

**TOWNSHIP OF ESSA  
CONSENT AGENDA  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21, 2021**

**A – ITEMS RECEIVED AS INFORMATION**

- p. 1 1. Essa Building Department Statistics – March 2021.
- p. 2 2. Correspondence from the County of Simcoe:  
p. 8 a) March 23, 2021 – CCW-2021-094 re: Optional Small Business Property Sub-class.  
p. 19 b) March 23, 2021 – CCW-2021-123 re: 2021 Tax Ratios and Tax Rates.  
p. 20 c) April 9, 2021 – Advisory – Bi-weekly Leaf and Yard Waste Collection Starts April 12.  
d) April 13, 2021 – Release – Collaboration and Innovation Key to Helping Vulnerable Homeless Populations During COVID-19.
- p.22 3. Resolution from the Township of Hudson dated March 31, 2021, re: Support for Fire Departments.
- p.24 4. Resolution from the Town of Caledon dated March 31, 2021, re: Support for 988, A 3-Digit Suicide and Crisis Prevention Hotline.
- p.26 5. Resolution from the Town of Amherstburg dated April 6, 2021, re: Support for Universal Paid Sick Days in Ontario.
- p.28 6. Policy Updates from the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO):  
a) April 7, 2021 – Province Declares a Third State of Emergency and Issues a Province-Wide Stay-at-Home Order.  
p.32 b) April 12, 2021 – Back to Remote Learning, Connecting Links Funding, and *Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act* Regulation Changes.
- p.34 7. News Releases from Simcoe -Grey MPP, Jim Wilson:  
a) April 9, 2021 – Canada and Ontario Invest in Simcoe-Grey Community and Recreation Projects.  
p.36 b) April 9, 2021 – Big Leap Forward for Simcoe-Grey Hospitals.

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

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

None.

Building Department Statistics

Mar-21							
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	32	48	\$1,344,255.00	\$3,295,810.00	\$17,847.86	\$35,850.39	
Commercial	2	4	\$7,030.00	\$23,670.00	\$400.00	\$600.00	
Industrial	0	1	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$50.00	
Institutional	0	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Public Utilities	0	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Agricultural	0	1	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$373.07	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>\$1,351,285.00</b>	<b>\$ 3,319,480.00</b>	<b>\$18,247.86</b>	<b>\$ 36,873.46</b>	
Y.O.Y.	9	51	\$1,081,000.00	\$6,803,020.00	\$7,088.12	\$84,240.12	<b>-56.23%</b>

NEW SFD CONSTRUCTION				
Dwelling Units Created				
Type	Current Month	YTD	Dwelling Const. Value	Dwelling Const. Value YTD
SFD/SEMI/ROW	2	7	\$540,000.00	\$1,955,000.00
Mult Res Bldgs	0	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Accessory Apt within Existing Res Bldg	0	0	\$ -	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>\$540,000.00</b>	<b>\$1,955,000.00</b>
Y.O.Y	2	26	\$ 470,000.00	\$ 5,507,000.00
	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>-73.08%</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>-64.50%</b>

*Alex Brooks*

Reviewed by Chief Building Official:

Consent  
AZa




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To: **County Council**

Agenda Section: Performance Management  
 Division: Corporate Performance  
 Department: Finance

Item Number: **CCW - 2021-094**

Meeting Date: March 23, 2021

Subject: Optional Small Business Property Sub-class

**Recommendation**

That Item CCW 2021-094, dated March 23, 2021, regarding Optional Small Business Property Sub-class, be received; and

That staff undertake the necessary policy and financial impact analysis along with local consultations following release of the expected Provincial regulations and consider implementation of the Small Business Property Sub-Class for the 2022 taxation year.

**Executive Summary**

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the new optional small business property tax subclass as announced in the 2020 Ontario Budget. Beginning in 2021, municipalities would be able to provide a property tax reduction for eligible small businesses through the adoption of a new optional small business property subclass. An amendment to the Assessment Act has been passed, which now allows municipalities to define small business eligibility and set the discount based on their local needs and priorities through a municipal by-law. The Province will also consider matching these municipal property tax reductions in order to provide further support for small businesses. Further details on the optional small business tax subclass will be set in regulation once the legislation has passed.

There is an issue with timing of this opportunity and the immediate implementation of it, as the 2021 Assessment Roll has been set and delivered, therefore should Council consider the optional subclass for the 2021 taxation year, all eligible property tax reductions would be a direct write-off. This would be problematic as most local municipalities have either completed the annual budget process or are close to finalizing their budgets.

The consensus across regions and counties is that municipalities should not view this as a short-term COVID-19 impact mitigation tool, but rather as a longer term solution that must fit with long term municipal strategic plans and objectives, and implement it in such a way that that avoids unintended consequences. Outlined in the report is information that has been compiled from various sources such as

MPAC, Municipal Tax Equity (MTE) and other municipalities, which suggests it would be prudent to implement this small business sub-class in 2022.

### **Background/Analysis/Options**

#### Tax Policy Implications

Included in the 2021 Ontario Budget is the ability for municipalities to create a new small business tax sub-class. The new subclass will be part of the broad Commercial and Industrial tax classes, and the parameters for determining eligibility will be at the discretion of each single tier and upper tier municipality. The amount of the reduction and/or minimum/maximum reductions will be set by regulation, and the Province has indicated that it may provide matching relief in the form of education tax reduction.

While the Provincial budget enables property tax relief for small business, the budget does not fund the relief. Any reductions to taxes for small businesses would be funded through a redistribution of property taxes onto other properties. Since the 2021 Assessment Roll has been set, should Council consider the optional subclass for the 2021 taxation year, all eligible property tax reductions will be a direct write-off. This could be problematic as most local municipalities have either completed the annual budget process or are close to finalizing their budgets.

The effects of creating a new property tax subclass will extend beyond the current year. Implementation without the proper analysis, consulting and review could potentially create inequities between businesses, residents, and municipalities. Properties excluded from the subclass could be the subject of property tax appeals.

At the time of writing this report the necessary regulation has not been filed and there is insufficient time for appropriate consultation and analysis. Once the regulation is released municipalities will need to review, consult locally and model, analyze, assess different implementation options.

#### Implementation considerations

As noted above the program will enable municipalities to apply a tax reduction to qualifying properties through an annual by-law. The general process and responsibilities are outlined below:

- Upper-tier/single-tier municipalities would adopt the subclass, by by-law;
- Lower-tier/single-tier municipalities will administer the program;
- MPAC would receive notification and copies of these by-laws and apply the appropriate coding to the identified roll numbers for the affected properties (or portions);
- Municipalities must inform MPAC of properties that no longer qualify for the subclass in order to remove them for the program.

There could be incremental costs associated with the implementation of the small business subclass, predominantly for municipalities that perform the tax billing and collection function. These costs would include changes to system programming, eligibility testing, and other administration.

#### Eligibility

Eligibility is to be determined by municipalities. One of the parameters will be to establish the small business sub class definition. Business properties exist in both the broad commercial and industrial property classes, and a small business subclass could be established in one or both classes. Possible definitions alternatives have been outlined below;

#### Small Business Sub Class Definition options

The definition of small businesses is flexible for municipalities. Different approaches could include a mixture of the following:

- Geographic –Business Improvement Area (BIA), etc;
- Business Features – number of employees, business structure, number of locations, revenue, etc;
- Type of Property – can apply to commercial and / or industrial properties;
- Property Features – lot size, gross leasable area, etc;
- Current Value Assessment – property value.

The identification of properties could take one or both of the following approaches annually:

- Application – an application-based process for businesses to identify how they meet the definition and roll numbers identified with MPAC;
- Automated – leveraging property types, features and value to automate the identification of roll numbers of eligible properties.

Small Business Sub Class Definition Considerations

	Pros	Cons
Geographic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clearly defined area</li> <li>• Ability to align to planning policy goals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May include properties that include businesses not considered "small" (i.e. banks, large format stores, national chains,)</li> </ul>
Business Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ability to narrow in on small business features</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requires application process</li> <li>• Potential for significant administrative requirements</li> </ul>
Type of Property	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Easy to identify through MPAC</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May include properties that include businesses not considered "small"</li> </ul>
Property Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Property features can help target urban form</li> <li>• Easily accessible through MPAC</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gaps in data create potential for some small businesses to fall through the cracks</li> </ul>
Current Value Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Easily accessible through MPAC</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential to not align with other policy goals, such as downtown revitalization</li> <li>• May include properties that include businesses not considered "small"</li> </ul>

Conclusion

Municipalities should not view this as a short-term COVID-19 impact mitigation tool, but rather as a longer-term solution that must fit in with the long term municipal strategic plans and objectives and implement it in such a way that that avoids unintended consequences.

