

**TOWNSHIP OF ESSA
CONSENT AGENDA
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2025**

A – ITEMS RECEIVED AS INFORMATION

- p. 1 1. Essa Building Department Reports, August 2025.
- p. 2 2. Nottawasaga Futures Newsletter – August 2025.
- p.18 3. Correspondence from The Town of Fort Erie dated August 26, 2025, re: Town of Aurora – Bill 5 Protect Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act, 2025.
- p. 23 4. Correspondence from the Town of Fort Erie dated August 26, 2025, re: Town of Aurora – Bill 17, Protect Ontario by Building Faster and Smarter Act, 2025.
- p. 27 5. Correspondence from Enbridge Gas Inc. dated September 4, 2025, re: the Ontario Ministry of Energy and Mines' Consultation on the Future of Community Natural Gas Expansion (ERO 0250923).
- p. 39 6. Correspondence from the County of Simcoe:
 - a) August 27, 2025 – Release – County of Simcoe Receives Funding to Launch Resident Ambassador Program.
 - p. 40 b) September 3, 2025 – Release – County of Simcoe Opens Springwater Paramedic Post.
 - p. 41 c) September 9, 2025 – Statement – County Ready to Support Barrie with State of Emergency Declaration.
 - p. 43 d) September 10, 2025 – Joint Advisory – County Set to Make Way for Planned Affordable Housing Redevelopment in Collingwood.

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.

Aug-25

Current

Permits Issued	# Permits Issued	# Permits Issued YTD	Monthly Construction Value of Permits Issued	Construction Value of Permits Issued YTD	Monthly Building Permit Fees	Building Permit Fees YTD
Residential	20	114	\$1,344,000.00	\$11,673,663.00	\$12,445.30	\$132,578.35
Commercial	1	17	\$25,000.00	\$1,044,946.00	\$200.00	\$9,176.02
Industrial		1		\$7,700,000.00		\$53,997.05
Institutional	1	5	\$32,000.00	\$795,500.00	\$175.00	\$4,597.52
Public Utilities		0		\$0.00		\$0.00
Agricultural	3	16	\$188,200.00	\$5,515,700.00	\$5,231.53	\$68,382.97
TOTAL	25	153	\$1,589,200.00	\$ 26,729,809.00	\$18,051.83	\$ 268,731.91

Y.O.Y.	34	214	\$7,087,609.00	\$ 44,194,085.00	\$97,805.79	\$ 476,875.19	-43.65%
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NEW SFD CONSTRUCTION

Dwelling Units Created

Type	Current Month	YTD	Dwelling Const. Value	Dwelling Const. Value YTD
SFD/SEMI/ROW	1	13	\$300,000.00	\$4,437,209.00
Mult Res Bldgs		1		\$400,000.00
ARU	1	5	\$ 100,000.00	\$780,000.00
TOTAL	2	19	\$400,000.00	\$5,617,209.00

Reviewed by CBO Pedro Granes



Y.O.Y	12	54	\$ 5,510,909.00	\$ 28,530,254.00
	-83.33%	-64.81%	-92.74%	-80.31%

A1

Subject:

FW: Nottawasaga Futures Newsletter

From: Robin Brown <robin@nottawasaga.com>

Sent: Friday, August 22, 2025 8:26 AM

To: Sarah Corbett <scorbett@essatownship.on.ca>

Subject: Nottawasaga Futures Newsletter



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

Nottawasaga Futures Business Loans

**Are you starting a
new business or expanding?**

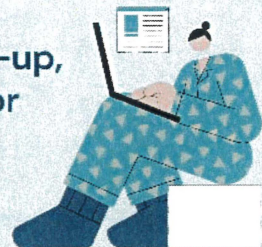
**Do you have a business
opportunity or challenge?**

Nottawasaga Futures provides business loans up to
\$300,000.00 to assist with:

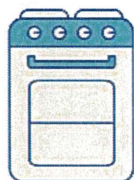
**Flexible terms to
meet your
business needs**



**Business start-up,
Maintenance or
Expansion**



**Small Business
Equipment
Purchases/Upgrades**



**Leasehold and Façade
Improvements**



**Employee
Training**



**IT Needs including:
Computers/Software
Websites/POS Systems**



Working Capital



Nottawasaga Futures also provides unsecured
business loans up to **\$5,000.00** We offer
business consulting & business resources at
no cost.

www.nottawasaga.com
705-502-0311 | ced@nottawasaga.com



WHEN YOUR BUSINESS
SUCCEEDS,
SO DO WE.

Every day, entrepreneurs are starting and growing great businesses in
our community.

To find out more about working with our team, contact us:

www.nottawasaga.com , 705-502-0311, ced@nottawasaga.com

Serving our local business community since 2004.

Professional Development

Why This Program Is Different



TYPICAL FINANCE COURSE

- ☒ Not live or engaging
- ☒ Very expensive
- ☒ No real support



THIS COURSE!

- ☒ Live + recorded sessions
- ☒ Free for Simcoe entrepreneurs
- ☒ Includes real mentorship

*Made possible by the Simcoe County
Entrepreneurial Innovation Fund*

Nottawasaga Futures Entrepreneur Financial Literacy Series

Most finance programs?

- ☒ Not live or engaging
- ☒ Very expensive
- ☒ No real support

This one?

- ✓ Live + recorded sessions
- ✓ Free for entrepreneurs in Simcoe County
- ✓ Includes real 1-on-1 mentorship to help you apply what you learn

🎯 This isn't just another course — it's a local, practical, supportive way to build financial confidence!

📅 Runs Sept–Nov | Live + recorded access

🔗 Register now: <https://payhip.com/nfefls>

Made possible by the Simcoe County Entrepreneurial Innovation Fund

#EntrepreneurSupport #FinanceMadeSimple #SimcoeCounty

#SmallBusinessTraining #FinancialLiteracy

Community Events

2025 ADJALA-TOSORONTIO KITEFEST

September 6th, 2025 | 2 to 6 pm
Warden's Park, beside Adjala-Tos Townhall,
7855 Sideroad 30, Alliston, ON L9R 1V1



CONTACT:

Anub 289 763 3767
Devinder 416 938 7469
adjalasocial@gmail.com

Free entry
Free parking

FEATURING:

Kite Flying
DJ Rocky
Vendors' Market
Face Painting
Henna Artists
Paint-the-Bus
OPP Cruiser
Pro Kite flyers

KITES & STRINGS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

**** ABSOLUTELY NO MANJA STRINGS OR
KITE FIGHTING ALLOWED ****

FRIENDS OF ADJ-TOS

in partnership with



Nottawasaga Futures

South Simcoe Streams Network



This summer the South Simcoe Streams Network partnered with the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority to complete exciting restoration projects along the Nottawasaga River.

