an order is made pursuant to sections 34 or 35 of SARA. Under section 97 of SARA every person who contravenes section 33 of the Act commits an offence.

Under SARA, the damage or destruction of this migratory bird species' residence is prohibited automatically on all lands in Canada. SARA provides that permits may be issued for activities that affect a listed wildlife species, its critical habitat or residences of its individuals, under certain conditions. SARA also provides exceptions for certain activities that relate to public safety, health or national security for activities authorized under other federal legislation. The permitting scheme or above mentioned exception may apply, depending on the specifics of the situation, with respect to maintenance or modification of an existing man-made structure recognised as a residence.

The following is a description of residence for the Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*) created for the purposes of increasing public awareness and stewardship, and enhancing conservation of the species by promoting compliance with the above-noted prohibition. Chimney Swifts are known to have two types of residences: the structure housing the nest (including the nest) and the structure used for roosting (roost site). Occasionally, a single structure can serve to house the nest for a pair of Chimney Swifts and as a roost site for other Chimney Swifts.

Summary

The Chimney Swift has two residences: (1) the structure housing the nest (including the nest during the nesting period) used by the Chimney Swift to shelter from predators and inclement weather as well as for laying and incubating eggs, and rearing young; (2) the structure used for roosting (roost site) which provides a place to rest and sleep that is sheltered and protected from predators. Suitable structures are often chimneys made of masonry or similar vertical structures with a rough or porous inner surface and a dark interior. Structures used for roosting are generally larger than ones used for nesting. Nesting and roosting structures are considered a residence year around and remain a residence until the species has not used them for nesting or roosting for three consecutive years. The nest is a residence only during the nesting season and is no longer a residence after it is abandoned in late summer.

Species Information

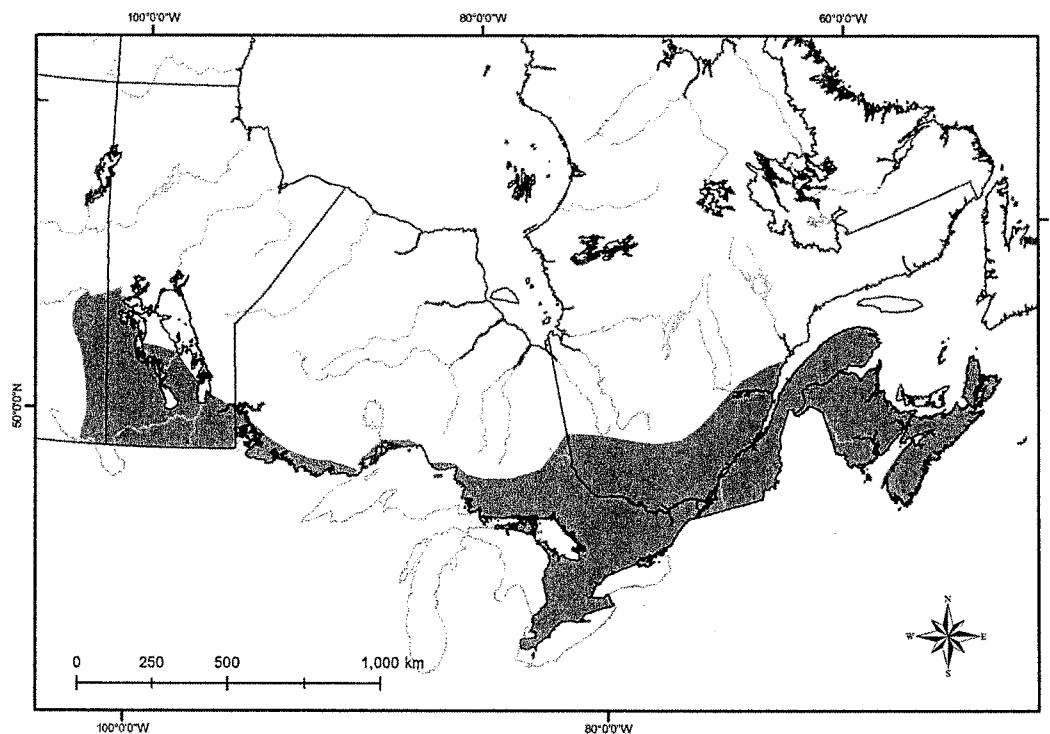


Figure 1. Breeding range of the Chimney Swift in Canada (grey shading) (ECCC 2022).

1) Structure Housing the Nest (including the Nest)

Physical Appearance and Context

The structure housing the Chimney Swift nest, including the nest itself, where the Chimney Swift lays eggs and hatches young is considered a residence. The Chimney Swift builds its nest within hollow vertical structures. The interior vertical surface of the structure must be rough or porous, to allow the Chimney Swift to attach its nest using its saliva, which has adhesive properties (Fischer 1958; Steeves *et al.* 2014). The half-saucer-shaped nest is made from small dead twigs (2 - 5 cm long) that the bird pulls off the crowns of trees with its feet. The nest is small, approximately 5.0 - 7.5 cm wide (front to back) by 10 cm long (right to left side average) by 2.5 - 3.1 cm deep. Prior to European settlement, the Chimney Swift nested and roosted mainly inside hollow trees and occasionally on cave walls and in rocky crevices (Lack 1956; Fischer 1958; Tufts 1986; Godfrey 1986; Erskine 1992). However, with the arrival of Europeans in North America, forest clearing expanded and large trees became increasingly scarce (Leverett 1996; Drushka 2000). Chimney Swifts rapidly adopted suitable human-made structures for nesting and roosting such as chimneys, grain silos, cisterns, wells, barns, abandoned houses and boathouses (e.g., MacNamara 1918; Coffey 1936; Lack 1956; Fleckenstein 1996; Snow and Perrins 1998; Steeves *et al.* 2014). Among these structures, chimneys are the most abundant and by far the most frequently used by the Chimney Swift. The chimneys used are most often constructed of stone, brick, concrete or ceramic tile. Large chimneys, generally having an opening diameter greater than 28.5 cm, such as those on churches, schools, convents, commercial buildings and houses are often used (Gauthier *et al.* 2007; Figure 2). At sites other than chimneys, the birds may access the nest by a ventilation well, a broken window or a permanently-open door.

