

**TOWNSHIP OF ESSA  
CONSENT AGENDA  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2023**

**A – ITEMS RECEIVED AS INFORMATION**

- p.1 1. Resolution from the Town of Halton Hills dated January 26, 2023, re: Request to Repeal Bill 23 – The Build More Homes Faster Act.
2. Correspondence from the County of Simcoe:
- p.16 a) January 27, 2023 – #ITSTARTS with Diversity Ambassador Training.
- p.18 b) January 30, 2023 – Simcoe County Museum Skate Trail Opens to the Public.
- p.19 c) January 31, 2023 – CCW-2023-043 – Development Charge Rates Update.
- p.23 d) January 31, 2023 – Council Approves 2023 County of Simcoe Budget.
- p.29 e) February 1, 2023 – County and Area Partners Host Virtual Job Fair to Connect Local Job Seekers and Employers on February 28.
- p.31 f) February 3, 2023 – County Council Highlights – Meeting Held January 31, 2023.
- p.37 g) February 6, 2023 – County Accepting Applications for its 2023 Tourism, Culture and Sport Enhancement Fund.
- p.38 3. Resolution from the County of Huron dated February 1, 2023, re: Call to Action – Review of the Cannabis Act.
- p.41 4. Memorandum from Emergency Services Ontario dated February 3, 2023, re: Ontario's Provincial Emergency Management Strategy and Action Plan (PEMSAP).
5. Correspondence from the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA):
- p.43 a) January 27, 2023 – Media Release – Gail Little to Lead NVCA Board of Directors in 2023.
- p.44 b) February 3, 2023, re: Changes in Plan Review Services per O. Reg. 596/22 and Bill 23.
- p.49 6. Simcoe County Historical Association News and Views – Winter Edition: January 2023.
- p.59 7. Nottawasaga Futures Newsletter – January 26, 2023.
- p.73 8. Correspondence from the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC), re: 2022 Municipal Partnerships Report.
- p.89 9. Township of Essa Master Transportation and Trails Master Plan Technical Advisory Committee meeting details.

**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.



THE CORPORATION  
OF  
THE TOWN OF HALTON HILLS

**Resolution No.:** 2023-0007  
**Title:** Bill 23 – The Build More Homes Faster Act  
**Date:** January 23, 2023  
**Moved by:** Councillor J. Fogal  
**Seconded by:** Councillor C. Garneau

**Item No. 13.1**

WHEREAS Bill 23, the Build More Homes Faster Act was introduced on October 25th, the day after Municipal elections in Ontario at a time when councils were in a transition period and unable to respond to the legislation prior to passage of the legislation;

AND WHEREAS the Association of Municipalities (AMO) was not given an opportunity to present its concerns with Bill 23 to the Standing Committee on Heritage, Infrastructure and Cultural Policy further eroding the municipal/provincial relationships;

AND WHEREAS the loss of revenue to the Town of Halton Hills as a result of Bill 23 is estimated at \$58 -\$87 million over 10 year which, without provincial compensation, will severely impact the provision of municipal services including transportation, parks and recreation facilities;

AND WHEREAS the elimination of the Regional role in approval of official plans creates uncertainty around the planning for regional services to support the growth aspirations of the local municipalities;

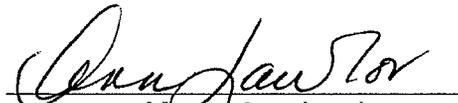
AND WHEREAS the role of Conservation Authorities has been limited to natural hazards only, thereby precluding a broader role in providing expert advice and services to municipalities on natural heritage matters as part of the planning process;

AND WHEREAS AMO's evaluation concluded that there is no confidence that the measures in Bill 23 will do anything to improve the affordability of housing.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Town of Halton Hills urges the Provincial Government to repeal Bill 23;

AND FURTHER THAT this resolution be circulated to Premier Doug Ford, Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Provincial opposition parties, Ted Arnott MPP, and AMO.

(Appendix A – Town of Halton Hills Report No. PD-2022-0050)  
(Appendix B – List of references)

  
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Mayor Ann Lawlor



## REPORT

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**TO:** Mayor Lawlor and Members of Council

**FROM:** Bronwyn Parker, Director of Planning Policy

**DATE:** December 7, 2022

**REPORT NO.:** PD-2022-0050

**SUBJECT:** Bill 23 – More Homes Built Faster Act

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### RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Report No. PD-2022-0050 dated December 7, 2022 regarding Bill 23 – the More Homes Built Faster Act, be received;

AND FURTHER THAT staff continue to assess the implications of Bill 23, the More Homes Built Faster Act and provide further update reports to Council as may be appropriate;

AND FURTHER THAT the Province be requested to provide supplemental funding to offset the reductions in Development Charges and cash-in-lieu of parkland accruing to the Town as a result of Bill 23, the More Homes Built Faster Act;

AND FURTHER THAT the Town Clerk forward a copy of Report PD-2022-0050 to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport, the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, and the Minister of Finance; Halton Area MPPs; the Region of Halton; the City of Burlington; the Town of Milton and the Town of Oakville for their information.

### KEY POINTS:

The following are key points for consideration with respect to this report:

- Bill 23, the *More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022* was introduced into the legislature on October 25, 2022.
- The goal of Bill 23 is the creation of an additional 1.5 million new homes in Ontario over the next ten years.

- There are 10 Schedules to Bill 23, (9 of which are applicable in Halton) proposing sweeping changes to various pieces of legislation including but not limited to, the *Planning Act*, *Development Charges Act*, *Conservation Authorities Act* and *Ontario Heritage Act*.
- The opportunity to provide public feedback was offered via postings on the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO), with comment deadlines ranging from 30 – 66 days. Comments were provided on a number of the postings in accordance with the established deadlines. Key concerns raised are highlighted in the report, with more detailed comments included as Appendix 2.
- Bill 23 received Royal Assent on November 28, 2022. Most of the Bill is in force as of that date. This report provides an overview of Bill 23 in its final form.

## **BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION:**

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (the Ministry) has committed to a goal of 1.5 million new homes being constructed over the next 10 years, with the *More Homes, Built Faster: Ontario's Housing Supply Action Plan 2022-2023* as the key driver behind the delivery of these housing units. The Housing Supply Action Plan (HSAP) suggests that the housing supply shortage can be addressed by "...reducing government fees and fixing development approval delays that slow housing construction and increase costs".

In order to achieve the Province's overarching objectives, Bill 23, the *More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022* was introduced into the Ontario Legislature on October 25, 2022. Bill 23 consists of ten schedules that entail sweeping changes to the various pieces of legislation including but not limited to the *Planning Act*, *Development Charges Act*, *Ontario Land Tribunal Act*, *Conservation Authorities Act* and the *Ontario Heritage Act*. A series of postings on the Environmental Registry with varying commenting deadlines were also introduced at the same time.

Bill 23 is the third piece of legislation prepared by the Province over the last four years that entails significant changes to the land use planning system in Ontario. In 2019, Royal Assent was given to the *More Homes, More Choice Act* (Bill 108). In 2022, the *More Homes for Everyone Act* (Bill 109) received Royal Assent. Bill 109 was discussed in report PD-2022-0031 and is further considered via report PD-2022-0049, which is included on this Council agenda.

At the November 7, 2022, meeting, Council passed a resolution expressing a number of initial concerns with Bill 23. Among other matters, the resolution requested that the Province extend the commenting deadlines from 30 and 31-day postings to 66-day postings, which would mirror some of the ERO postings released on October 25, 2022. While the Province did extend some of the postings to 45-day postings, they did not provide the full 66-day review period Council had requested. A copy of the Council resolution is attached to this report as Appendix 3 for reference purposes.

Bill 23 received Royal Assent on November 28, 2022. Most of the Bill is in force as of that date. The purpose of this report is to summarize Bill 23 in its final form. The report will also touch on some of the key concerns with Bill 23 that were identified by staff.

## Bill 23

As identified earlier in this report, Bill 23 was introduced and received First Reading on October 25, 2022. It moved to Second Reading on October 31, 2022 and was ordered referred to the Standing Committee on Heritage, Infrastructure and Cultural Policy at that time. After presentations to the Standing Committee, much discussion and debate, a slightly amended version of Bill 23 passed Third Reading and received Royal Assent on November 28, 2022.

There are ten key elements of the approved Bill 23 that this report will focus on. These include:

1. The role of Halton Region in the local planning approval process
2. The role of the Conservation Authorities
3. Three residential unit permissions
4. Required zoning by-law amendments regarding MTSA's
5. Public meetings for draft plan of subdivision applications
6. Changes to site plan control for up to ten units
7. Removal of 2-year prohibitions on amendments for specified applications
8. Restrictions on third-party appeals for minor variance and consent
9. Changes to the *Ontario Heritage Act*
10. Parkland dedication calculation rate changes
11. Development Charge exemptions

### **1. The role of Halton Region in the local planning approval process**

One of the most significant changes as a result of Bill 23 is the pending removal of approval authority from the Region of Halton as it relates to local planning matters. Halton, along with a handful of other GGH upper-tier municipalities including Peel, Durham, York, Niagara, Waterloo and the County of Simcoe, will become “an upper-tier municipality without planning responsibilities”. At a date yet to be determined, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing will take over the approval role for local Official Plans and amendments thereto including Secondary Plans.

Based on the foregoing, it is staff’s understanding that local municipalities such as Halton Hills would inherit the applicable components of the Regional Official Plan within our jurisdiction. These components would be used as a basis to complete further updates to the Town’s Official Plan. Municipalities await the release of regulations and applicable transition policies clarifying these various pieces, which are yet to be announced by the province.

### **2. The role of the Conservation Authorities**

As of January 1, 2023, Conservation Authorities will no longer be permitted to comment on any aspects of the planning approval process including development applications and supporting studies, other than those matters dealing with natural hazards and

flooding. They will also no longer be able to require certain components of the planning process (such as watershed planning; wetland evaluations; or elements related to ecology and biodiversity during Scoped Subwatershed Studies, SISs, EAs, etc.) to be completed to their satisfaction/approval.

In addition, a single regulation has been proposed for all 36 Conservation Authorities in Ontario, rather than having separate regulations pertain to each Authority. This regulation has not yet been prepared or released for comment and the date upon which it would come into effect remains to be determined.

Another significant change as a result of Bill 23 is that any development that has been approved through an application under the *Planning Act* will no longer require a permit from the applicable Conservation Authority. These exemptions will be based on specific conditions or requirements, yet to be determined through regulation. The timeframe for when these exemptions will come into effect are also unknown. Staff would expect to see these draft regulations released for comment early in 2023.

### **3. Three residential unit permissions**

As of November 28, 2022, all Ontario municipalities are required to permit up to three residential units per lot within settlement areas, so long as that lot is serviced by municipal water and wastewater systems. The Province views this as a form of gentle intensification that will deliver a modest amount of supply relative to the overall 1.5 million new homes Provincial target. This permission allows for all three units to be contained within the main building (the principal home on the lot), or two units within the main building and one unit in an accessory building. Municipalities are not permitted to require a minimum size/area for these additional residential units, however, building permits are still required for each residential unit constructed. In addition, municipalities cannot require more than one parking space per residential unit.

In the Halton Hills context, through the Town's Comprehensive Zoning By-law Review, the Town will be required to update its existing zoning requirements (which currently require a minimum of 2 parking spaces for the principle dwelling and 1 parking space per additional residential unit), reducing the minimum number of parking spaces required to only 1 space per residential unit. The Official Plan and Zoning By-law will also require updating to ensure that up to three residential units are permitted on each serviced urban residential lot.

There are no appeal rights afforded as it relates to any required amendments to a municipal Official Plan or Zoning By-law as a result of these changes. In addition, any existing local requirements regarding the number of units permitted, the minimum size of units, or the minimum number of parking spaces per unit, are superseded by Bill 23.

### **4. Required zoning by-law amendments regarding MTSA's**

Under a new subsection (16(20)) of the *Planning Act*, Bill 23 requires that within one-year of approval of an Official Plan Amendment delineating a Major Transit Station Area (MTSA) and identifying the minimum number of residents and jobs per hectare that are planned to be accommodated within that area, municipalities must update their zoning

by-laws. These zoning by-law updates must include minimum heights and densities within the MTSAs in keeping with the policies approved through the Official Plan Amendment.

With the recent approval of ROPA 49<sup>1</sup> by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and given both the Georgetown and Acton MTSAs were not assigned minimum density targets through that approval, appropriate population and employment density targets for these MTSAs must be established. The Town commenced the Georgetown GO Station Secondary Plan review in 2022. At this juncture, staff believe that is the appropriate process for assessing and assigning those prescribed minimum densities. It is our understanding that once the Secondary Plan with the minimum density targets is approved, the Town will have one year to update the zoning by-law mirroring those minimum density targets.

The Acton GO Station Secondary Plan is targeted for a comprehensive review in the coming years (currently scheduled for 2025), at which time those minimum density targets will also be considered and updated as appropriate.

## **5. Public meetings for draft plan of subdivision applications**

One of the changes from Bill 23 is that Statutory Public Meetings for draft plans of subdivision are no longer required under the *Planning Act*. This change came into effect upon Royal Assent on November 28, 2022.

The change does not preclude a municipality from continuing to hold a public meeting for subdivision applications. In our experience, subdivision applications are submitted in conjunction with zoning by-law amendments and in some cases official plan amendments both of which require public meetings. There is little if any efficiency to be gained by not including the plan of subdivision in the statutory public meeting. The public typically will be interested in the road layout, the lotting patterns and the location of blocks for schools, parks, recreational amenities and natural heritage all of which will be shown on the draft plan of subdivision. Given the importance of public consultation to the planning process, the Town will continue to hold public meetings for subdivision proposals that result in the creation of new lots.

## **6. Changes to site plan control for up to ten units**

Site plan control is a land use planning tool that municipalities utilize to evaluate site specific elements when development is proposed. As is described in the provincial site plan control guide, this control over detailed site-specific matters ensures that a development proposal is well designed, fits in with the surrounding uses and minimizes any negative impacts. Items typically considered through site plan control include

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<sup>1</sup> ROPA 49 was approved by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing on November 4, 2022. That approval requires that Halton Region update their Table 2 and 2a density targets to establish minimum population and employment targets within MTSAs. However, Bill 23 identifies Halton Region as “an upper-tier without planning responsibilities”. As such, it is unclear as to whether the Georgetown and Acton MTSAs densities will be established by the Town or Region. It is expected that the Bill 23 regulations and transition policies yet to be released will provide that clarification.

lighting, drainage, access to and from the site (pedestrian and vehicular), waste and snow storage, landscaping, and architectural and urban design among others.

Where a municipality could apply site plan control for any type or scale of development as defined in a municipal site plan control by-law, Bill 23 has now created an exemption for residential developments for 10 units or less. As a result, the Town will be required to update its current site plan control by-law to clarify the application of the tool, removing the requirements where 10 or less residential units are proposed.

In addition, Bill 23 has also removed architectural details (i.e., matters of urban design) and landscape design aesthetics from the scope of site plan control. As per Section 41, subsection 4.1.1 of the *Planning Act*, site plan control can still apply to "...elements, facilities and works on the land if the appearance impacts matters of health, safety, accessibility, sustainable design or the protection of adjoining lands". This subsection provides the Town with the permissions necessary in order to continue to apply Green Development Standards (GDS) at the appropriate time during the development approval process.

#### **7. Removal of 2-year prohibitions on amendments for specified applications**

Previous amendments to the *Planning Act* prohibited applications for amendments to a new official plan and secondary plans for a two-year period following initial approval unless Council permission to file such applications was granted. Similarly, applications to further amend a new zoning by-law and a new site-specific zoning by-law amendment or to seek a minor variance to the same were also prohibited for a two-year period without Council permission. Bill 23 has revoked those changes completely, meaning applications to amend any of these approved planning documents are now permitted without any time restrictions.

#### **8. Restrictions on third-party appeals for minor variance and consent**

Bill 23 has restricted the appeal rights for minor variance and consent applications, only allowing the applicant, the municipality, certain prescribed public bodies and the Minister the opportunity to appeal decisions for these types of applications.

In addition, this new rule applies retroactively to October 25, 2022 (the date that Bill 23 was first introduced into the Legislature). This means that any existing third-party appeals to the Ontario Land Tribunal on a minor variance or consent decision, where a hearing date has not yet been established, will be dismissed.

Third party appeal rights of Council decisions on official plan and zoning by-law amendments remain in place under *The Planning Act*.

#### **9. Changes to the Ontario Heritage Act**

Sweeping amendments to the *Ontario Heritage Act* (OHA) have been approved through Bill 23, however, as of the date of writing of this report, none of these changes are in force. At a date to be proclaimed by the Minister, these amendments will come into effect.

Bill 23 requires that all information currently included in a municipal Heritage Register must be made available online, and that all future properties must meet criteria established by regulation to be listed on the Heritage Register. It is worth noting that the Town already provides the majority of this information on our website and offers this information freely to the public.

Amendments to the OHA will allow owners to serve a notice of objection to a municipality for properties added to the Heritage Register at any time. The Town undertook a multi-phase approach with significant public consultation to build our Heritage Register. As the Town's process to build the Heritage Register was ahead of legislative requirements at the time, these amendments seem to negate the comprehensive and public approach undertaken by the Town.

Removals of listed properties from the Heritage Register are one of the key amendments resulting from Bill 23. Conditions have been specified that would necessitate the removal of a listed property from the Heritage Register, including a Notice of Intention to Designate being withdrawn, and a by-law being repealed or not being passed. These removals would not require consultation with the Town's municipal heritage committee. In addition, properties listed on the Heritage Register would be removed after two years if they have not been designated, and are not eligible for re-listing on the Register for five years after their removal.

Another change through Bill 23 is that municipalities are prohibited from designating a property unless it was already/previously listed on the Heritage Register, and any properties will be required to meet two or more criteria for designation, whereas properties are currently required to meet only one of the three criteria identified in Ontario Regulation 9/06 in order to be designated.

Additional amendments to the OHA will require future Heritage Conservation Districts (HCDs) to meet criteria for determining whether they are of heritage value or interest and will allow for amendments or repeals to Heritage Conservation District by-laws. HCDs are a planning tool that guide the conservation of an historic area or neighbourhood's cultural heritage value. The Town of Halton Hills has designated one Heritage Conservation District under Part V of the OHA. The Syndicate Housing Heritage Conservation District was designated by Council in 2005 and is located along Bower Street in Acton.

