



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 **Special Council Meeting on March 26 and Committee of the Whole Meeting on March 11, 2025**. 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



2025 Licensed Child Care and Early Years System Funding

The County of Simcoe is responsible for planning, managing, and funding the local licensed child care and early years system. The 2025 system funding totals \$151,617,946, with contributions from federal, provincial, and municipal sources. Council approved the proposed funding allocations for service providers, which have been developed based on local needs and in accordance with provincial guidelines.

This funding supports 226 licensed child care programs (was approximately 203 at the beginning of 2024), 32 EarlyON Child and Family Centre programs, three Special needs Resourcing Agencies and four Indigenous-led programs. With the 2025 Canada-Wide Early Learning & Child Care directed growth approvals, the number of licensed child-care programs is expected to continue to increase by the end of 2025.

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



2025 Tax Ratios and Tax Rates

The County of Simcoe is responsible for establishing county-wide tax ratios, tax rate reductions, and county tax rates. Council approved the proposed tax ratios and rates for 2025, which will be used to develop the tax ratio and tax rates by-law. Although the Province has not enacted major property tax reforms for 2025, a new property class for Aggregate Extraction properties has been introduced.

Reassessment has been paused, and properties continue to be taxed based on a valuation date of January 1, 2016. The total growth-related assessment change during the 2024 taxation year was an increase of 2.13%, translating to a 2.22% tax growth for the period. The 2025 budget includes a 3.625% tax rate increase, with 1.625% allocated to maintaining operating service levels and 2.0% for capital infrastructure.

