



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 August 12. 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



## **Update on County Council Composition and Full-time Appointed Warden**

County Council reviewed the results of the triple majority process regarding [County By-law 7119-25](#), which proposed changing the current structure of County Council from 32 representatives (including the Warden) to 16

representatives plus a full-time, appointed Warden.

The vote at the lower-tier level resulted in a tie, with eight member municipalities providing consent and eight providing non-consent. While the full triple majority requirement under the Municipal Act was not achieved, two of the three conditions were met.

As a result, Council passed a resolution requesting the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to validate the By-law despite not meeting all triple majority requirements. Warden Basil Clarke will send a letter to Minister Rob Flack, and any outcomes or feedback will be presented to County Council once available.

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

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## **Decision Made on Program to Increase Organics Capture**

Following the deferral of the item in June 2025, Council voted to receive a report back on the details of Option 4 due to its minimal impact on residents and its focus on voluntary participation without enforcement. Council will make a decision on the approval of that at a later date.

Staff will present education campaign options and implementation plan to Council. This approach allows for a phased strategy, beginning with outreach and education, while keeping the door open for more robust measures to enhance organics diversion over time.

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

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## 2026 High Level Draft Budget Assumptions

Council approved the proposed high-level directions for incorporation into the County's draft budget for 2026. These assumptions will guide staff in preparing the budget, which is scheduled for presentation in October and then final consideration and approval in November 2025.

The assumptions include a tax levy increase modeled to be 2% to support the asset management plan and 2% to support existing service levels and capital contribution, as well as projected assessment growth of 2%, and inflationary adjustments across key expenditure categories. Asset management continues to be a priority, with a proposed reserve contribution of approximately \$18.97 million to support infrastructure, facilities, fleet, and other assets. Additional factors such as utility cost projections, salary and benefit adjustments, and anticipated provincial subsidies have also been incorporated.

Staff will use these assumptions to develop a comprehensive draft budget that will go through full Council review and feedback in the fall.

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

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## **2025-26 Seniors Community Grant – Resident Ambassador Program**

The County has received \$24,410 in one-time funding through the 2025–26 Seniors Community Grant to launch a Resident Ambassador Program at Simcoe Village, Georgian Village, and Sunset Village. Council has approved this start-up initiative, which will run for nine months before becoming a sustainable component of our Simcoe Strong Volunteer Program, that aims to enhance resident engagement and community spirit.

The program will empower residents to lead social activities, welcome newcomers, and contribute to their communities through events and creative projects.

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

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## Simcoe County Archives Re-opens to Public

The Simcoe County Archives has officially re-opened to the public after undergoing significant on-site renovations. Originally constructed in two phases in 1979 and 1992, the facility had seen minimal structural changes until now, making these upgrades essential to modernizing operations and enhancing public service.

For more details, please [click here](#).

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Joint Council and Committee of the Whole Agenda - August 12, 2025

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