



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 **Committee of the Whole Meeting** on March 24 and **Council Meeting** on April 14. 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.

- *Service Simcoe*



2025 Ice Storm: Lessons Learned and Resulting Improvements

Despite the challenges faced as a result from the March 2025 ice storm, the County of Simcoe and its municipal, provincial, and utility partners mounted a coordinated emergency response that lasted approximately one week, followed by extended cleanup and recovery efforts.

Following the response, County staff conducted a comprehensive after-action review using surveys, interviews, documentation, and public feedback. The review identified 32 improvement projects across public education and preparedness, coordination and communications, equipment and personnel, and technology and information management. View the full [report](#).



Simcoe Strong Volunteer Program Update

April 19–25, 2026 marks National Volunteer Week, a time to celebrate the vital contributions of the many volunteers who support County of Simcoe services, from Long-Term Care and Seniors Services to Paramedic Services and the Simcoe County Museum.

Our Simcoe Strong Volunteer Program continues to grow, with volunteer hours rising significantly since 2021, including the recent introduction of the Resident Ambassador Program in Seniors Services. This spring, special appreciation events will be held across County sites to thank volunteers for their dedication, compassion, and the meaningful impact they have on our residents and communities.

View the full [report](#).



Build Canada Homes Funding Opportunity

Council has approved authorizing County staff to engage with Build Canada Homes and to submit applications for eligible federal funding to support affordable and non-market housing projects across Simcoe County.

This decision positions staff to pursue timely funding for a portfolio of construction-ready and strategic acquisition projects, helping to reduce municipal capital costs and debt while accelerating the delivery of affordable housing in alignment with the *Building Up Simcoe County Affordable Housing and Homelessness Prevention Strategy*.

View the full [report](#).



69 Harriet Street Intensification and Rehabilitation Project

Council approved the next steps for the 69 Harriet Street Intensification and Rehabilitation Project in Penetanguishene, authorizing staff to advance planning approvals and finalize design work to bring the project to construction readiness. The initiative will rehabilitate and expand the existing building by adding a third storey, increasing capacity from 20 to 31 one-bedroom units, and enhancing energy efficiency, accessibility, and overall building performance.

View the full [report](#).



Living Classroom Partnership with the Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board Update

Council received an update on the Living Classroom partnership between the County of Simcoe's Long Term Care department and the Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board. The program has grown significantly, expanding from its original site at Trillium Manor to all four County long term care homes.

This expansion allows Personal Support Worker students to complete their education and clinical placements closer to home, gaining hands-on experience in a long term care environment while supporting workforce development and future recruitment for County LTC homes.

View the full [report](#).

54 recipients approved through 2026 Experience Simcoe County Partnership Fund

Through the 2026 Experience Simcoe County Partnership Fund, the County has approved 54 successful applications totalling \$400,370. The program will fund tourism-focused and culture-driven initiatives that aim to attract visitors to the region.

A total of 60 applications requesting nearly \$440,000 in financial support were submitted for the \$400,000 fund in 2026.

View the [list](#) of the 54 successful applicants.

View the County's [news release](#).

Committee of the Whole Agenda - March 24, 2026

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