Together, we worked to improve fish habitat, create new wetland areas, and support a healthier, more resilient ecosystem.

Through two realignment projects we were able to restore sections of the upper Nottawasaga River to create a more natural flow, increase floodplain capacity, reduce erosion, improve habitat for Species at Risk such as the Northern Brook Lamprey, and create new wetland habitats for turtles and amphibians.

A special thank you to the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters for their support in making these projects possible.

Keep an eye out for our 2025 fall tree planting events!

If you would like to join our mailing list or learn more about South Simcoe Streams Network, please contact:

Theresa@nottawasaga.com

If you would like to support our restoration efforts **Donations** can be made through our Go Fund Me page at <https://gofund.me/767c440a>

Mentorship/ Mentor Opportunities



**ARE YOU A
NEWCOMER IN
SIMCOE COUNTY?
GET MENTORED WITH OUR
FREE MENTORSHIP PROGRAM.**

PROGRAM START DATE-SEPTEMBER 18TH, 2025



For more information, contact Marlene at
mmckintosh@ethnicmosaicalliance.org




**FOLLOW THE
LINK IN OUR
BIO TO SIGN UP**

Ontario Trillium Foundation / Fondation Trillium de l'Ontario

AN EQUALITY-DRIVEN ORGANIZATION OF DIVERSITY
AND INCLUSION. A COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE.

EthnicMosaicAlliance.org



**BECOME A
MENTOR
FOR NEWCOMERS
IN SIMCOE COUNTY**

PROGRAM START DATE: SEPTEMBER 18TH, 2025
For more information,
contact **Marlene** at
mmckintosh@ethnicmosaicalliance.org



**FOLLOW
THE LINK
IN OUR BIO
TO SIGN UP**

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EthnicMosaicAlliance.org

Applications are now open for HEALTH VENTURE, a pilot specialized stream of the Starter Company Plus Program!

Designed to support paramedical entrepreneurs and health-focused small businesses ready to take their practice to the next level, Health Venture offers the tools, free training, and a micro-grant funding opportunity to help you thrive.

Whether you're launching a new clinic, growing an existing wellness service, or purchasing a health-related business, this stream is ideal for practitioners and service providers in Simcoe County working in fields such as:

- ✓ Massage Therapy
- ✓ Physiotherapy
- ✓ Holistic Wellness
- ✓ Chiropractic Care
- ✓ Mental Health Services
- ✓ Nutrition Consulting
- ✓ Other allied or paramedical disciplines

Health Venture will run over approximately 10 weeks, beginning with orientation and followed by a series of in-person workshops focused on health sector business development.

Weekly 3-hour in-person sessions, held on weekday afternoons inside the Sandbox Centre, will take place from October to early December 2025 - and all accepted participants will receive a full schedule well in advance of orientation.

A2

Deadline to apply is Mon Sept 1st, 2025. Please email smallbusiness@barrie.ca to request more information and an application package!

Upcoming Events



The poster features a dark blue background with a blurred image of a person working on a machine. In the top left, there is a white logo consisting of a gear with a stylized circuit board inside. The text 'SIMCOE COUNTY' is in a small, white, sans-serif font. Below it, 'Manufacturers' is in a larger, white, sans-serif font, and 'FORUM' is in a very large, bold, white, sans-serif font. A white banner with the text 'SAVE THE DATE' in bold, dark blue, sans-serif font is positioned below the main title. At the bottom, there is a white calendar icon followed by the text 'THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2025' and a clock icon followed by '7:30AM-1PM'. In the bottom left corner, there is a logo for 'COUNTY OF SIMCOE' with a stylized ship. In the bottom right corner, the text 'Economic Development Office' is written in a white, sans-serif font.

 SIMCOE COUNTY
**Manufacturers
FORUM**

SAVE THE DATE

 **THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2025**  **7:30AM-1PM**

 | Economic Development Office

Save the Date!

2025 Manufacturer's Forum

November 13 | Nottawasaga Inn, Alliston, ON

This year's forum will bring together industry leaders, innovators, and changemakers to explore how manufacturers can adapt, evolve, and thrive in a rapidly changing world.

Get ready for powerful sessions designed to equip you with the tools and insights to build a smarter, more resilient future.

To learn more about the Forum, visit: <https://edo.simcoe.ca/mfg-forum/>

New Tecumseth News

A graphic on a yellow background featuring a smartphone with a hand holding a megaphone over it. The megaphone is purple and white. There are several small icons around the phone: a heart, a star, a thumbs up, and a speech bubble. To the right of the phone, there are three speech bubbles containing a thumbs up, a heart, and a star.

Follow Us!

From events and programs to important news and updates, **we've got the scoop!**

newtecumseth.ca/FollowUs

New Tecumseth
Alliston • Beeton • Tottenham

🎉 Hey New Tecumseth! Want to be in the know?

We've got the scoop from events and programs to important news and updates!

📱 Follow us on social media — we're on Facebook, Instagram, and X

▶ Subscribe to our YouTube channel for the latest Council and Committee of the Whole meetings

📧 Sign up for our Hometown Happenings eNewsletters and never miss a beat in your community.

Let's stay connected—because great things are always happening right here at home!

💙 Like, follow, and subscribe! Get started at newtecumseth.ca/followus

NT Temps

We believe there is a job for everyone in our community.

- ✓ Paid Interviews: We pay to meet you!
- ✓ Work Immediately: Positions are available!
- ✓ Close to Home: Work in Simcoe County!
- ✓ Free Registration: There is no fee to register!
- ✓ We'll Stay Connected: We're here to help!



Call Today! (705) 502-0311
Visit: nttemps.com

At NT Temps, we believe there is a job for everyone in our community.

We are available from 8:30 am - 4:30 pm Monday to Friday

Contact us today at (705) 502-0311 or colleen@nttemps.com.

For more information on NT Temps click here www.nttemps.com.