Staff recommends like other municipalities that the County defers implementation of the proposed optional small business property sub-class in 2021; and undertake the necessary policy and financial

impact analysis and local consultation following release of the regulations and consider implementation for the 2022 taxation year.

#### Financial Programs Available to Businesses

Business Education Tax Rates. As announced in the 2020 Budget, high business education tax (BET) rates will be reduced to 0.88% in 2021. These reductions address the wide range of BET rates across the Province by introducing a uniform rate for 2021. No action required for County of Simcoe - provides property tax relief to non-residential properties without effecting the County's tax policy or other property classes.

Total annual business property tax saving across Province = \$450M

County of Simcoe Commercial savings for 2021 = \$3.9M

County of Simcoe Industrial savings for 2021 = \$2.8M

Total = \$6.7M

Financial supports for the business community that are provided for COVID-19 assistance include the following items. In addition, COVID related resources can be found on the EDO website as well. <https://edo.simcoe.ca/Pages/COVID-19-Resources.aspx>

- Ontario Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Grant – provides small business with a one-time grant up to \$1,000 for PPE related expenditures.
- Ontario Property Tax and Energy Bill Rebates - Businesses that are, or were, required to shut down or significantly restrict services due to provincial public health measures can apply for rebates, provided in the form of grants, to help with their fixed costs including municipal/education property taxes and energy costs.
- Ontario Small Business Support Grant - Starting at \$10,000 for all eligible businesses, the grant will provide businesses with dollar for dollar funding to a maximum of \$20,000 to help cover decreased revenue expected as a result of the Province-wide Shutdown effective December 26, 2020.
- Canadian Emergency Business Account - The CEBA program offers interest-free credit of up to \$40,000 to eligible businesses through their financial institution. If the balance of the loan is repaid by the end of 2022, \$10,000 of the initial loan will be forgiven.
- Canadian Emergency Rent Subsidy - Canadian businesses, non-profit organizations, or charities who have seen a drop-in revenue due to the COVID-19 pandemic may be eligible for a subsidy to cover part of their commercial rent or property expenses, starting on September 27, 2020, until June 2021.
- Canadian Emergency Rent Subsidy - Canadian businesses, non-profit organizations, or charities who have seen a drop-in revenue due to the COVID-19 pandemic may be eligible for a subsidy to cover part of their commercial renter property expenses, starting on September 27, 2020, until June 2021
- Enhanced Agri-Food Workplace Protection Program provides funding to agri-food workplaces in two streams. The first stream is for Preventative Occupational Health and Safety Measures,

where cost-sharing funding to available to help employers purchase PPE, and cleaning supplies. The second stream is the On-Farm Worker Safety Improvement Program that provides up to \$100,000 to improve and enhance physical distancing measures for employees. Projects can be reactive from March 15, 2020. Funding closes on February 26, 2021.

- Canada Recovery Benefit (CRB) provides income support to employed and self-employed individuals who are directly affected by COVID-19 and are entitled to EI benefits. Eligibility for the CRB, individuals can receive \$1,000 (\$900 after taxes withheld) for a 2-week period. If the situation continues past 2 weeks, the individual will need to apply again. Applicants may apply up to a total of 13 eligibility periods (26 weeks) between September 27, 2020 and September 25, 2021.
- BDC Small Business Loans provides loans up to \$100,000 over 5 year that can be used to purchase equipment, software, hardware and apply for patent, trademark and the intellectual property protection.
- CanExport SMEs Funding provides up to \$75,000 for small and medium-sized companies to undertake international market development activities. Companies must be an incorporated legal entity or a limited liability partnership (LLP).
- Digital Main Street Digital Service Squad Grant (DMS 2.0) is a program focused on assisting main street businesses with their adoption of technology. The grant supports training, advisory support, and support to digital service squads across Ontario. Applications are open until March 21, 2021.
- Digital Main Street and Beyond is funded by the County of Simcoe to support eligible businesses outside of main streets with their online transition.

Tourism Simcoe County, Tourism, Culture and Sport Grant. Available to not-for profit corporations and municipalities, to support and enhance Tourism, Culture and Sport in Simcoe County  
<https://experience.simcoe.ca/resources>

1. Investing in tourism, culture and sport activities that promote awareness, access, participation and appreciation of the diverse offerings within the County of Simcoe;
  2. Building organizational capacity in new and existing organizations;
  3. Encouraging collaborative opportunities and partnerships;
  4. Contributing to the County of Simcoe's overall economic health and sense of place; and
  5. Enhancing participants' experiences by supporting innovative and accessible programming.
- Regional Tourism Organization 7 (RTO7) programs  
RTO7 offers a variety of programs to help tourism operators and stakeholders  
<https://rto7.ca/Public/Programs>
  - Relief within reach website, financial support for small and medium sized businesses  
<https://reliefwithinreach.ca/york-simcoe/>

## Financial and Resource Implications

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While the option for a small business class would enable some municipal and provincial property tax relief for eligible small businesses, there is no associated offset funding from the Province for the municipal tax redistribution. Any small business tax relief would be funded through a redistribution of property taxes on other property classes. Provincial regulations are expected to set out the following of which will potentially have a financial impact:

1. How a reduced tax rate for small business may be funded (i.e., a tax increase spread across all tax classes including residential, or an increase in tax levy on only the commercial class and/or other classes)
2. Limits on the maximum allowable percentage reduction for the small business subclass
3. Restrictions or limitations on eligibility criteria, or requirements for provincial approval of criteria
4. Right of appeal and provisions for appeals

**Relationship to Corporate Strategic Plan**

E. A Culture of Workplace and Operational Excellence

- Provides services to residents in a fiscally sustainable and responsible manner

**Reference Documents**

There are no reference documents associated with this Item.

**Attachments**

There are no attachments to this Item.

**Prepared By**                      Lealand Sibbick, Treasurer

**Approvals**

Trevor Wilcox, General Manager, Corporate Performance  
 Mark Aitken, Chief Administrative Officer

**Date**

March 15, 2021  
 Click here to enter a date.

Consent AZB




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To: **County Council**

Agenda Section: Performance Management  
 Division: Corporate Performance  
 Department: Finance

Item Number: **CCW - 2021-123**

Meeting Date: March 23, 2021

Subject: 2021 Tax Ratios and Tax Rates

**Recommendation**

That Item CCW 2021-123, dated March 23, 2021, regarding Property Tax Ratios and tax rates, be received; and

That subject to deliberations in the affirmative, that County Council approves the recommendation as outlined in Item CCW 2021-123 with respect to the 2021 property tax ratios and tax rates:

- That County Council eliminate Commercial and Industrial vacant & excess discounts with corresponding ratio reductions to maintain the class-by-class balance as outlined in Item CCW 2021-123 (option #1 outlined in table 4) and;
- That County Council adopt the remaining current 2020 tax ratios and the tax rate reductions for 2021 (outlined in table 4).

That the necessary by-law be presented to adopt the 2021 tax ratios and rates, as generally outlined in Item CCW 2021-123.

**Executive Summary**

Upper-tier municipalities have the responsibility of establishing County wide tax ratios, subclass treatment and County tax rates.

The tax environment for 2021 includes:

- The total assessment growth experienced during 2020 was 1.84%
- There is no reassessment or phase-in assessment change for the 2021 taxation year. All properties are valued based on a valuation date of January 1, 2016.
- The 2021 budget includes a 0% tax rate increase

Property Tax Class	Option 1
Residential	1.0000
Farmland awaiting development (FAD1)	0.7500
Farm	0.2500
Managed Forest	0.2500
New Multi-Residential	1.0000
Multi-Residential	1.0000
Commercial	1.2223
Vacant/Excess Land	1.0000
Small Scale On-Farm Business	0.2500
Industrial	1.1925
Vacant/Excess Land	1.0000
Small Scale On-Farm Business	0.2500
Landfill	1.0000
Pipeline	1.2966

The Province has enacted several property tax reforms for 2021, reassessment has been paused; new tax tools have been introduced and significant changes to business education taxes have been announced.

