



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 March 26, 2024** and the **Committee of the Whole Meeting on March 12, 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



Community Paramedicine Home Visit Program Update

Starting in the fiscal year 2020, Paramedic Services received temporary funding to March 31, 2024. In a letter dated June 16, 2023, the Ministry of Long-Term Care declared their commitment to continue to extend the funding for the program until March 31, 2026. On March 6, 2024, the County was presented with the funding letter for a total of \$4,661,400 for these two (2) funding years.

This funding supports keeping individuals who are on or eligible for a Long-Term Care (LTC) waitlist, at home safe and stable. Community Paramedicine (CP) provides preventative health measures and exacerbation care which includes home visits, phone call appointments and remote patient monitoring.

Community Paramedics provide comprehensive in-home health assessments, including monitoring vital signs, conducting bloodwork, providing vaccinations, and health education.

They work in collaboration with local health services providers and consult with the patient's physician or nurse practitioner in real time, facilitating changes to medications and treatment plans at home. Patients enrolled in the program have direct telephone access to Community Paramedics when they experience increased or worsening symptoms often preventing a 911 call and the need to go to the hospital.



SIMCOE STRONG VOLUNTEER

During Council on March 26th, Warden Basil Clarke [proclaimed that April 14-20, 2024 will be recognized as National Volunteer Week](#) across the region to celebrate the dedication of volunteers. Following Council, during Committee of the Whole, Council received a presentation on the Simcoe Strong Volunteer Program.

Simcoe Strong Volunteer Program

(Committee of the Whole presentation on March 26, 2024)

The County of Simcoe provides a broad range of services to residents living throughout this region delivered by an employee workforce of over 2000 staff. Complimenting this dedicated workforce, we have developed incredible partnerships with many devoted individuals from our communities who volunteer their gift of time to support those we serve. In particular, we are grateful to the over 180 volunteers for their dedication to our long-term care homes, seniors services, and adult day programs. Simcoe Strong volunteers collectively contributed over 6,900 hours in 2023. This number has significantly increased by 39% since 2022. The Simcoe County Museum had 51 volunteers in 2023 who contributed 1,960 hours.

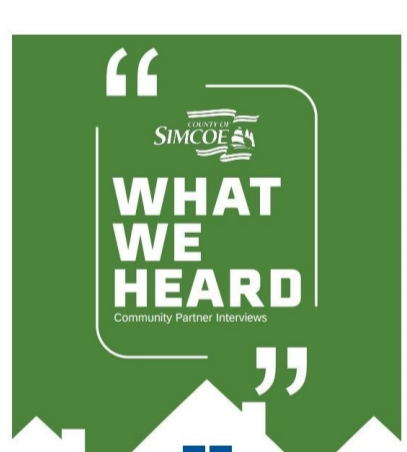
It is a privilege to celebrate and show appreciation to these precious volunteers during Canada's National Volunteer week. This year's national theme is "Every Moment Matters". According to Volunteer Canada, "this highlights the importance of every volunteer and each contribution they make at a moment when we need support more than ever. The sharing of time, skills, empathy, and creativity is vital to the inclusivity, strength, and well-being of our communities."

Volunteering is the most fundamental act of citizenship and generosity in our society. The goal of the Simcoe Strong Volunteer program is to provide meaningful impression to volunteers and the residents across the County's four (4) Long-Term Care Homes and Seniors Services (LTCSS) sites and guests of the Simcoe County Museum.

Summary of Findings from Public Consultations on Affordable Housing

Committee of the Whole reviewed notes from the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee Meeting held on March 5, 2024, including the Summary of Findings from Public Consultations on Affordable Housing. This report summarized what the County heard in its public and stakeholder surveys about the need for affordable housing across the region. To view both summaries, visit one of the links below.

The document [What We Heard: Community Partner Interviews](#) outlines responses from nearly 80 community partners representing multi-sector interests, lived experience and vulnerable population perspectives. The community partner interviews aimed to gather feedback to evaluate and improve the current Our Community 10-Year Affordable Housing and Homelessness Prevention Strategy, seek suggestions for a new 10-year plan and understand challenges and opportunities in housing from various perspectives.



The document [What We Heard: Online Public Survey](#) includes qualitative and quantitative data from over 8,000 online survey responses. The online survey sought information from a wide range of participants on current local housing needs, attitudes towards housing targets, and perceived barriers to housing and cost-of-living challenges to enable better integration of human services.



The feedback from both reports has been thoroughly reviewed and is being used to pursue focused inquiries to build a comprehensive policy response.

The community consultation and any ancillary findings will be posted online at www.simcoe.ca/housing, where participants will have an opportunity to provide additional comments. County staff will bring a draft strategy, developed under the leadership of the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee (AHAC), to County Council in November for approval.

Staff were asked to report back on how the County can advocate for more efficiency at the Landlord & Tenant Board to encourage and facilitate the growth of rental units in the region.



County of Simcoe Transit – 2023 Status Update

In 2023, LINX Transit completed its fifth year, in which it experienced consistent ridership growth and improvements in conventional and specialized transit services. Both conventional and specialized recorded a significant increase in ridership (23% and 33% respectively), with a noted surge in specialized transit applications over the previous year. Additionally, LINX Transit had a strong safety performance and high service reliability which were also notable achievements for 2023.

LINX Transit strategic plan includes developing new routes, increasing service, and introducing initiatives to render transit services more efficient, reliable, and responsive to the evolving needs of the County of Simcoe ridership in the coming years.

Conventional Transit Ridership

The year-over-year ridership for the conventional transit routes displayed an increase of 23.35%. The quarterly and total ridership numbers exceeded expectations, with all routes showcasing a consistent upward trend throughout the year.

- Route 1 (Barrie to Penetanguishene): 39,918 riders
- Route 2 (Barrie to Wasaga Beach): 42,949 riders
- Route 3 (Barrie to Orillia): 50,209 riders
- Route 4 (Collingwood to Wasaga Beach): 82,617 riders
- Route 5 (Alliston to Bradford): 20,851 riders
- Route 6 (Midland to Orillia): 22,404 riders
- **Total Conventional Transit Ridership: 258,948 riders**

[Committee of the Whole Meeting Agenda - March 12, 2024](#)

[Council Meeting Agenda - March 26, 2024](#)

Follow Us