Structures in the natural environment are also still used, such as large living or dead trees with hollow trunks (typically > 50 cm in diameter at breast height (DBH) (COSEWIC 2018)),

Final version, August 2023

cavities excavated by Pileated Woodpeckers (*Dryocopus pileatus*), and rock crevices (COSEWIC 2018).

Evidence that a structure is used as a residence for nesting includes birds entering the structure very quickly and discretely, with repeated coming and going of adults in broad daylight, at intervals varying from five to 15 minutes (Gauthier *et al.* 2007).

Function

Vertical structures, including chimneys, provide a dark place for the nest, sheltered from inclement weather and predators. The nest itself forms a container in which the Chimney Swift can lay and incubate its eggs and raise its chicks. On average, a nest holds four eggs (range two to six eggs). Both members of the pair incubate the eggs and feed the chicks. In addition, other adults frequently help with these tasks. The nest takes close to 18 days or more to build. The egg-laying period can vary and may take about seven days for a clutch of four eggs, since eggs are generally laid at a rate of one every two days (COSEWIC 2007). Incubation takes on average 19 days (Fischer 1958; Steeves *et al.* 2014). The chicks remain in the nest for an average of 19 days, after which they leave it but continue growing while clinging to the inside wall of the structure housing the nest (Fischer 1958). The chicks stay clinging to the structure until they are able to take their first flight (Steeves *et al.* 2014), typically at 30 days of age (Fischer 1958). They can then come back to the structure housing the nest for another one or two weeks (Steeves *et al.* 2014).

Damage or Destruction of the Residence

Damage or destruction of a residence is defined as any alteration to the topography, geology, soil conditions, vegetation, chemical composition of air/water, surface or groundwater hydrology, micro-climate, or sound environment which either temporarily or permanently impairs the function(s) of the residence of one or more individuals.

Activities that may damage or destroy the structure housing the nest include, but are not limited to:

- changing the micro-climate of the structure housing the nest (e.g. repairs to a chimney that change air flow and internal temperature);
- modifying the structure housing the nest (e.g. by lining the interior of a chimney with metal);
- blocking access to the nest or structure;
- moving or otherwise disturbing the structure or nest;
- destroying the structure housing the nest; or
- any other activity that would negatively affect the function of the structure used for nesting.

Period and Frequency of Occupancy

The period of possible occupancy of the structure housing the nest is about four months, from the beginning of May to the beginning of September. Chimney Swifts begin to arrive in Canada at the end of April or in early May (Steeves *et al.* 2014). Once the nest site is selected, the birds will start the nesting season which usually extends from late May to Mid-August (COSEWIC 2018). Depending on the location, the fall migration period is from late July to late September (COSEWIC 2018). The majority of Chimney Swifts have left for their wintering grounds by October, although a small number of birds remain until the end of that month in the southernmost part of Ontario (Birds Canada, unpublished data).

The Chimney Swift breeding pair exhibits strong fidelity to the structure housing the nest and consequently tends to return each year to the same structure (Dexter 1992; Fischer 1958). The nest itself is rarely reused in subsequent years and often falls down before the next breeding season (Steeves *et al.* 2014.); therefore, under SARA, the nest is part of the residence only when occupied¹, therefore from May to September of the year used.

¹ Occupied is defined as the presence of one or more adult, young or viable egg.

Under SARA, the structure housing the nest is considered a residence throughout the year because the Chimney Swift is likely to return every year to the same structure (Dexter 1992; Gauthier *et al.* 2007). The structure housing the nest remains a residence from year to year and until there is documented evidence that the species has not used the structure housing the nest for three consecutive years. This period was determined based on evidence showing that the Chimney Swift will reuse a structure for nesting even after a 2 year absence period and sometimes more than 2 years (ECCC 2019). Furthermore, the average lifespan for Chimney Swifts is 4.5 years and the birds do not necessarily reproduce in their first year; therefore, on average, a bird is likely to reproduce for a period of about 3 years over its lifetime. Absence should be confirmed using a standard protocol from one of the Chimney Swift Monitoring programs in Canada and the monitoring must take place throughout the breeding season. In Ontario and the Maritimes, please visit Birds Canada (<https://www.birdscanada.org/bird-science/swiftwatch>), in Manitoba and Saskatchewan, visit the the Manitoba Chimney Swift Initiative (<https://www.mbchimneyswift.com/resources-and-links/>), and in Québec the Regroupement QuébecOiseaux (<https://cdn.ca.yapla.com/company/CPYcN9TslMHKJSLwzd8PIVrDo/asset/files/Protocole-Martinet-ramoneur-2018.pdf>).

2) Structure Used for Roosting (Roost Site)

Physical Appearance and Context

The structure where a bird roosts, settles or congregates to rest is considered a residence. The Chimney Swift usually roosts in the interior of large chimneys constructed of stone, brick, concrete or ceramic tile, but roost sites also include other human-made structures such as grain silos, cisterns, wells, barns, abandoned houses and boathouses or natural structures such as hollow trees, cave walls and rocky crevices (e.g., MacNamara 1918; Coffey 1936; Lack 1956; Fleckenstein 1996; Snow and Perrins 1998; Steeves *et al.* 2014). Large chimneys, generally having an opening diameter greater than 28.5 cm, such as those on churches, schools, convents, commercial buildings and houses are often used (Gauthier *et al.* 2007; Figure 2). Any structure used for roosting by the Chimney Swift is considered a residence.

During the spring and fall migration period, roost sites shelter anywhere from a few birds up to several hundred or even several thousand birds. During the summer breeding period, roost sites have been known to shelter up to hundreds of birds in large towns and cities and sometimes in more rural areas.

Evidence that a structure is used as residence for roosting includes, on fair weather evenings, birds gradually gathering in the minutes before sunset near a structure; as the time of entry approaches, the birds gather more and more cohesively and start circling the chimney or structure while calling. Then, at some point, they quickly enter. They can enter the chimney alone or in groups (Gauthier *et al.* 2007).

Function

Roost sites provide Chimney Swifts shelter and protection from predators at night and on rainy, cold or windy days, as well as a variety of social benefits. These relatively confined spaces also allow the birds to gather side by side and thus maintain body temperature. During the nesting season, a roost site may be occupied by non-breeding birds (or failed breeders), and may also be occupied by a nesting pair. The number of birds at individual roost sites varies depending on the time of year, with some birds moving to communal roost sites after nesting is complete. Additionally, some roosting sites are used primarily during the fall migration period, and some are used primarily during spring migration.