Finally, amendments to the OHA through Bill 23 will allow the Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism to review, confirm, or revise determinations of cultural heritage value for provincially owned heritage properties, and would allow exemptions for those properties from Heritage Standards and Guidelines for proposals where other major priorities will be advanced.

#### **10. Parkland dedication calculation rate changes**

Amendments to the *Planning Act* alter previous legislation regarding alternative parkland dedication calculations. Under Bill 23, the rate has been reduced to 1 hectare/600 units if land is conveyed and 1 hectare/1,000 units for cash in lieu of parkland. The alternative rate is subject to a cap of 10% of the land for lands that are

five hectares (+/- 12 acres) or less and 15% of the land for lands greater than 5 hectares. Both changes came into effect on November 28, 2022, upon Bill 23 receiving Royal Assent.

Parkland dedication rates are also now calculated on the day that a zoning by-law amendment for a development proposal is passed, or the day that a related site plan application is filed, whichever is later. If neither a zoning by-law amendment nor site plan approval is/are required, parkland dedication is calculated on the day that the first building permit related to the development is issued.

In addition, beginning in 2023, municipalities will be required to spend or allocate at least 60% of their parkland reserve funds at the start of each calendar year.

Additional parkland dedication provisions not yet in force under Bill 23 include: the exemption of affordable and attainable units from parkland dedication and cash-in-lieu requirements; encumbered parkland; strata parks (parks built on top of structures, such as rooftops or parking garages); and privately owned publicly accessible open spaces (“POPS”) such as small parkettes often found within condominium developments, will be eligible for parkland credits. Landowners will also be permitted to propose which areas of their land they wish to provide towards their parkland contributions. While municipalities will be able to refuse any such offer they deem to be unacceptable, landowners will have the right to appeal those refusals to the Ontario Land Tribunal. These amendments will come into force upon proclamation by the Lieutenant Governor.

As it relates to Town staff observations on the parkland dedication rate changes, broadly speaking, it is estimated that an overall 60-75% decrease in parkland dedication fees could be expected over the next 14 years. This is based on a very preliminary review and is dependent on the number of medium or high-density residential development applications received over that time period. Based on current estimates, this could represent a reduction of \$24 million to \$30 million dollars. It is important to note that a detailed financial analysis would be required in order to fully assess the potential financial ramifications of the reduced parkland contribution impacts from Bill 23. This review would be required in coordination with Finance staff and a review of the Long-Range Financial Plan and 10 Year Capital Forecast.

## **11. Development Charge (DC) exemptions**

Significant amendments were made to the *Development Charges Act* (DC Act) through Bill 23. Some of these changes have come into effect as of November 28, 2022, while other changes await release of updated regulations and/or proclamation by the Lieutenant Governor.

One of the amendments now in effect includes a five-year phasing in of DC rate increases for any DC By-laws passed on or after January 1, 2022. These reductions begin with a 20% reduced fee for year one, with the reduction decreasing by 5% for each year thereafter until the fifth year when the full new rate would apply. This means that the fee at year one would be 80% of the approved DC rate; 85% in year two, 90% for year three and 95% for year four, before the full 100% DC rate could be charged at year five. In addition, DCs are exempt for non-profit housing development and

inclusionary zoning residential units. Bill 23 also provides DC discount of 25% for purpose-built rental housing with 3 or more bedrooms; 20% for 2 bedrooms; and 15% for less than 2 bedrooms.

Additional changes in force as of Royal Assent which may have significant ramifications for the Town include the extension of DC by-law expiry dates from every five years to every ten years; growth related studies (including Secondary Plan Studies, Scoped Subwatershed Studies, Environmental Assessments etc.) and land cost (for services yet to be prescribed) are now excluded from recovery through DCs; interest rates on phased DCs must be capped at prime plus 1% for rental, and institutional developments; and municipalities are now required to spend or allocate at least 60% of their DC reserve funds at the beginning of each calendar year (beginning in 2023) on priority services, such as water, wastewater and roads.

Future regulations regarding “attainable housing units” and the DC exemptions tied to such developments have not yet been released. Additional DC exemptions are also being implemented at a future date for affordable residential units. The impacts of these changes are not yet fully understood given the associated regulations have not yet been released.

Similar to the financial ramifications identified above with respect to the parkland dedication rate changes, the DC Act changes could significantly impact the Town from a financial perspective. Depending on the scenarios related to the attainable, affordable, and non-profit housing forms, the projected DC loss is estimated in the range of \$34 million to \$57 million dollars over the next 10 years (or \$20 million to \$31 million dollars over 5 years). This represents a 12% to 20% reduction in DC revenue over 10 years, as compared to DC revenues projected under the Town’s DC by-law prior to Bill 23. Again, it is important to note that a detailed financial analysis would be required in order to fully assess the potential financial ramifications from Bill 23.

Based on the estimated impacts above, staff recommend requesting that the Province provide supplemental funding to offset the reductions in Development Charges and cash-in-lieu of parkland accruing to the Town as a result of Bill 23.

### Environmental Registry of Ontario Postings

On October 25, 2022, a series of postings were made on the Environmental Registry of Ontario website (the ERO). Some of these postings were directly tied to changes proposed through Bill 23 (such as amendments to the *Planning Act* and *Development Charges Act*), whereas other postings not discussed within this report or its appendices were not directly tied to Bill 23 (such as the proposed changes to the Greenbelt Plan).

These postings were made available for comment, with deadlines ranging between 30 to 66 days. Appendix 1 to this report provides a table outlining the various Bill 23 related postings and their respective comment timeframes. It also identifies the status of Town staff review. Any staff level comments that have been submitted on the Bill 23 ERO postings as of finalization of this report are attached as Appendix 2.

Key comments submitted through the ERO postings highlight the Town's concerns regarding the sweeping amendments made by Bill 23. These concerns include the following:

- Bill 23 has significant financial implications for the Town. The loss in development charge and cash-in-lieu of parkland revenue is anticipated to be significant and will impact the Town's ability to fund necessary infrastructure improvements and public service facilities such as libraries, community centres and arenas that are an essential component of a complete community.
- Secondary Plans and related supporting studies are required to facilitate new development in greenfield and key intensification areas. The inability to fund such studies creates significant challenges for municipalities and may slow down the delivery of new housing supply.
- Limitations on undertaking urban design as part of the site plan process. Good urban design contributes to a sense of place and is an important consideration in developing complete communities and ensuring compatibility.
- The potential elimination of Green Development Standards plays a vital role in improving energy efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions<sup>2</sup>.
- Significant changes to the *Ontario Heritage Act* that on balance were not considered necessary considering the Town's measured approach to managing cultural heritage resources.
- The scoping of the role of Conservation Authorities to natural hazards only thereby precluding a broader role in providing advice on natural heritage matters. Staff recommended that the Conservation Authorities continue to play a role in environmental plan review subject to appropriate Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) with municipalities.

## **STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:**

This report has ramifications for many aspects of the Town's Strategic Plan such as:

- preserve, protect and enhance the Town's natural environment;
- to preserve, protect and promote our distinctive historical urban and rural character through the conservation and promotion of our built heritage and cultural heritage landscapes;
- to achieve sustainable growth to ensure that growth is managed so as to ensure a balanced, sustainable, well planned community infrastructure and services to meet the needs of residents and businesses; and,
- to provide responsive, effective municipal government and strong leadership in the effective and efficient delivery of municipal services.

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<sup>2</sup> The final version of Bill 23 incorporates permissive language with respect to sustainable design which is considered to resolve this concern.

**RELATIONSHIP TO CLIMATE CHANGE:**

At this time, the impacts to the Town's Climate Change portfolio and initiatives are not fully understood given the magnitude of the legislative changes approved through Bill 23. It is worth noting that from the time of 1<sup>st</sup> Reading to Royal Assent, amendments were made to Bill 23 which reinstated the ability for municipalities to proceed with the application of Green Development Standards.

**PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT:**

Public Engagement for Bill 23 is coordinated by the province through the various ERO postings and to a certain extent, through submissions received by the Standing Committee on Heritage, Infrastructure and Cultural Policy. Where possible, at the implementation stages, the Town will ensure the public is provided an opportunity to be engaged and consulted on the required changes to local policies and procedures resulting from Bill 23.

**INTERNAL CONSULTATION:**

The Recreation and Parks, Finance, Development Review and Planning Policy teams coordinated a review of the Bill 23 changes. Comments from this internal review are included within this report.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

Estimated financial impacts associated with implementation of the DC and parkland contribution legislative changes have been identified in this report. It is estimated that an overall 60-75% decrease in parkland dedication fees could be expected over the next 14 years, which based on current estimates, could represent a reduction of \$24 million to \$30 million dollars over that timeframe. With respect to the DC reductions, depending on the scenarios related to the attainable, affordable, and non-profit housing forms, the projected DC loss is estimated in the range of \$34 million to \$57 million dollars over the next 10 years (or \$20 million to \$31 million dollars over 5 years). This represents a 12% to 20% reduction in DC revenue over a 10-year timeframe. A detailed financial analysis would be required in order to fully assess the potential financial ramifications from Bill 23. Based on the estimated financial impacts identified within this report, staff recommend that the Province provide supplemental funding to offset these anticipated funding losses as a result of Bill 23.

Reviewed and approved by,

John Linhardt, Commissioner of Planning & Development

Chris Mills, Chief Administrative Officer

## Appendix B – List of References

- [Ontario Public Health Association Bill 23 Input to Province](#)
- [Canadian Environmental Law Association Written Submission to Standing Committee on Bill 23](#)
- [Association of Municipalities of Ontario - Unpacking Bill 23](#)
- [Ontario Nature Bill 23 What You Need to Know](#)
- [An Integrated Approach to Address The Ontario Housing Crisis \(amo.on.ca\)](#)



## Advisory

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

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## #ITSTARTS with Diversity Ambassador Training

**Midhurst/January 27, 2023** – In anticipation of #ITSTARTS month in March, the Simcoe County Local Immigration Partnership (SCLIP) is advancing awareness through Diversity Ambassador Training sessions throughout our region. Sign up for free and take part in virtual or in-person education sessions and receive valuable tools that support with leading diversity awareness in the workplace and throughout our communities.

In addition to introductory 1.0 Diversity Ambassador Training, this year, SCLIP is pleased to offer 2.0 sessions for community members who have previously attended ambassador trainings and wish to deepen their learning. All our sessions are facilitated by the Simcoe County District School Board. Registration is limited. Click on one of the sessions listed below to sign up today.

Introductory 1.0 training sessions are available online:

- [Tuesday, January 31: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.](#)
- [Friday, February 10: 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.](#)
- [Wednesday, February 15: 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.](#)
- [Thursday, February 23: 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.](#)

Introductory 1.0 in-person sessions are also available:

- [Monday, January 30: 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at County of Simcoe Administration Centre, Midhurst](#)
- [Thursday, February 2: 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Midland Public Library](#)
- [Wednesday, February 8: 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Collingwood Ontario Works Office](#)
- [Thursday, February 16: 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Orillia Public Library](#)

In-person 2.0 sessions for community members who have completed 1.0 training are available:

- [Friday, February 17: 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at County of Simcoe Administration Centre, Midhurst](#)
- [Tuesday, February 28: 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at County of Simcoe Administration Centre, Midhurst](#)

The Diversity Ambassador sessions will also provide an overview of the #ITSTARTS social media campaign running throughout March. #ITSTARTS aims to raise awareness about multiculturalism and reduce racism and discrimination in our communities. The social movement encourages Simcoe County residents to complete an #ITSTARTS card and share a photo or video through social media using the hashtag #ITSTARTS. Residents are also asked to tag @simcoecounty (Twitter), @CountyofSimcoe (Facebook) and @CountyofSimcoe (Instagram) in their messages.

The initiative, in its seventh year, is supported by the Local Immigration Partnership including the Barrie Chamber of Commerce, Barrie Persian Association, Barrie Police Services, Barrie Public Library, Catholic Family Services of Simcoe County, Catulpa Community Services, City of Barrie, CLASS, College Boreal, E3, Ethnic Mosaic Alliance, Georgian College, Lakehead University, Making Change, Ontario Provincial Police, Orillia Public Library, Simcoe County District School Board, Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board, South Simcoe Police, Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury and the YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka.

#ITSTARTS cards, in multiple languages can be downloaded through [simcoe.ca/itstarts](http://simcoe.ca/itstarts), which hosts resources, tips, and tools on taking safe and purposeful action against racism and discrimination. Videos and photos throughout the month will be shared and promoted through the County's website and social media channels.

**About the County of Simcoe**

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

- 30 -

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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

### **Simcoe County Museum Skate Trail opens to the public**

**Midhurst/January 30, 2023** – After a successful soft launch this past weekend, the Simcoe County Museum Skate Trail has officially opened for the 2023 season. The Trail, which does not utilize any freezing or cooling systems, spans across more than one kilometre of peaceful solitude through the Simcoe County Museum grounds.

#### 2023 Hours of Operation

The skate trail will be open on the following days, weather permitting:

- Tuesdays: 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
- Thursdays: 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
- Fridays: 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
- Saturdays: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 to 4 p.m.
- Sundays: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 to 4 p.m.

#### Tickets

Ticket prices are \$10 for adults or \$8 for youth and may be purchased online at [museum.simcoe.ca](http://museum.simcoe.ca) on the same day as the reservation. If you have not booked a ticket before the start of the session, please call 705-728-3721 to check capacity. Booking in advance is not available to ensure trail conditions remain optimal throughout the season.

To create a safe and fun environment, while also maintaining the integrity of the ice, we are limiting skate trail numbers for each session to 300 people. Skaters will also be required to follow a one-way direction and will enjoy access to warming stations and indoor change areas.

#### **About the Simcoe County Museum**

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

#### **About the County of Simcoe**

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- 30 -

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To: **Committee of the Whole**

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

Item Number: **CCW - 2023-043**

Meeting Date: January 31, 2023

Subject: Development Charge Rates Update

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**Recommendation**

That Item CCW 2023-043, dated January 31, 2023, regarding Development Charge rates effective January 1, 2023, be received.

**Executive Summary**

Outlined in this report is the update of the County’s Development charge rates. Effective January 1, 2023, the development charge rates increased per By-law No. 6930.

**Background/Analysis/Options**

In 2021, County Council passed By-law No. 6930, a by-law to establish Development Charges for the County of Simcoe. This by-law came into effect January 1, 2022 and allows for annual indexing to be adjusted on January 1st of each year, without amendment to the by-law. For 2023 the index amount is 15.6%. The by-law states that the indexing will be in accordance with the most recent annual change in the Statistics Canada Quarterly, “Construction Price Statistics”. Attached as Schedule 1 is the County of Simcoe Development Charge bulletin which was updated December 2022 to reflect the rates effective January 1, 2023 and distributed to each of the member municipalities. This update has been adjusted to reflect the changes included in Bill 23, which removed Social Housing as an eligible service.

**Financial and Resource Implications**

The 2023 budget for development charge receipts is \$41 million. The development charge receipts are transferred to each development charge reserve

**Relationship to Corporate Strategic Plan**

No relationship to corporate strategies.

**Reference Documents**

There are no reference documents associated with this Item.

**Attachments**

Schedule 1 - County of Simcoe Development Charge bulletin effective January 1, 2023

**Prepared By**                      Lealand Sibbick, Treasurer

**Approvals**

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

**Date**

January 23, 2023  
January 24, 2023

## Statement of the Treasurer

The County Treasurer is required to produce an annual statement showing detailed information about each reserve fund established to account for development charge revenues.

The statement will document the continuity of each reserve fund, including the description of each service, opening, and closing balances, details of any credit transactions, details of any borrowing from the reserve fund that may have occurred, the amount spent on growth related projects, the portion of each project that is funded from the reserve fund and the portion funded from other sources of financing.

## Additional Information

This bulletin is intended to give an overview of development charges. For more complete information, reference should be made to the Development Charges Background Study, by-law 6930 and the County's annual development charges statement. The County does offer some grants for specific types of community related development. These documents are available on the County's website at [www.simcoe.ca](http://www.simcoe.ca), or in printed version in the County Clerk's office during regular office hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

## Charges Levied Under Development Charges By-Law 6930 Effective January 1, 2023

Service	Residential Charge By Unit Type			Non-Residential Charge per Square Metre of Gross Floor Area
	Singles /Semis	Rows /Other Multiples	Apartments	
Long Term Care and Seniors Services	\$2,271	\$1,793	\$1,218	\$0.00
Paramedics Services	\$410	\$323	\$220	\$1.98
Waste Management	\$437	\$345	\$234	\$2.11
Development Related Studies	\$62	\$49	\$33	\$0.30
Transit	\$247	\$195	\$133	\$1.20
<b>Services Related to a Highway</b>				
Public Works	\$27	\$21	\$14	\$0.13
Roads & Related	\$9,598	\$7,577	\$5,146	\$49.19
<b>TOTAL COUNTY-WIDE CHARGE</b>	<b>\$13,052</b>	<b>\$10,303</b>	<b>\$6,998</b>	<b>\$54.91</b>



# DEVELOPMENT CHARGE INFORMATION

## BY-LAW 6930

This bulletin summarizes the Development Charge By-Law effective January 1, 2022 - December 31, 2026

The information contained herein is intended only as a guide. Interested parties should review the approved by-law and consult the County of Simcoe staff to determine the applicable charges that may apply to specific development proposals.

**Updated December 15, 2022**  
**to reflect Rates effective January 1, 2023**



Planning Department or Finance Department  
 County of Simcoe  
 1110 Highway 26  
 Midhurst, Ontario, L9X 1N6  
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simcoe.ca

## Development charges for the County of Simcoe By-law 6930

- Residential development charges (calculated on the number and type of units) are imposed upon all lands within the County of Simcoe.
- The development charge is payable in full upon issuance of a building permit.

The development charge rates set out below are effective January 1, 2023:

Development Type	Rate (per unit)	Development Type	Rate (per sq.m of gross floor area)
Single Detached and Semi-Detached Dwelling	\$13,052	Non-residential	\$54.91
Other Multiple Unit Residential	\$10,303		
Apartments	\$6,998		

### Term of By-Law

- By-law No. 6930 will remain in force until December 31, 2026.

### Indexing of Development Charges

The development charges will be adjusted annually on January 1 of each year, without amendment to the by-law, in accordance with the most recent annual change in the Statistics Canada Quarterly, *Construction Price Statistics*.