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

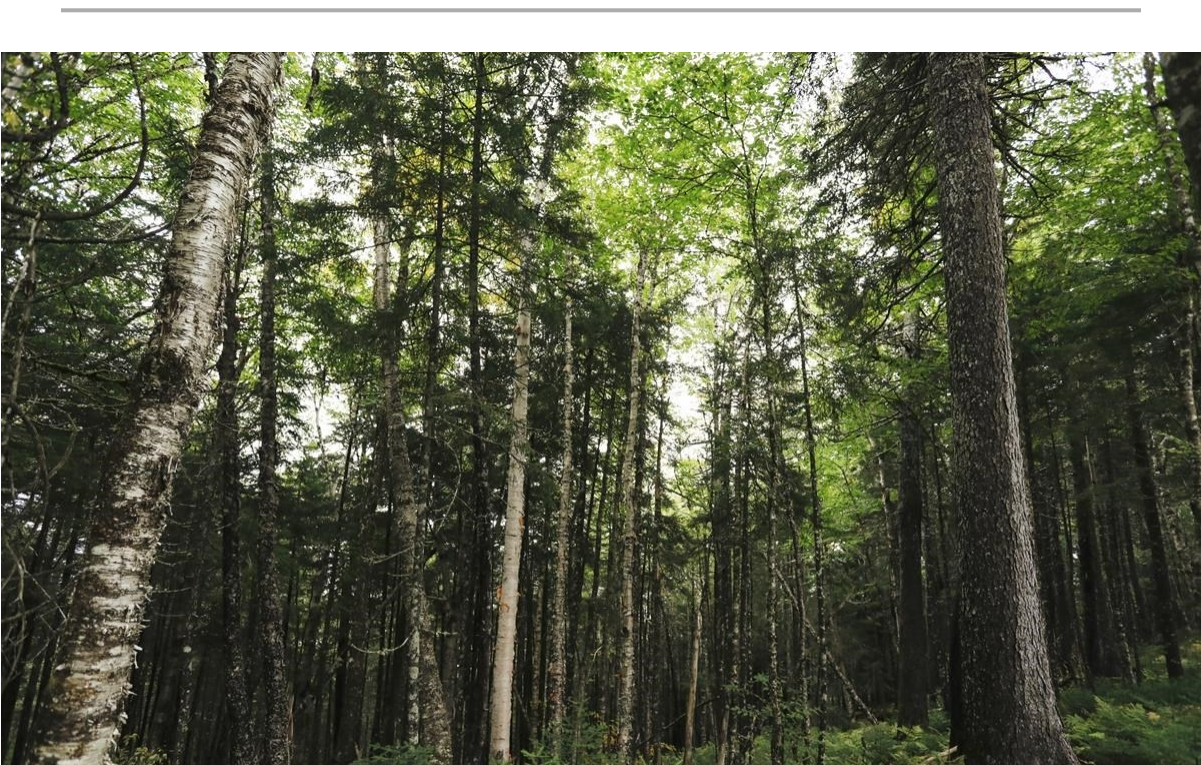


Simcoe County Museum Construction Update

The Simcoe County Museum has been closed since November 1, 2024 to facilitate expansion for the Matthews Innovation and Transportation Gallery project and other renovations. Demolition began in early January, but there have been some outside influences which have warranted delays with contract awards and supply chain issues. As such the construction schedule has been adjusted, extending the renovation portion of the project into May 2025. Consequently, the Museum will remain closed to the public until June 1, although some education programming will proceed.

The demolition phase includes removing existing washrooms, dismantling walls, cutting concrete for new septic lines, and removing various interior fixtures.

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

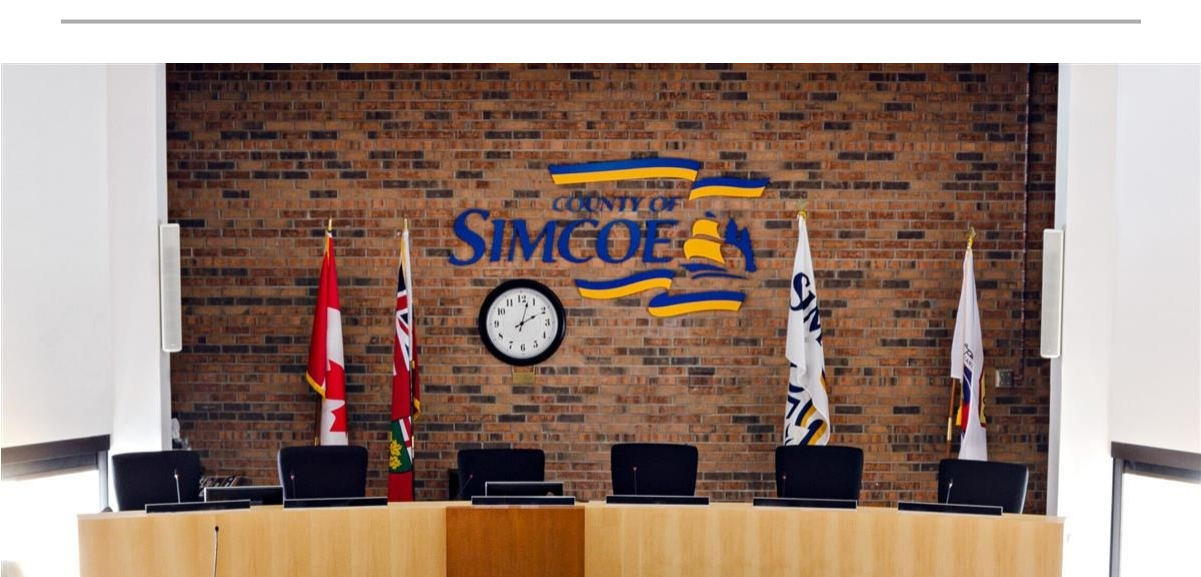


Simcoe County Forest 2024 Annual Report

The report highlights several property acquisitions that expanded existing tracts in Springwater, Tiny, and Severn Townships, along with a generous land donation in Innisfil. The total land under management now amounts to 13,709 hectares. Key forest management activities included planting 23,000 trees across four sites and efforts to control invasive plants and monitor for other invasive species.

The report also notes that many red pine plantations are nearing the end of their rotation age, leading to a reduction in annual timber volume, though revenue projections remained on target due to the high value of the resource. As the forest expands and public use increases, resources dedicated to property maintenance and monitoring have grown.

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



Special Virtual Meeting of Council on March 26

During the meeting of Council on March 25, Council lost quorum forcing the adjournment of the Council meeting. As many items from the March 25, 2025 Council agenda were deemed time-sensitive, a special virtual meeting of Council was held on March 26, 2025, at 1:30 p.m. to address those matters only. The specific report and by-law related to Council Composition is expected to be considered during the meeting of Council on April 8, 2025.

To read Warden Basil Clarke's full statement, please click [here](#).

Committee of the Whole Agenda - March 11, 2025

Special Council Agenda - March 26, 2025

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