Damage or Destruction of the Residence

Damage or destruction of a residence is defined as any alteration to the topography, geology, soil conditions, vegetation, chemical composition of air/water, surface or groundwater hydrology, micro-climate, or sound environment which either temporarily or permanently impairs the function(s) of the residence of one or more individuals.

Final version, August 2023

Activities that may damage or destroy the roost site include, but are not limited to:

- changing the micro-climate of the roost site (e.g., repairs to a chimney or structure that change air flow and temperature),
- modifying the roost site (e.g. by lining the interior of a chimney with metal),
- blocking access to the roost site,
- moving or otherwise disturbing the roost site,
- destroying the roost site, or
- any other activity that would negatively affect the function of the structure used for roosting.

Period and Frequency of Occupancy

Chimney Swifts begin to arrive in Canada at the end of April or in early May (Steeves *et al.* 2014) and typically occupy roost sites until their departure for southbound migration in late summer/ early fall. They migrate south from their breeding grounds between the end of August and the end of September, depending on the latitude, with some birds in south-western Ontario staying until mid-late October (Gauthier *et al.* 2007).

Under SARA, the structure used for roosting is considered a residence throughout the year because the Chimney Swift is likely to return every year to the same structure. Roost fidelity among Chimney Swifts is strong, as demonstrated by the fact that roost sites are used for several consecutive years or even decades (Gauthier *et al.* 2007). The roost sites remain residences throughout the year, until there is documented evidence that the species has not used the roosting structure for three consecutive years. This period was determined based on evidence that the Chimney Swift will reuse a structure even after a two-year absence period and sometimes more than 2 years (ECCC 2019). Absence must be confirmed using a standard protocol by one of the Chimney Swift Monitoring programs in Canada or the National Chimney Swift Roost Survey Protocol (<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/bird-surveys/volunteers/national-chimney-swift-roost-survey-protocol.html#toc5>), and monitoring must take place throughout the breeding season and during the migration period.



Figure 2. A chimney used by Chimney Swifts for nesting in Quebec city (photo: C. Maurice).

Additional Information

For more information on the Chimney Swift, go to:

<https://species-registry.canada.ca/index-en.html#/species/951-650>

For more information on SARA, go to:

A4

Final version, August 2023

<http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=En&n=24F7211B-1>

Recommended Citation

Please cite this document as:

Government of Canada. Species at Risk Public Registry. Residence Descriptions. Description of Residence for the Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*) in Canada. August 2023.
<https://species-registry.canada.ca/index-en.html#/documents/667>

References

- Coffey, B.B. Jr. 1936. Chimney Swift migration at Memphis. *The Migrant* 7:78-82, 96-98.
- COSEWIC 2018. COSEWIC assessment and status report on the Chimney Swift *Chaetura pelagica* in Canada. Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada. Ottawa. xii + 63 pp.
(<http://www.registrelep-sararegistry.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=en&n=24F7211B-1>).
- Dexter, R. W. (1969). Banding and nesting studies of the Chimney Swift, 1944-1968. *Ohio Journal of Science*. 69:193-213.
- Dexter, R. W. 1992. Sociality of Chimney Swifts (*Chaetura pelagica*) nesting in a colony. *North American Bird Bander*. 17: 61-64.
- Drushka, K. 2000. *Canada's Forests: A History* Forest History Society. McGill-Queens-University Press, 162 pp.
- Environment and Climate Change Canada. 2019. Chimney Swift occupied structures timing analysis, Quebec region. Canadian Wildlife Service, Quebec Region, Canada.
- Environnement et Changement climatique Canada. 2022. Programme de rétablissement du Martinet ramoneur (*Chaetura pelagica*) au Canada [Proposition], Série de Programmes de rétablissement de la Loi sur les espèces en péril, Environnement et Changement climatique Canada, Ottawa, xii + 159 p.
- Erskine, A. J. 1992. *Atlas of breeding birds of the Maritime Provinces*. Halifax, Nova Scotia: Nova Scotia Museum.
- Fischer, R. B., 1958. The breeding biology of the Chimney Swift, *Chaetura pelagica* (Linnaeus). *New York State Museum and Science Service. Bulletin* 368: 141.
- Fleckenstein, J. 1996. Chimney Swift. *In* The Iowa breeding bird atlas, p. 200-201. L.S. Jackson, C.A. Thompson and J.J. Dinsmore, editors. University of Iowa Press, Iowa city, 484 pp.
- Gauthier, J., M. Dionne, C. Maurice, J. Potvin, M.D. Cadman, and D. Busby. 2007. Status of the Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*) in Canada. Technical Report Series No. 477, Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment Canada, Quebec City. xiv + 119 pp.
- Godfrey, W. E. 1986. *The Birds of Canada*. Revised Edition. National Museum of Natural Sciences, Ottawa, 595 pp.
- Lack, D. 1956. A review of the genera and nesting habits of swifts. *Auk* 73:1-32.
- Leverett, R. 1996. Definition and history. *In* Eastern Old-growth forests: prospect for rediscovery and recovery. Edited by Mary Bird Davis. Island Press, Washington, 383 pp.

14

A4

Final version, August 2023

MacNamara, C. 1918. The Chimney Swift. *Ottawa Naturalist*. 32:39-42.

Snow, D.W. and C.M. Perrins. 1998. *The Birds of the Western Palearctic*. Oxford University Press, Oxford, 1008 pp.

Steeves, Tanner K., Shannon B. Kearney-McGee, Margaret A. Rubega, Calvin L. Cink and Charles T. Collins. 2020. Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*), version 1.0 In *Birds of the World* (A. F. Poole, Editor). Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY, USA. <https://doi.org/10.2173/bow.chiswi.01>

Tufts, R.W. 1986. *Birds of Nova Scotia*. Third Edition. Nimbus Publ. and the Nova Scotia Museum. Halifax, NS. 478 pp.

15

7

STATEMENT

Ontario Passes Fourth Working for Workers Act

Changes will improve cancer coverage for firefighters and strengthen wage protection for restaurant, hospitality and service workers

March 21, 2024

Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development

TORONTO — David Piccini, Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development, issued the following statement after the Working for Workers Four Act, 2024 received Royal Assent.

