



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 November 28, 2023** and the **Committee of the Whole Meeting on November 14, 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



Waste Collection Schedule Changes Take Place Week of December 4

The County of Simcoe is adjusting its curbside waste collection zones to accommodate the Province's shift to a new Producer Responsibility recycling model.

Households in Zone 2 will skip a garbage week (December 4-7) and have two consecutive recycling collection weeks (November 27-30 and December 4-7). Notifications have been sent to households in in Zone 2 throughout October and November and reminders are scheduled on the Simcoe County Collects App, among other communications. Collection days of the week do NOT change!

Click the image above to learn more, including how to determine your new zone.



Click on the image above to read the County's 2024 Budget Overview.

2024 Draft County of Simcoe Budget – Follow-up Items from Special Budget Meeting and Recommended Changes

On November 28, 2023, County of Simcoe Council approved a \$774 million budget, which focuses on the resources necessary to maintain existing services and address significant growth in our communities.

At the direction and approval of County Council, residents will see a 1.7 per cent increase for operating and a 2 per cent increase for infrastructure and asset management on the County portion of their municipal property taxes in 2024. This represents an impact of approximately \$10.69 per \$100,000 property assessment across the region. \$212 million of the County's budget comes from Simcoe County residential property taxes and the remaining amount from other funding streams.

- LTC - Homes and Seniors Services **\$124 million**
- Paramedic Services **\$72 million**
- Children Services **\$109 million**
- Community Services **\$29 million**
- Social Housing **\$101 million**
- Ontario Works **\$71 million**
- Transportation and Engineering **\$80 million**
- Solid Waste Management **\$81 million**



Click on the image above to read the 2023 LIP Community Settlement Strategy.

2023 Community Settlement Strategy

On November 28, 2023, Council approved the 2023 Community Settlement Strategy. This latest strategy will support newcomers to Simcoe County and reflect the needs and goals of residents, businesses, and municipalities.

Through our Local Immigration Partnership, the County is working closely with our partners in government and within our communities to build inclusive, vibrant, healthy, and sustainable communities. The County is home to more than 82,000 immigrants, which is an increase of more than a third since 2016. Our new settlement strategy lays out a clear path forward that supports newcomers to live, work and belong in Simcoe County.

The County has made significant progress since the launch of the first settlement strategy in 2016. Some of the accomplishments include:

- The launch of an immigration website, containing over 300 pages of online content to attract, integrate, and retain newcomers to the region.
- Increased investment supporting additional English language training programs; the development, and rollout of a Settlement Workers in Schools (SWIS) program; new
- Francophone language training and settlement services; and the successful launch and growth of the Immigrant Job Finding Club
- The development and growth of the annual #ITSTARTS campaign to reduce racism and discrimination in Simcoe County
- The development of an annual Newcomer Recognition Awards ceremony with award categories aligning with the goals of the Community Settlement Strategy

Dedicated Offload Nurse Program Funding Update

In 2008, it was announced by the Provincial Government that emergency wait times were a healthcare priority. As part of a \$109-million program, one-time funding of \$4.5 million in the Province's 2008/2009 fiscal year was announced for 14 Upper-Tier Municipalities for Municipal Emergency Medical Services agencies to contract with local hospitals for the provision of nursing services dedicated to caring for and offloading patients from Paramedics.

Since the initial funding, the Ministry continued to increase the annual amount plateauing at approximately \$131,000 for the past decade. Staff have directed this funding to provide dedicated offload nurses in local emergency department to help reduce wait times. Hospitals that receive the most patients have been prioritized.

