

# COUNTY COUNCIL Update

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County Councillors welcomed representatives from the Simcoe County Hospital Alliance to announce the County of Simcoe's new 15 year \$45 million funding investment in area hospitals. For more on the announcement, please see Page 3.

## County invests in health and tech

County of Simcoe Councillors and Georgian College students and staff celebrated a milestone on Wednesday, when Warden Gerry Marshall presented

Georgian President and CEO MaryLynn West-Moynes with the final pledge payment in the County's \$2-million commitment to the Sadlon Centre for Health,

Wellness and Sciences.

A portion of the \$500,000 cheque also included the County's first pledge payment supporting its \$5-million

commitment to the Advanced Technology, Innovation and Research Centre, opening in fall 2018.

*Continued on Page 4*

### CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS

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Gerry Marshall, Warden

Mark Aitken, Chief Administrative Officer

The County Clerk's Dept. maintains the official record for all County government proceedings. This publication is intended to identify highlights of Committee and Council meetings.



Jane Sinclair, right, General Manager of Health and Emergency Services for the County, accepted the 2018 Ontario Age-Friendly Community Recognition Award on behalf of County Council during a special ceremony in Toronto.

## Age-Friendly program receives provincial award

*Framework supports building age-friendly communities*

The Government of Ontario has recognized the County of Simcoe's efforts to support communities, residents and organizations to adapt to the region's aging population.

The County recently received the 2018 Ontario Age-Friendly Community Recognition Award, under the Community Recognition Category, for work completed on the Simcoe County Age-Friendly Community initiative.

The County released its Positive Aging Strategy in February 2018.

The Strategy includes detailed planning framework and recommendations to support regional and

municipal governments and businesses in building and strengthening age-friendly communities. In 2017, the County also issued an Age-Friendly Needs Assessment,



**Marshall**

which identified high-level regional age-friendly needs, priorities and opportunities, which align with the World Health Organization's eight Age-Friendly dimensions.

This Strategy and Assessment are supported by insights gathered through more than 3,000 completed public and stakeholder surveys, 16 focus groups, and eight public consultation meetings.

"We thank the Province

for recognizing our vision and approach for creating an age-friendly Simcoe County for generations to come," said Warden Gerry Marshall.

According to the Ministry of Seniors' Affairs, the County was selected for the award for demonstrating a strong commitment to key principles for creating age-friendly communities, including engagement with local seniors, collaboration with a diversity of community partners, and significant impact on the local community. Formal recognition from Ontario enables the County of Simcoe to have access to streamlined eligibility for national recognition through the Pan-Canadian AFC Recognition Framework.

## Making suite dreams a reality

*County continues to fund the creation of Secondary Suites*

County Council continues to invest in strategies to develop new affordable housing units and has recommitted funds to support homeowners in creating secondary or garden suites. As part of its 2018 Budget, the County is providing \$635,000 in additional funding to grow and expand this program. These County funds will complement \$300,000 already dedicated through federal and provincial funds for creation of secondary and/or garden suites this year, bringing the total available funding close to \$1 million for 2018.

"With 900 new affordable housing units already created since 2014, our Council is committed to helping our staff reach our target of creating 2,685 new units by 2024," said Warden Gerry Marshall. "Our Secondary Suites program is a win-win for everyone as it provides added incentive to our homeowners to be part of the solution, while contributing to our affordable housing goals across all our communities – particularly smaller or rural hamlets and villages where larger builds aren't as feasible."

The program provides financial support in the form of a forgivable loan, up to a maximum of \$25,000, to create a secondary or garden suite. These new units will then be placed in the affordable housing rental system.

Funding will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information or to apply, visit [www.simcoe.ca/ontariorenovates](http://www.simcoe.ca/ontariorenovates).





Regional partners celebrate the success of the Simcoe Muskoka Skilled Trades Expo. Top (right to left): Steve Blake, Director of Education, Simcoe County District School Board; Bill French, County Councillor Middle (right to left): Lonnie Bolton, Superintendent of Education, Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board; Peter Dyck, Business Development Officer, City of Barrie; Judith Johnston, Project Facilitator/Office Manager, Simcoe Muskoka Workforce Development Board; Rob Shepard, Project Facilitator, Simcoe Muskoka Workforce Development Board. Bottom (right to left): Susan Laycock, Executive Director, Simcoe Muskoka Workforce Development Board; Gerry Marshall, Warden, County of Simcoe; Marlene Lambie, Flos Agricultural Society.

## Help shape the future

### *Award-winning Skilled Trades Expo looking for partners*

Economic development partners from across Simcoe County and the District of Muskoka are calling on local businesses, organizations and entrepreneurs from the skilled trades to participate as exhibitors in the 2018 edition of the Simcoe Muskoka Skilled Trades Expo, being held Thursday, May 17, 2018 at the Elmvalle Community Arena.

The call for exhibitors follows very successful 2016 and 2017 Expos, which garnered provincial,

national and international awards—including recognition by the International Economic Development Council's Excellence in Economic Development Awards.

"These awards are a tremendous honour and demonstrate our regional leadership in promoting our skilled trades and supporting our labour market," said Warden Gerry Marshall. "We look forward to making this event bigger and better this year with a live Job Fair during the evening session and we encourage our skilled trades partners to sign up and help us grow this important sector."

*Continued on Page 4*

# Area hospitals given \$45M boost

*Council has made it a priority to support health care in the region*

The County of Simcoe is investing \$45 million in area hospitals to support capital and redevelopment projects occurring between 2017 and 2031. Warden Gerry Marshall and members from County Council welcomed representatives from the Simcoe County Hospital Alliance (SCHA) on Tuesday, March 27, 2018 to make the 15-year pledge official.