This report discusses the tax policy tools that are available in 2021 with the recommendation that the subclass discounts for the Commercial and Industrial property tax classes be eliminated and that the following tax ratios and subclass discounts listed as Option 1 be used to develop the 2021 tax ratio and rates bylaw.

Report "CCW 2021-094 Small business sub classes" provides an update on the County of Simcoe business education tax and the small business sub class status.

**Background/Analysis/Options**

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with recommendations regarding property taxation for 2021 and to obtain approval for the 2021 County property tax rates.

In accordance with the Municipal Act, 2001, County Council must approve Tax Policies for:

- Upper-tier tax ratio setting
- Upper-tier rating by-law

For the 2017 taxation year all properties in Ontario were reassessed based on their Current Value Assessment (CVA) as of January 1st, 2016. These updated CVA values, as adjusted under the Province's assessment phase-in program, were to form the basis of taxation through the 2020 taxation year. Those properties that experienced a CVA increase as of 2017 were taxed in accordance with a phase adjusted CVA value through 2019, while all properties in the Province were subject to taxation based on their full, unmitigated CVA for 2020. Although 2021 should have been the first year of a new reassessment cycle, with all destination (Full CVA) values being updated to reflect January 1, 2020 market conditions, the Province put a pause on reassessment in the spring of 2020. This decision was made in response to the ongoing pandemic. This means that property taxes for 2021 will again rely on

the full destination values based on the January 1, 2016 valuation date. This will be the first year since 2008 without any market driven valuation changes at the municipal level.

The final County tax rates are calculated by taking the assessment information from the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC), weighting the assessment based on the County tax ratios and dividing the 2021 County levy requirements by the weighted assessment. The following provides the information on each of these components.

**Part 1 Growth and assessment change**

Property assessments change in one of two fundamental ways; to reflect a property's value as of a more current point in time (reassessment change) or to reflect actual changes in a property's state, condition or use (growth change – positive or negative). Physical changes to property that include new construction, additions, improvements and demolitions translate into net assessment growth. Net assessment growth impacts the municipal revenue stream and existing taxpayers do not contribute to revenue increases. Reassessment change does not increase the tax revenue, but individual tax liabilities will change amount properties and groups of properties.

Table 1 and table 1a illustrate the 2020 assessment growth resulting from changes in the state and /or use of property.

**Table 1 2020 Assessment Growth**

Property Tax Class	2020 Current Value assessment		In-year growth	
	As returned	As revised	\$	%
<b>Taxable</b>				
Residential	56,903,527,308	58,001,132,820	1,097,605,512	1.93%
Farm	3,755,799,610	3,782,196,739	26,397,129	0.70%
Managed Forest	177,855,263	182,916,429	5,061,166	2.85%
New Multi-Residential	1,518,000	29,193,400	27,675,400	1823.15%
Multi-Residential	383,500,926	403,237,226	19,736,300	5.15%
Commercial	3,985,317,503	4,029,924,908	44,607,405	1.12%
Industrial	811,769,032	807,126,085	(4,642,947)	-0.57%
Pipeline	204,982,000	206,916,000	1,934,000	0.94%
Landfill	3,968,100	3,968,100	-	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	<b>66,224,269,642</b>	<b>67,442,643,607</b>	<b>1,218,373,965</b>	<b>1.84%</b>

Table 1a 2020 Assessment Growth

Municipality	2020 Current Value assessment			
	2021 General Levy		In-year growth	
	As returned	As revised	\$	%
Township of Adjala-Tosorontio	2,530,833,300	2,541,434,325	10,601,024	0.42%
Town of Bradford-West Gwillimbu	7,886,109,809	8,008,681,809	122,572,000	1.55%
Township of Clearview	2,907,202,118	2,940,906,218	33,704,099	1.16%
Town of Collingwood	4,678,411,166	4,862,109,775	183,698,609	3.93%
Township of Essa	3,697,489,225	3,715,011,825	17,522,600	0.47%
Town of Innisfil	8,751,401,674	9,037,174,069	285,772,395	3.27%
Town of Midland	2,117,985,900	2,141,427,700	23,441,800	1.11%
Town of New Tecumseth	7,449,590,289	7,548,004,007	98,413,719	1.32%
Township of Oro-Medonte	5,175,969,377	5,226,924,877	50,955,500	0.98%
Town of Penetanguishene	1,090,793,200	1,108,525,900	17,732,700	1.63%
Township of Ramara	2,517,271,344	2,554,527,444	37,256,100	1.48%
Township of Severn	3,070,465,312	3,109,086,312	38,621,000	1.26%
Township of Springwater	4,199,802,318	4,273,361,218	73,558,900	1.75%
Township of Tay	1,470,888,902	1,489,587,902	18,699,000	1.27%
Township of Tiny	4,185,066,709	4,260,166,409	75,099,700	1.79%
Town of Wasaga Beach	4,498,957,099	4,629,681,917	130,724,818	2.91%
Simcoe County	66,228,237,742	67,446,611,707	1,218,373,965	1.84%

## Part 2 Taxation Impacts

The Municipal Act requires that the County establish tax ratios for multi-residential, commercial, landfill, industrial and pipeline classes annually. The tax ratio for the residential tax class is legislated at 1.0, and farm tax class and managed forest tax class have a prescribed ratio of 0.25. All ratios must be set within the guidelines prescribed by the Province. County Council may choose to adopt the current 2020 ratios for 2021 or establish new tax ratios for the year that are closer to or within the Range of fairness, as outlined in the table below. It should be noted that ratios that are above the range of fairness cannot be increased but can be reduced. Ratios that are within the range of fairness can be moved with the range.

The 2021 status quo tax ratios, revenue neutral tax rates are outlined below in table 2 and 3. The 2021 budget includes a 0% increase above the revenue neutral tax rates, if status quo ratios were to be applied, actual final rates would be 0% greater than those shown.

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**Table 2 - 2021 status quo tax ratios, revenue neutral tax rates**

Property class	Ranges of Fairness (O.Reg. 386/98)	Simcoe County Tax Ratios		Threshold Ratios (O.Reg. 73/03)
		2021	2020	
Residential	1.00	1.0000	1.0000	
Multi-Residential	1.00 - 1.10	1.0000	1.0000	2.0000
New Multi-Residential	1.00 - 1.10	1.0000	1.0000	
Commercial	0.60 - 1.10	1.2521	1.2521	1.9800
Industrial	0.60 - 1.10	1.2521	1.2521	2.6300
Pipeline	0.60 - 0.07	1.2966	1.2966	
Farm	0.0 - 0.25	0.2500	0.2500	
Managed Forests	0.25	0.2500	0.2500	
Landfill	0.60 - 1.10	1.0000	1.0000	25.0000

Section 308 of the *Municipal Act, 2001* sets the tax ratio for Residential as 1.0  
 Section 308.1 of the *Municipal Act, 2001* restricts the tax ratio for Farm to be 0.25 or lower  
 Section 308.1 of the *Municipal Act, 2001* sets the tax ratio for Managed Forests as 0.25

**Table 3 - 2021 status quo tax ratios, revenue neutral tax rates**

Starting Ratios and Revenue Neutral Tax rates						
Realty Tax Class	Tax Ratios			Upper-Tier General rates		
	2020 Actual	2021 Start	% Change	2020 Actual	Revenue Neutral	% Change
Residential	1.000000	1.000000	0.00%	0.00273571	0.00273571	0.00%
Farm	0.250000	0.250000	0.00%	0.00068393	0.00068393	0.00%
Managed Forest	0.250000	0.250000	0.00%	0.00068393	0.00068393	0.00%
New Multi-Residential	1.000000	1.000000	0.00%	0.00273571	0.00273571	0.00%
Multi-Residential	1.000000	1.000000	0.00%	0.00273571	0.00273571	0.00%
Commercial	1.252100	1.252100	0.00%	0.00342538	0.00342538	0.00%
Industrial	1.252100	1.252100	0.00%	0.00342538	0.00342538	0.00%
Landfill	1.000000	1.000000	0.00%	0.00273571	0.00273571	0.00%
Pipeline	1.296600	1.296600	0.00%	0.00354712	0.00354712	0.00%

**Tax Rate Reductions**

The County must establish a policy for the tax treatment of farmland awaiting development. In 2020 the policy was that the first subclass of farmland awaiting development in the residential class be reduced by 25%. The second subclass of farmland awaiting development is reduced by 0%.