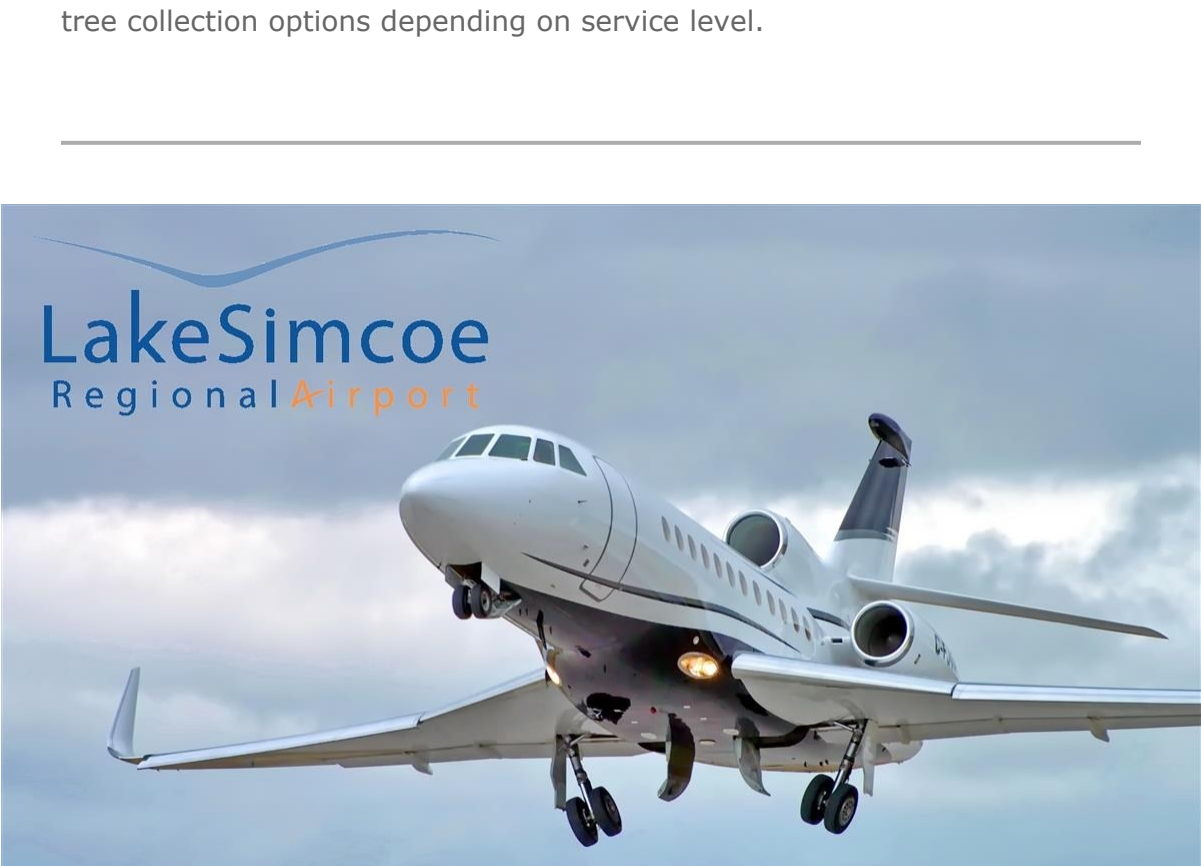
On November 28, 2023, Council approved staff to utilize increased funding to support the implementation of one dedicated offload nurse in the Emergency Department 12 hours/day, seven (7) days/week, 365 days/year at Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre in Barrie, Orillia Soldiers Memorial Hospital, Collingwood General and Marine Hospital and Georgian Bay General Hospital in Midland; and a combination of 4-8 hours/day up to 7 days/week, 365 days/year at Stevenson Memorial Hospital in Alliston.

Special Collections – Options for Consideration

The County's special waste collection programs (with the exception of Battery collection) are under one contract and are comprised of leaf and yard waste, Christmas trees, textiles and electronics collection.

On November 28, 2023, Council approved staff to cease the curbside collection of textiles and electronics in 2025. Curbside audits reveal that participation is approximately 6% for each program. Total tonnages have also decreased since 2021 in both programs. Residents can divert this material through other means such as third-party businesses, as well as not for profit organizations. Textiles and electronics are also accepted free of charge at all eight Waste Drop-off Facilities.

On Council also approved staff to initiate public procurement processes to obtain current costing for various leaf and yard collection and Christmas tree collection options depending on service level.



Lake Simcoe Regional Airport Share Purchase

The County of Simcoe holds 90% ownership and the City of Barrie holds 10% ownership of the Lake Simcoe Regional Airport. Continuing the expansion of this regional airport will benefit the entire region economically.

On November 28, 2023, Council approved that the Warden and Clerk be authorized to enter into an agreement with the City of Barrie and execute all related documents to acquire the remaining shares.

Autonomy over operations and strategic decisions will allow greater ability to respond to the airport's changing needs, investment opportunities and the ability to plan and fund major capital expansion. In addition, sole ownership will provide more control and opportunity to reduce administrative costs for the LSRA and the County of Simcoe

[Committee of the Whole Meeting Agenda - November 14, 2023](#)

[Joint Council and Committee of the Whole Meeting Agenda - November 28, 2023](#)

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