Survey



Help Shape a New Program to Support Interprovincial Trade for Ontario SMEs

As part of the [Bright Ideas Competition](#) at the Economic Developers Council of Ontario (EDCO), Team Export Circles is developing a proposal to support interprovincial trade through a cohort-based initiative that supports Ontario SMEs in expanding to new provincial markets. We are currently gathering input from both businesses and economic development professionals to ensure the model addresses real barriers and reflects the needs of communities across Ontario. We would love to hear your thoughts! Please take time today to complete our [short survey](#) (takes 4–5 mins).

The survey is anonymous. No personal or identifying information is collected unless you voluntarily opt in for a follow-up consultation.

All findings will be synthesized into a final report to be published on the [EDCO website](#) and may inform future pilot programs.

Thank you for contributing to this important initiative.

Warm regards,

Team Export Circles

Project Team:

- *Jessica Rhynas, Economic Development Officer, Region of Durham*
- *Lauren McEachern, Economic Development Champion, Town of Innisfil*
- *Sushmitha Thirumalaivasan, Programs Manager, Treefrog Accelerator*

Financial Support and Resources

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

A2

- [Starting a Business in Canada](#)
- [Canada Tariff Information](#)

Book a Free Consultation

Click here for information on our projects

Click here for NT Temps Job Listings

Click here to go to our website

[view this email in your browser](#)

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Contact us at ced@nottawasaga.com

705-502-0311

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[EXTERNAL]



Legal and Legislative Services

August 26, 2025

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

Honourable and Dear Sir:

Re: Town of Aurora - Bill 5 Protect Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act, 2025

Please be advised the Municipal Council of the Town of Fort Erie at its meeting of August 25, 2025, received and supported correspondence from the Town of Aurora dated July 17, 2025, expressing serious concern regarding Bill 5 and requesting the Province to collaborate with municipalities to determine Special Economic Zones; ensure environmental protection and heritage safeguards are strengthened; include municipalities and indigenous partners in shaping regulations and preserve legal recourse for affected communities.

Attached please find a copy of the Town of Aurora's correspondence dated July 17, 2025.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Rosanna Firenze

Rosanna Firenze,
Deputy Clerk
rfirenze@forterie.ca

RF:dlk
Attach

c.c The Honourable Stephen Lecce, Minister of Energy and Mines; MinisterEnergy@ontario.ca
AMO; amo@amo.on.ca
Ishita Soneji, Deputy Town Clerk clerks@aurora.ca
Municipalities of Ontario

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

A3



Legislative Services
Ishita Soneji
905-726-4768
clerks@aurora.ca

Town of Aurora
100 John West Way, Box 1000
Aurora, ON L4G 6J1

July 17, 2025

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario

Delivered by email
premier@ontario.ca

The Honourable Stephen Lecce
Minister of Energy and Mines

ministerenergy@ontario.ca

Dear Premier Ford and Minister Lecce:

**Re: Town of Aurora Council Resolution of July 15, 2025
Member Motion 7.1 - Councillor Weese; Re: Opposition to Bill 5, *Protect Ontario*
by *Unleashing our Economy Act, 2025***

Please be advised that this matter was considered by Council at its special meeting held on July 15, 2025, and in this regard, Council adopted the following resolution:

Whereas Bill 5 was granted Royal Assent on June 5, 2025; and

Whereas Bill 5 amends several key pieces of legislation with the goal of fast-tracking economic development and introduces changes in legislation that affect local governance, labour laws and environmental protections; and

Whereas the legislation includes the *Special Economic Zones Act, 2025* (SEZ) that gives Queen's Park the power to designate areas where regulatory approval processes can be amended by the Ontario Government, potentially without input from local decision-makers; and

Whereas the *Endangered Species Act, 2007* has been dissolved and replaced by the *Species Conservation Act 2025*, which environmental critics argue removes important provisions of the former law; and

Whereas the new law also makes changes to the *Ontario Heritage Act* that potentially could impact Heritage site designations; and

Whereas this law has been rushed through the legislature in 49 days, limiting Committee time, public consultation and ensuring rapid passage;

- 1. Now Therefore Be It Hereby Resolved That Aurora Town Council acknowledges the stated goals of economic growth and development in Bill 5, but expresses serious concerns with Bill 5 in its current form as it interferes with local**

Town of Aurora Council Resolution of July 15, 2025

Opposition to Bill 5, *Protect Ontario by Unleashing our Economy Act*, 2025

July 17, 2025

2 of 2

planning authorities, limits public consultation, and threatens both heritage designations and endangered species; and

2. Be It Further Resolved That Aurora Town Council urges the Government of Ontario to consider the following:

- **Collaboration with municipalities to determine Special Economic Zones;**
- **Ensure environmental protections and heritage safeguards are strengthened;**
- **Include municipalities and Indigenous partners in shaping regulations; and**
- **Preserve legal recourse for affected communities; and**

3. Be It Further Resolved That this Motion be forwarded to all 444 Ontario Municipalities, Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, and Hon. Stephen Lecce, Ontario Minister of Energy and Mines, and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO).

The above is for your consideration and any attention deemed necessary.

Sincerely,



Ishita Soneji

Deputy Town Clerk

The Corporation of the Town of Aurora

IS/lb

Attachment (Council meeting extract)

Copy: Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
All Ontario Municipalities



100 John West Way
Aurora, Ontario
L4G 6J1
(905) 727-3123
aurora.ca

Town of Aurora

Council Meeting Extract

Tuesday, July 15, 2025

7. Consideration of Items Requiring Discussion

7.1 Member Motion - Councillor Weese; Re: Opposition to Bill 5, *Protect Ontario by Unleashing our Economy Act, 2025*

Main motion as amended

Moved by Councillor Weese

Seconded by Councillor Gaertner

Whereas Bill 5 was granted Royal Assent on June 5, 2025; and

Whereas Bill 5 amends several key pieces of legislation with the goal of fast-tracking economic development and introduces changes in legislation that affect local governance, labour laws and environmental protections; and

Whereas the legislation includes the *Special Economic Zones Act, 2025* (SEZ) that gives Queen's Park the power to designate areas where regulatory approval processes can be amended by the Ontario Government, potentially without input from local decision-makers; and

Whereas the *Endangered Species Act, 2007* has been dissolved and replaced by the *Species Conservation Act 2025*, which environmental critics argue removes important provisions of the former law; and

Whereas the new law also makes changes to the *Ontario Heritage Act* that potentially could impact Heritage site designations; and

Whereas this law has been rushed through the legislature in 49 days, limiting Committee time, public consultation and ensuring rapid passage;

1. Now Therefore Be It Hereby Resolved That Aurora Town Council acknowledges the stated goals of economic growth and development in Bill 5, but expresses serious concerns with Bill 5 in its current form as it interferes with local planning authorities, limits public consultation, and threatens both heritage designations and endangered species; and
2. Be It Further Resolved That Aurora Town Council urges the Government of Ontario to consider the following:

- Collaboration with municipalities to determine Special Economic Zones;
 - Ensure environmental protections and heritage safeguards are strengthened;
 - Include municipalities and Indigenous partners in shaping regulations; and
 - Preserve legal recourse for affected communities; and
3. Be It Further Resolved That this Motion be forwarded to all 444 Ontario Municipalities, Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, and Hon. Stephen Lecce, Ontario Minister of Energy and Mines, and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO).