**Staff recommend that there be no change to the current policy for farmland awaiting development in 2021.**

**Part 3 Tax Policy Tools**

For 2021, the Municipal Act continues to provide upper tier municipalities with tax policy tools that may be used to alter the distribution of the tax burden both within and between tax classes. The following tools may be used;

1. Tax ratios may be adjusted to affect the level of taxation on different tax classes;
2. Optional business property classes may be employed or collapsed to alter taxation within broad commercial or industrial tax classes;
3. Subclass discounts for vacant and excess land may be adjusted;
4. Graduated taxation schemes for the business classes can be used to impose higher rates of taxation on properties with higher current value assessment in order to provide tax relief on properties with lower assessed values.

Tax Ratio change recommendations

Tax ratios, and subclass discounts govern the tax rate of each property class in relation to the tax rate for the residential property class. Ontario's tax ratio system is not simply about expressing the relationship among tax rates, the real function of tax ratios is to change the balance of taxation among property classes. Tax ratios effectively alter the weighting, or distribution of the tax burden compared to how the total levy would be shared if each dollar of CVA was treated equally.

Vacant and Excess land subclass

Vacant and Excess Land subclasses fall under either the Commercial or Industrial classes based on zoning and/or the nature of the occupied/improved portion of the parent property. By default, these properties are subject to a reduced tax rate in comparison to occupied properties in the same class. Since 2017, Simcoe has used a uniform discount of 30%. As of 2021 municipalities have the authority to alter or eliminate vacant and excess land sub-class discounts without regulatory approval

Option 1. Eliminate subclass discounts

Table 4, 5 and 6 below provide the potential impact on the upper tier general levy of eliminating the subclass discounts:

1. Status Quo ratios and subclass discounts for the commercial and industrial classes;
2. Option 1 – Eliminates the subclass discounts for the commercial, industrial, while adjusting the full commercial and industrial ratios to raise the same levy;

**Table 4 – impacts on tax ratios and tax rates**

Property Tax Class	Tax Ratios		General levy tax rates		
	Option 1	Difference	Status Quo	Option 1	Difference
Residential	1.0000	0.00%	0.00273571	0.00273563	0.00%
Farmland awaiting development (FAD1)	0.75	0.00%	0.00205178	0.00205172	0.00%
Farm	0.2500	0.00%	0.00068393	0.00068391	0.00%
Managed Forest	0.2500	0.00%	0.00068393	0.00068391	0.00%
New Multi-Residential	1.0000	0.00%	0.00273571	0.00273563	0.00%
Multi-Residential	1.0000	0.00%	0.00273571	0.00273563	0.00%
Commercial	1.2223	-2.38%	0.00342538	0.00334376	-2.38%
Vacant/Excess Land	1.00	42.86%	0.00239777	0.00334376	39.45%
Small Scale On-Farm Business	0.25	0.00%	0.00085635	0.00835940	-2.38%
Industrial	1.1925	-4.76%	0.00342538	0.00326224	-4.76%
Vacant/Excess Land	1.00	42.86%	0.00239777	0.00326224	36.05%
Small Scale On-Farm Business	0.25	0.00%	0.00085635	0.00815560	-4.76%
Landfill	1.0000	0.00%	0.00273571	0.00273563	0.00%
Pipeline	1.2966	0.00%	0.00354712	0.00357020	0.00%

**Table 5 - property tax class impact on the General levy**

Property Tax Class	2021 General Levy		Difference	
	Status Quo	Option 1	\$	%
<b>Taxable</b>				
Residential	158,605,444	158,600,805	(4,639)	0.00%
Farmland awaiting development (FAD1)	20,487	20,486	(1)	0.00%
Farm	2,586,759	2,586,682	(77)	0.00%
Managed Forest	125,101	125,098	(3)	0.00%
New Multi-Residential	79,865	79,863	(2)	0.00%
Multi-Residential	1,103,140	1,103,109	(31)	0.00%
Commercial	12,693,902	12,391,433	(302,469)	-2.38%
Excess Land	202,579	282,503	79,924	39.45%
Vacant Land	573,932	800,365	226,433	39.45%
Small Scale On-Farm Business	205	201	(4)	-1.95%
Industrial	2,323,315	2,212,663	(110,652)	-4.76%
Excess Land	87,077	118,466	31,389	36.05%
Vacant Land	221,664	301,583	79,919	36.05%
Small Scale On-Farm Business	86	82	(4)	-4.65%
Landfill	10,856	10,856	-	0.00%
Pipeline	733,956	733,936	(20)	0.00%
Total (Taxable + PIL)	179,368,368	179,368,131	(237)	0.00%

**Table 6 – inter-municipal shift impacts**

Municipality	2021 General Levy		Difference	
	Status Quo	Option 1	\$	%
Township of Adjala-Tosorontio	6,161,682	6,154,656	(7,027)	-0.11%
Town of Bradford-West Gwillimbury	21,391,518	21,429,376	37,858	0.18%
Township of Clearview	7,006,597	7,000,991	(5,607)	-0.08%
Town of Collingwood	13,663,489	13,667,729	4,240	0.03%
Township of Essa	9,546,674	9,523,023	(23,651)	-0.25%
Town of Innisfil	24,165,969	24,184,488	18,519	0.08%
Town of Midland	6,115,582	6,097,616	(17,966)	-0.29%
Town of New Tecumseth	20,217,066	20,189,441	(27,624)	-0.14%
Township of Oro-Medonte	13,794,451	13,787,745	(6,706)	-0.05%
Town of Penetanguishene	3,087,650	3,081,554	(6,096)	-0.20%
Township of Ramara	6,678,296	6,678,046	(250)	0.00%
Township of Severn	8,471,457	8,472,704	1,247	0.01%
Township of Springwater	10,863,648	10,871,512	7,864	0.07%
Township of Tay	4,001,076	4,005,606	4,530	0.11%
Township of Tiny	11,363,075	11,360,110	(2,965)	-0.03%
Town of Wasaga Beach	12,840,147	12,863,534	23,387	0.18%
Simcoe County	179,368,377	179,368,131	(246)	0.00%

**Staff recommend that Option 1 - the elimination of the subclass discounts be implemented in 2021.**

Other tax policy options - Graduated tax model

Single and Upper-Tier municipalities may adopt two or three bands of assessment for purposes of administering graduated tax rates in either the Commercial and/or Industrial classes to strategically vary the tax burden within these classes. Graduation taxation is an optional mechanism that allows municipalities to alter the CVA to tax relationship from linear to progressive. This would shift the tax burden within a property class from lower to higher value properties.

The reason a municipality would employ a graduated tax model is that there is an assumption that there is a strong correlation between CVA and ability to pay. This type of tax policy tool has not been widely employed in Ontario largely because it adds complexity to the system and is somewhat ineffective at targeting small vs. large businesses.

In addition, Graduated Taxation can create or exacerbate risks and instability to municipal revenue. With the highest margins of CVA being subject to higher tax rates, reassessment related tax shifts and particularly appeal related tax losses can be greatly exaggerated.