“By putting workers first, we are filling the labour shortage, incentivizing employers to create more local jobs and helping more workers land a better job with a bigger paycheque. With our fourth Working for Workers Act, we continue to lead the country in ground-breaking protections for workers, including:

- Improving cancer coverage for firefighters and fire investigators by lowering the employment period needed to receive compensation when diagnosed with esophageal cancer from 25 to 15 years.
- Strengthening wage protections for restaurant, hospitality and service workers by clarifying that employers can never deduct an employee’s wages in the event of a dine and dash, gas and dash or any other stolen property and providing that trial shifts are paid. Further, our government is requiring employers to post in the workplace if they are sharing in pooled tips – something that is only allowed if they perform the same work as their staff – and requiring employers who pay tips using direct deposit to allow their employees to select which account they want funds deposited.
- Banning the use of Canadian experience as a requirement in job postings or application forms – the first province in Canada – to enable qualified workers to fill highly in-demand jobs, especially in health care. This change would help more qualified candidates progress in the interview process and follows historic legislation to prohibit regulated professions from requiring discriminatory Canadian work experience requirements in licensing for more than 30 occupations, which came into effect December 2023.
- Making it easier for international students in Ontario to qualify for the Ontario Immigrant Nominee Program (OINP). 16

AS

- Helping workers make informed decisions in their career search by requiring employers to disclose salary ranges in job postings and if artificial intelligence (AI) is used during the hiring process.
- Improving oversight and accountability of how regulated professions use third-party organizations to assess international qualifications to ensure it is done transparently and fairly.
- Clarifying vacation pay provisions to ensure employees are aware that their written agreement is required if vacation pay is paid in any way other than a lump sum before their vacation.
- Supporting injured workers by enabling additional “super indexing” increases to Workplace Safety and Insurance Board benefits above the annual rate of inflation.

To complement our new legislation, we are also launching consultations to identify legislative options to restrict the use of Non-Disclosure Agreements (NDAs) in the settlement of cases of workplace sexual harassment, misconduct or violence, while protecting the rights of victims and survivors.

We will also consult on options to create a new, job-protected leave for critical illnesses (like cancer) to match the length of the 26-week federal Employment Insurance sickness benefits.

These changes expand on the historic measures in the *Working for Workers Acts, 2021, 2022* and *2023*, which are helping millions of people in Ontario earn bigger paycheques and supporting newcomers in building the province.”

Additional Resources

- Background: Stakeholders welcome changes to support workers

Related Topics

Business and Economy

Information about Ontario’s economy and how to do business here. Includes economic development opportunities, research funding, tax credits for business and the Ontario Budget. Learn more

Jobs and Employment

We’ve got the resource and supports to help connect job seekers with employers. Learn more

Law and Safety

Ontario's laws and related information about our legal system, emergency services, the Ontario Provincial Police and victim services. [Learn more](#)

AS

Media Contacts

Zoe Knowles

Minister's Office

zoe.knowles@ontario.ca

Communications Branch

mlitsdmedialine@ontario.ca

[Accessibility](#)

[Privacy](#)

[Contact us](#)

© King's Printer for Ontario, 2012-2024

NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Investing Over \$1.8 Billion to Build More Homes

New housing-enabling infrastructure funding will help municipalities get shovels in the ground

March 21, 2024

Office of the Premier

TORONTO — The Ontario government is investing more than \$1.8 billion in housing-enabling infrastructure funding to help build at least 1.5 million homes by 2031. This funding includes \$1 billion for the new Municipal Housing Infrastructure Program and \$625 million more for the Housing-Enabling Water Systems Fund, bringing its total funding to \$825 million. This new funding complements existing and ongoing provincial investments in housing- and community-enabling infrastructure, including the \$1.2 billion Building Faster Fund, the original \$200 million investment in the Housing-Enabling Water Systems Fund and the investment of nearly \$2 billion for the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund since 2021–22.

“Time and time again, I’ve heard from our municipal partners that a lack of infrastructure is one of the biggest barriers to getting more homes built,” said Premier Doug Ford. “Today’s announcement of more than \$1.8 billion in housing-enabling infrastructure funding, on top of the billions of dollars of infrastructure funding we’re already providing, will help get more shovels in the ground so we can keep the dream of homeownership alive in Ontario.”

The new \$1 billion Municipal Housing Infrastructure Program will support core infrastructure projects that help enable housing for growing and developing communities, such as roads and water infrastructure. This funding will help municipalities get shovels in the ground on critical infrastructure that will lay the groundwork for more homes across the province, with an emphasis on projects that can build the greatest number of homes. More information about the program, including eligibility and application intake details, will be announced later this year.

A6

“Our government is helping municipalities get more shovels in the ground faster on the critical infrastructure needed to build more homes,” said Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance. “By significantly growing our investments, we’re able to more quickly build the roads, sewers and reservoirs needed to connect new homes to the grid and help more Ontarians become homeowners.”

Ontario is more than quadrupling its investment from \$200 million to \$825 million over three years to expand the Housing-Enabling Water Systems Fund, which will help municipalities repair, rehabilitate and expand drinking water, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure needed to build more homes. First announced in the 2023 Fall Economic Statement, municipalities can still submit an application for the program until April 19, 2024.

“Our government is making targeted investments in key infrastructure projects to ensure Ontario’s communities have the roads, bridges, and water infrastructure needed to support our province’s growing population,” said Kinga Surma, Minister of Infrastructure. “With this additional funding for the Housing-Enabling Water Systems Fund, we are helping more municipalities repair, rehabilitate, and sustain their critical infrastructure so that more homes can be built for their communities.”

Ontario is also supporting housing outcomes through its Building Faster Fund, that was announced in August 2023 to provide up to \$1.2 billion over three years to reward municipalities that are building more homes. The fund is designed to help municipalities pay for critical housing- and community-enabling infrastructure needed to accommodate growth, such as site servicing and building new roads. The Building Faster Fund includes \$120 million that is being reserved for small, rural and northern municipalities to help build housing-enabling infrastructure and prioritize projects that speed up the increase of housing supply.