Yeas (4): Councillor Weese, Councillor Gilliland, Councillor Gaertner, and Councillor Gallo

Absent (3): Mayor Mrakas, Councillor Thompson, and Councillor Kim

Carried (4 to 0)

A4



Legislative Services
Ishita Soneji
905-726-4768
clerks@aurora.ca

Town of Aurora
100 John West Way, Box 1000
Aurora, ON L4G 6J1

July 17, 2025

Delivered by email
premier@ontario.ca

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario

The Honourable Rob Flack
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

minister.mah@ontario.ca

Dear Premier Ford and Minister Flack:

**Re: Town of Aurora Council Resolution of June 24, 2025
Member Motion 7.2 - Councillor Weese; Re: Opposition to Bill 17, *Protect Ontario
by Building Faster and Smarter Act, 2025***

Please be advised that this matter was considered by Council at its special meeting held on July 15, 2025, and in this regard, Council adopted the following resolution:

Whereas Ontario Bill 17 (the legislation) was granted Royal Assent on June 5, 2025; and

Whereas the legislation raises significant concerns related to democratic governance, environmental sustainability, municipal autonomy, and social equity; and

Whereas the legislation centralizes decision-making authority and reduces the power of local municipalities in planning and development approvals; and

Whereas the legislation curtails public consultation rights, limiting residents' ability to influence projects impacting their neighbourhoods; and

Whereas the legislation accelerates approvals by reducing time for environmental assessments, heritage evaluations, and public safety considerations that could result in substandard buildings, strained infrastructure and negative long-term effects on communities; and

Whereas the legislation threatens green spaces, natural habitats, and water resources overlooking careful measures that allows sustainable growth and undermines Ontario's commitment to environmental stewardship; and

Whereas the legislation limits public hearings and community engagement opportunities, which increases the risk of corruption, favouritism and poor local planning decisions;

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A4

Town of Aurora Council Resolution of July 15, 2025

Opposition to Bill 17, *Protect Ontario by Building Faster and Smarter Act*, 2025

July 17, 2025

2 of 2

1. **Now Therefore Be It Hereby Resolved That Aurora Town Council recognizes the intent of Ontario Bill 17 to streamline housing and infrastructure development; however, expresses significant concerns with Ontario Bill 17 in its current form, and recommends:**
 - **Restoring municipal autonomy, and ensuring meaningful consultation and decision-making power;**
 - **Maintaining rigorous environmental, safety, and heritage assessments despite expedited timelines;**
 - **Incorporating clear affordable housing requirements within new developments;**
 - **Enhancing transparency, public engagement and accountability mechanisms;**
 - **Ensuring climate change mitigation is included in all development projects; and**
2. **Be It Further Resolved That this Motion be forwarded to all 444 Ontario Municipalities, Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, and Hon. Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO).**

The above is for your consideration and any attention deemed necessary.

Sincerely,



Ishita Soneji

Deputy Town Clerk

The Corporation of the Town of Aurora

IS/lb

Attachment (Council meeting extract)

Copy: Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
All Ontario Municipalities

24

A4



100 John West Way
Aurora, Ontario
L4G 6J1
(905) 727-3123
aurora.ca

Town of Aurora

Council Meeting Extract

Tuesday, July 15, 2025

7. Consideration of Items Requiring Discussion

7.2 Member Motion - Councillor Weese; Re: Opposition to Bill 17, *Protect Ontario by Building Faster and Smarter Act, 2025*

Main motion as amended

Moved by Councillor Weese

Seconded by Councillor Gallo

Whereas Ontario Bill 17 (the legislation) was granted Royal Assent on June 5, 2025; and

Whereas the legislation raises significant concerns related to democratic governance, environmental sustainability, municipal autonomy, and social equity; and

Whereas the legislation centralizes decision-making authority and reduces the power of local municipalities in planning and development approvals; and

Whereas the legislation curtails public consultation rights, limiting residents' ability to influence projects impacting their neighbourhoods; and

Whereas the legislation accelerates approvals by reducing time for environmental assessments, heritage evaluations, and public safety considerations that could result in substandard buildings, strained infrastructure and negative long-term effects on communities; and

Whereas the legislation threatens green spaces, natural habitats, and water resources overlooking careful measures that allows sustainable growth and undermines Ontario's commitment to environmental stewardship; and

Whereas the legislation limits public hearings and community engagement opportunities, which increases the risk of corruption, favouritism and poor local planning decisions;

1. Now Therefore Be It Hereby Resolved That Aurora Town Council recognizes the intent of Ontario Bill 17 to streamline housing and

25

infrastructure development; however, expresses significant concerns with Ontario Bill 17 in its current form, and recommends:

- Restoring municipal autonomy, and ensuring meaningful consultation and decision-making power;
- Maintaining rigorous environmental, safety, and heritage assessments despite expedited timelines;
- Incorporating clear affordable housing requirements within new developments;
- Enhancing transparency, public engagement and accountability mechanisms;
- Ensuring climate change mitigation is included in all development projects; and

2. Be It Further Resolved That this Motion be forwarded to all 444 Ontario Municipalities, Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, and Hon. Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO).