The structure of a graduated tax scheme relies on the following two variables;

- The definition of the assessment bands, which are applied on a property-by-property basis; and
  - The relationship between the rates that will apply to the two or three bands of assessment.
- The following tables 7, 8, 9 provide the outcomes of a graduated tax model and uses the following graduation and banding factors
- Applied to the commercial class only
  - Two bands of assessment with a CVA threshold of 650,000
  - The high band factor is 1.060620 to 1.000000

**Table 7**

Status/Subclass	Status Quo	Option 1	Graduated Rates	
		Eliminate subclass discounts	Low band	High band
Occupied	0.00342538	0.00334376	0.0032296	0.00342538
Vacant Excess land	0.00239777	0.00334376	0.0032296	0.00342538
Mall Scale on farm business	0.00085635	0.00083594	0.0008074	0.00342538
Full rate vs status Quo		-2.38%	-5.72%	0.00%

This graduated tax model achieves the following outcomes;

- It takes the tax shift off the occupied commercial that was created by eliminating the discounts and targets the savings to the lower value properties
- It gives a high band rate that is equal to the uniform commercial rate that would apply if no tax policy changes are made

Table 8 provides a summary of the County levy using the graduated tax model as outlined above on the commercial class only

**Table 8**

Property Tax Class/ Subclass	Status Quo	Option 1 discounts eliminated	Graduated tax			Difference	
			Low Band	High Band	Total	\$	%
Residential	158,605,444	158,600,805			158,600,805	(4,639)	0.00%
Farmland awaiting development (FAD1)	20,487	20,486			20,486	(1)	0.00%
Farm	2,586,759	2,586,682			2,586,682	(77)	0.00%
Managed Forest	125,101	125,098			125,098	(3)	0.00%
New Multi-Residential	79,865	79,863			79,863	(2)	0.00%
Multi-Residential	1,103,140	1,103,109			1,103,109	(31)	0.00%
Commercial	12,693,902	12,391,433	4,770,571	7,634,139	12,404,710	(289,192)	-2.28%
Excess Land	202,579	282,503	159,961	119,738	279,699	77,120	38.07%
Vacant Land	573,932	800,365	494,887	295,016	789,903	215,971	37.63%
SSOFB	205	201	192	-	192	(13)	-6.34%
Commercial Sub total	13,470,618	13,474,502	5,425,611	8,048,893	13,474,504	3,886	0.03%
Industrial	2,323,315	2,212,663			2,212,663	(110,652)	-4.76%
Excess Land	87,077	118,466			118,466	31,389	36.05%
Vacant Land	221,664	301,583			301,583	79,919	36.05%
SSOFB	86	82			82	(4)	-4.65%
Landfill	10,856	10,856			10,856	-	0.00%
Pipeline	733,956	733,936			733,936	(20)	0.00%
Total (Taxable + PIL)	179,368,368	179,368,131	5,425,611	8,048,893	179,368,133	(235)	0.00%

**Table 9**

Municipality	Status Quo	2021 General Levy		Difference	
		Option 1/Graduated Tax	\$	%	
Township of Adjala-Tosorontio	6,161,682	6,156,787	(4,896)	-0.08%	
Town of Bradford-West Gwillimbury	21,391,518	21,440,782	49,264	0.23%	
Township of Clearview	7,006,597	6,993,159	(13,439)	-0.19%	
Town of Collingwood	13,663,489	13,664,136	647	0.00%	
Township of Essa	9,546,674	9,539,229	(7,445)	-0.08%	
Town of Innisfil	24,165,969	24,192,273	26,304	0.11%	
Town of Midland	6,115,582	6,093,864	(21,718)	-0.36%	
Town of New Tecumseth	20,217,066	20,192,544	(24,521)	-0.12%	
Township of Oro-Medonte	13,794,451	13,782,510	(11,941)	-0.09%	
Town of Penetanguishene	3,087,650	3,079,451	(8,199)	-0.27%	
Township of Ramara	6,678,296	6,675,315	(2,981)	-0.04%	
Township of Severn	8,471,457	8,469,329	(2,128)	-0.03%	
Township of Springwater	10,863,648	10,863,290	(358)	0.00%	
Township of Tay	4,001,076	4,004,111	3,035	0.08%	
Township of Tiny	11,363,075	11,357,787	(5,288)	-0.05%	
Town of Wasaga Beach	12,840,147	12,863,553	23,406	0.18%	
Simcoe County	179,368,377	179,368,120	(257)	0.00%	

While the graduated tax model does provide the ability to change the distribution of tax within a class, it does have several distinct drawbacks.

- The largest assessed properties will pay a higher rate than the smaller assessed properties but, the correlation between assessed value and the size of a business isn't actually very strong
- Many of the smallest businesses are tenants and this would do little or nothing for the majority of them
- This model adds a significant layer of complexity for both municipalities and taxpayers that goes far beyond the calculation of tax rates
  - It would be necessary to consult with local tax collectors and /or billing software supplies before making a final decision to ensure this could be implemented and in what time-frame
- Graduated tax increases the tax dollars at risk due to ARB appeals and other write-off mechanisms because those reductions will generally be calculated using the inflated high band rate
  - For 2021 alone there is over \$600,000,000 in commercial CVA under appeal, much of this associated with high value properties

***Staff do not recommend that the graduated tax model be implemented in 2021.***

#### **Agri-food business subclasses for farm properties**

Small Scale On-Farm Business Sub-Class (SSOFB) provides a special property tax treatment for commercial and industrial operations on farm properties. These new sub-classes are optional for municipal property tax purposes and are intended to give municipalities a means of supporting small scale Agri-food enterprises. The sub-classes would apply for education purposes, regardless of whether a municipality chooses to participate. This means that lower tier municipalities will be required to administer these new sub-classes even if this program is not adopted for municipal tax purposes.

The Commercial and industrial activities must meet certain eligibility criteria. The value of the commercial and or industrial portion will be split, and a lower rate of taxation will be applied to the first 50,000. As the program was to be an incentive/benefit for small-scale commercial and industrial operations that are ancillary to farming operations, a ceiling of 1,000,000 of CVA will be placed on the overall value of eligible portions. Other key factors are outlined below.

**Commercial:** Land used primarily to sell farm products, or a product derived from a farm product or products, that are produced on the land or on land used to carry on the same farming business.

**Industrial:** Land used primarily to process, or manufacture something from, a farm product or products that are produced on the land or on land used to carry on the same farming business.

There are 10 properties in Simcoe County and approximately 250 Province wide. The County has approximately 6,800 Farm property class roll numbers.

***Staff recommend that this program continue in 2021.***

#### **Financial and Resource Implications**

There are no financial or resource implications associated with this Item.

#### **Relationship to Corporate Strategic Plan**

E. A Culture of Workplace and Operational Excellence

- Provides services to residents in a fiscally sustainable and responsible manner

**Reference Documents**

There are no reference documents associated with this Item.

**Attachments**

There are no attachments to this Item.

**Prepared By**                      Lealand Sibbick, Treasurer

**Approvals**

**Date**

Trevor Wilcox, General Manager, Corporate Performance  
Mark Aitken, Chief Administrative Officer

March 15, 2021  
March 16, 2021

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**County opens 2021 Age-Friendly Seniors Housing Grant Program**

**Midhurst/ April 1, 2021** – The County of Simcoe is providing the regional housing market for seniors a boost with the 2021 Age-Friendly Seniors Housing Grant Program. County Council recently approved \$500,000 in annual funding towards this program to support eligible applicants in creating age-friendly housing.

“The County is committed to enhancing support services and resources that address our aging population and affordable housing needs,” said Warden George Cornell. “This grant program aligns with our Age-Friendly strategy to assist our residents in living independently as long as possible, while encouraging property owners to build and retrofit their spaces with age-friendly designs and features.”

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

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

Applicants eligible for this grant include those completing housing projects located within Simcoe County (excluding the cities of Barrie and Orillia). Applicants who were successful in obtaining an Age-Friendly Seniors Housing grant in the past three years are not eligible to apply in 2021. Applicants can be homeowners of principal residences or developers, who wish to include accessible, adaptable and inclusive design modifications for occupants aged 60 or older. Grant amounts will be distributed based on the number of applications received and ability to meet funding criteria.

An Age-Friendly Grant Selection Sub-Committee will evaluate each grant submission in accordance with established evaluation criteria and make recommendations to the Simcoe County Age-Friendly Advisory Committee for endorsement.

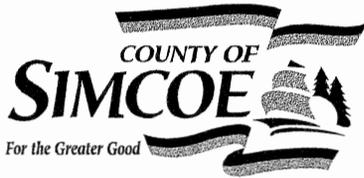
The deadline for 2021 application submissions is June 30, 2021. For further details, or to apply to the Age-Friendly Housing Seniors Grant program, please visit <http://www.simcoe.ca/LongTermCare/Pages/Age-Friendly-Seniors-Housing-Grant-Program.aspx>.

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

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# Advisory

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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## Bi-weekly Leaf and Yard Waste Collection starts April 12

**Midhurst/ April 9, 2021** – The County of Simcoe’s popular curbside Leaf and Yard Waste Collection program is set to start April 12<sup>th</sup> in Zone One, running until the week of May 31<sup>st</sup>. These bi-weekly collections include leaves, grass, branches (sized and bundled appropriately), and other appropriately prepared garden waste. Residents are reminded to use kraft paper yard waste bags, compostable bags, cardboard boxes, or open-ended rigid containers when placing leaf and yard waste at their regular collection point.