### Purpose of development charges

Development charges assist in financing capital projects required to meet the increased need for services resulting from growth and development. Development charge funds may only be used for the purpose for which they are collected.

### Background Study

- The Development Charges Act, 1997 and Ontario Regulation 82/98 require that, prior to the passing of a by-law, a development charges background study be undertaken, with reference to:
- The forecasted amount, type, and location of future development
  - The average service levels provided in the County over the 10-year period immediately preceding the preparation of the background study
  - Capital cost calculations for each eligible development charge service
  - An examination of the long-term capital and operating costs for the infrastructure required to service the forecasted development.

Hemson Consulting Ltd. prepared the Development Charges Background Study for the County dated September 2021. The study served as the basis for the development charge rates approved by County Council on November 23, 2021, through by-law No. 6930. Development charges came into effect on January 1, 2022.

### Services covered

Development charges have been imposed for the following categories of County services in order to pay for the increased capital costs required as a result of increased needs for services arising from development:

- Long Term Care & Seniors Services
- Paramedic Services
- Waste Management
- Development Related Studies
- Transit
- Services Related to a Highway
  - a) Public Works
  - b) Roads and Related

### Exemptions

A number of exemptions to the payment of development charges are established under the Development Charges Act, S.O. 1997 and By-law No. 6930. These include hospitals, government agencies, schools, colleges and universities, places of worship, farm buildings, and certain residential expansions.

### Redevelopment

A credit will be provided against development charges owing where buildings or structures have been demolished to permit the redevelopment of the property.

The eligibility for demolition credits is restricted to demolitions that occur within five years of the redevelopment of the property.

### Unpaid charges to be added to tax roll

Where a development charge or any part of it remains unpaid after it is payable, the amount unpaid will be added to the tax roll and will be collected in the same manner as taxes.

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# Release

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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## Council approves 2023 County of Simcoe Budget

**Midhurst/January 31, 2023** – On January 31, 2023, County of Simcoe Council approved a \$695-million budget for 2023, which focuses on the resources necessary to maintain existing services and address significant growth in our communities. The 2023 budget also includes strategic allocations that enable the County to continue to invest in services and assets such as infrastructure, paramedic services, affordable housing, long-term care, Lake Simcoe Regional Airport, waste collections, transit, economic development, tourism and enhancements to our road network.

At the direction and approval of County Council, residents will see a two per cent increase for operating and a one and half percent increase for infrastructure and asset management on the County portion of their municipal property taxes in 2023. This represents an increase of approximately \$9.77 per \$100,000 property assessment across the region.

The overall budget expenditures increased from 2022 to 2023 due primarily to inflationary pressures, areas of growth, investment and initiatives directed by Council to enhance service levels while increasing efficiencies. The County is also seeing a significantly increased demand on services, including a 5 per cent increase in Paramedic call volume. The financial impact of the provincial blue box program and the introduction of Bill 23 – Building More Homes Faster Act are not fully known at this time.

Council also directed staff to report back with more information on select staff additions and capital purchase items; however, the staff report does not impact the approved 2023 County budget or tax levy rates.

“County Council recognizes that these are tough times for our residents and businesses, and we worked with staff to ensure that this budget focused on key priorities and only necessary projects for our communities,” said Warden Basil Clarke. “This budget addresses continued demands in affordable housing, social services, transportation infrastructure and economic development, while staying well under the rate of inflation. This is our first budget with this new Council, and we’re pleased to move forward and to continue to deliver excellent and efficient services and projects.”

The County maintains a strong financial position having received an AA+ long-term issuer credit rating from S&P Global Ratings, a provider of high-quality market intelligence in the form of credit ratings and research. The 2023 budget ensures the County continues along this path of long-term fiscal stability and contains items that address areas of growth, as well as initiatives directed by Council to enhance and maintain service levels for the region, support infrastructure, increase efficiencies, and prepare for the future of our region.

**2023 Budget Highlights include:**

Total County operating and capital expenditures for 2023: **\$695 million**

- LTC - Homes and Seniors Services **\$92 million**
- Paramedic Services **\$67 million**
- Children Services **\$105 million**
- Social Housing **\$91 million**
- Ontario Works **\$70 million**
- Transportation and Engineering **\$77 million**
- Solid Waste Management **\$85 million**

Attached to this news release is [the 2023 County of Simcoe Budget Overview](#).

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

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# 2023 COUNTY BUDGET OVERVIEW



## Responsibly Managing Your Services

The 2023 County of Simcoe budget is a total of \$695M in operating and capital expenditures. The total revenue is \$663M with a taxation levy amount of \$201M.

In the spirit of restraint, this budget has been prepared with only priority requirements. It includes a 2% tax increase to maintain operating service levels and keep pace with cost increases that can't be covered by growth. Also included is a 1.5% capital infrastructure increase.

The budget focus is on the resources necessary to maintain and continue or improve the existing crucial County services during this economic/inflationary challenge.

The County is entering the final year of its 10-year Affordable Housing and Homelessness Prevention Strategy. The continued investment in 2023 builds upon the 2,569 new affordable housing units created from January 2014 to June 2022, through new rental development, secondary suites, affordable homeownership and rent supplements/housing allowances.

The County has a target of 2,685 units by 2024, which includes the Orillia hub development project.

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

In 2022, under an agreement with the Federal government, Ontario announced the implementation of the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement, an initiative to be rolled out over five years, intended to provide parents with improved access to quality, inclusive, and affordable childcare.

### Total County Expenditures \$695M Operating and Capital



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

### County Capital Expenditures \$122M



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



The budget includes funds to continue the planning and design phase for redevelopment of the Simcoe Village campus. (rendering above).

For 2023, the County's Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Provincial / Federal Agreement allocation totals \$100.5M.

The budget directs additional spending in Health and Emergency Services, including resources for Paramedic Services to address demand and the completion of a

new station in Bradford to optimize response time performance. Funds are included in Long-Term Care and Seniors Services to continue the planning and design phase for redevelopment of the Simcoe Village campus.

Major road projects for 2023 include County Road 4 and County

Road 21 with related road, bridge and intersection components.

County Council will also continue its major community financial investments and commitments to local hospitals, hospice, and post-secondary education institutions. Because significant growth in the region impacts demands for many municipal and community needs and services, County Council continues to make strategic non-mandated investments in our communities, while continuing to keep a strong long-term financial outlook.

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

## Health and Emergency Services

### LONG TERM CARE AND SENIORS SERVICES

2023 Expenditures: \$92M

The County of Simcoe provides a broad range of long-term care and seniors services to residents living throughout the region, supporting more than 1,200 seniors. They include four long-term care homes, supportive housing, retirement living, assisted living, affordable housing, life lease suites and garden homes, adult day programming, and an entire suite

of home support services. This vast diversity of programs and services addresses a wide spectrum of needs that support residents to age in place and assist in a seamless transition for individuals as they move across the continuum of care from the community to long-term care. Capital projects include the redevelopment of the Simcoe Village Campus.

### PARAMEDIC SERVICES

2023 Expenditures: \$67M

Paramedic Services provide land ambulance services at a Primary Care Paramedic and Advanced Care Paramedic level of service, training programs, public education, Public Access Defibrillator program, and Community Paramedicine programs. The 2023 budget includes costs associated with staffing, equipment replacements and upgrades related to emergency medical response to the region, including the separated cities of Barrie and Orillia. Annual call volume/responses is anticipated to be more than 91,000. Capital projects include facility development and vehicle and equipment replacements.

## Social and Community Services

### CHILDREN SERVICES

2023 Expenditures: \$105M

As the Consolidated Municipal Service Manager, the County of Simcoe is responsible for local system management, leadership, and related funding administration which supports more than 203 licensed child care programs, 37 EarlyON Child and Family Centre locations, and three Special Needs Resourcing Programs.

Examples of system funding administered by the County include the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care program, operating grants, wage enhancements, and program/equipment supports. The Licensed Child Care Fee Subsidy is directly administered by the County, to support eligible parents who are in the workforce, attending school, or requiring developmental programming for a child with special needs.

In addition, the County provides a quality assurance program in conjunction with professional development and learning opportunities, intended to support and enhance capacity building across the system. The work of Children Services is guided by provincial, federal, and municipal policy/guidelines.

### SOCIAL HOUSING

2023 Expenditures: \$91M

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

There are approximately 3,946 community housing units within the County's housing portfolio, of which approximately 2,700 are rent-geared-to-income. The capital budget includes affordable housing rental development projects (Bradford West Gwillimbury and Orillia), initial design work on a development in Barrie, as well as capital repair projects to maintain the existing infrastructure.

### COMMUNITY SERVICES

2023 Expenditures: \$19M

#### Homelessness Prevention

As the Municipal Service Manager for our region, the County follows provincial and federal policy, in conjunction with its 10-Year Affordable Housing and Homelessness Strategy to lead the local system of services and supports aimed at Homelessness Prevention. Collaborative planning, research, data collection and analysis inform our administration of funding to contracted service providers across the region. Examples of funded programs include homeless shelters, supportive housing, street outreach and meal programs.

#### Poverty Reduction Initiatives

The County of Simcoe invests \$1.2M annually in the Social and Community Investment Fund (SCIF) to help local organizations develop community-based initiatives to address poverty. SCIF supports external program development for services to address the needs of low-income families.

#### Local Immigration Partnership

The Local Immigration Partnership (LIP) provides leadership to community based collaborative planning intended to support improved social and economic outcomes for immigrants and newcomers. Community planning is undertaken through a Local Partnership Council comprising leaders from sectors such as education, health, employment, human services, settlement services, government, and policing. Work of the LIP is guided by federal policy/guidelines, in conjunction with the County approved Community Settlement Strategy.

### ONTARIO WORKS

2023 Expenditures: \$70M

The County of Simcoe is the designated Municipal Service Manager for delivery of the Ontario Works program, with a projected monthly caseload of 5,430.

Ontario Works provides life stabilization supports that include both financial and employment assistance to individuals in financial need. Program outcomes focus on individual goals that lead to financial independence and self-reliance such as:

- Development of a client-centred action plan to address individual goals through targeted referrals for employment and educational programs
- Enhanced life stabilization supports for clients with multiple barriers



County Council continues its major financial commitments to local hospitals, such as Orillia Soldiers' Memorial Hospital (bottom right), Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit, hospice (Matthews House in Alliston, top right), transportation, and post secondary education institutions, such as Georgian College (left).

## Working together for the greater good

The County of Simcoe understands that strong community partnerships play a vital role in providing high-quality services to residents. In order to maintain and foster these established partnerships, the County provides strategic funding to other community impact services. Some strategic investments the County is proud to support in 2023 include:

### Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

\$5.6 million

### Simcoe County Hospital Alliance

\$3.0 million

### Post-secondary capital support

\$1.5 million

### Age Friendly grant

\$0.6 million

### Hospice capital funding

\$0.5 million

## expenditure **breakdown**

## Engineering, Planning and Environment

The Engineering, Planning and Environment division consists of Transportation and Engineering, Solid Waste Management, Planning, Forestry, and Transit.

### TRANSPORTATION AND ENGINEERING

2023 Expenditures: \$77M

The 2023 capital budget includes construction and road maintenance projects totalling \$47M. Capital projects expenditures include the continued construction of County Road 21 (Innisfil Beach Road), County Road 4, the trail construction on the Barrie Collingwood Railway (BCRY), as well as a number of other road and bridge rehabilitation and construction projects.



County Capital projects expenditures include a number of road and bridge rehabilitation and construction projects.

### SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

2023 Expenditures: \$85M

The Solid Waste Management department manages the waste disposal facilities and collection of curbside waste and diversion programs.

Capital project requirements are for normal replacement of existing equipment that have reached the end of their reasonable service life.

Additionally, there are projects for site remediation and development/redevelopment of existing sites to improve customer service and storage and processing capacity.



## How your tax dollars work

While the County's expenses are \$695M, they are offset by County revenues and funding from both provincial and federal levels of government. Residents will see a 3.5% increase on the County portion of their municipal property taxes in 2023. Overall, due to revenues and provincial funding, the County's actual tax requirement of \$201M is broken down as follows:

LEVY SUPPORT AREA	%*	(\$000s)*	PER \$100,000 RESIDENTIAL ASSESSMENT VALUE*
Paramedic Services	11.5%	23,071	\$33.16
LTC - Homes/Seniors Services	6.1%	12,275	\$17.64
Ontario Works	2.4%	4,805	\$6.91
Children Services	1.6%	3,144	\$4.52
Community Services	1.4%	2,856	\$4.10
Social Housing	10.7%	21,472	\$30.86
Transportation & Engineering	11.1%	22,389	\$32.18
Solid Waste Management	29.7%	59,716	\$85.82
Planning	1.6%	3,120	\$4.48
Economic Development	1.7%	3,374	\$4.85
Transit	2.2%	4,427	\$6.36
Administrative & Statutory Support **	5.5%	11,039	\$15.87
General Municipal Services ***	7.2%	14,534	\$20.89
Contribution to Infrastructure and Asset Management	7.3%	14,722	\$21.16
<b>Total Taxes based on Services</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>200,945</b>	<b>\$288.80</b>

\* All numbers are rounded

\*\* CAO, Clerks, Service Simcoe, Corporate Performance

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

APPROXIMATE TAX INCREASE PER RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY ASSESSMENT		
County Tax Rate Increase		
% Increase	\$ Increase	per \$100,000 assessment
3.5%	\$6.7M	\$9.77

**NOTE:** Actual Taxation impacts do not parallel assessment change because of Ontario's variable tax rate system. Tax rates vary by property class and assessment based on tax ratios, as well as local municipal and education taxes, which affect the distribution of the tax levy across classes. The numbers noted reflect the County's 2023 Budget Plan for illustration of the County's services and expenditure financing.

## How to contact us



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### Corporate Performance Division

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## Advisory

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## County and area partners host Virtual Job Fair to connect local job seekers and employers on February 28

**Midhurst/February 1, 2023** – On February 28 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., area partners, including the County of Simcoe and the separated cities of Orillia and Barrie are collaborating to deliver a virtual Work in Simcoe County job fair. Job seekers are welcome to sign up to attend this interactive experience to engage with employers and discover why Simcoe County is a premier place to live and work.

Data collected from the County of Simcoe's Work in Simcoe County website, [workinsimcoecounty.ca](http://workinsimcoecounty.ca), shows that in the month of December 2022 there were 9,073 active job openings in our region. The virtual job fair is an opportunity to connect job seekers with local employers.

Twenty-four employers across a variety of sectors have already signed up to attend, including health care providers, manufacturers, municipalities, restaurants and more. To view a list of registered employers, please visit [workinsimcoecounty.ca/virtual-job-fair-february](http://workinsimcoecounty.ca/virtual-job-fair-february).

The event will be hosted on an innovative, user-friendly platform where job seekers and employers can connect through one-on-one text chat, audio and video. There will also be live webinars during the event on important topics such as Employment Ontario services and insights from an employer panel on job search tactics. Three previous Work in Simcoe County job fairs have allowed more than 250 employers to connect with 1,245 people looking for work.

Job seekers are encouraged to register early to access the platform five days before the event and view the companies and opportunities in advance. If job seekers register early, they can also access 1:1 support from Employment Ontario, including free assistance with resume writing, developing a job search plan, and preparing for the event.

### **EVENT: Work in Simcoe County Virtual Job Fair**

**Where:** Virtual – details to be provided upon registration

**When:** Tuesday, February 28, 2023 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Register:** This is a FREE event, but registration is required. Space is limited, so reserve your spot today!

- [Job Seeker Registration](#)
- [Employer Registration](#)

This event is taking part in collaboration with member municipalities, the cities of Barrie and Orillia, Georgian College, Lakehead University, Employment Ontario, the Simcoe Muskoka Workforce Development Board, Regional Tourism Organization 7 and the Province of Ontario.

**About Work in Simcoe County**

The *Work in Simcoe County* site includes local resources and job opportunities, as well as vital information to empower and inspire residents. Using an automated fetching tool to aggregate job listings from over 20 popular job boards, career sites and new user-friendly features, the portal provides services for job seekers, students, parents and local government and helps to link residents with local opportunities. To learn more, visit: [www.workinsimcoecounty.ca](http://www.workinsimcoecounty.ca).

**About County of Simcoe**

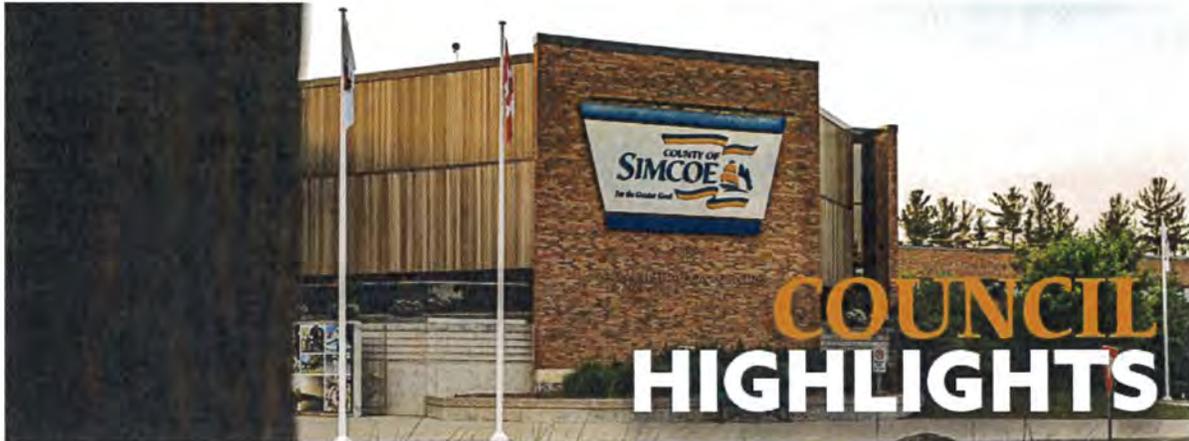
County of Simcoe is composed of sixteen member municipalities and provides crucial public services to County residents in addition to providing paramedic and social services to the separated cities of Barrie and Orillia. Visit our website at [simcoe.ca](http://simcoe.ca).