Yeas (4): Councillor Weese, Councillor Gilliland, Councillor Gaertner, and Councillor Gallo

Absent (3): Mayor Mrakas, Councillor Thompson, and Councillor Kim

Carried (4 to 0)

Subject: FW: Have your say: Consultation on the future of natural gas expansion in Ontario
Attachments: Draft Council Resolution - Phase 3.docx; Draft Letter of Support - Phase 3 .docx;
Template ERO submission - Phase 3.docx

From: Desiree Swance <desiree.swance@enbridge.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 4, 2025 8:20 AM
To: Sandie Macdonald <smacdonald@essatownship.on.ca>; Michael Mikael <mmikael@essatownship.on.ca>
Cc: Amal Sabrie <amal.sabrie@enbridge.com>; Lisa Lehr <llehr@essatownship.on.ca>
Subject: Have your say: Consultation on the future of natural gas expansion in Ontario

Some people who received this message don't often get email from desiree.swance@enbridge.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Mayor Macdonald, Mr. Mikael,

I hope all is well. I'm emailing today regarding the Ontario Ministry of Energy and Mines' consultation on the [Future of Community Natural Gas Expansion \(ERO 0250923\)](#), which is currently open for comments.

Municipalities across Ontario understand the critical link between infrastructure renewal, integrated energy planning, and economic development in supporting community growth and prosperity. This is a pivotal time in the province's energy sector, where municipalities can play a leadership role in shaping the future of natural gas expansion.

We encourage your municipality's participation in this consultation – your local perspective will help inform a potential Phase 3 of the Natural Gas Expansion Program (NGEP), ensuring that your community's priorities on housing development, economic growth, affordability, and service needs are well represented in Ontario's energy planning decisions.

The consultation is **open until September 22, 2025, at 11:59 p.m.** You can review the posting, register your municipality, and submit your comments at [ERO 0250923 – Future of Community Natural Gas Expansion](#).

To support your submission, I've attached:

- A **draft council resolution** supporting Phase 3
- A **draft letter of support**
- A **template ERO submission** for your consideration

I would be happy to arrange a briefing and provide you with more information on Phase 3 of the NGEP. This would be an opportunity to review your community's growth priorities, walk through the consultation process, and answer any questions about preparing a strong submission.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions or for any support in tailoring your submission.

Thank you,

Desirée Swance

Advisor, Municipal and Stakeholder Affairs

ENBRIDGE GAS INC.
CELL: 519-671-1358

Consultation on the Future of Community Natural Gas Expansion

ERO number: 025-0923

Notice type: Policy

Act: Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998

Posted by: Ministry of Energy and Mines

Notice stage: Proposal

Proposal posted: August 8, 2025

Comment period: August 8, 2025 - September 22, 2025 (45 days) Open

Last updated: August 8, 2025

There is no requirement to post this notice on the Environmental Registry of Ontario, but we want to hear your thoughts. Submit a comment and tell us what you think. [Learn about the consultation process and types of notices on the registry.](#)

This consultation closes at 11:59 p.m. on: **September 22, 2025**

Proposal summary

We want to hear from municipalities, Indigenous communities, and others how to best support rural, northern, and Indigenous communities with access to natural gas for development. Our goal is to enable affordable heating and energy options for communities to foster economic growth.

On this page

1. [Why consultation isn't required](#)
2. [Proposal details](#)
3. [Supporting materials](#)
4. [Comment](#)
5. [Connect with us](#)

Why consultation isn't required

The Ministry of Energy and Mines is seeking input from the public through this voluntary Information Notice on the future of Ontario Natural Gas Expansion Program (NGEP). The feedback collected through this notice will be used to inform the government's next steps to tackle higher than average home heating costs in rural and northern Ontario and Indigenous communities. The ministry is not contemplating any changes to the existing Phases 1 and 2 of NGEP, which have committed funding to support the construction of a

defined set of natural gas expansion projects. The outcome of this consultation posting will serve as information gathering and will not result in any on-ground environmental impacts.

Proposal details

What is the Natural Gas Expansion Program?

The Natural Gas Expansion Program (NGEP) was created under the *Access to Natural Gas Act, 2018* to help expand access to natural gas to areas of Ontario that currently do not have access to the natural gas distribution system. The program recognizes the challenges faced by many rural, northern, and Indigenous communities in affording up-front costs to extend critical infrastructure to their communities without additional funding assistance. Expanding natural gas can make life more affordable for families and businesses. It can also foster economic development by making local communities more attractive to job creation and investments.

NGEP provides funding to enable natural gas distribution system expansion where it would otherwise not occur without government support. For these projects, the cost of building the infrastructure exceeds the projected revenue that will be generated from customers using the infrastructure.

NGEP funding comes from a \$1/month surcharge applied to natural gas bills of existing customers, which is authorized by the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* and *O. Reg. 24/19 (Expansion of Natural Gas Distribution Systems)* under that Act.

Through Phases 1 and 2 of Ontario's NGEP, it is estimated that approximately 17,000 buildings, mostly residential and some businesses, in 59 communities, will have the option to switch to natural gas over the span of 10 years, after a project has been completed.

To date, sixteen expansion projects have been completed under NGEP, while others are in different stages of planning, development, and regulatory approvals processes.

Ontario's Natural Gas Policy Statement

Natural gas is a critical energy source for Ontario. It provides almost 40 per cent of Ontario's total energy use across the industrial, residential, commercial, and agricultural sectors of the economy.

In Ontario's vital industrial and agricultural sectors, there are currently few alternatives to natural gas for certain processes. Natural gas is also critical to supporting electrification as it maintains reliability of Ontario's electricity grid and meets peak electricity demand. A premature phase-out of natural gas-fired electricity generation is not feasible and would hurt electricity consumers and the economy.

Most Ontario homes use natural gas for heat, while homeowners in rural and northern areas do not have access to natural gas and want the option to connect through expansion of the natural gas network.

There is a need for an economically viable natural gas network – as the province builds a more diverse energy system – to attract industrial investment, to drive economic growth, to maintain customer choice, and ensure overall energy system resiliency, reliability, and affordability.

The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) will continue to play its role as the natural gas system's economic regulator, protecting consumers, allowing gas utilities an opportunity to earn a fair return on investment, and enabling the continued rational expansion of the natural gas system.

As part of a gradual transition to a more diverse energy system, Ontario will continue to support the important role of natural gas in Ontario's energy system and economy while pursuing options to lower costs and reduce emissions through energy efficiency, electrification, clean fuels (e.g., renewable natural gas, low-carbon hydrogen), and carbon capture and storage.