Materials for collection should be placed curbside by 7 a.m. on Monday of the collection week for each area. Collection will occur during the week, not necessarily on residents’ regular garbage day. To determine your collection zone and collection weeks, please refer to the 2021 Waste Management Calendar, which was mailed to households earlier this winter or it can be found at [this link](#). The schedule is also available on the Simcoe County Collects App, which is free to download from the App Store or Google Play.

The County expects increased participation this year due to stay-at-home orders, and asks residents to keep the safety of collection workers in mind when setting out materials.

Spring 2021 leaf and yard waste will be collected throughout the week in each zone as follows:

### Zone One

- April 12, 2021
- April 26, 2021
- May 10, 2021
- May 28, 2021

### Zone Two

- April 19, 2021
- May 3, 2021
- May 17, 2021
- May 31, 2021

*This schedule and program does not apply to the cities of Barrie and Orillia.*

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AZd

**From:** Board Chair <[MPACBoard.Chair@mpac.ca](mailto:MPACBoard.Chair@mpac.ca)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 8, 2021 11:01 AM  
**To:** Sandie Macdonald  
**Subject:** MPAC Annual Report 2020

Good morning Mayor MacDonald,

I am extremely proud of MPAC's accomplishments during a difficult year, and I'm pleased to provide you with our 2020 Annual Report <https://annualreport.mpac.ca/2020-annual-report> for your information. While a province-wide assessment update continues to be postponed due to the pandemic, our work never stops managing and analyzing one of the most complex property databases in the world.

Our 2020 Annual Report provides an overview of MPAC's operational and financial performance over the year. It has been prepared as required by the *Municipal Property Assessment Corporation Act*, and is also being provided to the Premier, Minister of Finance, Members of Provincial Parliament and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.

Should you have any questions regarding the report, please do not hesitate to contact me at 705-335-0001, or Nicole McNeill, President and Chief Administrative Officer, at 905-837-6166.

If you would like a detailed copy of MPAC's Financial Statements for the Year Ended December 31, 2020, please contact Mary Meffe, Vice-President, Corporate and Information Services and Chief Financial Officer, at 289-539-0306.

Yours truly,

Alan Spacek  
Chair, MPAC Board of Directors

Copy: CAOs, Clerks and Treasurers

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Collaboration and innovation key to helping vulnerable homeless populations during COVID-19**

**Midhurst/April 13, 2021** – Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the County's Social and Community Services team, in conjunction with funded service providers, public health, and broader community partners, have embraced innovative opportunities to provide urgent support to vulnerable homeless populations.

COVID-19 impacts have led to an increased number of individuals living unhoused and in need of shelter. The demand on the homelessness prevention system has been a result of many factors including an increase in individuals unable to maintain permanent housing due to unemployment, and an increase in individuals being released from incarceration or hospital settings, among other factors.

As the Municipal Service Manager for the region, the County continues to leverage enhanced funding from both the Federal and Provincial Governments to assist local homeless service providers in addressing the needs of those they serve, while also providing additional poverty reduction supports to low-income families. With more than 30 homeless service providers funded by the County of Simcoe, collaboration, integration and cohesion continue to be vital to regional response efforts.

"COVID-19 has created challenges for all sectors and as the Regional Service Manager, our Social and Community Services staff have stepped up to support urgent needs," said Warden George Cornell. "We're grateful to all our partners for working with us to protect our most vulnerable populations. Our Council is committed to assisting our communities and will continue to do all we can within our capacity to help ensure that the needs of our vulnerable populations continue to be understood and addressed."

**Implementation of Emergency Motel Program:**

In mid-March, 2020, the County responded quickly to authorize funding to support our homeless shelter service providers in relocating and housing their respective occupants within motels located throughout the region. In addition to meeting an urgent need, the use of motel rooms has subsequently been cited by Public Health as best practice, relative to both physical distancing and isolation of individuals. In addition to the cost of the actual motel rooms, funding supports the following:

- 24/7 onsite staffing and security
- Deep cleaning
- Personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Meals
- Mental and addiction supports
- Temporary pandemic pay
- Wage enhancement
- Increased street outreach
- Training and workshops for shelter staff
- Installation of Automatic Electronic Defibrillators (AED) units at all locations

**Emergency Motel Support Services:**

At the onset of the pandemic, the County and community partners adopted a collaborative approach intended to fill the gaps left when many social and/or health services were forced to temporarily suspend in-person support to vulnerable populations. Partners and services continue to include:

- County of Simcoe Paramedic Services provide weekly health and wellness checks which lead to overall improved health of individuals and reduced hospital visits
- Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit deliver weekly updates at County-led shelter check-in meetings and provides Infection Prevention Resources and Control Assessments

Aze

- Canadian Mental Health Association continues to assist with onsite mental health supports, staffing, harm reduction and addiction counsellors
- Homelessness Shelter providers work closely with housing resource service agencies including Empower Simcoe, CONTACT, and BRAWC in developing housing plans intended to move residents towards permanent housing

To date there have been no COVID-19 Outbreaks in homeless shelter settings, and we continue to have capacity within the system.

The County recognizes and appreciates the unrelenting work of homeless shelter providers, both leaders and front-line staff, in their efforts to support and care for vulnerable persons experiencing homelessness. Funded Homeless Shelter service providers include Alliston Out of the Cold, David Busby Street Centre, Elizabeth Fry Society, Salvation Army, The Guesthouse, The Lighthouse, and Youth Haven.

### **Transition to Recovery**

The County of Simcoe, along with community partners, continue to plan for transition to recovery, guiding how programs and individuals will return to community settings when it is safe to do so. Until then, the Emergency Motel program will remain in place thanks to an additional \$3.8 million in funding from the SSRF announced in March 2021 in response to an Investment Plan submitted by the County. This funding will also be used to support:

- Placement of residents into permanent housing with related supports, through collaboration between shelter providers and the County's Regionalized Housing First Program, which is administered by Empower Simcoe. Since the beginning of the pandemic, over 500 residents have been assisted in obtaining permanent housing.
- The County's Housing Retention Fund will be further enhanced to assist individuals with rental and utility arrears, so that they can remain housed.

### **Additional Social Services Relief Funding Initiatives:**

The provincial government's Social Services Relief Funding (SSRF) provided more than \$7.7 million. While this funding was primarily used to support the Emergency Motel program, additional investments were made to support:

- Regional food banks to help low income households meet basic needs
- Housing Retention Fund to support individuals requiring assistance to retain housing and/or acquire accommodations
- Supportive and Transitional Housing programs to assist with costs of deep cleaning, PPE and additional safety supplies
- Enhanced Street Out-Reach to support those living outdoors, and to encourage movement of individuals to shelter locations with related services

For more information on Simcoe County's COVID-19 response to enhance homelessness prevention and/or poverty reduction initiatives, review the [Committee of the Whole report](#).

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

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**TOWNSHIP OF HUDSON**  
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[www.hudson.ca](http://www.hudson.ca) [admin@hudson.ca](mailto:admin@hudson.ca)

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March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021

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

**Attention: Premier Ford**

**RE: Support for Fire Departments**

At the Township of Hudson's Regular Meeting of Council held on Wednesday March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021, the following resolution 2021-049 was put forward and passed:

**WHEREAS** the role of Ontario's 441 fire departments and their approximate 30,000 full, part-time, and volunteer firefighters is to protect Ontarians and their property; and

**WHEREAS** according to the Ontario Fire Marshal and Emergency Management's latest data, in Ontario there was over 11,000 number of loss fires, 9,500 no loss fires, 784 injuries, 91 fatalities, and over \$820 million dollars of estimated loss in 2018; and

**WHEREAS** fire emergencies only make up a portion of the total calls for help received by fire and emergency service departments as they respond to nearly every public emergency, disaster, or 9-1-1 call; and

**WHEREAS** Ontario's fire department infrastructure deficit continues to grow annually and is almost entirely borne by the municipality and local taxpayers with the majority having populations under 25,000; and

**WHEREAS** due to antiquated structures and equipment that do not meet current industry standards the safety of the Ontario public and Ontario firefighters is being jeopardized;

**NOW THEREFORE** the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Hudson resolves as follows:

1. **THAT** the Federal and Provincial Government includes apparatuses, training, equipment and structures for fire departments as eligible categories to any further infrastructure programs which will not only provide immediate stimulus to the local, provincial and federal economies given current economic uncertainty but also ensure the safety of Canadians and dedicated firefighters; and

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2. THAT this resolution be forwarded to the Honourable Doug Ford Premier of Ontario, the Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Honourable Laurie Scott, Minister of Infrastructure, local MPP, local MP, the Ontario Fire Marshal, Jon Pegg, the Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs, and all Ontario Municipalities.

