



Council Highlights are intended to provide a summary of Council proceedings only. The information contained within the Highlights is based on approved material from within the associated agenda packages, linked at the bottom. These reports were part of the agendas from the **Council Meeting on February 13, 2024** and the **Committee of the Whole Meeting on January 30, 2024**. For more information on any item covered in the Highlights, each article is hyperlinked to the appropriate report, which can be accessed by clicking on the title. Images are also linked to relevant resources.

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

- Service Simcoe



## Simcoe County Historical Association

Presentation by Donna Wice and Deb Crawford from the Simcoe County Historical Association promoting their awards programs for students, businesses, community partners, and individuals across the County for their contributions to the heritage of Simcoe County and making the region a better place to remember.

The Historical Association just hosted their first ever History Conference at the Simcoe County Museum, in addition to many other events across the region. In 2024, they plan to host a new schedule of speakers, both in person and virtually, to educate while celebrating our history.



Click on the image above to find more information on the County's 10-point plan for homelessness prevention.

## Homelessness Prevention Funding

On March 24, 2023, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) advised the County that an additional \$202 million was being invested through the provincial Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP) and the Indigenous Supportive Housing Program (ISHP). The County of Simcoe received an increased investment of \$9,731,400, bringing the annual provincial funding commitment to \$21,084,300 by March 31, 2026.

The County's [10-point Homelessness Prevention Plan](#) includes two primary goals: to reduce chronic homelessness and to provide a data-informed strategy. Proposed 2024-2025 HPP allocations reflect the following commitments:

- A more streamlined and flexible approach to funding and services County-wide
- A commitment to new partnerships, further expanding the network of funded services and supports best to meet the needs of individuals in all our communities
- Building up supportive housing capacity through capital acquisitions and operational allocations
- Increasing accountability by supporting and incentivizing the funded system to achieve outcomes set through funding contracts
- A continued focus on Coordinated Access to reduce homelessness in our communities.



## Unsheltered Homelessness Response Funding

On December 22, 2023, Infrastructure Canada advised the County of Simcoe of a one-time allocation of 2023-2024 Unsheltered Homelessness Response Funding.

Staff outlined recommendations for allocating this one-time Reaching Home top-up funding and details recommendations for leveraging associated savings within the municipal poverty reduction funding envelope as approved within the 2023 and 2024 County of Simcoe budgets.

Recommendations for allocating the \$1,400,952 Reaching Home one-time top-up funding include:

### Capital Investments and Housing Services (\$900,000):

- The 2019-2023 Reaching Home Community Plan identified capital investments to increase affordable and supportive housing as a priority. The Reaching Home Community Advisory Board previously endorsed an investment of \$1,336,000 from its approved 2023-2024 funding envelope, and this investment is targeted at the acquisition of modular structures. A Request for Proposals was issued in late fall 2023 to acquire additional modular structures to create more supportive housing. Attributing \$700,000.00 of this one-time Reaching Home funding in addition to the previously approved \$1,336,000 toward the acquisition and site preparation for these modular structures will result in a minimum of 20 net new supportive housing/rapid rehousing units, accommodating 20 to 40 individuals, dependant upon single or double occupancy.
- A future report to Council will outline recommendations for 2024-2025 Reaching Home funding allocations, including funding for operations of the above-noted net new supportive housing units, commencing April 1, 2024. Staff recommends an allocation of \$200,000 from the one-time top-up funding to support operations to April 30, 2024.

### Temporary Accommodations (\$440,952):

Enhance warming services and the motel voucher program for the period November 1, 2023 to April 30, 2024 to offer alternative options to individuals experiencing homelessness to shelter from inclement weather. Individuals accessing warming services and the motel voucher program will be supported to connect with necessary services and resources.

### Prevention and Shelter Diversion (\$60,000):

Fund sub-projects addressing emergency food assistance for those at risk of homelessness. Projects will support access to healthy food items and supply grocery vouchers and gift cards to those who are currently housed but at risk of homelessness.



## Age-Friendly Recognition Program

*Tiny Township was [just recognized](#) by the World Health Organization (WHO) as an Age-Friendly Community. It is an incredible achievement to receive an Age-Friendly Community designation by the WHO. From the County of Simcoe: Our sincerest congratulations to the Township of Tiny!*

The County of Simcoe Positive Aging Strategy includes an Age-Friendly Recognition program. This Recognition Program includes two (2) categories that focus on local businesses as well as individual champions within our community.

### 2023 Business Award Winners

FOCUS Employment Services, Alliston  
Hearing Life, Bradford  
Hunt Family Movers, Innisfil  
Right at Home Canada, Collingwood  
Sandy Cove Drug Store, Innisfil  
Seniors at Play, Orillia

### 2023 Individual Award Winners

Patty McLaughlin, Song Circle, hosted at the Innisfil Library, Innisfil  
Sandra Fother, Seniors at Play, Orillia  
Dave Wetherald, Visiting Library Service, Barrie Public Library, Barrie  
Jenna Wickens, CFS Counseling & Wellbeing as the MatureMinds Coordinator, Barrie

The 2023 awards ceremony took place on January 31, 2024 at the Simcoe County Museum. The County recognized the six (6) businesses that have made their operations more accessible for older adults as well as the four (4) individuals that have demonstrated outstanding age-friendly work in their communities.



[Committee of the Whole Meeting Agenda - January 30, 2024](#)

[Council Meeting Agenda - February 13, 2024](#)

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