The OEB's work to develop a new natural gas connection policy should ensure that a broad range of stakeholders are consulted to help avoid barriers to building more homes faster, create more alignment between natural gas and electricity policies, and consider impacts on the electricity grid's capability to support customers switching to electric heat options.

Why do we want to hear from you?

The Ontario government is committed to continue supporting rural, northern, and Indigenous communities in Ontario. Our goal is to enable affordable heating and energy options for these communities. In doing so, we recognize the unique energy needs and preferences of each community, and that heating technologies continue to evolve. We have received feedback on the province's natural gas policy statement during recent consultations. We now want to hear from municipalities, communities, Indigenous communities, and other stakeholders on the best path forward to help support the energy needs of businesses. We will use this feedback to make informed decisions about the future of NGEF.

To facilitate this consultation, MEM has drafted some discussion questions to help provide the Ministry with more accurate information about your community. All stakeholders seeking to provide feedback on the future of NGEF are invited to review the discussion questions and provide responses to the best of their knowledge.

Discussion questions

- what application types (residential, industrial, commercial, or agricultural) should natural gas expansion focus on in the future
- how would access to natural gas support economic development in your community
- is access to natural gas included in your municipality's development plan
- have you engaged with a natural gas developer to explore the possibility of expansion in your community
- what barriers do you feel are preventing access to natural gas development in your community
- if your community has a project that was successful in Phases 1 and 2 of NGEF, either already constructed or currently in planning, what has been your experience thus far

Feedback

We welcome feedback from you on the natural gas priorities in your community and any other related topics.

The information MEM receives will help the Ministry understand how it can continue best supporting rural, northern, and Indigenous communities to foster economic growth.

Potential Environmental Impacts

Expanding natural gas pipelines helps the government achieve its vision of providing more energy options for consumers and businesses, including building a more affordable and reliable energy system. The approach to planning natural gas pipeline expansion projects can have impacts on land (e.g., vegetation management along the route of the expansion project), and on local environments and ecosystems. These projects will require consideration in the context of Ontario's environmental assessment, permits and approvals framework. These approvals include requirements for the proponent to consult with Indigenous communities, the public, and stakeholders on the proposed project, including its impacts to the environment and any appropriate mitigation measures. Building natural gas infrastructure is essential for maintaining Ontario's affordable, secure, and reliable energy system, and attracting investment and economic growth.

Supporting materials

Related links

- [Energy for Generations](#)
- [Natural Gas Expansion Program](#)
- [News Release: Ontario Expands Access to Natural Gas in Rural, Northern and Indi...](#)
- [Ontario Regulation 24/19: Expansion of Natural Gas Distribution Systems](#)
- [Ontario Regulation 451/21: Expansion of Natural Gas Distribution Systems](#)

Related ERO notices

- [Electricity Energy Efficiency Programming Post 2024](#)
- [Consultation on the future of natural gas expansion and home heating affordability](#)
- [Consultation to support the important role for natural gas in Ontario's energy system and economy.](#)

View materials in person

Some supporting materials may not be available online. If this is the case, you can request to view the materials in person.

Get in touch with the office listed below to find out if materials are available.

Comment

Let us know what you think of our proposal.

Have questions? Get in touch with the contact person below. Please include the ERO number for this notice in your email or letter to the contact.

[Read our commenting and privacy policies.](#)

Submit by mail

Inga Beamish
Ministry of Energy and Mines
77 Grenville Street
Toronto, ON
M7A 2C1
Canada

Connect with us**Contact: Inga Beamish****Phone number: [437-980-1264](tel:437-980-1264)****Email address: inga.beamish@ontario.ca****Sign up for notifications**

We will send you email notifications with any updates related to this consultation. You can change your notification preferences anytime by visiting settings in your profile page.

Draft Council Resolution — Support for NGEF Phase 3 & local development targets**RESOLUTION****RESOLUTION NO. ____****DATE: _____****Moved by: _____****Seconded by: _____**

WHEREAS the Province has posted ERO 0250923, *Consultation on the Future of Community Natural Gas Expansion*, seeking feedback from municipalities, Indigenous communities and other stakeholders on how Phase Three (3) could best support access to natural gas for community development.

AND WHEREAS expanding access to natural gas is identified as a tool to support affordability and economic growth in Ontario communities, with Phases One (1) and Two (2) estimated to enable connections for approximately 17,000 buildings across 59 communities, and 16 projects completed to date.

AND WHEREAS **[Municipality]** is working toward its housing and employment land goals that contribute to Ontario's broader objective to build at least 1.5 million homes by 2031 and recognizes that timely servicing solutions (including natural gas where appropriate) can help enable these targets. **[CUSTOMIZE TO MUNICIPAL PRIORITY: housing, economic developments goals, commercial and industrial investments, agriculture production, etc.]**

AND WHEREAS Ontario's energy future relies on a balance of affordability, reliability, and sustainability by leveraging a mix of energy solutions—including natural gas, electricity, and emerging energy technologies, to meet growing community needs. And whereas natural gas continues to play a critical role in supporting energy affordability, economic competitiveness, and enabling housing and employment growth across the province.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council:

1. Supports the Ministry's consultation on the Future of Community Natural Gas Expansion (NGEP Phase 3) and endorses access to natural gas as an option to other energy solutions to advance [Municipality]'s housing, employment lands, and economic development objectives.
2. Directs staff to submit comments to ERO 0250923 reflecting [Municipality]'s priorities, including: priority application types, alignment with Official

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Plan/Secondary Plans, sites and corridors where gas access would enable development (housing/employment lands), any Phase 1 and 2 learnings (if applicable) and practical barriers (e.g., timing, permitting, costs, land access).

3. Forwards this resolution to [local MPP(s)], the Minister of Energy and Mines, the Ontario Energy Board, AMO, and neighbouring municipalities.

MAYOR: _____

Template letter of support

**To be submitted in addendum to municipal filings, directly through the ERO online portal, and emailed to the Ministry of Energy and Mines.*

[Insert Municipal Letterhead Here]

[DATE]

Re: ERO 025-0923 – Consultation on the Future of Community Natural Gas Expansion

Dear Ministry of Energy and Mines,

On behalf of **[Organization/Municipality]**, we welcome the opportunity to contribute to the Ministry of Energy and Mines' consultation on the future of community natural gas expansion. As Ontario continues to grow, reliable, secure, and diversified energy solutions are essential to ensuring overall community prosperity. The **[Organization/Municipality]** is committed to advancing local growth while ensuring access to the energy infrastructure needed to meet evolving community needs.