"We have a long tradition of supporting our regional healthcare system and County Council has stepped up once again to help provide our hospitals with resources and supports to meet the needs of our growing and aging communities. Our hospitals have a direct impact on the social and economic well-being of our communities," said County of Simcoe Warden Gerry Marshall. "We understand the challenges related to access, wait times and increasingly complex care needs of patients, and these funds are a direct investment in the quality of care our residents will receive for decades to come."

The County's strong commitment to area hospitals is not a mandated investment. County Council has continued to show leadership in supporting area health care to help improve access to critical services and to transform the

quality of care for residents. With this renewed pledge, the County has committed \$107 million over a 37-year period (1994-2031) to support hospitals.

"We greatly appreciate the generous support you provide and your commitment to supporting access and excellence in healthcare services for the residents of Simcoe County," said Pat Campbell, Chair, Simcoe County Hospital Alliance and President & CEO, Orillia Soldier's Memorial Hospital.

The SCHA was established in 2002. The SCHA Funding Policy was established to create a single and consistent point of contact and procedure for local hospitals to request capital funding from County of Simcoe municipalities and is intended to prevent duplicate or multiple requests. The SCHA is comprised of the hospitals serving Simcoe County residents (Collingwood General and Marine Hospital, Georgian Bay General Hospital, Orillia Soldiers' Memorial Hospital, Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre, Southlake Regional Health Centre, Stevenson Memorial Hospital and Waypoint Centre for Mental Health Care). The County of Simcoe General Manager of Health and Emergency Services sits as a member of the SCHA along with hospital CEOs.

## HEALTH AND TECH

*Continued from Page 1*

“Georgian College is one of our greatest community assets, and we are extremely pleased to continue to invest in building local post-secondary education capacity for our residents,” said Warden Gerry Marshall. “From healthcare, to manufacturing to skilled trades, these are strategic programs that meet the needs of our regional labour market and ultimately fuels the engine that drives our growing economy.”

Students, faculty and staff were eager to show Councillors around the Sadlon Centre and speak about new programs and equipment that have been added since the building opened in 2011. Acupuncture students who are also part of the Georgian College Tai Chi team demonstrated a routine practice called “Moving Meditation, QiGong.” They taught the group crane form and bear form, which exercise the kidney and digestive functions.

Councillors also saw an Electroencephalography (EEG) demonstration from the new Biotechnology – Health program, visited the paramedic lab and saw the new birthing unit simulator in the nursing lab.

West-Moynes said many county residents, including county employees in paramedic and long term care services, receive training in this facility. In 2016-17, 43 per cent of students who studied at Georgian had a Simcoe County address at the time of application. Of those students who graduated in 2016-17, 56 per cent have an address in Simcoe County.

“Georgian and the County of Simcoe have a strong, special partnership that has long benefitted students, employers and our communities,” said West-Moynes. “We are so grateful for County Council’s ongoing commitment.”

Paramedic student Diana Buchsbaum told Councillors she is excited to see future links between health care programs and the Advanced Technology, Innovation and Research Centre. Buchsbaum has a Master of Science degree, specializing in cardiovascular physiology. When she began her studies at Georgian, her top college pick, she was thrilled to find a connection through one of her professors to undertake new research. She noted that her research is based in Toronto, but she is hopeful there will be more research opportunities locally for future students.

“Health and research are co-dependent. A new, high-end research facility will be a game changer for Georgian and the region,” said Buchsbaum.

# New study to focus on agriculture, agri-food

*Will ensure future support is based on sector-specific needs and opportunities*

Regional partners are undertaking a significant study of the area’s agriculture and agri-food sector and seeking participation from local businesses to help develop regional and local Action Plans. The partnership group includes the County of Simcoe, Grey County, Bruce County, City of Barrie, City of Orillia, Georgian College and local business support agencies.

The Agriculture and Agri-Food Value Chain Business Retention and Expansion (BR&E) Study will consist of an analysis of the current agriculture and agri-food business climate based on standardized interviews with local businesses. The survey results will be analyzed by independent consultants and developed into Action Plans for the region and each County to address identified opportunities and challenges for this vital business sector. The study is being undertaken to ensure that future

support provided by the partner organizations is based on sector-specific needs and opportunities.

The group is aiming to interview up to 350 local businesses (owners/operators and/or managers) associated with the agriculture and agri-food sector, including farmers, agri-food processors, distributors, nurseries, food retailers, restaurateurs and agri-support businesses (i.e., tractor dealerships or grain elevators).

To participate or to learn more about the Agriculture and Agri-Food Value Chain BR&E, please contact the County of Simcoe’s Economic Development Office at 705-726-9300 ext. 1206 or e-mail [edo@simcoe.ca](mailto:edo@simcoe.ca).

Interviews are being conducted until August 31, 2018. As the Action Plans will only be as strong as the input received, the group encourages as many businesses as possible from this sector to take part in the study.

## HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE

*Continued from Page 3*

The 2018 event will feature two sessions: a student/school session for grades 7/8 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and a session geared for the general public from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. The early session will provide students with the opportunity to participate in hands-on demonstrations and interactive

displays relating to dozens of skilled trades available in Simcoe County and Muskoka.

There is no cost to participate as an exhibitor or attend the event. Businesses and organizations interested in participating as exhibitors are asked to register by May 4, 2018 to [do@simcoe.ca](mailto:do@simcoe.ca).



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