



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 of the Whole Meeting** and the **Simcoe County Housing Corporation Board Meeting on August 8, 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

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## 2023 Strategic Initiatives

On August 8, 2023, Council approved strategic initiatives that were discussed and approved at the Strategic Planning session on June 27, 2023. Council also considered additional primary and secondary initiatives that were gathered for consideration during the June meeting.

These approved priorities all fall into the following categories:

- Growth related service delivery
- Strengthen social, health and educational opportunities
- Economic and destination development
- Environmental sustainability
- A culture of workplace and operational excellence

Now that the strategic initiatives have been approved, a formal document will be developed outlining the County's Strategic Plan, which will include the Vision, Mission and Values, Strategic directions, and the Strategic Initiatives.

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WESTERN ONTARIO  
**WOWC**  
WARDENS CAUCUS

## WESTERN ONTARIO WARDENS' CAUCUS

Simcoe County Council Delegation  
August 8, 2023

## Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus Presentation

On August 8, 2023, Kate Burns Gallagher, the Executive Director of Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus, gave a presentation to Council on who WOWC is, their purpose, how they operate, and the benefits to regional partners and members.

Their 2023-24 priorities include: housing; supporting economic growth; and mental health and addictions. For more information, visit <https://wowc.ca/>.

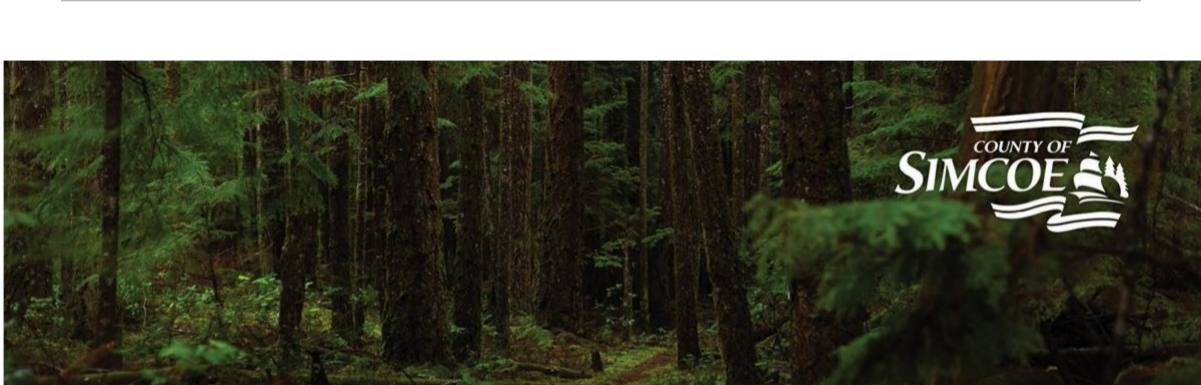


Rendering of the proposed mixed-use building on Rose Street in Barrie, ON. Click on the image to learn more about the development project.

## Simcoe County Housing Corporation Development, 20 Rose Street Additional Units Options (Presentation By: Brad Spiewak, Director, Social Housing)

County Council has approved plans for a mixed-use building at 20 Rose Street in Barrie, which will include commercial space for community and social service agencies, such as licenced childcare or other compatible social service providers. The development also provides for the co-location of essential County of Simcoe social services, including Ontario Works, Children Services, Community Services, and Social Housing services. This facility will help build up our communities by addressing the housing crisis in a responsible, impactful, and sustainable way.

On August 8, 2023, County Council expanded its plan to create additional affordable rental spaces at the County's Rose Street location. Previously approved for 176 new affordable rentals, the new approved plan expands on this to create 215 total spaces, for a net increase to the original plan of 39 units. This maximizes the proposed affordability mix and intensifies the original design, substituting some of the two- and three-bedroom units with studio and one-bedroom units on upper floors. It also relocates the Social and Community Services office space to the top of the proposed parking structure, allowing for more residential units. Work is set to begin on the project in 2024, pending further approvals.



Click on the image to read the revised plan.

## Updated Simcoe County Forest 20-Year Management Plan

Accepted practice for forest management planning in Ontario generally dictates the completion of a comprehensive planning exercise every 20 years. Although a long-term planning horizon is important, periodic updates are needed to incorporate any changes resulting from monitoring and evaluation, new scientific and technical information, stakeholder engagement, and to respond to changing environmental, social, or economic circumstances.

In consideration of the substantive changes to the Simcoe County Forest itself and other factors, it was determined that an update to the original plan was warranted as opposed to the completion of a separate document.

On August 8, 2023, Council received the updated plan, which includes revisions and additions, such as the incorporation of 805 ha (1,990 acres) of additional lands; revisions to the overall forest classification system; the implications from a changing climate including adaptability of certain tree species; and the impacts from severe weather events and actions to promote forest resiliency.

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## Simcoe County Housing Corporation Board - Tuesday, August 8, 2023

### Expanding Housing Options within Simcoe County Housing Corporation (SCHC)

SCHC is the largest social and community housing provider in the county. In addition to continuing to operate its original locations at 100% rent-geared-to-income (RGI) across our service area, SCHC has also expanded into purpose-built affordable housing through new builds going into the areas of Collingwood, Wasaga Beach, Victoria Harbour, Orillia, Bradford, and Barrie. Each build avails the opportunity to introduce new funding schemes that are not RGI-based yet remain affordable.

On August 8, 2023, staff presented a report that proposed the use of \$260,000 of Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP) funding for a conversion project at 108 Burton Ave. to create a supportive housing system. Supportive housing is associated with assisting individuals living with varied diagnoses and who are homeless, or at risk of homelessness, to access and maintain stable housing by offering ongoing supports.

As part of the proposed pilot project, community supportive agencies will be responsible for funding the supports for at least five units at 108 Burton Ave. Once designated as supportive housing units, SCHC will be able to obtain financial assistance through an approved Rent Supplement Program (RSP), and the existing RGI funding will be applied to other properties to help new applicants and alleviate pressures on existing waitlists.

On August 8, 2023, the Board approved the proposed pilot project, which expands SCHC's housing stock, takes advantage of existing funding opportunities, and builds upon SCHC's commitment to creating an integrated service model for housing and supports.

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[Joint Council and Committee Meeting Agenda - August 8, 2023](#)

[Simcoe County Housing Corporation Board Meeting Agenda - August 8, 2023](#)

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