



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 Meeting and Committee of the Whole meetings held on August 13, 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



County to investigate modifications for County Road 4 reconstruction

The County of Simcoe is currently reconstructing and widening a portion of County Road 4 through the village of Churchill. The County received a minor accommodation request from the Churchill church manse located on Yonge St. in Innisfil that will assist with visitors and guests to park and access the

manse.

The County of Simcoe will provide a hard surface walkway to connect from the manse driveway to the 1.0-meter-wide existing concrete walkway, to the front door of the manse and pave the end of the manse driveway with asphalt to the property line.

The County will also provide advice to the manse regarding how to most efficiently provide parking and turn-around ability on the manse property and investigate the possibility of a rollover curb on the east side of County Road 4 as close to the manse's front door as possible.



Letter to Premier Ford regarding Ontario Long Service Medals

The Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury has issued a letter to Premier Doug Ford regarding long-service medals. Firefighters across Ontario as well as Ontario Provincial Police Officers receive long-service medals from the province in recognition of their devoted years to being a frontline hero.

Charles Shaw, a local resident of Bradford West Gwillimbury who is a paramedic and former volunteer firefighter, has been advocating for paramedics and non-OPP officers to receive similar long-service medals from the province. This letter to Premier Ford will continue to work to make this a reality.

On August 13, during the Joint Committee of the Whole session, County Council endorsed the creation of a province-wide long-service medal for police and for paramedics, modelled after the existing award for firefighters. The letter can be viewed in its entirety [here](#).



Community Alternative Response Engagement (CARE) Pilot

In partnership with Canadian Mental Health Association and Barrie Police, staff are working to implement a Community Response pilot attending to non-emergent, non-violent patients with specific mental health and addictions needs.

The CARE team will consist of a Community Paramedic and a Canadian Mental Health Association social worker trained to assess, provide mental health support, minor medical care, de-escalation and connection to community services.

The CARE team will initially respond through paramedic referrals through 9-1-1 responses and Barrie Police communications. Patients who need immediate acute mental health and addictions care will continue to be treated and transported by paramedics to the closest Emergency Department. If assessed as less urgent, some patients may be referred to Community Paramedicine for referral navigation and support.

Further collaboration with all partners to confirm implementation will commence in the coming weeks.

To read more about the pilot program and its background, click [here](#).



Simcoe County Positive Aging Strategy Update

An Age-Friendly Simcoe County 2023 Community Survey was developed with the aim to assess the effectiveness of the existing strategy and lay groundwork for crafting a new, responsive strategy tailored to the evolving needs of the County's older population over the next five years.

The survey garnered 2,587 responses, representing a 2.56% response rate of the total population aged 60 years and older in Simcoe County. This sample size is considered large, enhancing the reliability of its estimates. The survey results are now being separated and analyzed by each individual municipality that will result in 18 separate reports to support Age Friendly planning in those areas.

Community Consultations are being planned in the Fall of 2024 to validate survey themes and priorities. Following these consultations, a Needs Assessment Report will be written using the results from the survey and community consultations to inform the next iteration of the Simcoe County Positive Aging Strategy 2024-2029. More updates will be provided to County Council as more information becomes available.



Member Municipal IT Services Program Expansion

Due to an increase in cyber security incidents impacting the Ontario Public Sector, County IT staff have a plan in the 2024 budget to conduct a security assessment and are recommending the scope to be increased to include municipal partners.

The Simcoe Community Access Network (SCAN) partners security assessment would include a review of 33 organizations, to provide a complete view of the external footprint of the County and our network partners.

The total cost of the SCAN partners security assessment is approximately \$200,000. The County's IT department has \$50,000 in the 2024 budget for a Simcoe County assessment; therefore, it was approved by Council to provide an additional \$150,000 to include all the SCAN partners. It was also approved that staff proceed to recruit one IT Support Technical to support the Member Municipal IT Services Program Expansion.

To read the full report, please click [here](#).

Joint Council, Committee of the Whole Agenda - August 13,
2024

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