



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 Council and Committee Meeting on January 31, 2023**. 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



Click on the image above to view our 2023 County of Simcoe Budget Binder.

## County of Simcoe Budget

At the January 10, 2023 meeting, Simcoe County Council received a staff presentation regarding the 2023 Draft County of Simcoe Budget including updated impacts that have occurred since the budget was originally drafted in 2022. During the meeting, items (questions, subjects, requests, etc.) were raised in relation to the budget and other areas of interest.

On January 31, 2023, Council received a report on the follow-up items identified during the January 10 meeting and the budgetary impacts. Council approved the 2023 Budget with the recommended changes. This responsible \$695-million budget will support essential County services while limiting the tax levy to 3.5% (2% operational and 1.5% capital) for residents, or about half the current rate of inflation. Council also directed staff to report back with more information on select staff additions and capital purchase items; however, the staff report does not impact the approved 2023 County budget or tax levy rates.

## Collection Day Changes

County of Simcoe Solid Waste Management staff and the contracted waste collector, Miller Waste, have identified an imbalance to the collection day schedule. Staff is working with Miller Waste to adjust the scheduled collection day for ten existing curbside routes. The intention is to initiate this change in March 2023.

On January 31, 2023, Council received a report that outlined the changes, which include five collection routes to be moved from Thursday to Wednesday, as well as five collection routes to be moved from Wednesday to Monday. The changes will be communicated to residents through targeted addressed mail as well as notices being placed on the carts of each property prior to the change being implemented. The Simcoe County Collects app will also be used to target subscribers on the specific routes, and changes will be posted on the County's website.



## Update: Bill 23 (More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022)

On October 25, 2022, the Provincial government introduced Bill 23, known as the More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022. The overall stated purpose of Bill 23 is to introduce several legislative changes to increase housing supply throughout Ontario and to achieve the Province's goal of 1.5 million homes in the next 10 years.

Many of the changes to the various Acts resulting from Bill 23 are significant. For example, matters relating to development charges reform, the diminished role of Conservation Authorities, and removing all legislated planning responsibilities from certain upper-tier municipalities including Simcoe County, will fundamentally alter the way development approval processes are conducted, natural heritage resources are protected, how growth is coordinated on a regional scale, and how growth-related capital infrastructure is paid for (and by whom).

On January 31, 2023, Council received a report on the implications of Bill 23 for the County of Simcoe and voted to have the Warden, Deputy Warden and County staff continue to engage with the Province and area municipalities to determine the appropriate legislative and policy framework to ensure the County's role in coordinated planning supports community growth and effectively plan County services.

## Simcoe County Tree Planting Program 2023-2026

The Simcoe County Tree Planting Program was initiated in 2007, with the most recent Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in effect from 2019 through 2022. Funds have been provided annually through the Forestry Department budget to increase reforestation on private lands by offsetting the cost of tree seedlings and/or tree planting services.

On January 31, 2023, Council received a report on the Tree Planting Program for 2023-26. Since 2007, the program has provided \$396,559 in funding towards projects by organizations and landowners with a value in excess of \$2 million. In total, 910,157 trees have been planted on 561 hectares over the previous 16 years as a result of this funding. The County manages the largest municipally owned forest network in Ontario and among the largest in Canada.



Throughout Black History Month, the Simcoe County Museum will once again be hosting a virtual lecture series featuring expert guest speakers and local historians. Click the image above to find out more.

[Joint Council and Committee Meeting Agenda - January 31, 2023](#)

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