- 30 -

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[Chris.Hedley@simcoe.ca](mailto:Chris.Hedley@simcoe.ca)

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**From:** County Of Simcoe Communications <[Communications@simcoe.ca](mailto:Communications@simcoe.ca)>  
**Sent:** February 3, 2023 12:50 PM  
**To:** Lisa Lehr <[llehr@essatownship.on.ca](mailto:llehr@essatownship.on.ca)>  
**Subject:** County Council Highlights - Meeting Held January 31, 2023



Council Highlights are intended to provide a summary of Council proceedings only. The information contained within the Highlights is based on approved material from within the associated agenda packages, linked at the bottom. These reports were part of the agendas from the **Joint Council and Committee Meeting on January 31, 2023**. For more information on any item covered in the Highlights, each article is hyperlinked to the appropriate report, which can be accessed by clicking on the title. Images are also linked to relevant resources.

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

- Service Simcoe



Click on the image above to view our 2023 County of Simcoe Budget Binder.

## County of Simcoe Budget

At the January 10, 2023 meeting, Simcoe County Council received a staff presentation regarding the 2023 Draft County of Simcoe Budget including updated impacts that have occurred since the budget was originally drafted in 2022. During the meeting, items (questions, subjects, requests, etc.) were raised in relation to the budget and other areas of interest.

On January 31, 2023, Council received a report on the follow-up items identified during the January 10 meeting and the budgetary impacts. Council approved the 2023 Budget with the recommended changes. This responsible \$695-million budget will support essential County services while limiting the tax levy to 3.5% (2% operational and 1.5% capital) for residents, or about half the current rate of inflation. Council also directed staff to report back with more information on select staff additions and

capital purchase items; however, the staff report does not impact the approved 2023 County budget or tax levy rates.

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## Collection Day Changes

County of Simcoe Solid Waste Management staff and the contracted waste collector, Miller Waste, have identified an imbalance to the collection day schedule. Staff is working with Miller Waste to adjust the scheduled collection day for ten existing curbside routes. The intention is to initiate this change in March 2023.

On January 31, 2023, Council received a report that outlined the changes, which include five collection routes to be moved from Thursday to Wednesday, as well as five collection routes to be moved from Wednesday to Monday. The changes will be communicated to residents through targeted addressed mail as well as notices being placed on the carts of each property prior to the change being implemented. The Simcoe County Collects app will also be used to target subscribers on the specific routes, and changes will be posted on the County's website.



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## Update: Bill 23 (More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022)

On October 25, 2022, the Provincial government introduced Bill 23, known as the More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022. The overall stated purpose of Bill 23 is to introduce several legislative changes to increase housing supply throughout Ontario and to achieve the Province's goal of 1.5 million homes in the next 10 years.

Many of the changes to the various Acts resulting from Bill 23 are significant. For example, matters relating to development charges reform, the diminished role of Conservation Authorities, and removing all legislated planning responsibilities from certain upper-tier municipalities including Simcoe County, will fundamentally alter the way development approval processes are conducted, natural heritage resources are protected, how growth is coordinated on a regional scale, and how growth-related capital infrastructure is paid for (and by whom).

On January 31, 2023, Council received a report on the implications of Bill 23 for the County of Simcoe and voted to have the Warden, Deputy Warden and County staff continue to engage with the Province and area municipalities to determine the appropriate legislative and policy framework to ensure the County's role in coordinated planning supports community growth and effectively plan County services.

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## Simcoe County Tree Planting Program 2023-2026

The Simcoe County Tree Planting Program was initiated in 2007, with the most recent Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in effect from 2019 through 2022. Funds have been provided annually through the Forestry Department budget to increase reforestation on private lands by offsetting the cost of tree seedlings and/or tree planting services.

On January 31, 2023, Council received a report on the Tree Planting Program for 2023-26. Since 2007, the program has provided \$396,559 in funding towards projects by organizations and landowners with a value in excess of \$2 million. In total, 910,157 trees have been planted on 561 hectares over the previous 16 years as a result of this funding. The County manages the largest municipally owned forest network in Ontario and among the largest in Canada.

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Throughout Black History Month, the Simcoe County Museum will once again be hosting a virtual lecture series featuring expert guest speakers and local historians. Click the image above to find out more.

Joint Council and Committee Meeting Agenda -  
January 31, 2023

FOLLOW US



A29



# Release

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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **County accepting applications for its 2023 Tourism, Culture and Sport Enhancement Fund**

**Midhurst/February 6, 2023** – The County of Simcoe is now accepting applications for its 2023 Tourism, Culture and Sport Enhancement Fund. This year, County Council has allocated \$400,000 to help fund projects or experiences that will benefit regional tourism, culture and sport.

“Tourism is extremely important to our local economy, and this grant is a great way for the County to give a boost to this vital sector,” said Warden Basil Clarke. “It’s been a tough few years for tourism operators and County Council is proud to continue to invest in our businesses.”

2023 funding streams are: Digital and Social Media Advertising; Marketing; Trails Development; Photo and Video Asset Development; Sports Tourism; Workforce Development; and Signage. The funding allows each applicant organization to apply for a maximum of \$10,000, except signage requests, which are eligible for up to \$20,000 in funding. These funds will support and enhance tourism, culture and sport in Simcoe County by:

- Investing in initiatives that promote awareness, access, participation and appreciation of the diverse tourism, culture and sport offerings within the County of Simcoe
- Encouraging industry collaboration and partnerships
- Enhancing the visitor experience by supporting innovative and accessible programming
- Building organizational capacity in tourism, culture and sport organizations
- Contributing to the County of Simcoe’s overall economic health and sense of place

**Interested applicants are asked to submit their forms by Monday, March 6, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.**

All applications will be reviewed by the County of Simcoe’s Grants Task Force, consisting of appointed County Councillors, with support from County staff. The funding will be divided among successful applicants based on program requirements, objectives and overall benefit to the entire region.

Details and application guidelines can be found at [www.experience.simcoe.ca/resources](http://www.experience.simcoe.ca/resources). Potential applicants can contact the County’s Tourism staff via email, at [tourism@simcoe.ca](mailto:tourism@simcoe.ca) with questions.

### **About Tourism Simcoe County**

The mission of Tourism Simcoe County (TSC) is to promote Simcoe County as a first-class destination by further developing the tourism industry and community partnerships. Through leadership and representation, partnership and collaboration, product development and innovation, marketing and promotion, and research and learning.

### **About County of Simcoe**

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

37

**OFFICE OF THE WARDEN**

Corporation of the County of Huron  
 1 Courthouse Square  
 Goderich, Ontario N7A 1M2  
 www.HuronCounty.ca  
 Phone: 519.524.8394  
 Toll Free: 1.888.524.8394



February 1, 2023

Sent via email.

**Re: Call to Action: Review of the Cannabis Act**

Please note that on February 1, 2023 Huron County Council passed the following motion:

Moved by: Councillor G. Finch and Seconded by: Councillor M. Anderson

THAT:

The Council of the County of Huron approve the report by CAO Meighan Wark dated February 1, 2023 titled Report to Council: Cannabis Act Information as presented;

AND FURTHER THAT:

The Council of the County of Huron advocate for improvements to the Cannabis Act and current legislative framework for cannabis in Canada by sending the report titled *Report for Council: Cannabis Act Information*, including the correspondence found in the appendices, to the Western Ontario Warden's Caucus (WOWC) for discussion and consideration;

AND FURTHER THAT:

The Council of the County of Huron approve forwarding Call to Action Letters to the following for support:

- Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)
- All Municipalities in Ontario
- Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA)
- Premier of Ontario
- Provincial Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
- Provincial Minister of Agriculture
- Provincial Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
- Member of Parliament
- Federal Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food
- Federal Minister of Health

CARRIED

The County of Huron calls for a review and amendments to the Cannabis Act and the current legislative framework for cannabis in Canada.

To be clear, the County of Huron is not against or opposed to cannabis and we appreciate the role that both the federal and provincial governments provide in assisting municipalities. However, when new legislation is implemented, it is often at the municipal level that the impacts of change can be observed, and notations can be made for areas of improvement. It is vital that municipal governments pay attention and provide information and recommendations to higher levels of government so that continual improvements can be made over time.

It is in this spirit that we provide the following recommendation:

As a municipal government for one of Canada's most agriculturally productive regions and a popular tourism destination, we have been in the position to observe the last several years of legal cannabis production under the Cannabis Act as managed by Health Canada.

Under the current legislative and regulatory framework, we have observed, and continue to observe, serious odour impacts on local communities and residents from cannabis production facilities; including concerns from local medical practitioners about these impacts. Most often, these odour impacts arise from properties used for 'The Production of Cannabis for Own Medical Purposes by a Designated Person'.

In our local municipal experience, these facilities are often established without complying with local municipal zoning and nuisance by-laws, often contain hundreds of cannabis plants for each of the four assigned individuals, and usually do not include adequate odour controls to manage impacts on surrounding homes, public facilities, and the community at large.

To help manage public impacts of cannabis production facilities, we request that all production facilities, including facilities used by a designated person to produce cannabis for an individual's medical purposes, to require confirmation from the local municipality that the facility/site selected complies with all local municipal by-laws and regulations prior to an application being approved by Health Canada. We also request that Health Canada implement a system of minimum setbacks between cannabis production facilities and sensitive odour receptors, including homes and public facilities.

As an agricultural community, we have had extensive experience with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs' Minimum Distance Separation (MDS) Formula, an approach which has been used to successfully manage land use conflicts resulting from odour between livestock facilities and sensitive receptors for almost 50 years. We believe a system based on MDS would be appropriate to manage the

impacts of Health Canada's approved cannabis facilities, including both licensed commercial producers and designated growers for individuals.

In conclusion, we strongly recommend further notice and enhanced consultation with municipal governments when drafting and implementing legislation and regulations related to cannabis production, as there is a direct impact on local municipal operations, local residents, and in some cases, serious issues of non-compliance with local municipal by-laws.

Sincerely,



Glen McNeil  
Warden, Huron County  
On behalf of Huron County Council

A4

**Treasury Board Secretariat**

Emergency Management Ontario

25 Morton Shulman Avenue  
Toronto ON M3M 0B1  
Tel: 647-329-1200

**Secrétariat du Conseil du Trésor**

Gestion des situations d'urgence Ontario

25, rue Morton Shulman  
Toronto (Ontario) M3M 0B1  
Tél.: 647-329-1200



**DATE :** February 3, 2023

**MEMORANDUM TO:** Municipal Chief Administrative Officers

**FROM:** Bernie Derible  
Deputy Minister and Commissioner of Emergency  
Management  
Treasury Board Secretariat

**SUBJECT:** **Ontario's Provincial Emergency Management Strategy  
and Action Plan (PEMSAP)**

I am pleased to share Ontario's [Provincial Emergency Management Strategy and Action Plan](#), a roadmap for a whole-of-Ontario approach to keep the people of Ontario safe, practiced and prepared. The plan sets a foundation for emergency management in Ontario, informed by emergency events across the province, and placing the most vulnerable at the centre of planning, preparedness and mitigation. The action-oriented plan includes goals and actions designed to keep Ontario in a state of constant readiness and preparedness – both now and in the future.

Municipalities play a critical role in addressing emergencies at the local level and are the first line of emergency preparedness, planning, mitigation, response and recovery. The plan reinforces Emergency Management Ontario's continued partnership with municipalities to achieve our collective vision of a safe, practiced and prepared Ontario.

I would like to express my appreciation and thanks for municipal insights and partnership which informed the development of the plan.

Three goals guide Ontario's plan and will support municipalities to maintain a state of constant readiness and preparedness:

1. **One Window for all Ontarians** through [Emergency Management Ontario](#) to proactively coordinate and facilitate across emergency management partners.

41

2. **Proactive Planning and Monitoring** that is grounded in data, analytics and knowledge.
3. **Practiced and Prepared Emergency Response** through strengthened local capabilities, emergency management training and public education.

The plan will be further strengthened through ongoing engagement with municipalities to ensure that our province is in a state of constant readiness and preparedness.

If you have any questions regarding the Provincial Emergency Management Strategy and Action Plan, please contact your local field officer.

Sincerely,



Bernie Derible

Deputy Minister and Commissioner of Emergency Management  
Treasury Board Secretariat

cc: Heather Levecque, Assistant Deputy Minister, Emergency Management Strategy,  
Monitoring and Intelligence Division, Emergency Management Ontario, Treasury Board  
Secretariat

Teepu Khawja, Assistant Deputy Minister, Emergency Management Operations and  
Response Division, Emergency Management Ontario, Treasury Board Secretariat

Lisa Priest, Assistant Deputy Minister, Emergency Management Preparedness,  
Programs and Planning Division, Emergency Management Ontario, Treasury Board  
Secretariat

Michelle Astill, Director, Emergency Management Strategy, Monitoring and Intelligence,  
Emergency Management Ontario, Treasury Board Secretariat



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Gail Little to lead NVCA Board of Directors in 2023**

UTOPIA, Ontario (January 27, 2023) – The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA) held elections for Chair and Vice Chair at the 2023 Annual General Meeting. Gail Little, Deputy Mayor for the Township of Amaranth was acclaimed as Chair and the Board of Directors elected Jonathan Scott, councillor for the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury as Vice Chair.

"I am pleased to join NVCA for another term on the board and look forward to serving as Chair for the current year," said Little. "It will be another challenging year, but overall, I applaud the passion and dedication of NVCA staff who continue to take on projects and work for the betterment of the environment in this watershed."

Little served as Vice Chair of the NVCA board along with outgoing Chair Mariane McLeod. Together, they were strong advocates for NVCA through the changes to the *Conservation Authorities Act* as well as Bill 23, the *More Homes Built Faster Act*.

"I look forward to working with Chair Little, NVCA staff and other members of the board," said Scott. "Together we will continue to maintain and enhance a watershed that is resilient to climate change, and find a balance between development, the economy and environmental protection."

Fifteen new members appointed by their municipalities joined NVCA's Board of Directors at the meeting. In addition to Chair Little, returning the board are Councillor Gary Harvey from the City of Barrie and Ralph Manktelow from the Town of Mono.

"Thank you to everyone who served on the NVCA Board for the last four years," continued Little. "Especially Councillor Walter Benotto of the Town of Shelburne who has been on the board for the last 22 years. I can't wait to share ideas and have discussions with all members, both new and returning. Only by working collaboratively as a group can we address the many challenges facing the watershed throughout the next term of council"

A total of 18 member municipalities from Simcoe, Dufferin and Grey counties sit on the NVCA board. The board governs NVCA, a public agency dedicated to the preservation of a healthy environment through the protection of our water, land and future.

Consent  
A5b



Nottawasaga Valley  
Conservation Authority

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February 3, 2023

Dear Municipal CAOs and Planning Staff,

### **Changes in Plan Review Services per O. Reg. 596/22 and Bill 23**

Further to our emails from January 4, 2023 to all CAO's and January 5, 2023 to municipal planning staff, NVCA provides the following additional comments to address key questions on plan review services and transitional actions.

On January 1, 2023, Ontario Regulation 596/22 (Prescribed Acts) and Subsections 21.1.1 (1.1) and 21.1.2 (1.1) of the *Conservation Authorities Act* came into effect, which provides that conservation authorities (CA) comments to be focused on mandatory matters as outlined on Ontario Regulation 686/21. The prescribed Acts include the following:

- *Planning Act.*
- *Aggregate Resources Act.*
- *Condominium Act.*
- *Drainage Act.*
- *Endangered Species Act.*
- *Environmental Assessment Act.*
- *Environmental Protection Act.*
- *Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act.*
- *Ontario Heritage Act.*
- *Ontario Water Resources Act (OWRA).*

As a result, services under existing partnership agreements (MOU) between NVCA and your municipality will be impacted. Effective January 1, 2023, NVCA will not be providing comments on matters such as natural heritage (e.g. wildlife habitat, threatened/endangered species, fish habitat) and select aspects of stormwater management. All non-mandatory matters will be deferred to the Municipality for review.

NVCA will continue to provide plan review and commenting under the Mandatory Programs and Services Regulation (686/21) which includes natural hazards. The attached table provides more details on the areas that NVCA comments on through the plan review processes.



### **Moving Forward:**

1. NVCA will work with municipal planning staff on a case by-case-basis to transition affected elements of files that were in-progress on January 1, 2023.
2. NVCA will focus planning reviews and comments to matters specified in Ontario Regulation 686/21, specifically:
  - As a circulated public body with delegated powers from MNR:
    - Conformity with natural hazard policies set out in provincial plans; and
    - Consistency with natural hazards policies set out in provincial policy statements.
  - As a circulated public body with powers under the *Conservation Authorities Act*, the ability of a proposal to comply with Section 28 of the Act and regulations,
3. NVCA will continue to review and comment on matters listed under Item 2 and outlined in the attached table (NVCA Plan Review Scope Under the Planning Act).
4. NVCA will continue to comment on risks related to natural hazards arising from proposals under the all-other prescribed acts (e.g., *Aggregate Resources Act*, *Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act*, *Drainage Act*, *Environmental Assessment Act*, etc.).
5. NVCA, as a watershed knowledge-holder and science-based organization, will continue to provide data and other information such as check-lists, best management practices, mapping, reports and studies.
6. NVCA will work with municipal planning staff to identify other areas where the authority can continue to provide support, as permitted by regulation and approved by Council and the NVCA Board of Directors through a new or updated agreement.

### **Other Matters:**

Over the next few months NVCA will work with municipalities to determine how the best approach to address draft plan conditions for approved subdivisions without causing protracted delays.

NVCA staff would be pleased to arrange meetings with municipal planning staff over the few weeks to address questions regarding the contents of this letter, and to discuss transition matters.

Thank you for your patience as we work through these changes. Please feel free to contact the undersigned should have any questions or information needs.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Hevenor".

Doug Hevenor  
Chief Administrative Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Hibberd".

Chris Hibberd  
Director, Watershed Management Services



**NVCA Plan Review Scope Under the Planning Act - Effective January 1, 2023**

On January 1, 2023, a new Minister’s regulation (Ontario Regulation 596/22: Prescribed Acts – Subsections 21.1.1 (1.1) and 21.1.2 (1.1) of the *Conservation Authorities Act*) came into effect which provides that Conservation Authorities (CAs) may not provide a municipal (Category 2) or other (Category 3) program or service related to reviewing and commenting on proposals, applications, or other matters under a prescribed Act, including the *Planning Act*. As a result, impacted technical review services that CAs formerly provided under Memorandums of Understanding with municipalities (e.g., technical reviews related to natural heritage and select aspects of stormwater management) will no longer be provided for affected development and land use planning applications effective January 1, 2023.