“We have heard from many municipalities that their biggest obstacle in getting more shovels in the ground faster is infrastructure and that is why we are making this historic investment,” said Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. “We are removing barriers and providing every tool we can to our municipal partners so that more homes can be built than ever before.”

The government is giving municipalities the tools they need to build more homes faster and tackle the affordability crisis that is pricing too many people, especially young families and newcomers, out of the dream of homeownership. In partnership with municipalities, Ontario will continue working hard to unlock

housing opportunities and support growing communities. The province continues to call on the federal government to pay its fair share and help fund housing-enabling infrastructure investments, and support vibrant, growing communities.

“Municipal infrastructure is the foundation of Ontario’s economy and quality of life. From the water and sewer systems that enable our housing to the roads and bridges that connect our province, this critical funding will allow municipalities to support Ontario’s growth,” said Colin Best, President of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and Halton Regional Councillor. “AMO commends the province for this investment in Ontario’s prosperity and looks forward to working with the Ministry of Infrastructure on implementation.”

The government will provide more information on its plan to build critical infrastructure, while keeping costs down for families and businesses in the 2024 Budget, to be released on March 26.

Quick Facts

- To support the future of Ontario, the government is investing \$185 billion over the next 10 years in hospitals, long-term care homes, highways, public transit and other key public infrastructure.
 - As announced in Ontario’s 2023 Fall Economic Statement, the government is introducing additional measures to help build critical infrastructure faster and smarter. This includes the Ontario Infrastructure Bank, and the building of more rental homes by taking steps to remove the full eight per cent provincial portion of the Harmonized Sales Tax (HST).
 - The three-year Building Faster Fund, announced in August 2023, supports municipalities in achieving their housing targets, including housing- and community-enabling infrastructure. Funding is provided to municipalities that have reached at least 80 per cent of their provincially assigned housing target for the year with increased funding for municipalities that exceed their target.
-



March 22nd, 2024

The Honourable Lisa Thompson
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
11th Floor
77 Grenville St.
Toronto, ON M5S 1B3

RE: Township of Adelaide Metcalfe – Request to Increase Tile Drain Loan Limit

Dear Minister Thompson,

On March 18, 2024, the Township of Adelaide Metcalfe Council approved the following resolution:

WHEREAS farm drainage is of paramount importance in Ontario due to its significant impact on agricultural productivity and sustainability. Effective drainage systems help mitigate waterlogging, control soil moisture levels, and enhance soil structure, thereby optimizing growing conditions for crops;

WHEREAS improved drainage also facilitates timely field operations, reduces erosion, and minimizes nutrient runoff, contributing to environmental conservation efforts;

WHEREAS Ontario's diverse agricultural landscape, where weather variability is common, well-maintained drainage systems play a crucial role in ensuring stable yields, economic viability, and long-term resilience for farmers across the Province;

WHEREAS the Tile Loan Drainage Act, R.S.O 1990, c. T.8 allows for the borrowing of money for the purpose of constructing drainage works;

WHEREAS the maximum annual limit for these loans, unchanged since 2004, is currently set at \$50,000.

WHEREAS costs for Tile Drainage has increased markedly since 2004;

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the Township of Adelaide Metcalfe requests that the Province through the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) consider increasing the maximum annual Tile Loan limit to a minimum of \$100,000.

AND THAT this resolution be circulated the Honourable Lisa Thompson – Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA), the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA), and all Ontario municipalities.

A7

Your consideration of Council's request is appreciated.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'MB', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Michael Barnier
Clerk & Manager of Legislative Services
Township of Adelaide Metcalfe
mbarnier@adelaidemetcalfe.on.ca

Cc: Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA)
All Ontario Municipalities



Office of the Mayor

WAYNE H. REDEKOP

March 22, 2024

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1
premier@ontario.ca

The Honourable Michael D. Ford
Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism
14th floor, 56 Wellesley Street
Toronto, ON M7A 2E7
Michael.Ford@pc.ola.org

Honourable and Dear Sirs:

Re: Architectural Conservancy Ontario - Request Provincial Government to Amend Deadline of Subsection 27(16), Ontario Heritage Act

Please be advised the Municipal Council of the Town of Fort Erie at its meeting of March 18, 20224 received and supported correspondence from the Architectural Conservancy Ontario dated February 8, 2024 requesting the Provincial Government to amend Subsection 27(16) of the Ontario Heritage Act by extending the deadline for five years, from January 1, 2025 to January 1, 2030, and passed the following resolution:

Whereas subsection 27(16) of the Ontario Heritage Act stipulates that any non-designated heritage property listed on the municipal register of properties as of December 31, 2022 shall be removed from the municipal register on or before January 1, 2025, if the council of the municipality does not give a notice of intention to designate the property under subsection 29(1) of the Ontario Heritage Act on or before January 1, 2025; and

Whereas since January 1, 2023, municipal staff and members of the municipal heritage committee in this municipality have been diligently working to: review the municipal heritage register; research the heritage value and interest of listed (non-designated) properties; review and research the heritage value and interest of non-designated properties; contact owners of such properties; determine which properties should potentially be designated in accordance with the provisions of Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act; and take all required steps to designate such properties; and

Whereas the above-noted work involving 34 listed properties in this municipality is extremely time-consuming and cannot be completed by December 31, 2024 with the limited municipal resources available;

..../2

Mailing Address:

The Corporation of the Town of Fort Erie
1 Municipal Centre Drive, Fort Erie ON L2A 2S6

Office Hours 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Phone: (905) 871-1600 FAX: (905) 871-4022

Web-site: www.forterie.ca

24

A8

The Honourable Doug Ford
The Honourable Michael D. Ford

Page two

Now therefore be it resolved,


That Council authorize the Mayor to promptly send a letter to Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, and Michael Ford, Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism, requesting that Subsection 27(16) of the Ontario Heritage Act be amended to extend the above-noted deadline for five years from January 1, 2025 to January 1, 2030.

Attached please find a copy of the Architectural Conservancy Ontario correspondence dated February 8, 2024.

