



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 Committee of the Whole and Council Meeting** on June 24 and **Committee of the Whole** meeting on June 10, 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.

- Service Simcoe



Age-Friendly Community & Positive Aging updates

The County launched the 2025–2030 Simcoe County Positive Aging Strategy, shaped by the latest [community needs assessment](#), which

gathered insights from over 2,500 residents and 10 focus groups.

Key priorities identified include accessibility, transportation, information and communication access. As part of this initiative, the County launched the [Age-Friendly Activity Calendar](#) in June 2025. Developed in partnership with 211 Community Connection, this centralized hub connects residents with local events and programs that promote social inclusion and community engagement.

To view the full report regarding the Age-Friendly Community Needs Assessment, please [click here](#).

To view the full report regarding the Age-Friendly Activity Calendar, please [click here](#).

To view the full report regarding the 2025-2030 Positive Aging Strategy, please [click here](#).



County response to proposed provincial blue box regulation amendments

The County is responding to proposed changes to Ontario's Blue Box Regulation and the Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act that could impact recycling services. Key amendments include allowing municipalities to fund recycling for small businesses, removing planned program expansions, and adjusting recovery targets.

Staff recommend entering a one-year agreement with Circular Materials Ontario (CMO) in 2026 to maintain small business recycling during the transition, pending legislative approval. The County will continue to monitor developments and keep stakeholders informed.

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



Acquisition of modular facility for unsheltered homelessness response

The County is acquiring a 40-bedroom modular facility in Barrie for up to \$1.2 million to support unsheltered individuals, funded through federal, provincial, and reserve sources. The facility will aid in encampment response and housing programs aligned with national homelessness reduction goals.

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



Revisions to the Waste Subsidy Program

The County is proposing updates to its waste subsidy program, requiring multi-residential properties to participate in both recycling and organics programs to receive a garbage subsidy, with a temporary recycling subsidy offered for one year. This responds to provincial delays in expanding recycling services, with a program review planned for 2026.

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



HART of Simcoe County officially launches

The HART of Simcoe County, launched on June 26, 2025, is a new regional program supporting individuals facing homelessness and addiction. Through a network of care teams and mobile outreach, it offers person-centered, low-barrier access to health, housing, and social services across Barrie and surrounding communities, including Indigenous-specific supports.

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



Program to increase organics capture

Council reviewed a proposal containing a number of options to help increase organic capture rates. However, Council chose not to proceed with the recommendations at this time, and instead, the matter will be further reviewed in the coming months.

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



Simcoe County Museum Digital Strategy

The Simcoe County Museum's Digital Strategy, developed in response to the Ministry's 2025–2026 Community Museum Operating Grant (CMOG) requirements, outlines a five-year roadmap to enhance the museum's digital capabilities and public access.

It sets out five strategic goals: expanding online learning, modernizing visitor services, increasing digital visibility, digitizing collections, and measuring impact. Most initiatives are low-cost and will be phased into future budgets, with a digital sign proposed for 2027.

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

Joint Council and Committee of the Whole Agenda - June 24, 2025

Committee of the Whole Agenda - June 10, 2025

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