**NVCA will work with municipal partners on a case-by-case transition plan for complete applications received prior to January 1, 2023. The transition period will end June 30, 2023.**

Ontario Regulation 596/22 does not affect CAs provision of mandatory or Category 1 programs or services (i.e., natural hazards and wetlands) related to reviewing and commenting on a proposal, application, or other matter made under those Acts. Municipalities are still required to circulate planning applications and technical reports to CAs so that we may review and comment on natural hazard and wetland matters per Ontario Regulation 686/21: Mandatory Programs and Services). Comments provided will reflect a watershed-based approach to the provision of mandatory programs and services.

The table below outlines the plan review components that CAs are still responsible for, and where they may continue to provide comments moving forward.

Plan Review* Component	Within Scope	Outside of Scope
Watercourses	✓	
Flood Hazard	✓	
Erosion Hazard (slope stability and stream erosion)	✓	
Great Lakes – St. Lawrence River System Shoreline Hazards (flooding, erosion or dynamic beaches)	✓	

Plan Review* Component	Within Scope	Outside of Scope
Unstable Soils/Bedrock	✓	
Groundwater (CA regulatory requirements/natural hazard related functions)	✓	
Wetlands (CA regulatory requirements/natural hazard related functions)	✓	
Valleylands (CA regulatory requirements/natural hazard related functions)	✓	
Hazardous Lands	✓	
Inland Lakes	✓	
Hazardous Sites	✓	
Wildlife Habitat		✗
Threatened/Endangered Species		✗
Area of Natural and Scientific Interest		✗
Environmental Sensitive/Significant Area (ESA)		✗
Woodlands		✗
Natural Heritage Systems		✗
Fish Habitat		✗
Stormwater (Natural hazards related)	✓	
Stormwater (non-natural hazard related)		✗

Plan Review* Component	Within Scope	Outside of Scope
Feature Based Water Balance (CA regulatory requirements/natural hazard related functions)	✓	
Erosion and Sediment Control (CA regulatory requirements/natural hazard related functions)	✓	
Buffer/Setback to identified Plan Review Component (CA regulatory requirements/natural hazard related functions)	✓	
Source Protection Authority under the <i>Clean Water Act</i> , 2006	✓	
Climate Change (as it relates to natural hazards)	✓	
Two Zone/Special Policy Areas (as applicable)	✓	

\*Review and comment for development and land use planning applications associated with Prescribed Acts as per O. Reg 596/22

Notes: Where there is a plan review component (e.g. woodland or other natural vegetation etc.) within a NVCA regulated area that is also located within a natural heritage feature or area as described by the Provincial Policy Statement or other municipal or provincial plan, the NVCA will continue to provide plan review comments related to natural hazard functions and CA regulatory requirements.

# NEWS views

*The Quarterly Newsletter of the Simcoe County Historical Association*  
[www.simcoecountyhistory.ca](http://www.simcoecountyhistory.ca) [Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [news@simcoecountyhistory.ca](mailto:news@simcoecountyhistory.ca)

## Happy New Year!

*Wishing you health, happiness, and prosperity in 2023!*

Another year has gone by, and the Simcoe County Historical Association has survived to protect and record our County's stories. This, we have been doing since 1891, 132 years. Are you still there? That question is often asked of me when I talk to some of my history friends. Yes, we are still here, working to keep our history protected.

That doesn't just happen. We have people like Donna Wice who was our leader in producing our History Conference and Deb Crawford who has volunteered to edit our newsletter. They and others like John Merritt (Hunter History) and Mark Fisher our Vice President are rock solid volunteers for SCHA. Deb Exel has stepped back but she was important to SCHA's renewal. Jan Blommaert has added her experience to our Board as

well. Her health has slowed her down in the last little while.

The most gratifying to me are the new people who have volunteered for SCHA in the past few years; Karen Mahoney, Vanessa Kennedy, Janine Harris-Wheatley, Lindsay Earle, Bruce McRae, Amanda Wilce, and Bryan Wood. They have taken on a number of important roles with our Association. We can't get better without them. "Many hands make light work" as the saying goes.

Over all, I look forward to 2023 with hope as we continue the activities that tell our County's stories. Thank you for caring about our history.

Ted Duncan,  
SCHA President



## Get To Know your Long Ago

## Membership Renewal Reminder:

With the coming of the new year, it's time for SCHA members to renew their membership! Fees are due at the beginning of every calendar year. Whether you're an individual, couple, family, group or institution, the annual fee for all SCHA members is just \$20.

Your annual membership fees help us do what we do as an organization, helping to preserve and promote local history through programs like our Community Partnership Grants, Heritage Business Awards and the Andrew Hunter Award for excellence in essay writing by Grade 10 Canadian History students. For individual members, being up to date with your memberships also brings unique opportunities to help shape what we do through voting rights at our AGM and the opportunity to serve on our Board of Directors. For group members, membership provides opportunities to promote your own group and its interests and activities through SCHA channels, including our newsletter, website and social media.

When you are renewing your membership, you will also have the opportunity to donate to the SCHA. Donations, no matter how small, can make a huge difference in what the SCHA is able to do for local history both now and in the future. All donations are tax-deductible.

To renew your membership online, simply visit our Membership page at <https://www.simcoecountyhistory.ca/memberships/>.

To renew by mail, you can send your cheque to Simcoe County Historical Association, P. O. Box 144, Barrie ON, L4M 4S9. For membership-related inquiries, please email [membership@simcoecountyhistory.ca](mailto:membership@simcoecountyhistory.ca).

## Stay Tuned for more details!

### SCHA's Annual General Meeting (AGM) (late April 2023)

Following the business agenda, we hope you will enjoy our first post-COVID in-person speaker **Brian Charles** as he presents:

#### “ Wampum Belts Woven Through Anishinabbe History”

Brian is an off-reserve Band member of the Chippewas of Georgina Island and has worked collaboratively with a small group of knowledge keepers to research and assemble a physical repository of wampum belts connected to Ojibwa History.

The presentation will illuminate how wampum was used to record not only relationships and treaties between the First Peoples of the Eastern Woodland, but also with settler societies in Canada.



Watch your email for announcements confirming the date, location, and how to register will be coming to your in-box soon.

## Fort Willow Conservation Area

Submitted by: Trevor Carter & Kyra Howes,

The Fort Willow Conservation Area has a rich history of local and regional significance which is linked to the Nine Mile Portage and has been designated as a Federal and Provincial historic site. The Nine Mile Portage connects Lake Simcoe to Willow Creek, into the Nottawasaga River and ultimately to Georgian Bay.



The portage route was used by Indigenous peoples prior to European contact. By the early 1600s, Samuel de Champlain became the first European to contact the local Huron or Wendat Indigenous peoples. The first mention by the British of the Nine Mile Portage is in a map dated 1793.

Upper Canada's Lt. Governor John Simcoe knew that the possibility of future conflict with the Americans was very real, so he planned alternate routes, like the Nine Mile Portage, for the provisioning of the western reaches of British North America. The Nine Mile Portage, was considered as an alternate communication and trade route to the west once the war of 1812 broke out and the British lost control over the lower Great Lakes.

The British immediately improved the portage route and built 29 batteaux (shallow draft boats), that succeeded in transporting much needed supplies up Willow Creek and ultimately to Fort Michilimackinac. They also built a supply depot of small huts and storehouses at what is now called Fort Willow.

When the War of 1812 came to an end, the Treaty of Ghent did not initially quell fears of further American attacks and the depot at Fort Willow and a new naval base at Penetanguishene continued to be provisioned. Penetanguishene Road (today's Highway 93) was intended to handle all transportation to the Penetanguishene base, however, the road was often in such terrible condition that the Nine Mile Portage continued to be used as a preferred alternate route.

The Fort's decline began in 1818, with the signing of the Rush-Bagot agreement between Britain and the United States. Under this agreement, all armed vessels were put up into 'ordinary' or dry-dock. The British military's interest in the portage route waned as it became clear that hostilities were truly at an end. The portage route would continue to be used by local fur trade companies P & W Robinson and Borland & Roe of Newmarket in 1824.

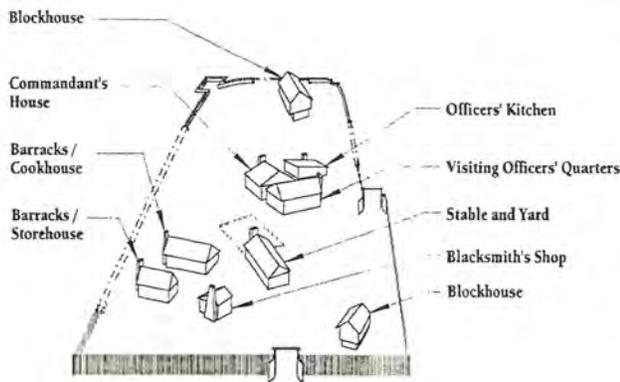
The portage and Fort also saw some other important visitors in the 1820s. In 1821, Lt. Henry Bayfield used the portage during his hydrographic survey of the Great Lakes; in 1823, members of the International Boundary Commission stayed at Fort Willow; and in 1825, Capt. John Franklin would pass along the portage route on his famous arctic expedition. Apart from these infrequent visits and occasional use of the trail by settlers heading west, the portage route rapidly fell into disuse. By 1831, the portage was reported as difficult to navigate and overgrown and by 1835, it was reported that all the buildings at Fort Willow had burned down.

The first archaeological surveys at Fort Willow were conducted by avocational archaeologist Wilfrid Jury. In 1954, in his search for the location of the Nine Mile Portage trail, he ventured into the Fort where he dug a few test holes. He returned to the Fort in 1958 and 1959, digging extensive trenches across the site and completing a survey map of the area that showed the locations of the War of 1812 structures he believed he had discovered.

(continued on next page)

(Fort Willow Conservation Area continued from previous page)

The first professional archaeological investigations were undertaken by students from Barrie's St. Joseph's High School ongoing since 2005. These excavations were conducted under the direction of Trevor Carter, a high school teacher and professional archaeologist licensed with the Ontario Ministry of Culture.



These excavations confirmed the presence of the visiting officer's quarters, the commandant's house, the soldier's barracks, the smithy, the brick kiln and the cookhouse.

The recent archaeological investigations disputed Jury's discovery of the presence of the blockhouses and palisades and the soldier's cookhouse. The ceramics that were found at the soldier's cookhouse were from the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, indicating use at a later date than initially believed.

Archaeological surveys also identified evidence of Indigenous campsites throughout the site as well as Iroquoian pottery and chert tool fragments, confirming the original use of the site prior to the arrival of Europeans.

In 1973, the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority, with community support, purchased the property from the Barrie of Chamber of Commerce. By this time, previous reconstruction work at Fort Willow had fallen into disrepair.

From about 1995 to 2009, a volunteer group known as the Fort Willow Improvement Group invested thousands of hours in rebuilding the site.

They constructed information kiosks, erected signs and began the work delineating the historic building outlines.

The Friends of Historic Fort Willow became active at the site in 2010. Their role has been to provide historic interpretation and educational opportunities to visitors to the site. The Friends help bring history alive at the property with demonstrations, informative displays and support the Festival at Fort Willow hosted at the site annually the last weekend of September.

The Friends of Fort Willow continue to introduce new initiatives and to maintain the site and are always looking for interested volunteers. If you would like to learn more about their work, please [contact the Friends](#).



## “The Keeper of the Coffin Nail”

Two years into the War of 1812, a band of workmen, accompanied by oxen-driven sleighs carrying tons of supplies, were sent from Kingston to Willow Creek Depot, an arduous winter trek of 400 kilometers. Their task was to prepare the site for the 300 soldiers who would follow a month later. The workmen felled giant white pines to construct blockhouses, cabins, about 30 bateaux, and a corduroy road running through the Minesing Swamp to join the Willow Creek Depot to the Willow Creek Landing.

This Depot, located at what is now Grenfel Road and Portage Trail in Springwater Township, was most active in 1814 and 1815, then the population dwindled as the military moved on. By 1835, the deserted Depot had burned to the ground.

On February 7, 2022, following a stroll through the Historic Fort Willow area (once Willow Creek Depot), Harold Parker, a longtime resident of Minesing, asked me, “Did you know about the 12 soldiers’ graves?” “Where?” was my intrigued response. Harold motioned behind him, indicating somewhere in that direction, and launching me on my journey in pursuit of the truth.



Dieter Mueller (L) Harold Parker (R)  
Old Fort Willow February 7 2022

I learned that during that bone chilling journey and subsequent settlement at the Depot, conditions for the approximately 320 men were brutally harsh. Twelve of them died, not from combat but from the bitter cold, disease, accidents, and infections.

On another bitter cold day in late February 2022, I met with a few Friends of Historic Fort Willow to ask them the same question Harold Parker had asked me. One man told me that a North Simcoe Railway construction crew had chanced upon the 12 graves in 1878, exhumed

them, then built new coffin boxes and reburied the remains, “up on the hill...somewhere”. Next, I canvassed long-time residents along Grenfel Road and Portage Trail. Two of them had heard this same story.

Four months later, while researching this rumour, I came across documents written by a Captain Dallison while he was stationed at CFB Base Borden. During the summer of 1967, a unit from the Base constructed a block house on the site of Fort Willow to commemorate Canada’s Centenary.



Barrie Examiner August 26 1967

This story was featured in the Barrie Examiner (<https://news.ourontario.ca/Barrie/2915095/page/3>) . Soon after, Dallison was contacted by 81-year-old Charles McNiven, who claimed to know various stories concerning Fort Willow. As Dallison was a history buff working on a book about the War of 1812, he interviewed McNiven and recorded the following notes about the graves of the 12 soldiers:

*“He and a friend (Ed Shear – teacher in Allandale) went looking for the graves in 1904. They found 12 graves in a straight line. They dug into one until they came to decayed wood. As proof he gave me one nail.”*

You might ask whether these men were credible? McNiven became a conductor on the CNR, the company that bought the Grand Trunk Railway which ran the North Simcoe Railway. Ed Shear, a renowned Barrie educator, was Principal of King Edward School for decades. Shear Park in Barrie is named for him. The highly educated Captain Dallison

(The Keeper of the Coffin Nail cont'd from prev. page)

served in the Canadian Army for 34 years, obtaining the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. Yes, these men were very credible.

Using the documents authored by Captain Dallison and knowing the area of Fort Willow intimately, it was a cinch to identify the most probable site of the graves. To test my theory, others I challenged each pointed in the same direction.

The Superintendent at the Barrie Union Cemetery told me that, after 64 years in the ground (1814-1878), the pine boxes would have rotted away and only disarticulated bones would remain, along with any metal and tanned leather items. Thus, the 12 reburial boxes would have been small (perhaps 2 feet x 1 foot x 1 foot) and placed in a shallow rectangular pit, possibly 12 feet long by 3 feet wide and 3 feet deep. Shallow burial is most likely as the construction crew would be in a hurry and later McNiven and Shear were able to easily dig down to them. In 1904, after 26 years of presence on the spot, there must have been some remains of grave markers, otherwise the two men might not have found the graves.

I left a couple of phone messages for Captain Dallison in June 2022. When he returned my call, he explained that my messages had sent him to check his toolbox in the garage. "I still have the coffin nail," he told me, "and you know what? I'm going to send it to you." The nail arrived at the end of June. While the machine-made square headed nail is a typical carpenter's nail from the 1878 era, Captain Dallison referred to is as a "coffin nail" because it is a nail that came from a coffin. The 145 year old nail was first used by a carpenter in 1878, retrieved by McNiven in 1904, given

to Captain Dallison in 1967 and finally passed on to me in 2022. What a journey.

Was the rumour of the 12 soldiers' graves just a tale or is it true? The documentation, the coffin nail, and the probable site all say that it is a true chapter in Fort Willow's history. This is how historical records are built, one discovered fact at a time.



Submitted photo: Dieter Mueller

### Now I am the "Keeper of the Coffin Nail".

"Like a Dog with a Bone" Part 2 of Dieter's search for the truth will continue in a later newsletter.

About the author: Dieter was born and raised in post war Germany, he emigrated to Canada with his parents in 1959. While his post high school education and career were in business, he maintained a lifelong interest in history, geography, and nature. Dieter led the successful "Hunt for the Lost Case of Whiskey" in 2021 and also discovered unique, one of a kind "Tufa Rocks" "growing" in a creek near Barrie. Retired long ago, he lives in Barrie with Beverly, his high school sweetheart and their dog Ebony. Dieter can be contacted at: [dieter.mueller4907@gmail.com](mailto:dieter.mueller4907@gmail.com)



The Ontario Historical Society (OHS) is excited to announce the launch of its new podcast series, *The Crown in Canada*, hosted by Nathan Tidridge and produced by Leaking Ambience Studios. The series examines issues surrounding the Crown's role in both Treaties and in our democratic institutions. The two-episode pilot was produced with assistance from the Government of Canada, Canadian Heritage Community Projects Program on behalf of the 2022 Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The podcast can be found on the [OHS website](#), at the [Crown in Canada's home](#), or indeed [wherever good podcasts are distributed](#).

## Congratulations to the 2022 Andrew Hunter Writing Award Winners

**1st Place: Leo Weibrecht**  
Austrian Exch. Student  
Eastview Secondary  
School

**2nd Place: Uzair Qureshi & Archi Patel**  
(tied)  
Eastview Secondary  
School

Once again SCHA is offering the Andrew Hunter Writing Award for the 2022-23 academic year.

The Andrew Hunter Award, named after an early historian of Simcoe County and co-founder of the SCHA, was originally offered to post-secondary Canadian History students at Laurentian University's Barrie campus. When Laurentian phased out its history program, the award went dormant for a few years until it was relaunched in 2020, this time focused on students of Canadian History at high schools across Simcoe County.

This program considers the final essays submitted by Grade 10 students enrolled in Canadian History classes at any secondary school in Simcoe County during either of the two semesters during the 2022-23 academic year.

Participating teachers can select what they consider to be the best 1-3 term papers from their class each semester and approach their students for permission to submit their essays to us for the chance to win.

Participating teachers can submit the essays at any time during the school year.



Above: Uzair Qureshi (L) Scott Webb, Teacher C, Archi Patel (R)

essays will be considered during the summer of 2023 and the winners will be announced in the fall of 2023.

Three winners will be selected from each academic year—1st, 2nd, and 3rd place. Each winner will receive a certificate, a modest cash prize, and the gift of a book on local or Canadian history. Winners will also be announced through our organization's social media and website as well as through local media. Winners may also have the opportunity to speak to our group about their experience, their essay and their plans for the future.