I know that you value the history and heritage of our province and the contributions made to our society of those who came before us. By preserving our architectural and built heritage, we honour those contributions and the historical foundations of our communities.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours very truly,



Wayne H. Redekop
Mayor

WHR:dlk
Attach.
c.c. All Ontario Municipalities

A8

February 8, 2024



**ARCHITECTURAL
CONSERVANCY
ONTARIO**

Premier Ford,

Re: Looming expiry date for protection of heritage properties listed under the *Ontario Heritage Act*

We are writing to express our concerns with a key amendment to the *Ontario Heritage Act*, which your government passed in 2022. Under it, any heritage property listed on a municipal register as of December 31, 2022 shall be removed from the register on January 1, 2025, unless that council has given notice of its intention to designate the property under the Act. Properties that lose listing status cannot be re-listed for another five years.

This change affects some 36,000 listed heritage properties, according to the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism, in over 100 municipalities across the province. These properties have only limited, short-term (60 day) protection. As ACO warned in December 2022, forcing municipalities to designate all listed properties within two years or drop them from the register was draconian and totally unrealistic. With the expiry date now less than one year away, municipalities, large and small, are scrambling to review their registers and prioritize properties for designation or other protection. The staff/financial cost in research alone is enormous.

Automatically removing listed properties from the registry in less than eleven months will encourage demolition of existing and affordable housing alternatives at a time when we need them the most.

ACO is asking that Subsection 27(16) of the *Ontario Heritage Act* be amended in the spring session of the Legislature, to extend the deadline in the Act for five years, from January 1, 2025 to January 1, 2030. This early certainty of an additional five years for implementation would give municipalities the opportunity to better plan, resource and undertake this complex exercise. The 2030 timeline would help municipalities ensure that properties are not "thrown off the list" prematurely and without input from property owners.

ACO believes that property owners should not be forced to choose between designation and nothing at all to recognize the heritage significance of their property. However, this is the choice your government has forced on them. At the very least, owners and municipalities should be given more time to make this choice, and given reasonable notice of this extension.

Diane Chin
President

401 Richmond Street West, Suite 206, Toronto, ON M5V 3A8
T 416.367.8075 TF 1.866.221.1420 F 416.367.8630 E info@acontario.ca

www.acontario.ca

The past. Our present. Your future.

26

RECEIVED

MAR 18 2024

BY COUNCIL



MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Celebrate 30+ years of sweet family fun, community activities at Spring Tonic Maple Syrup Festival

UTOPIA, Ontario (March 26, 2024) – Experience maple syrup season at the Tiffin Centre for Conservation with the Spring Tonic Maple Syrup Festival this April 6 and 7th! The festival is open from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. each day. Admission includes a pancake and sausage breakfast with fresh maple syrup and a wide range of family-friendly activities.

“For more than 30 years, Spring Tonic has celebrated maple syrup as an important aspect of Canadian heritage,” said Kyra Howes, Director of Conservation Services at the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority. “Our staff and volunteers always look forward to sharing the past and present methods of maple syrup production with the public. Of course, the event is also a great opportunity to purchase delicious Tiffin maple syrup, the sale of which supports community programs!”

Festival activities include interactions with exotic animals, dog agility demonstrations and tractor-wagon rides through the forest. Visitors will also enjoy learning outdoor skills with cadets, live music by Rob Watts, meet and greets with firefighters, paramedics, conservation officers and much more!

The festival is jointly hosted by NVCA and the Rotary Club of Barrie. Volunteers from the Rotary Club generously donate their time to organize Spring Tonic and manage different stations during the event.

“All proceeds from the festival go towards Rotary community projects and maintaining Tiffin Conservation Area,” said Darren Robinson, Chairperson of the Spring Tonic Maple Syrup Festival at the Rotary Club of Barrie. “Funds help support the Royal Victoria Hospital, Salvation Army, affordable housing and many other community enhancement projects throughout Simcoe County.”

The Spring Tonic Maple Syrup Festival is held at the Tiffin Conservation Area, 10 minutes from Barrie, Angus and Innisfil, and only 1 hour north of the Greater Toronto Area. Admission to the festival is \$20 for adults, \$15 for children between 3-12 and free for children 2 and under. Family packs for two adults and two children are available for \$65. Visitors can also build their own bird box for \$10, or purchase a prebuilt cedar bird box for \$30.

A9

- 30 -

About NVCA: The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority is a public agency dedicated to the preservation of a healthy environment through specialized programs to protect, conserve and enhance our water, wetlands, forests and lands.

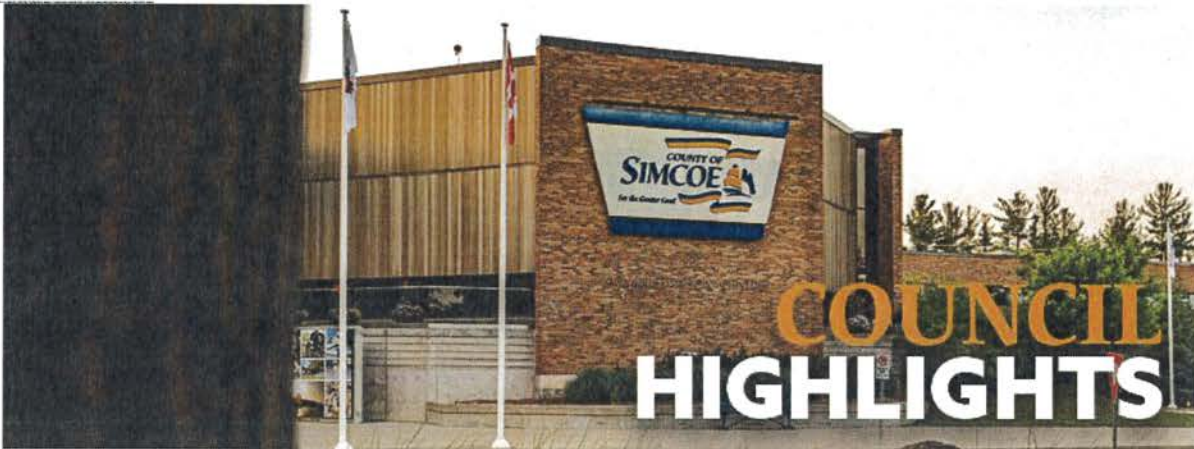
Media contact: Maria Leung, Senior Communications Specialist 705-424-1479,
mleung@nvca.on.ca

28

Sarah Corbett

Subject:

FW: County Council Highlights - Meeting Held March 12, 2024



Council Highlights are intended to provide a summary of Council proceedings only. The information contained within the Highlights is based on approved material from within the associated agenda packages, linked at the bottom. These reports were part of the agendas from the **Council Meeting on March 12, 2024** and the **Committee of the Whole Meeting on February 27, 2024**. For more information on any item covered in the Highlights, each article is hyperlinked to the appropriate report, which can be accessed by clicking on the title. Images are also linked to relevant resources.