Please accept this for your consideration and any necessary action.

Sincerely,



Jordan Kemp  
Clerk-Treasurer  
Township of Hudson



*Allan Thompson*  
Mayor

Sent via E-Mail to: [Patty.Hajdu@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Patty.Hajdu@parl.gc.ca)

March 31, 2021

The Honourable **Patty Hajdu**  
Federal Minister of Health  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Ms. Hajdu,

**RE: SUPPORT FOR 988, A 3-DIGIT SUICIDE AND CRISIS PREVENTION HOTLINE**

I am writing to advise that at the Town Council meeting held on March 30, 2021, Council adopted a resolution endorsing the 988 crisis line initiative to ensure critical barriers are removed to those in a crisis and seeking help.

The resolution reads as follows:

*Whereas the Federal government has passed a motion to adopt 988, a National three-digit suicide and crisis hotline;*

*Whereas the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has increased the demand for suicide prevention services by 200%;*

*Whereas existing suicide prevention hotlines require the user to remember a 10-digit number and go through directories or be placed on hold;*

*Whereas in 2022 the United States will have in place a national 988 crisis hotline;*

*Whereas the Town of Caledon recognized that it is a significant and important initiative to ensure critical barriers are removed to those in a crisis and seeking help;*

*Now therefore be it resolved that the Town of Caledon endorses this 988 crisis line initiative; and*

*That a letter demonstrating Caledon's support be sent to Kyle Seeback, MP, Dufferin-Caledon, the Honourable Sylvia Jones, MPP, Dufferin-Caledon, the Honourable Patty Hajdu, Federal Minister of Health, the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications (CRTC) and all municipalities in Ontario.*

A4



*Allan Thompson*  
*Mayor*

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Thank you for your attention to this very important matter. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Allan Thompson  
Mayor

Cc. Kyle Seeback, MP Dufferin-Caledon, [Kyle.Seeback@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Kyle.Seeback@parl.gc.ca)  
Honourable Sylvia Jones, MPP Dufferin-Caledon, [sylvia.jones@pc.ola.org](mailto:sylvia.jones@pc.ola.org)  
Ian Scott, Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer, Canadian Radio-Television and  
Telecommunications Commission (CRTC), [iscott@telesat.com](mailto:iscott@telesat.com)  
All Ontario Municipalities

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THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF CALEDON

6311 Old Church Road, Caledon East, Caledon, ON, Canada L7C 1G8  
T. 905.584.2272 | 1.888.225.3366 | F. 905.584.1444 | [www.caledon.ca](http://www.caledon.ca) | [allan.thompson@caledon.ca](mailto:allan.thompson@caledon.ca)

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# The Corporation of The Town of Amherstburg

AS

April 6, 2021

Honourable Doug Ford  
Premier of Ontario  
Email: [premier@ontario.ca](mailto:premier@ontario.ca)

VIA EMAIL

**Re: Support for Universal Paid Sick Days in Ontario**

Dear Premier Ford,

At its meeting held on March 8, 2021, Council for the Town of Amherstburg passed the following:

Resolution # 20210308-073

***"That Administration BE DIRECTED to send a letter of support regarding the City of St. Catherine's request for permanent universal paid sick days for all workers in Ontario during the pandemic and beyond."***

Enclosed is a copy of the correspondence from the City of St. Catharines for convenience and reference purposes.

Regards,

Tammy Fowkes  
Deputy Clerk, Town of Amherstburg  
(519) 736-0012 ext. 2216  
[tfowkes@amherstburg.ca](mailto:tfowkes@amherstburg.ca)

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A5

cc:

Rebecca Alfieri, Council and Committee Coordinator, St. Catharines  
[ralfieri@stcatharines.ca](mailto:ralfieri@stcatharines.ca)

Minister of Labour, Hon. Monte McNaughton  
[Minister.MLTSD@ontario.ca](mailto:Minister.MLTSD@ontario.ca)

Taras Natyshak  
[tnatyshak-co@ndp.on.ca](mailto:tnatyshak-co@ndp.on.ca)

Chris Lewis  
[Chris.Lewis@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Chris.Lewis@parl.gc.ca)

Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)  
[amo@amo.on.ca](mailto:amo@amo.on.ca)

All Ontario Municipalities

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February 9, 2021

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

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

**Re: Universal Paid Sick Days in Ontario  
Our File 35.31.99**

Dear Premier Ford:

At its meeting held on February 1, 2021, St. Catharines City Council approved the following motion:

“WHEREAS workers in Ontario without paid sick leave often feel forced to work when unwell so they can feed and support their families and are at risk of losing a paycheque or even their jobs if they stay home; and

WHEREAS the Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit is temporary, not accessible to all and not usable for the crucial first few days of an illness; and

WHEREAS had legislated paid sick leave been in place before the global pandemic, lives would have been saved because infection rates would have been reduced; and

WHEREAS the lack of paid sick days has especially hurt Black, Indigenous, workers of colour, women and migrant workers who are over-represented in low-paying frontline jobs with few benefits and a reduced ability to work from home; and

WHEREAS the Ontario Medical Association, 11 GTHA Mayors and Chairs representing Ontario's largest municipalities, the editorial board of the Toronto Star, the Toronto Board of Health, the Decent Work and Health Network, the Ontario Nurses Association, and several other professional associations representing thousands of healthcare workers have all called on the provincial government to legislate paid sick days;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of St. Catharines endorses legislated sick leave and calls on the government of Ontario to permanently legislate universal paid sick days for all workers in Ontario during the pandemic and beyond, regardless of workplace size, type of work or immigration status; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this motion be forwarded to the Premier of Ontario, Minister of Labour, all Regional MPPs, Niagara Region, and all Ontario Municipalities.”

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If you have any questions, please contact the Office of the City Clerk at extension 1506.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bonnie Nistico-Dunk".

Bonnie Nistico-Dunk, City Clerk  
Legal and Clerks Services, Office of the City Clerk  
:ra

Cc Minister of Labour, Hon. Monte McNaughton, [Minister.MLTSD@ontario.ca](mailto:Minister.MLTSD@ontario.ca)  
Jennifer Stevens, MPP - St. Catharines, [JStevens-CO@ndp.on.ca](mailto:JStevens-CO@ndp.on.ca)  
Jeff Burch, MPP - Niagara Centre, [JBurch-QP@ndp.on.ca](mailto:JBurch-QP@ndp.on.ca)  
Wayne Gates, MPP - Niagara Falls, [wgates-co@ndp.on.ca](mailto:wgates-co@ndp.on.ca)  
Sam Oosterhoff, MPP - Niagara West-Glanbrook, [sam.oosterhoff@pc.ola.org](mailto:sam.oosterhoff@pc.ola.org)  
Niagara Region  
Ontario Municipalities

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

**Sent:** April 7, 2021 5:00 PM

**To:** Colleen Healey <[chealey@essatownship.on.ca](mailto:chealey@essatownship.on.ca)>

**Subject:** AMO Policy Update – Province Declares a Third State of Emergency and Issues a Province-Wide Stay-at-Home Order

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Add [Communicate@amo.on.ca](mailto:Communicate@amo.on.ca) to your safe list



April 7, 2021

## **AMO Policy Update – Province Declares a Third State of Emergency and Issues a Province-Wide Stay-at-Home Order**

Today the provincial government declared a third province-wide state of emergency under s. 7.0.1 (1) of the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act* (EMPCA). The province-wide Stay-at-Home order will be effective Thursday, April 8, 2021 at 12:01 a.m. It is intended to be kept in place for at least four weeks.

This is in addition to the provincewide emergency brake that was put in place for all 34 public health unit regions that took effect as of Saturday, April 3, 2021, at 12:01 a.m.

The province-wide Stay-at-Home order requires everyone to remain at home except for essential purposes, such as going to the grocery store or pharmacy, accessing health care services (including getting vaccinated), for outdoor exercise, or for work that cannot be done remotely.