The program is a great opportunity to recognize local Grade 10 students who excel in the study of Canadian history and to help encourage them in their future studies.

To obtain more information or to submit essays for consideration email: [info@simcoecountyhistory.ca](mailto:info@simcoecountyhistory.ca).



## THE WINTER CARNIVAL AND THE BARRIE COLLEGIATE BAND

By Mark Fisher

One of the community activities that the Barrie Collegiate Band often played for was the annual ice show, put on by the Barrie Skating Club in the 1960s. This was before the developed program presently run in conjunction with the Mariposa School of Skating and such champions as Brian Orser, Jeffrey Buttle or Jennifer Robinson. In fact, it goes as far back as the "Ice Carnival" of 1945 held in the old Dunlop Street arena. There were headliners from New York and Toronto, but they had to go with the Huntsville Skating Club for the remainder of the season.

To open the evening the sea cadets, led by Bill Bell and their own bugle band, marched in and slid their way across the ice in a demonstration of morning exercises. The rest of the music was provided by what was billed as the Barrie Collegiate Concert Orchestra--in reality the school band, seated safely in the stands--who accompanied one group of skaters to the tune of "Shine on Harvest Moon." The star of the evening had to rely on a phonograph that kept slowing down, despite repeated shouts from the crowd to "Wind it up!" Such was the technology of the time, but what could you expect for "General Admission 35 cents, Students 25!"

Eventually taken over by the Kiwanis and Lions clubs, the "Ice Carnival" continued on until 1950, when a high rental rate for the arena prompted the local service clubs to turn to a casino night in order to raise funds for the new hospital addition. Regardless, a winter carnival did persist through the 1950s with a variety of activities on the rock-hard surface of Kempenfelt Bay. Races on skates and those new-fangled snowmobiles, plus rides by dog team or horse-drawn sleigh, added to heavy vehicles and a multitude of onlookers, posed no danger of going through the ice. The "Arena night," as it became known, continued to be the major fundraiser as a full slate of activities and entertainment continued to grow. By 1950, in addition to featured figure skaters, those with sufficient energy and bravery could participate in broomball, log sawing, a tug-of-war contest and a moccasin

dance. The barrel jumping was left to the professionals!

Throughout the show, music was supplied by a newly formed Collegiate Alumni Band, led by W.A. Fisher himself. They would reappear the next year, but despite the best efforts of Bill Blain and Dr. Bob Delaney, this new organization proved to be short-lived. Alumni are well represented, however, in the current Barrie Concert Band that can trace its roots back through various town bands to as early as 1870.

Although the students of the Barrie Collegiate Band did not march or, heaven forbid, perform on the ice of Kempenfelt Bay, they certainly played in the arena for the Barrie Skating Club during the winter carnival of 1962. On this occasion, they had to share honours not only with Rocket Richard of the Montreal Canadians, but the Kempenfelt Trumpet Band founded by Bob Lucas from the dying embers of the wartime sea cadet band. But just how complicated this business could be can be seen in the preparations Fisher went to, even attending the Ice Capades in Toronto for ideas. Working with the club professional, Sue Emms' (daughter-in-law of Hap Emms, owner, and coach of the Barrie Flyers) selections had to be agreed on and then hunted down through various music publishers in Toronto. Rehearsals by the band ultimately produced taped recordings of 21 selections, so the skaters could practice their routines. Finally, seated on a specially erected stage at the end of the arena, there was the dress rehearsal that went far into the night before the big show could go on. Arrayed in their full red and white uniforms, over many layers, the nearly three hour extravaganza proved to be a grueling experience for the 81 members of the Barrie Collegiate Band.

It is surprising that Fisher agreed to such a venue, given his aversion to marching or any other outdoor activity during inclement weather. He certainly drew the line at any thought of trying to cram an ensemble of any sort onto a flatbed truck for the Santa Claus parade. It did nothing for delicate instruments, the quality of the performance or the risk to life and limb. He

(The Winter Carnival and The Barrie Collegiate Band cont'd from pre. Page)

usually begged off, as in 1949, with "no winter uniforms" and left the honours to a clown band made up from members of the Barrie Citizens' Band.

When the Santa Claus parade was revived by the Jaycees in 1951, they naturally sought as many bands as possible for the occasion. Asked at the last moment, Fisher was non-committal, for his usual reasons, but said he would ask the students, knowing full-well a number of senior players would be working on the appointed Saturday. According to him, the band members elected not to participate although I doubt they were given much encouragement. Patriotic events or skating carnivals in the arena, perhaps, but there was something about "boosterism" and "rah-rah" type of events that Fisher disliked. As always, he insisted the band was an educational organization that "should exist for the benefit of the pupil--not for entertaining at fall fairs and sideshows." In the absence of the collegiate band, other than the drum majorettes, the parade had to make do with the clown band and, at the last minute, the Elmvale Bugle Band. Despite the success of the parade, witnessed by thousands, letters of criticism to the editor soon appeared in the local newspaper. The remarks followed the usual pattern of the "invisible" Barrie Collegiate Band that played everywhere else and was only around when asking for handouts from the town council. "It is an utter disgrace that youth should be allowed to disregard public affairs," stated one disgruntled writer, and even the Chamber of Commerce pointed out the weather had cooperated and they probably could have arranged for working students to take time off

from their jobs.

Although Fisher was fully capable of repeating his oft-stated reasons for not participating in such an activity, he left it up to others rather than getting dragged into a catfight once again. Fortunately, the defense of the band was taken up by Ken Walls, publisher of the Barrie Examiner, a former member of the high school cadet band and the father of two members of the collegiate band. In a lengthy editorial he reviewed all of the reasons why the band did not necessarily participate in every community event, including the Santa Claus parade. He was ably seconded by a lengthy epistle from the pen of the ever-loyal Bill Blain, a former band president.

After 1965 and the dissolution of the school cadet corps, Fisher sold off the sousaphones and parade drums and could legitimately claim it was not a marching band. At the most it was left to a few brass players who volunteered to play Christmas carols on a school float in 1971. Yet the skating carnival was one way to show community support that continued until at least 1969. What may have brought an end at this time was the departure of Sue Emms, as well as the increasing use of "stars" from outside of Barrie who came with their own recorded music and no time to rehearse otherwise. Nevertheless, the many years that the collegiate band served in this capacity is a mark of not only community commitment but versatility.

An excerpt from NOTES IN TIME : A History of W.A. Fisher and the Barrie Collegiate Band by Mark Fisher [mwfisher51@gmail.com](mailto:mwfisher51@gmail.com)

## The Story of the Oro African Church Preserving History

Join Harry Hughes, former Mayor of Oro-Medonte & Samah Othman, Communications Officer tell their story of the journey to restore and save this national treasure on:

**Wednesday February 15th 7PM (ZOOM)**

Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-story-of-the-oro-african-church-preserving-history-tickets-522139602607>



Or contact us at: [info@simcoecountyhistory.ca](mailto:info@simcoecountyhistory.ca)



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<a href="#">Friends of Fort Willow</a> Contact <a href="#">Bryon Wesson</a>		

**From:** Robin Brown <[robin@nottawasaga.com](mailto:robin@nottawasaga.com)>

**Sent:** January 26, 2023 1:28 PM

**To:** Lisa Lehr <[llehr@essatownship.on.ca](mailto:llehr@essatownship.on.ca)>

**Subject:** Nottawasaga Futures Newsletter



**Nottawasaga Futures is a community  
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# SAVE THE DATE

March

**3**

**AgKnowledge Forum**

March

**31**

**Youth Business Plan  
Submissions Due**

April

**20**

**Pitch Night**



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presents

# Ag Knowledge FORUM 2023

## Harvesting Opportunities: Exploring the Potential of Agri-Tourism

Friday March 3, 2023 9:00-11:30 followed by a Tour & Tasting from Tank & Barrel  
Windrush Estate Winery 3100 Concession Rd 3 Adjala, Palgrave, ON L0N 1P0



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Harvesting Opportunities: Exploring the Potential of Agri-Tourism

Join us at the beautiful Windrush Estate Winery on March 3, 2023 for the 2023 AgKnowledge event.

This year our focus is on Agri-Tourism and our speakers will cover everything from funding to marketing to managing.

Registration is now open and our early bird pricing is in effect until February 17.

To register please email [robin@nottawasaga.com](mailto:robin@nottawasaga.com)

64



Nottawasaga Futures

FM 92 SOUTH SIMCOE



futurpreneur

# Business Plan COMPETITION

Open To All Youth



**WIN  
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Contribution toward  
the success of your  
business!

**March 31, 2023  
Submission Deadline**

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

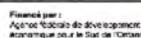
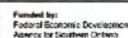
- ♦ **April 20, 2023 | Pitch Night**  
Pitch Night will be from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.  
at the *Gibson Cultural Centre, Alliston, ON*
- ♦ **May 25, 2023 | Awards**  
South Simcoe Business Excellence Awards  
at the *Gibson Cultural Centre, Alliston, ON*

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

Scan the  
QR code   
View the  
full submission  
details online.



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



Nottawasaga Futures is proud to announce that our 2023 Youth Business Plan Competition is open for submissions.

65

South Simcoe entrepreneurs aged 29 and under are asked to submit their business plan by March 31, 2023 for a chance to win a Grand Prize of a \$1000 contribution toward the success of their business.

All qualifying entrants will pitch their business idea on April 20, 2023 at the Gibson Cultural Centre to a panel of community leaders from the five municipalities that make up South Simcoe.

The panel will choose one business idea to receive the Grand Prize. The winner will also be presented with the Youth Entrepreneur Award at the South Simcoe Business Awards to be held in May 25, 2023 at the Gibson Cultural Centre.

All are welcome to attend. Come and see our young entrepreneurs in action!

For more information and to submit your Business Plan please contact  
Martin Kuzma

[martin@nottawasaga.com](mailto:martin@nottawasaga.com) / 1-800-509-7554

[Click here for a Business Plan template](#)

66

# Nottawasaga Futures Consulting Program

The Nottawasaga Futures Consulting Program in partnership with the municipalities of Bradford West Gwillimbury, Innisfil, and New Tecumseth, was developed after extensive feedback from local businesses.

It is built to specifically address the needs of businesses in this region and provides start-up's and existing businesses the opportunity to apply for coaching assistance to further develop their business.

## Eligibility :

- Business owners in the municipalities of Bradford West Gwillimbury, Innisfil, and New Tecumseth can now access support through targeted coaching support in the following areas:
  - Pivoting the Business
  - Sales and Marketing
  - Social Media Best Practises
  - Human Resources and Workforce Development
  - Financial Management
  - Business Management
  - Quickbooks Training



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We've partnered with Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury, Town of Innisfil and Town of New Tecumseth to offer targeted coaching

support.

Our consulting program is built specifically to help the businesses in our region.

For information please email us at [ced@nottawasaga.com](mailto:ced@nottawasaga.com).



**NT Temps Inc.**

At NT Temps, we believe that every person should have access to the necessary equipment to succeed in their job.

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The South Simcoe Streams Network (SSSN) is a community initiative of Nottawasaga Futures that aims to advance public involvement to protect local river environments through community participation in stream restoration projects.

Project events range from streamside tree planting to riverbank stabilization to monitoring activities. Environmental awareness and education are integrated into the volunteer experience to heighten awareness of the importance of stream corridors, some ecological threats, and benefits to local communities.

The goal of SSSN is to support the conservation, restoration, and management of stream and river systems and provide opportunities to engage the public in protecting these important water resources for community and watershed health.

<https://nottawasaga.com/who/activities/index.html?id=>



## Make It New Tec

### Make it happen with the CIP

Looking to upgrade your business or property? The Town of New Tecumseth's Community Improvement Plan (CIP) grants program offers business and property owners funding through development incentive grants.

Take your business or property to the next level with grants for:

- Building façade improvements
- Building code upgrades
- Signage, awning and lighting improvements
- Building and property developments
- Public art
- Rental and downtown residential developments
- Commercial unit conversions

Applying is easy! Visit [NewTecumseth.ca/CIP](http://NewTecumseth.ca/CIP) to learn more about the program and to get your application started.



[NewTecumseth.ca/CIP](http://NewTecumseth.ca/CIP)  
705-435-3900 or 905-729-0057  
[ecdev@newtecumseth.ca](mailto:ecdev@newtecumseth.ca)



Looking to update your business or property?

Our Community Improvement Plan grants program offers business and property owners funding through development incentive grants. Take your business or property to the next level with the CIP

visit [www.newtecumseth.ca/CIP](http://www.newtecumseth.ca/CIP) today!



## Business Catalyst Centre Survey

The Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury Office of Economic Development is undertaking a Business Catalyst Centre Survey to identify needs for small businesses and entrepreneurs.

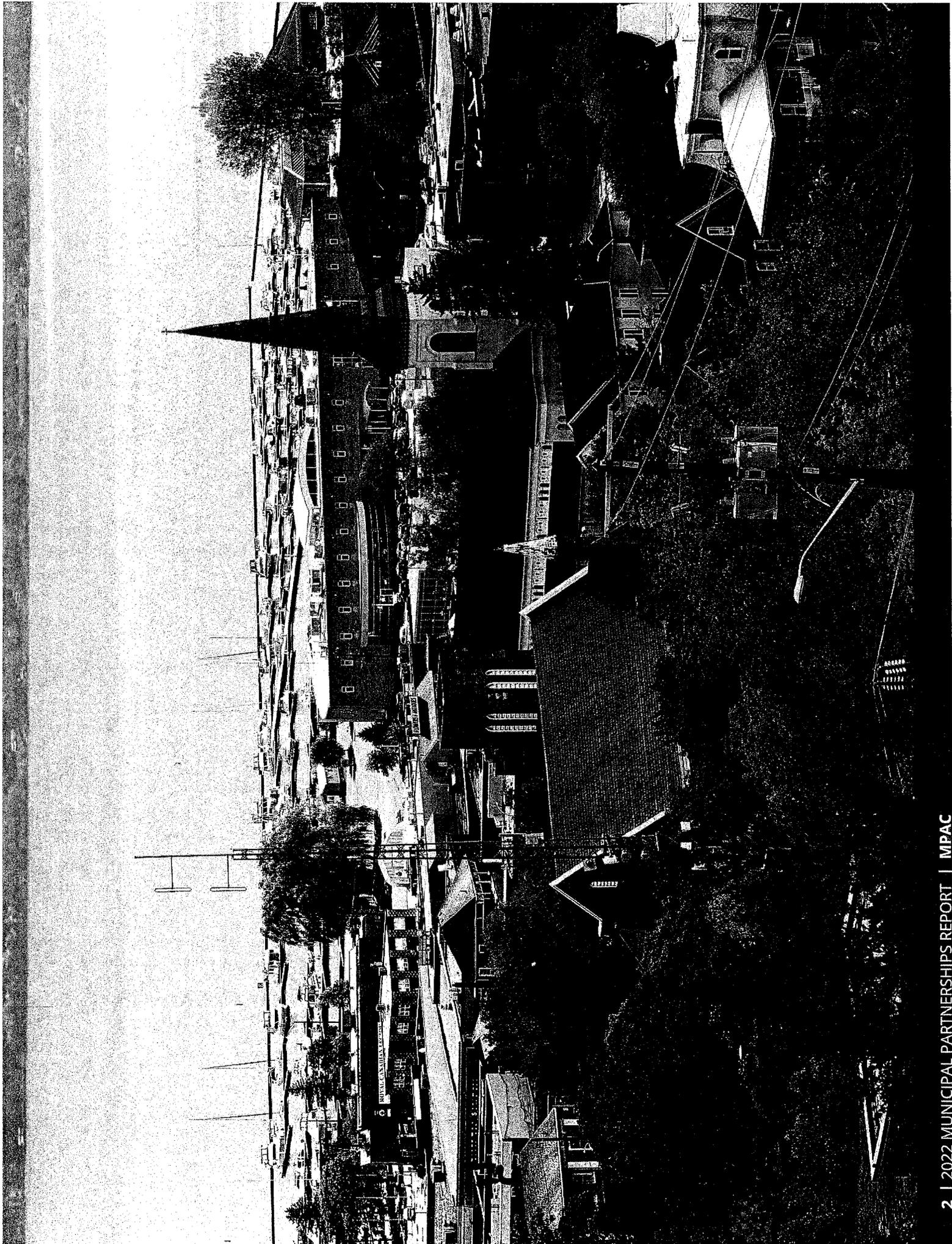
We would appreciate feedback from these groups. Our survey is here:  
[https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Catalyst\\_Centre\\_Survey](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Catalyst_Centre_Survey)

## Financial Support and Resources

- [Nottawasaga Futures Community Investment Fund](#)