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

- Service Simcoe



A10a Municipal Housing Project Facilities By-Law

To provide contributions and incentives to developers of affordable housing, the County is required to enact a Municipal Housing Project Facilities By-Law that sets out:

- definition of affordable housing,
- eligibility for access to affordable units, and
- a summary of the provisions that agreements respecting affordable housing are required to contain.

This By-Law allows the County to enter into agreements with and provide incentives to private, non-profit, and municipal entities for the creation of affordable housing. These incentives can include grants, loans, development charges and property tax exemptions. The County has had a Municipal Housing Project Facilities By-Law in place since 2003. The County has entered into many agreements to provide incentives for affordable rental housing development. The existing By-Law was replaced with one that contains a new definition of affordable rental housing, raising the threshold from 100% average market rent to 120% average market rent to reflect true market conditions and support mixed-income housing models accurately. The new By-Law also contains a definition of affordable homeownership and updated legislative references.



Reaching Home 2024-2025 Funding Allocations

In March 2019, the Government of Canada contracted the County of Simcoe to serve as a Community Entity (CE) under its Reaching Home (RH) Funding Program. It was recognized that the CE would align with the County's existing homelessness prevention responsibilities, including system planning

and administration of related funding. The current RH agreement will be extended for four years to cover the period from April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2028, with a significant reduction of funding in years three and four. The County of Simcoe, as the CE for RH, was one of only a few community entities to receive a four-year allocation, with many communities in Canada receiving only a two-year renewal. Nevertheless, as the Community Entity, the County of Simcoe will participate in a series of advocacy initiatives to convince Infrastructure Canada to reverse the reduction in funding that is currently proposed.

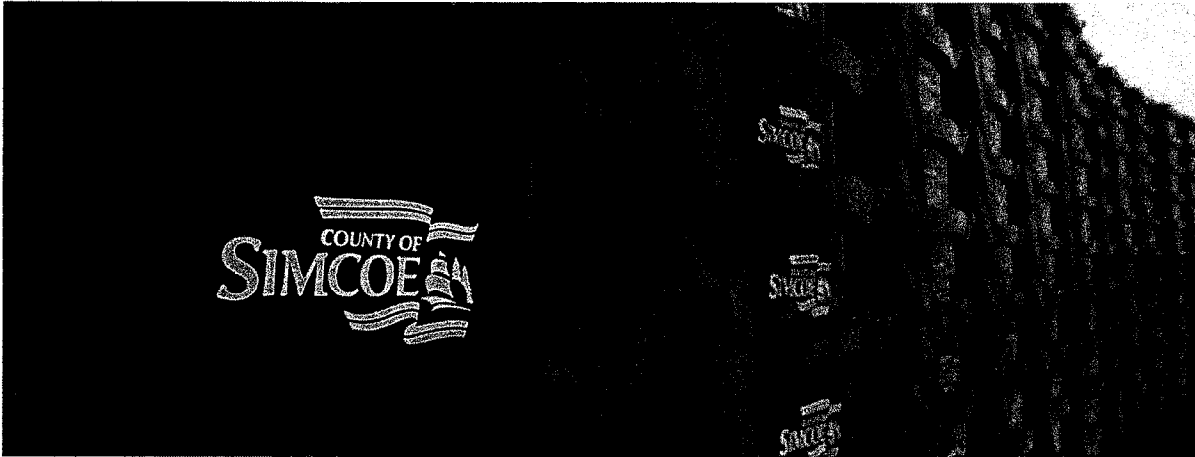
The extension of the initial agreement and new funding will be administered through an amendment to the existing RH funding agreement. The blank funding agreement template was received in advance with the allocation announcement, and the final amended funding agreement with extension details is pending.

Under RH, funding must be used to support local priorities based on:

- Local RH Community Homelessness Plan;
- Endorsement from the local modernized Community Advisory Board (CAB); and
- The RH terms, conditions, and related policies and directives.

This report requested that the necessary by-law be enacted to enter into the amended funding agreement once received from Infrastructure Canada and approval of the proposed 2024-2025 funding allocations.

A10a



Organics Management

(Presentation by: Rob McCullough, Director, Solid Waste Management)

Since 2012, the County of Simcoe (the County) has made progress on the Environmental Resource Recovery Centre (ERRC). This facility's original scope included a Materials Management Facility (MMF) for the transfer of garbage and recycling, Material Recovery Facility (MRF) for the processing of recycling, administrative centre, educational centre, truck servicing facility and Organics Processing Facility (OPF).

Throughout 2023, staff worked with our technical engineering consulting firm GHD and financial consultants Ernst & Young Orenda Corporate Finance Inc. (EY) to update the technical (GHD) and financial (EY) aspects of the ERRC. GHD and EY reflected these scope changes within the technical and financial reports, and incorporated updated building and processing costs that reflect the current markets.

A 20-year cost analysis was completed by EY, that compared the estimated capital and operating costs and revenues of the ERRC, to the current model of externally contracting organics processing (business as usual (BAU)). The results show that the ERRC would come at an average cost to the County of \$378.5 million, approximately \$111.6 million more than if the County were to proceed with the BAU scenario. The BAU costs were found to be grossly exaggerated as a recent competitive procurement released by the County has resulted in costing to be much lower than is currently paid for these services, so much so that the average cost of the ERRC (\$378.5 million)

would be approximately \$221 million more than the BAU that reflects the new contract pricing. This is further detailed in Confidential Schedule 2 and the Financial and Resource Implications section of this Item.

A10a

For this, and the many other reasons outlined in this Item, Council approved not proceeding with the ERRC at this time, and that staff proceed with the execution of both short- and long-term organics processing contracts, that will secure the County's needs for the next twenty-three (23) years.