The strengthened public health and workplace safety measures **include, but are not limited to:**

- Limiting the majority of non-essential retailers to only operate for curbside pick-up and delivery, via appointment, between the hours of 7 a.m. and 8 p.m., and other restrictions;
- Restricting access to shopping malls to limited specified purposes, while permitting only select stores to operate for in-person retail by appointment only

and subject to a 25 per cent capacity limit (e.g. safety supply stores, rental and leasing services, etc.).

- Restricting discount and big box stores in-person retail sales to grocery items, pet care supplies, household cleaning supplies, pharmaceutical items, health care items, and personal care items only.

In addition, beginning next week, education workers who provide direct support to students with special education needs across the province, and all education workers in select hot spot areas, will be eligible to register for vaccination.

As Phase Two of the Province's COVID-19 vaccine distribution plan continues, mobile teams are being organized to administer vaccines in high-risk congregate settings, residential buildings, faith-based locations, and locations occupied by large employers in hot spot neighborhoods to individuals aged 18 or over.

The government will also extend booking for COVID-19 vaccination appointments to more age groups through its provincial booking system, for public health regions with highly impacted neighborhoods on Friday, April 9, 2021.

The current *COVID-19 Response Framework: Keeping Ontario Safe and Open* will continue to be paused during this time.

AMO's [COVID-19 Resources page](#) is being updated continually so you can find critical information in one place. Please send any of your municipally related pandemic questions to [covid19@amo.on.ca](mailto:covid19@amo.on.ca).

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



Please consider the environment before printing this.

Association of Municipalities of Ontario  
200 University Ave. Suite 801, Toronto ON Canada M5H 3C6

Wish to Adjust your AMO Communication Preferences ? [Click Here](#)

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

**Sent:** Monday, April 12, 2021 4:11 PM

**To:** Lisa Lehr

**Reply To:** [Communicate@amo.on.ca](mailto:Communicate@amo.on.ca)

**Subject:** AMO Policy Update – Back to Remote Learning, Connecting Links Funding, and Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act Regulation Changes

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Add [Communicate@amo.on.ca](mailto:Communicate@amo.on.ca) to your safe list



April 12, 2021

## **AMO Policy Update – Back to Remote Learning, Connecting Links Funding, and *Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act* Regulation Changes**

### **Schools Move to Remote Learning and Reintroduction of Emergency Child Care**

As a result of the current COVID-19 conditions, the government has decided to move elementary and secondary schools back to remote learning following the April break, effective April 19, 2021. A decision about when it is safe to again resume in-person learning will be made as the situation requires. Child care for non-school aged children will remain open, before and after school programs will be closed, and free emergency child care for the school-aged children of eligible health care and frontline workers will be provided.

### **2020-21 Connecting Links Funding**

The Honourable Caroline Mulroney, Minister of Transportation, announced funding for 14 municipalities from the Ontario Connecting Links funding program. Ontario is providing \$30 million for eligible capital costs on successful connecting links funding application as previously announced. Connecting links are municipal roads and bridges that connect provincial roads, forming an important part of the Province's transportation network. Municipalities are eligible for up to \$3 million in funding for these projects, increasing to \$5 million in 2021-22.

Abb

## **Changes to Ontario Reg 30/11 under the *Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act***

Changes have been announced this month regarding Ontario Regulation 30/11 under the *Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act*. Changes to license display requirements and the price list and consumer information guide will come into force on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021, while additional changes to the cemetery care and maintenance funds and accounts will come into force on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022. Information on the regulatory changes can be found on the e-Laws website at [O. Reg. 258/21: GENERAL](#); [O. Reg. 259/21: GENERAL](#) and any questions can be sent to at [info@thebao.ca](mailto:info@thebao.ca).

AMO's [COVID-19 Resources](#) page is being updated continually so you can find critical information in one place. Please send any of your municipally related pandemic questions to [covid19@amo.on.ca](mailto:covid19@amo.on.ca).

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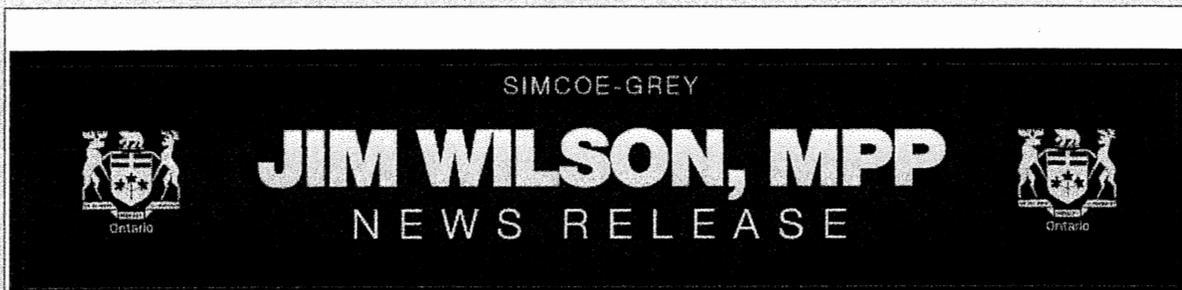
A7a

**From:** Jim Wilson, MPP <jwilson@ola.org>

**Sent:** April 9, 2021 11:18 AM

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

**Subject:** NEWS RELEASE: Canada and Ontario Invest in Simcoe-Grey Community and Recreation Projects



**NEWS RELEASE: Canada and Ontario Invest in Simcoe-Grey Community and Recreation Projects**

**April 9, 2021** – The Government of Ontario has joined with the federal government to fund five projects across Simcoe-Grey. Along with municipal contributions, the projects represent a total investment of almost \$4-million in community, cultural and recreation development in the Town of the Blue Mountain, the Town of New Tecumseth and the Township of Adjala-Tosorontio.

The funding is part of the *Investing in Canada Plan* which brings Ontario and Canada together to reduce the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, ensure health and safety, rebuild businesses, and promote job creation, growth and investment.

“Infrastructure investment is vital for community well-being and development,” said Simcoe-Grey MPP Jim Wilson. “The projects being supported in our area will provide residents access to important recreational programs and services, and modern and accessible facilities for years to come.”

Below is a list of approved projects in Simcoe-Grey, along with the contributions of the three levels of government:

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Applicant	Project	Federal	Provincial	Applicant	Total
Town of Blue Mountain	Renovations at the Beaver Valley Community Centre	\$687,500.00	\$572,859.38	\$458,390.62	\$ 1,718,750.00
Town of Blue Mountain	Capital Improvements to the Marsh Street Centre	\$ 54,120.00	\$ 45,095.49	\$ 36,084.51	\$ 135,300.00
Town of New Tecumseth	Improvements to Riverdale Park in Alliston	\$529,320.00	\$441,055.89	\$352,924.10	\$1,323,299.99
Town of New Tecumseth	Construction of a Multi-Use Accessible Pedestrian Trail along Boyne River in community of Alliston	\$160,001.60	\$133,321.33	\$106,681.07	\$ 400,004.00
Township of Adjala-Tosorontio	Accessibility Upgrades to 3 Municipal Public Parks	\$118,109.98	\$ 98,415.14	\$ 78,749.82	\$ 295,274.94



## Big Leap Forward for Simcoe-Grey Hospitals

April 9, 2021 – The Ontario government is moving forward with hospital redevelopments for both Collingwood and Alliston. The news is contained in the [April 2021 Infrastructure Ontario Market Update](#) released yesterday.

The Collingwood General and Marine Hospital redevelopment is listed in the report for the first time as a new project in the pre-procurement phase with an estimated cost between \$200-\$499 million. A request for proposals would be issued in the fall of 2023 and a contract could be signed by 2024.

Stevenson Memorial in Alliston continues to be listed as a project early in the planning process. Details including delivery model, time and scope are still being determined.

“This is great news for our region; both projects are moving forward,” said Simcoe-Grey MPP Jim Wilson. “While it appears the government is leaning towards redevelopment of CGMH on the existing site, we still have time to make the case for new build on a greenfield site,” he added. “Either way, Simcoe-Grey will soon have two state-of-the-art hospitals.”

Read more in John Edwards' Collingwood Connection story [here](#).

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Jim Wilson, MPP, Simcoe-Grey | [www.jimwilsonmpp.com](http://www.jimwilsonmpp.com)