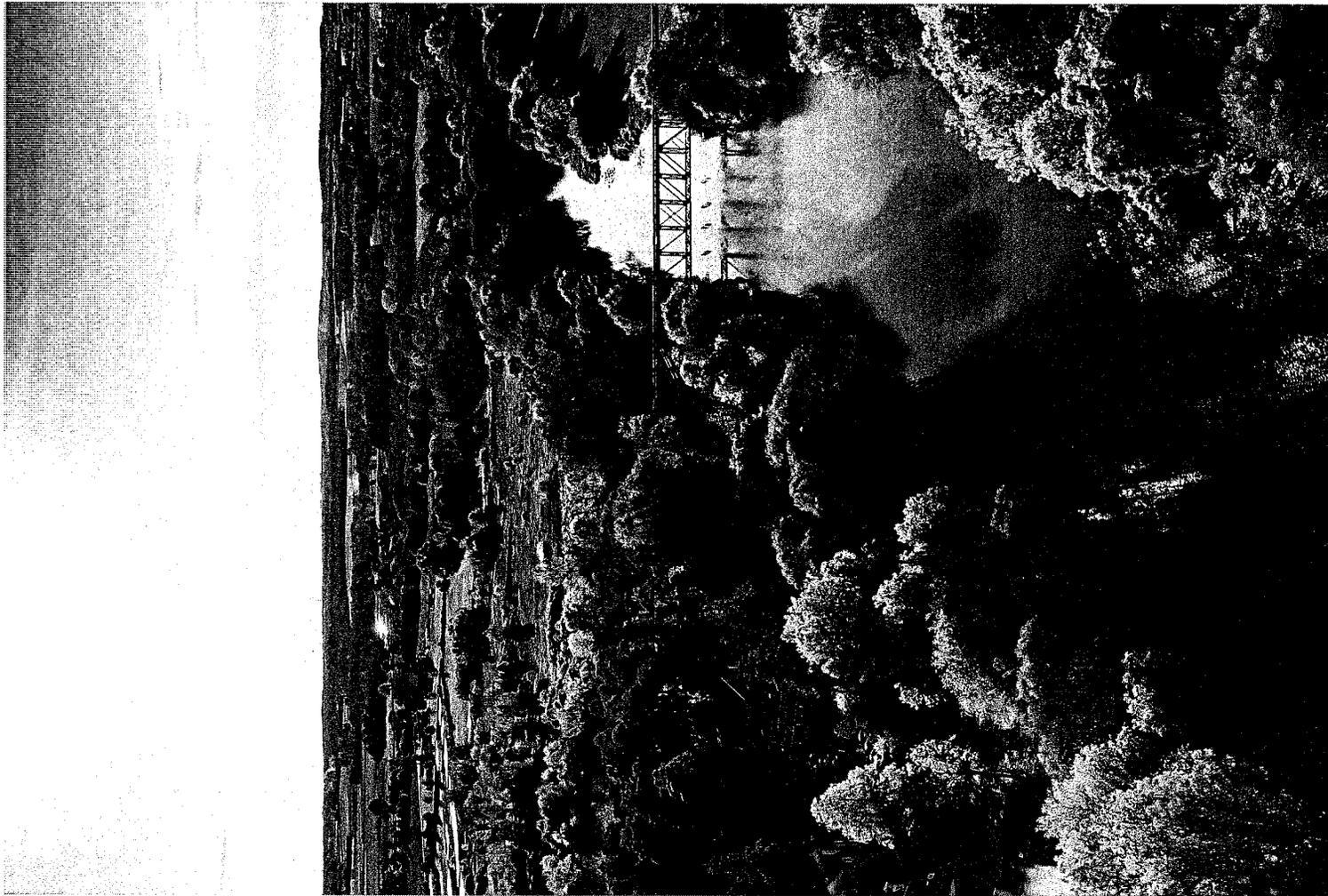
# 2022 Municipal Partnerships Report





# Contents

2022: Partnering Today for a New Tomorrow	4
Who We Are	5
Capturing New Assessment	6
Connecting With Partners	7
Property Insights	8
 Innovative Solutions	10
Delivering the 2022 Enumeration	11
Prioritizing Property Owners	12
New Products and Services	13
Looking Ahead	14
Connect With Us	15

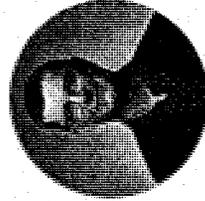
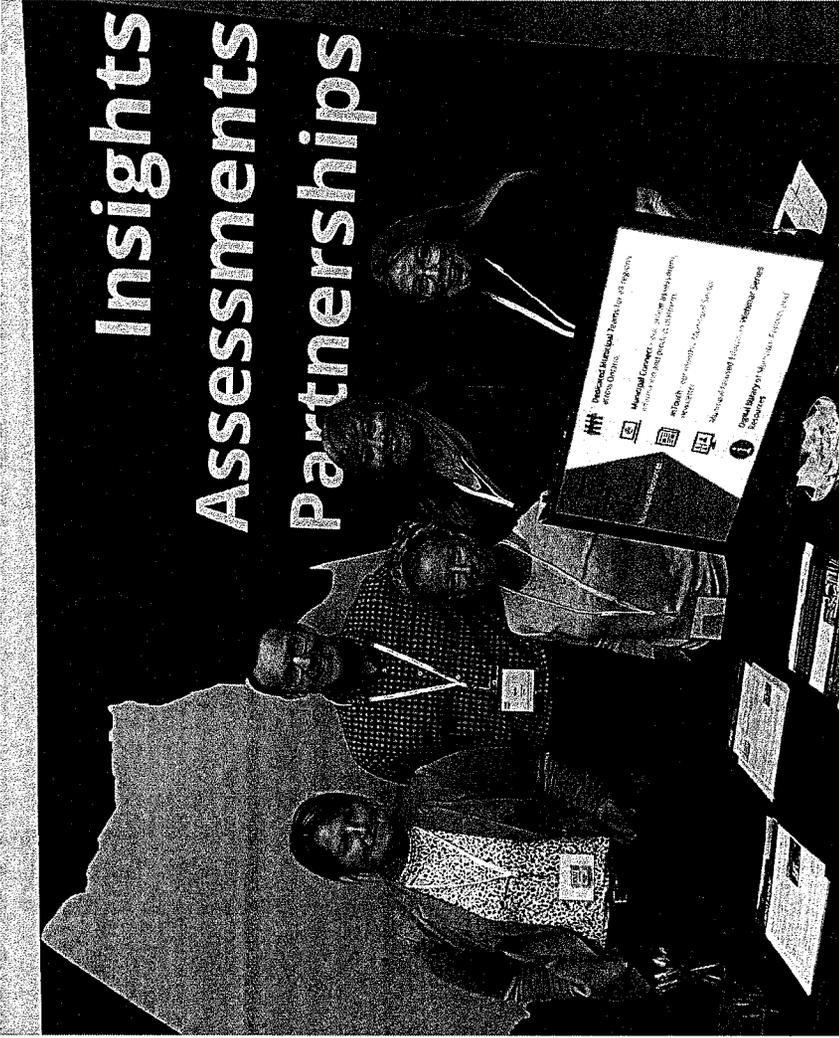


# 2022: Partnering Today for a New Tomorrow

After two challenging years, we know a lot has changed. Still one thing remains constant - MPAC's commitment, as Ontario's property market experts, to provide property values, insights and services that municipalities and property owners can rely on.

Our 2021-2025 Strategic Plan prioritizes elevating the property owner and municipal experience. With this plan as our guide, we will demonstrate our support for property owners and our commitment to our municipal partners to enhance communities across Ontario.

76



"On behalf of MPAC, I'd like to congratulate all the new and re-elected officials following the recent municipal elections and thank you for your service. We look forward to the partnerships our MPAC team will continue to build with you and your municipal staff to support your community and local decision-making."

**Alan Spacek**  
Chair, MPAC Board of Directors

## Who We Are

We are Ontario's property market experts. Our job is to assess and classify more than 5.5 million properties across Ontario worth a combined value of more than \$3 trillion. Since our last report, Ontario has grown by approximately 100,000 new properties and we have added more than \$37 billion in new assessment from new construction and improvements to existing properties. Every municipality uses our assessments to make informed decisions about their community, including the distribution of property taxes.

We continuously update our property data so that municipal tax records are accurate when local governments are making important tax decisions.

Our work to maintain Ontario's property database includes:

- ✓ Collecting property data in consultation with municipalities and property owners
- ✓ Analyzing and verifying changes to property and property transactions
- ✓ Inspecting properties in response to building permits, sales reviews, neighbourhood reviews and more
- ✓ Monitoring sale trends in property sectors
- ✓ Processing severances and consolidations
- ✓ Addressing Requests for Reconsideration and appeals
- ✓ Responding to vacancy and tax applications from municipalities
- ✓ Tracking school support



"Our work in recent years has advanced our business processes and added more data than ever to ensure the quality and accuracy of our values. Building on these successes, we stand ready to deliver a predictable assessment base, accurate data and insights, and provide quality products and services that municipalities, property owners and other stakeholders can count on."

**Nicole McNeill**  
President and Chief Administrative Officer, MPAC

# Capturing New Assessment

Each year, MPAC updates property records to capture changes in properties from additions, improvements or new construction.

In 2022, we worked diligently to capture new assessment that provides additional revenue for municipalities. Throughout the year we assessed more than \$37 billion in new construction, additions and renovations across Ontario.

Our ongoing collaboration with municipalities made this milestone possible. Together, we are modernizing and digitizing building permit collection and exchange to create efficiencies for municipalities and to help us capture new assessment faster, resulting in new municipal revenues up to two months sooner.

"As I have recently returned to the municipal sector, I found our local representative and MPAC team have been extremely helpful to explain, answer questions and provide valuable information in a timely manner. MPAC's continued support confirms they are a valuable partner for our municipality."

**Angela Millar**  
Treasurer, Township of Drummond/North Elmsley



# Connecting With Partners

With the return of in-person conferences, MPAC had the pleasure of reconnecting with municipal representatives at events across the province – from the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) conference to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) conference, to name just two. Our Municipal and Stakeholder Relations team attended 14 municipal conferences this year, in-person and virtually.

As a speaker, exhibitor and attendee at these events, we shared organizational updates and operational highlights, and had the opportunity to discuss municipal priorities and work together on solutions.

Beyond events, our MPAC team engaged with municipal staff and elected officials more than 1,500 times in 2022 and responded to 97.7% of municipal inquiries within the time periods outlined in our [Service Level Agreement](#) with municipalities.

We're looking forward to keeping our connections strong as municipal councils begin their new term this fall.



"We are pleased to take part in many sector conferences and events, delivering updates, and receiving feedback during our workshops and one-to-one discussions. Your insights help us to enhance the municipal experience, determine how to best support municipal operations and consider future collaboration opportunities."

**Mary Dawson-Cole**  
Director, Municipal and Stakeholder Relations, MPAC

# Property Insights

MPAC is uniquely positioned as the only organization with a complete data set of all building permits in Ontario – we process about 300,000 each year on properties of all types. Our understanding of this data enables us to identify trends in various permit categories across the province.

During 2022, we shared these property insights with municipalities and property owners. Through a targeted media campaign, we provided the latest information on the significant increase in new residential builds and home improvements, decrease in condo sizes, growth of self-storage facilities, continued demand for office space and more.

To learn more, visit [Our Stories-Building Permits](#) on [mpac.ca](#).



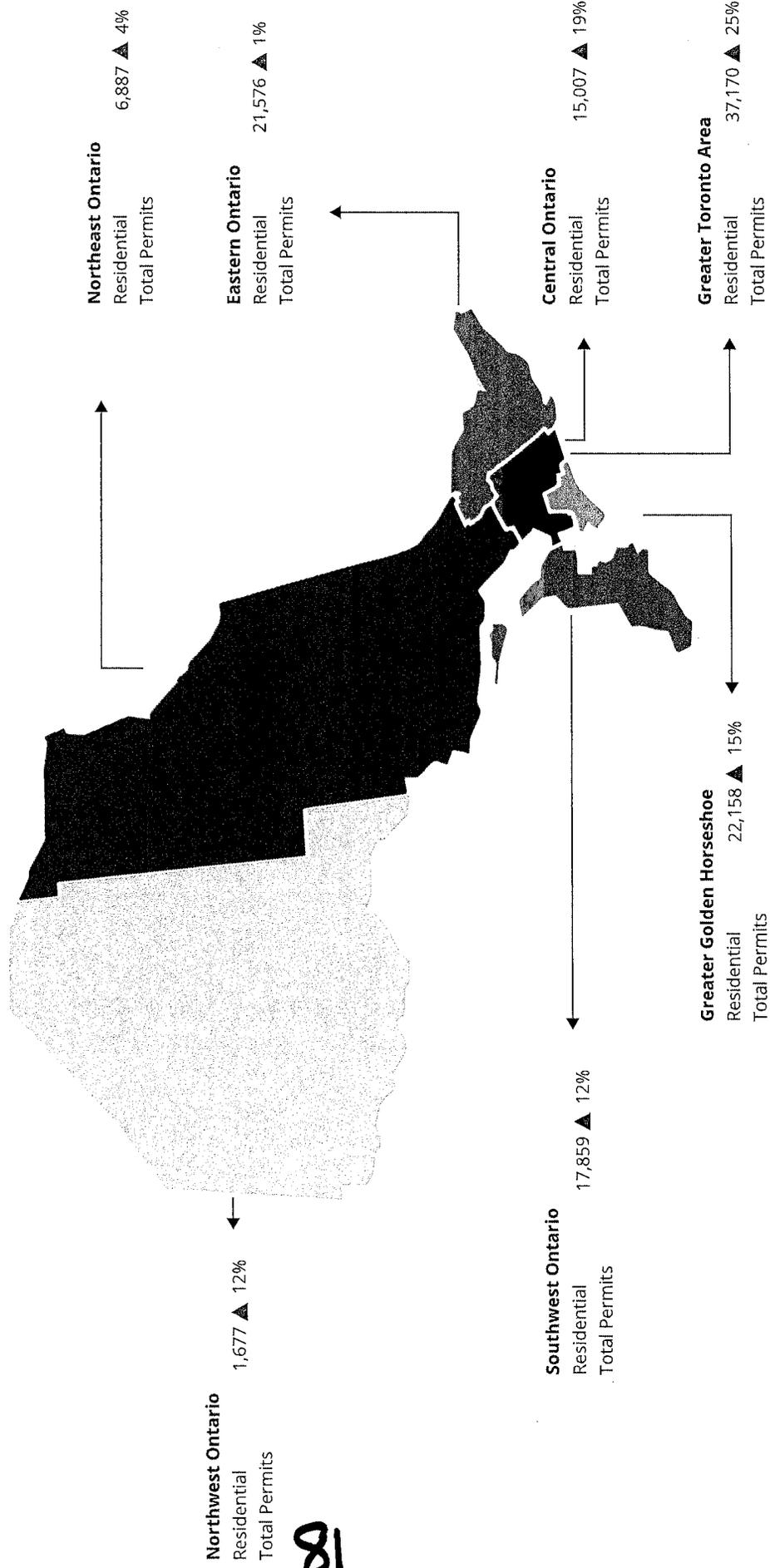
"Our relentless focus on maintaining Ontario's property inventory gives us unique insight into Ontario's changing property landscape. Much like the census informs us about population, property data can provide municipalities with insights on market changes and growth metrics that can enhance their planning and decision-making. We look forward to sharing more property data insights in 2023."

**Carmelo Lipsi**  
Vice-President and Chief Operating Officer, MPAC

# 2021 Residential Home Improvement Building Permits

Total Permits

122,334 ▲ 15%



# Innovative Solutions

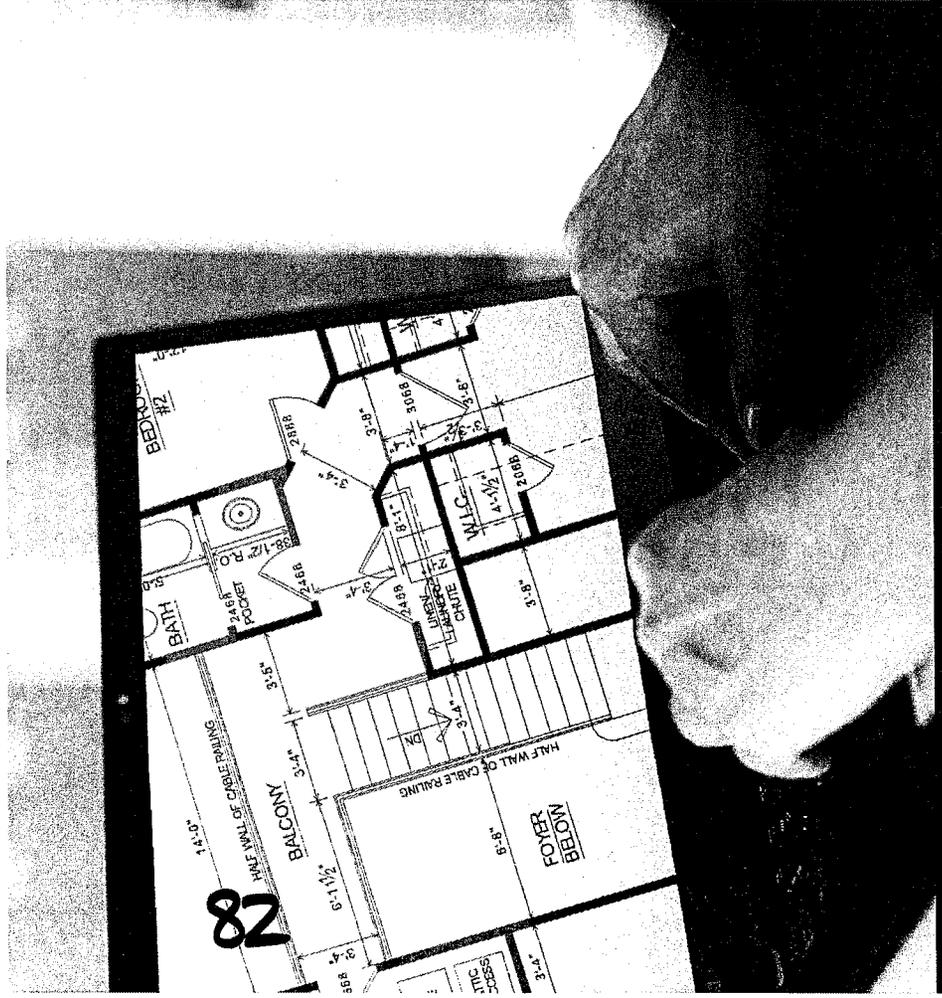
Investing in technology and innovative processes continues to be a focus for MPAC, especially when it comes to refining services that impact municipal operations.

This year, we continued our work with municipalities to digitize their permitting process. We are currently working in partnership with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario's (AMO) business arm, LAS, on an **e-permitting pilot project** to demonstrate the value of digital permitting for Ontario municipalities.

We have created an Application Programming Interface (API), which allows MPAC to electronically retrieve approved building plans prior to construction. This expedites our process for providing new assessment to municipalities and facilitates new revenue opportunities, sooner. We'll share the pilot results with municipalities when the project is completed in 2023.

"The Township is excited to be part of a project that evaluates the benefits of digital building permitting solutions, while supporting adoption by municipalities that might not have taken this step on their own. Thanks to AMO, LAS and MPAC for supporting municipalities to help them confidently take a step forward in service delivery modernization."

**Chris Wray**  
Chief Administrative Officer, Township of Black River-Matheson

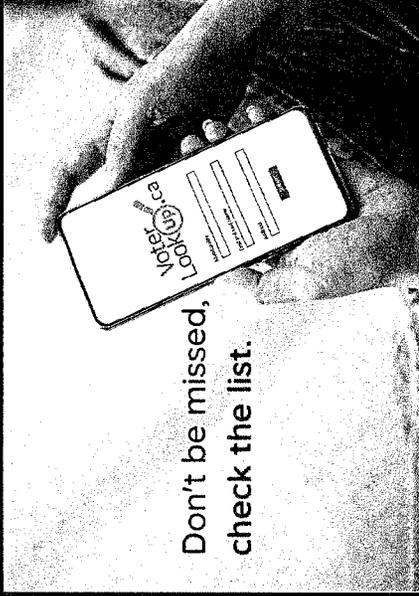


# Delivering the 2022 Enumeration

MPAC worked closely with municipalities and association partners to promote VoterLookUp.ca to support the delivery of a quality preliminary list of electors (PLE) to every municipality and school board for the October 24 elections.