In addition, if the recommendations in this Item are supported by Council, staff will commence work on each of the following action items:

- recommend a location for a waste management truck servicing facility and a cart and bulky facility, and subsequently construct and operate such facilities,
- determine the best long-term organics transfer process and construct such a facility,
- review options for the ERRC site, located at 2976 Horseshoe Valley Road West, Springwater, and
- review the impacts of increasing the organics acceptance criteria to include plastic bags, diapers and/or sanitary products in future years.

Committee of the Whole Meeting Agenda - February 27, 2024

Council Meeting Agenda - March 12, 2024

Follow Us



[EXTERNAL]



Joint Release

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



County and Town collaborate to prevent homelessness and support residents

Midhurst/March 18, 2024 – The County of Simcoe and the Town of New Tecumseth are collaborating to prevent homelessness while supporting residents across the region. The County released its 10-point homelessness prevention strategy in June 2023, creating greater support for data-driven and effective initiatives.

The County's 10-point homelessness prevention strategy makes affordable housing even more attainable by increasing supply, creating "deep rent subsidies," increasing eviction prevention services and improving available shelter. It commits the County to find new housing opportunities, enhancing community shelter services and standards, and improving safety and well-being throughout the community.

The 10-point plan:

- Makes affordable housing more attainable
- Creates new supportive housing programs
- Creates peace of mind when using services
- Increases housing availability in current programs
- Creates easier ways to access services through a centralized intake system
- Enhances community shelters' services and standards with increased support
- Increases eviction protection services and access to housing for families
- Improves shelter on the housing continuum, addressing repairs and maintenance needs
- Finds new opportunities with attention to potential capital and operating opportunities

Investing in South Simcoe

While this is a regional plan, the County continues to make strategic investments in communities across the Simcoe County to address local needs. In New Tecumseth and South Simcoe:

Supportive Housing: The County is currently working toward a potential Supportive Rapid Re-Housing Program (SRRP) in Alliston. The County is currently evaluating locations for an innovative Supportive Rapid Re-Housing Program (SRRP) site in the Alliston area to serve South Simcoe. Residents can find information on SRRP by visiting the County's website at simcoe.ca/SRRP. Once finalized in the coming months, the location and details for this SRRP site will be announced.

Homelessness Support and Outreach Services: The County has increased funding to S.H.I.F.T. by 260% to support a year-round shelter model. It has also invested in outreach services for S.H.I.F.T. with an additional 100% increase in outreach funding.

Affordability: To support housing affordability, the County has implemented the Community Rent Subsidy Program to offer deep subsidies for eligible individuals and families in the community to improve access to housing.

More details about the County's Supportive Rapid Re-Housing Program (SRRP)

This temporary program is designed to assist individuals, who are facing situational homelessness, to transition into permanent housing within 180 days. People who live in the SRRP units are supported in all aspects of the move-in process, including unit viewings, reviewing leases, furnishing apartments, and establishing connections with on-going follow up supports. During the housing period, residents receive full wrap-around services including mental health, addition, employment supports and other needs will be provided to these low risk individuals impacted by situational homelessness. For more information and project updates, please visit simcoe.ca/SRRP.

About the County's 10-point homelessness prevention strategy

The plan provides a strong, data-driven strategy to help vulnerable residents and our communities. It includes considerable added investment, enhancements, and support for the unhoused population in our communities. The plan takes a collaborative approach to building up communities, service providers, the business community, and residents. Through this strategy, the County continues to work collaboratively with partners and municipalities to continue to prevent and end chronic homelessness. For further details and ongoing updates to the homelessness prevention plan, visit simcoe.ca/HomelessnessSystem.

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.

Quotes

"County Council is committed to building up our region through stable, long-term, and reliable supports for those who need it across the County. We know that affordability remains a challenge for many in our communities and through these investments in affordability, we remain steadfast in our support for the residents of New Tecumseth and South Simcoe."
~Warden Basil Clarke, County of Simcoe

"Addressing any concerns around unhoused in New Tecumseth must be a collective effort. As the provider of social and community services, the County of Simcoe is working diligently on rapid rehousing programs throughout the area to help our most vulnerable and provide much needed support. The Town of New Tecumseth continues to collaborate with the County while connecting with our local community groups, partners, and organizations to ensure we are working together to provide any help and services that we can to our community."
~Mayor Richard Norcross, Town of New Tecumseth

- 30 -

Collin Matanowitsch
Manager, Public Relations
County of Simcoe, Service Simcoe Department
705-734-8386 (mobile)
Collin.Matanowitsch@simcoe.ca

Tatjana Milne
Manager of Corporate Communications
Town of New Tecumseth
705-415-2959 (direct)
tmilne@newtecumseth.ca

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

County breaks ground on new Paramedic Post in Springwater

Midhurst/March 26, 2024 – This morning, County of Simcoe Councillors, partners from Springwater Township and representatives from Paramedic Services gathered to break ground on the County's new strategically located paramedic post located in Midhurst.

In 2008, County Council endorsed the County of Simcoe Paramedic Services strategic facilities plan to achieve operational and resource efficiencies and reduced call response times so Paramedics can get to urgent calls as quickly as possible. This dynamic plan includes both traditional paramedic response stations and a hub and post model in higher population density areas, where there could be a central hub (Barrie-Simcoe Emergency Services Campus) and smaller posts with a reduced footprint in high demand areas.

As part of this plan, this two-bay paramedic post, which is targeted to open in early 2025, will be constructed on Snow Valley Road in Midhurst.

Quotes

"As our community grows and the needs of our residents and visitors evolve, we see how important it is that we make these long-term investments to continue building up Simcoe County and put resources where they are needed. We thank the Township of Springwater for their partnership as we expand our hub and post strategy. ~ *Warden Basil Clarke*

"We thank the County for investing in Springwater Township and enhancing the services offered at our community hub. Springwater and the County are growing, and this new Paramedic Post will help serve our Township and the surrounding community for years to come." ~ *Jennifer Coughlin, Mayor, Township of Springwater*

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.

- 30 -

Collin Matanowitsch
Manager, Public Relations
County of Simcoe, Service Simcoe
705-734-8386 (mobile)
Collin.Matanowitsch@simcoe.ca

Jennifer Straw
Senior Public Relations Consultant
County of Simcoe, Service Simcoe
705-790-5979 (mobile)
Jennifer.Straw@simcoe.ca