We commend the Ontario government for its leadership in pursuing an integrated energy planning approach that balances reliability, sustainability, and affordability. In doing so, we believe the province is taking meaningful steps to ensure communities have the energy choice and flexibility they need to thrive. Natural gas continues to play a critical role in Ontario's energy system, providing reliable energy to homes, businesses, and industries, supporting housing and employment land development, and helping communities attract investment and enable economic growth. Expanding access to natural gas will equip municipalities with the tools to meet local development targets, and plan, and maintain long-term energy security and resilience.

Investing in Phase 3 of the Natural Gas Expansion Program (NGEP) represents an important opportunity to better align infrastructure planning with local development goals. Where Phase 1 and 2 projects have already been delivered, we have seen first-hand how expanded energy access can help advance municipal priorities, unlock new growth potential, and enhance community resilience. We also encourage the Ministry to consider implementation barriers, including on-the-ground-challenges, timelines, approvals, and infrastructure coordination, to ensure that Phase 3 is delivered efficiently and effectively.

We support a Phase 3 approach that prioritizes community growth, energy reliability, and customer choice, while enabling municipalities to align energy planning with local priorities. We appreciate the Ministry's continued engagement on these important issues and thank you for considering our perspectives as part of this consultation process.

Template ERO submission

Register Account for submission

Reference: ERO 0250923 – Consultation on the Future of Community Natural Gas Expansion.

Q1. Which application types should expansion focus on?

- Residential growth, employment areas/industrial parks, agricultural production, and community facilities – areas where access would unlock housing supply, economic development and job creation. [[Ontario Housing Progress](#)]
- What rationale should application types be based on, consider:
 - Highest economic development impact (jobs/investment/growth)
 - Housing target delivery (linked to municipal targets)
 - Highest possible customer connections (residential/commercial)
 - Constructability readiness (environmental assessment, shovel ready 12-24 months)
 - Municipal governance readiness (Council project support/direction to advance a project)
 - Cost effectiveness (assessment based on customer connection)
 - Equity (under served, remote rural and Indigenous communities)
 - Other (please specify)

Q2. How would access to natural gas support economic development?

- Consider areas of local growth and development, investment requirements, shovel ready projects.

Q3. Is access to natural gas included in your development plans?

- Cite relevant planning documents [i.e. Official Plan, Secondary Plan, Housing and Employment Lands Strategy] that identify natural gas servicing as part of your infrastructure strategy.

Q4. Have you engaged a natural gas developer?

- Status: [Yes/No]. If yes: summarize [project concept, timelines, constraints, readiness].

- If there had been no engagement, your municipality is interested in access to natural gas, provide feedback

Q5. What barriers are preventing access?

- **Examples:** Upfront costs, corridor/ROW timing, coordination with road works, third-party relocations, other projects navigating approvals/design, customer connection/demand,

Q6. Phase 1 and 2 experience (if applicable)

Project: [Name/location].

Status: [Constructed / In progress]

Learnings: [e.g., coordination, communications, permitting]

Outcomes: [connections, economic indicators]

Attachments (recommended)

- Council Resolution (above)
- Letter of Support (above)



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Release

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

County of Simcoe Receives Funding to Launch Resident Ambassador Program

Midhurst/August 27, 2025 – The County of Simcoe is pleased to introduce the Resident Ambassador Program, a new initiative designed to build stronger community ties and enhance overall well-being for the residents that call our Seniors Services locations at Simcoe Village, Georgian Village, and Sunset Village home.

This program is made possible thanks to \$24,410 in one-time funding from the Ontario Government - Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility, through the Seniors Community Grant Program, which helps local not-for-profit community groups and organizations deliver projects, supports and resources that help older adults (aged 55+).

Inspired by residents who have long dedicated their time and talents to support activities in their Villages, the Resident Ambassador Program offers a formal way for seniors to share their experience, welcome new residents, and lead programs that reflect their interests.

Residents will play a key role in shaping the program, offering thoughtful ideas that touch on intellectual, social, physical, and emotional well-being. At their recommendation, ambassadors will help organize events, greet visitors, start clubs, host art and woodworking sessions, and build phone networks to keep people connected. Connecting them to their interests and sharing their experience and talents with their neighbours.

Quotes:

"The Seniors Community Grant Program is helping protect the well-being of seniors by providing opportunities to stay active, connected and engaged. We are honoured to support the County of Simcoe's Resident Ambassador Program which will engage residents and ambassadors alike and have a positive impact on the atmosphere of the homes." - Raymond Cho, Minister for Seniors and Accessibility.

"Connection is an important part of our lives, even more so as we age. The Resident Ambassador Program is a great example of how community can be fostered and grown within these Villages, and provides a meaningful impact on the lives of all who live there. Ensuring seniors have the tools they need to shape this program is key to its success, and I am thrilled the government is able to provide the necessary funding. I look forward to seeing the impacts of this program on both the Villages and the broader senior's community." - Doug Downey, MPP for Barrie – Springwater – Oro-Medonte.

"Empowering residents to take on leadership roles within their Villages will help to foster a strong sense of belonging, purpose, and pride, benefiting both Ambassadors and the wider resident community. We're grateful to the province for supporting our efforts to create meaningful opportunities that empower residents to stay active, engaged, and connected." - Warden Basil Clarke.

For more information on the County of Simcoe's Seniors Services programs, visit simcoe.ca/seniors.

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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BUILDING UP

County of Simcoe Opens Springwater Paramedic Post

Midhurst/September 3, 2025 – County of Simcoe Councillors and staff, along with representatives from the Township of Springwater, gathered today to celebrate the official opening of the County's newest Paramedic Post, located on Snow Valley Road in Midhurst.

This new facility is part of the County of Simcoe Paramedic Services' long-term strategy to enhance emergency response across the region. First endorsed by County Council in 2008, the plan includes a "Hub and Spoke" model, where paramedics begin and end their shifts at a central hub, the Barrie Simcoe Emergency Services Campus on Fairview Road, and use satellite posts, like the new Springwater location, as rest and support stations throughout the day.

Since 2010, County of Simcoe Paramedic Services has constructed new bases and posts in Stayner, Bradford, Alliston, Beeton, Elmvale, Collingwood, Barrie, and Orillia, further reinforcing its commitment to accessible and timely emergency care by ensuring paramedics are strategically positioned to serve residents more efficiently.