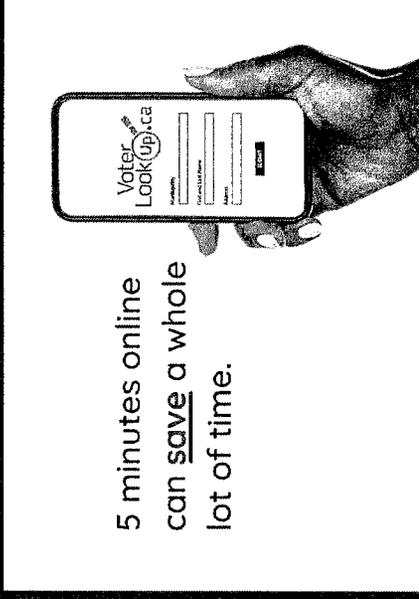
The campaign included print and digital content, targeted outreach for tenants and students, and **toolkits with information** municipalities could share to encourage voters to confirm their information on VoterLookUp.ca. With more than 215,000 searches leading up to the elections, the campaign's success was a result of the municipalities that helped promote and educate their residents about the tool.

While this is MPAC's last delivery of province-wide PLEs, we will continue to provide the PLE for any by-elections in 2023 and are working to implement legislated changes that will transfer responsibility for enumeration products to Elections Ontario in January 2024.



Don't be missed,  
check the list.

2022 Municipal and  
School Board Election



5 minutes online  
can **save** a whole  
lot of time.

2022 Municipal and  
School Board Election



"Our staff leveraged the resources in MPAC's toolkit to promote VoterLookUp and encourage residents to confirm their information for our 2022 municipal election. MPAC's off-the-shelf information and VoterLookUp made it easy to engage residents."

**Anne Whalen**  
Municipal Clerk, Township of Sables-Spanish Rivers

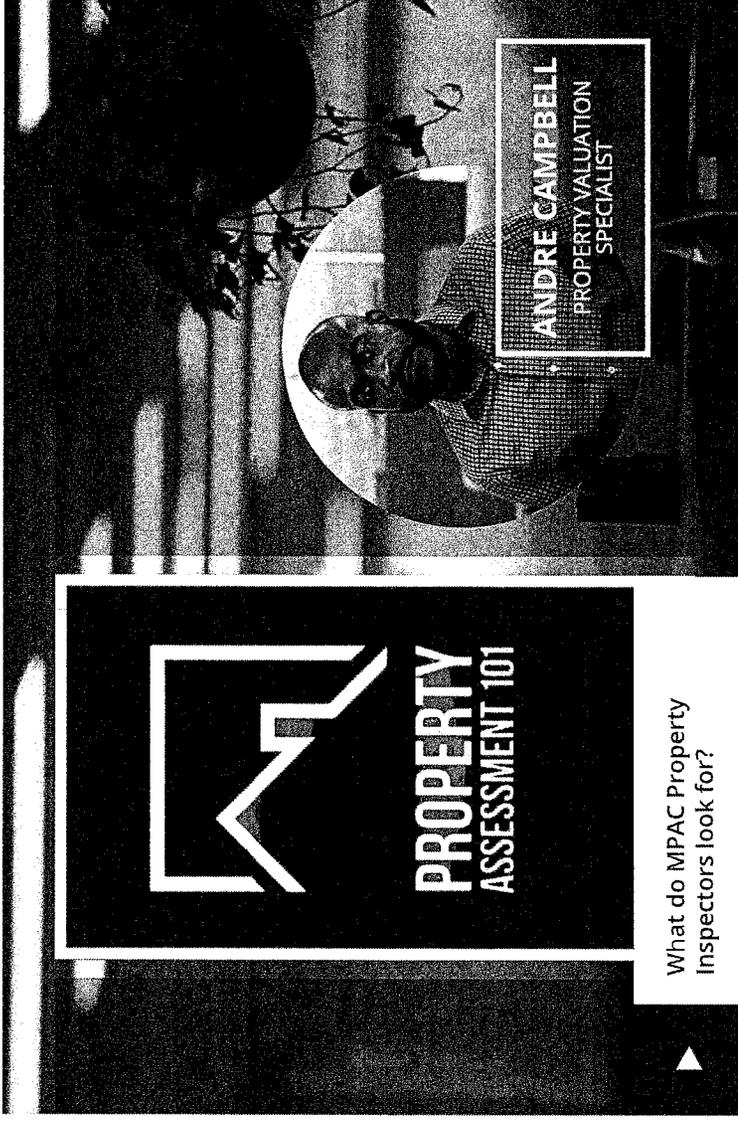
# Prioritizing Property Owners

We know there are a lot of questions about the property assessment and taxation process. We are making enhancements to help Ontarians better understand how we determine assessments and how this input is used to calculate property taxes.

The language on our Property Assessment Notices has been simplified to explain why owners are receiving one, and we added a QR code that links directly to more information on [mpac.ca](http://mpac.ca).

We have also increased our public education efforts. It's been six years since the last province-wide assessment update, and we understand that property owners may be feeling uncertain about what's to come. Our new public education campaign focuses on MPAC's roles and responsibilities, how assessed values and taxes are calculated and the relationship between the two.

To support our municipal partners, we shared a toolkit with municipalities that features ready-to-use, easily digestible content to help address anticipated concerns and misunderstandings from property owners as we prepare for the next province-wide assessment update.



11

“Communicating the relationship between property assessment and taxes to the public is a challenge for municipal finance leaders. Enhancing public understanding and trust in the property tax system strengthens municipal sustainability and MPAC’s toolkit is a valuable resource in these efforts. It helps to clarify MPAC’s role in determining property assessments, the role of municipalities in determining revenue requirements, and the relationship between the two.”

**Donna Herridge**  
Executive Director, Municipal Finance Officers’ Association of Ontario

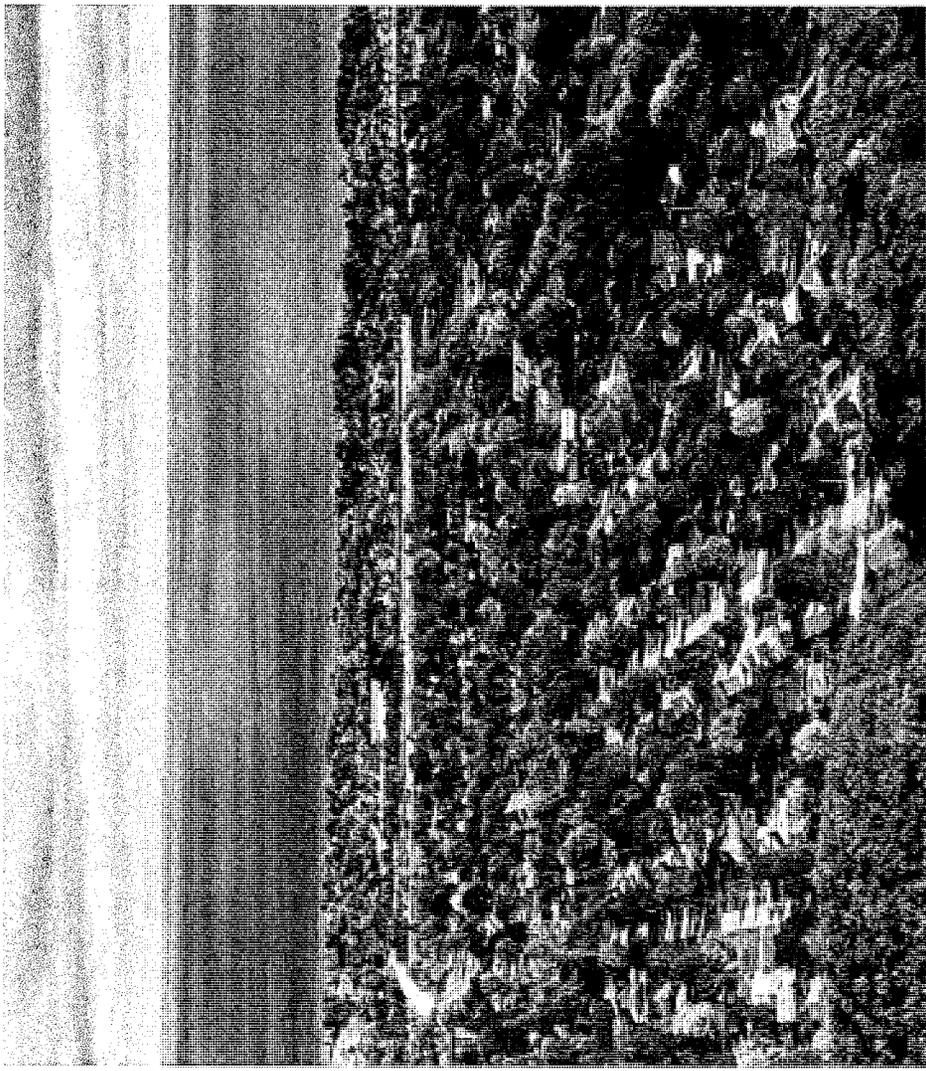
# New Products and Services on the Horizon

As MPAC continues the essential work that is preparing us for the next update, we are also exploring innovative solutions that support service delivery and provide further value to our stakeholders.

We recently introduced the Annotated Assessment Act to support municipalities with information to help make informed decisions related to assessment appeals. Available through Municipal Connect, this comprehensive guide explains how the Assessment Review Board (ARB) and Courts have interpreted the *Assessment Act*, Regulations and ARB rules, and includes more than 800 case summaries.

Another area where we are innovating is our real-time values project, leveraging leading-edge data science methods and advanced analytics to produce point-in-time market estimates. We foresee many benefits of this technology and are excited to share our progress with municipalities as the project evolves.

To ensure we deliver on the commitments we make, we are developing a new municipal "Master Agreement" in collaboration with a Municipal Working Group, that will update and consolidate numerous existing municipal agreements. We look forward to sharing more information with municipalities as we roll out the agreement in 2023.



"The review of assessment appeals is a complicated process for municipalities. MPAC's new Annotated Assessment Act resource will help the City to better understand what legislation, regulation, ARB rules, and influential decisions have said about the property assessment environment. This tool will prove to be a valuable starting point for our research and planning as we consider our interest in future assessment appeals."

**Aaron Zamler**  
Supervisor of Assessment, City of Vaughan

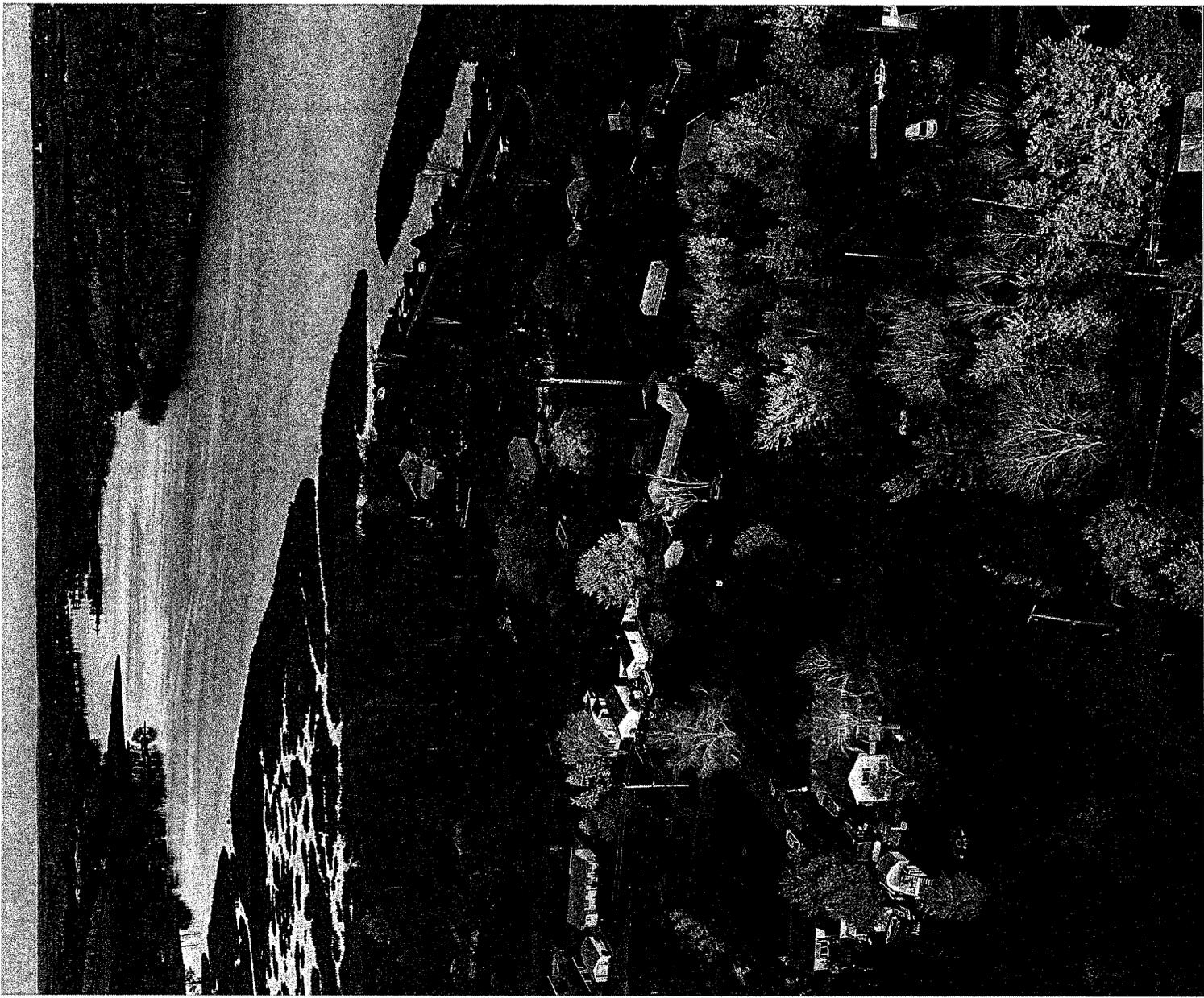
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## Looking Ahead

MPAC continues its preparations for a future province-wide assessment update.

As we await the Province's direction on the next reassessment, we'll continue to work hard every day to keep Ontario's property inventory up-to-date to ensure that we're ready for a province-wide assessment update whenever it is called. We'll remain focused on capturing new construction, renovations and additions that will deliver critical new assessment to municipal assessment rolls.

In the coming year, we'll continue sharing market insights and analysis that will support municipal decision-making to build thriving communities. And we'll explore innovative ways to optimize the way we work to evolve the services that municipalities rely on while helping Ontarians better understand who we are, what we do and the relationship between property assessment and taxation.



# Connect With Us

## E-NEWSLETTER

Subscribe to our municipal e-newsletter, **InTouch**.

## WEBINARS

Join our **webinars** to hear about provincial issues and trends. Watch your email for registration details.

## SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow us on:



Subscribe:

## GET IN TOUCH

Need help? Find your **Account Manager**.

Accessible formats and communication supports are available upon request.



MUNICIPAL  
PROPERTY  
ASSESSMENT  
CORPORATION

MUNICIPAL  
PROPERTY  
ASSESSMENT  
CORPORATION



89

-----Original Appointment-----

**From:** Tootoonchian, Pegah <[Pegah.Tootoonchian@wsp.com](mailto:Pegah.Tootoonchian@wsp.com)>

**Sent:** Thursday, February 9, 2023 11:07 AM

**To:** Tootoonchian, Pegah; [Ashley.harrison@barrie.ca](mailto:Ashley.harrison@barrie.ca); [jferguson@clearview.ca](mailto:jferguson@clearview.ca); [kshea@innisfil.ca](mailto:kshea@innisfil.ca); [gmcknight@townofbwg.com](mailto:gmcknight@townofbwg.com); [bparkin@newtecumseth.ca](mailto:bparkin@newtecumseth.ca); [Jeff.Schmidt@springwater.ca](mailto:Jeff.Schmidt@springwater.ca); [nsantos@adjtos.ca](mailto:nsantos@adjtos.ca); Sears, Brett; Michael Mikael; Colleen Healey; Gebhardt, Amanda; Jones, Justin;

Jason Coleman; Murali, Purushotham; Jeremy Walton; Madona Shamoan; Huang, Enya; Purvis, Amy

**Subject:** Township of Essa Transportation and Trails Master Plan Technical Advisory Committee

**When:** February 17, 2023 9:00 AM-10:30 AM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada).

**Where:** Microsoft Teams Meeting

Good morning,

The Township of Essa is preparing a Transportation and Trails Master Plan (TTMP) with the intent of identifying active transportation, trails, and road network improvements to accommodate forecasted growth over the next 20 years. The Township would like to invite you to participate in a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to learn more about the project and provide feedback on the preliminary draft plans for future improvements. Through the Master Plan, the Township aims to provide a multi-modal transportation network that is well-connected and inclusive for users of all ages and abilities. The meeting will be held on Friday, February 17, 2023 from 9:00am – 10:30am via Microsoft Teams (link provided below).

The proposed agenda includes:

- Introductions of Participants
- Introduction to the TTMP: objectives, process, and timelines
- Preliminary proposed active transportation and trail network upgrades
- Preliminary proposed road network upgrades
- Questions and Answers

If you are unable to attend, please delegate this invitation to a representative of your team. Please feel free to contact the Township and/or Consulting Team at the following address:

Michael Mikael, Manager of Public Works, Township of Essa: [mmikael@essatownship.on.ca](mailto:mmikael@essatownship.on.ca)

Pegah Tootoonchian, Senior Transportation Planner, WSP Canada Inc.: [pegah.tootoonchian@wsp.com](mailto:pegah.tootoonchian@wsp.com)

Thank you and we look forward to your participation and feedback on the Transportation and Trails Master Plan,

Pegah Tootoonchian



**Pegah Tootoonchian, RPP MCIP**

Senior Transportation Planner  
Transportation Planning & Science

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100 Commerce Valley Drive West  
Toronto, Ontario  
L3T 0A1 Canada

89