"Our paramedics play a vital role in protecting the health and well-being of our communities," said Warden Basil Clarke. "We're proud to continue building up a stronger, safer Simcoe County. This new Springwater post reflects our commitment to investing in modern infrastructure that supports faster response times and better care for our residents."

The new two-bay, 2,200-square-foot facility is designed to meet the needs of a growing population while prioritizing sustainability and operational efficiency. Its location supports 9-1-1 response times and accommodates anticipated growth in south Springwater and surrounding areas. Benefits and features include:

- Pneumatic air-controlled doors enable faster vehicle exit, helping reduce emergency response times
- An internally developed RFID sensor system enhances security and integrates seamlessly with the County's entire fleet
- Post designed and constructed to produce zero GHGs (Greenhouse Gases) and is a net-zero carbon (NZC) building
- A rooftop solar array offsets emissions from any electricity drawn from the provincial grid
- High efficiency electrically powered equipment provides heating of space and water, and a high-performance insulation and low flow plumbing contribute to reduced energy and water consumption
- For added public safety, the site also includes an externally mounted 911 phone and AED for emergency use

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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Statement

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simcoe.ca

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

County ready to support Barrie with State of Emergency declaration

Midhurst/September 9, 2025 – Warden Basil Clarke has issued the following statement following the declaration of a State of Emergency in the City of Barrie to address encampments.

The County is the Province of Ontario's designated and contracted service manager for housing and homelessness, helping those who remain unhoused is a shared challenge across Ontario and Canada – it is not unique to Barrie and Simcoe County as rates are increasing across the Country.

Today's announcement by Mayor Nuttall reinforces our shared goal: to ensure everyone who wants a roof over their head has access to one. The County stands ready to support the City of Barrie's by-law and enforcement efforts and will utilize one-time provincial funding to create more housing options.

In 2024, we launched our [10-point Homelessness Prevention Strategy](#), a data-driven plan that combines short-term actions (such as warming centres, expanded shelters, and street outreach) with long-term investments (such as supportive/transitional housing, accelerated affordable units, plus 220 new rentals at the Rose Street development). Today's announcement may allow us to expedite these plans and investments and help cut red tape on projects that are ready to move quickly within the city.

Short-term solutions like shelters play a vital role, but they do not address long-term challenges. As the Mayor said, "homes cannot be built overnight." Much of our continued funding and efforts focus on increasing access to supportive housing – with wrap-around services including addiction treatment, mental health support, and employment programs – to help individuals achieve sustainable outcomes.

Key County initiatives include:

- Expanding outreach programs to connect willing individuals with supportive housing.
- Launching the HART of Simcoe County, a community-led initiative focused on recovery from addiction.
- Completing the Blake Street acquisition, which includes two modular units.
- Finalizing the location of our newest supportive housing site, featuring a newly purchased 40-bed modular unit – our largest to date – with a goal of opening this winter.
- Allocation of approximately \$700,000 in encampment-related funding this past winter to the City of Barrie.

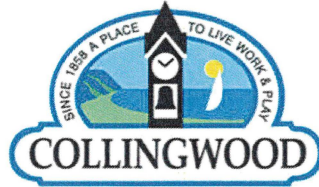
We will continue to move quickly and collaboratively with the City and local partners to support this order in our role as the service manager for the region.

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Joint Advisory

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simcoe.ca

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BUILDINGUP

County set to make way for planned affordable housing redevelopment in Collingwood

Midhurst/September 10, 2025 – The County of Simcoe is advising residents of their intent to demolish current buildings located at 29 and 45 Birch Street in Collingwood to make way for an affordable housing redevelopment planned on the site to provide more housing units to modest income households. This will be a controlled demolition, anticipated to begin during the week of September 15, 2025.

PROJECT:	Demolition of buildings at 29 and 45 Birch Street to make way for more planned affordable housing units
Date	Beginning the week of September 15, 2025
Location	29 and 45 Birch Street Collingwood, ON
Details	This will be a controlled demolition, beginning the week of September 15 th and safety is a paramount consideration. Those who may be close to the demolition site are asked to maintain a safe distance (as marked on site), observe all safety protocols surrounding the site, and refrain from disrupting crews as they work on the site.

About the planned affordable housing redevelopment project

This project is intended to replace the current structures at 29 and 45 Birch Street with a new, modern building designed to be aesthetically pleasing and that respects the neighbourhood's character, while providing future residents with convenient access to local transit and services. The new three-storey building is expected to be home to approximately 30 units, an increase from the existing nine units that are currently at the location.

With a need for more affordable housing within the area, the Town of Collingwood responded to the County of Simcoe's Municipal Call for Proposals in 2024 with the Town-owned lands located at 29 & 45 Birch Street as a suitable location for additional housing affordable to modest income households. The site already has access to amenities and site services.

Two public Community Information Sessions were held on July 15, 2025, in Collingwood to gather feedback and provide information about the planned project. The preliminary design of the project was endorsed by Town of Collingwood and County of Simcoe Councils, with final planning approvals and permitting currently in progress. Residents are invited to share input at the [Public Meeting regarding the proposed zoning change](https://www.collingwood.ca/governance-engagement/news-notice/public-meeting-proposed-zoning-change-29-45-birch-street) for this property on Monday, September 15, 2025, at approximately 2:00 p.m. (during the regular Council meeting). Participation is available in-person or via Zoom. For further details about this meeting visit: <https://www.collingwood.ca/governance-engagement/news-notice/public-meeting-proposed-zoning-change-29-45-birch-street>.

About the County of Simcoe

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About The Town of Collingwood

The Town of Collingwood is a progressive community located in the heart of a four-season recreation area on the southern shore of Georgian Bay. The area is well known for its many natural amenities and its rich heritage. Collingwood is a destination for tourism and many business, sporting, and cultural events. Collingwood acts as a gateway to the South Georgian Bay region, with stunning landscapes that encourage an active lifestyle, and inspire the local arts and culture community. Downtown Collingwood might just surprise you with 30 plus restaurants, 60 plus boutique shops, spas for relaxing, and live music for grooving...all in the only downtown core recognized by Canada's Registrar of Historic Places! More recently, the harbourfront area is emerging as an extension of the downtown district. Plans for expanding the amenities and events in the harbourfront area promise to make this a much more prominent tourism destination.

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