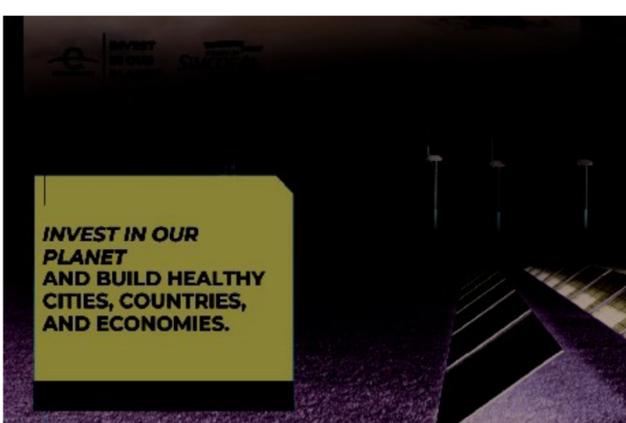




Council Highlights are intended to provide a summary of Council proceedings only. The information contained within the Highlights is based on approved material from within the associated agenda packages, linked at the bottom. These reports were part of the agendas from the **Council Meeting** and **Special Council Meeting - Municipal Comprehensive Review (MCR)** on **April 12, 2022**, and **Committee of the Whole** on **March 22, 2022**. 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



Earth Day was first celebrated on April 22, 1970, to inspire an appreciation of the natural world through conservation and protection. Earth Day, celebrated on April 22 each year, is a key time to unite our community and make a positive impact on the environment. This year, the County is promoting Earth Day through social media and a proclamation. Click the image above to find out more about Earth Day activities at the Simcoe County Museum that share information on various ways we can invest in our planet and include hands-on recycling, upcycling, and nature activities.

2022 Tourism, Culture and Sport Enhancement Fund

In 2018-2019, staff undertook an analysis of the \$200,000 Arts, Culture and Heritage (Built, Natural and Environmental) Grant and the \$300,000 Simcoe County Tourism Development Fund (SCTDF). In November 2019 County Council approved blending of the two programs for greater efficiencies in both scope and impact. \$100,000 would be reallocated from the SCTDF to the \$200,000 Arts, Culture and Heritage (Built, Natural and Environmental) Grant for a new \$300,000 Simcoe County Tourism, Culture and Sport Grant Program. In 2022, the grant was renamed the 'Tourism, Culture and Sport Enhancement Fund'.

On April 12, 2022, Council approved the recommendations for disbursement of the 2022 Tourism, Culture and Sport Enhancement Fund. The County of Simcoe has approved 87 successful applications totalling \$471,396.93 through the 2022 Tourism, Culture and Sport Enhancement Fund to enhance existing tourism, culture and sport projects throughout the County.

2022 Simcoe County Homelessness Enumeration Preliminary Results

In March 2021, municipal Service Managers (SMs) were informed by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) through an updated Ministerial Directive that all SMs were required to complete a homeless enumeration and start the development of a By-Name List by the end of 2021. The Simcoe County Homelessness Enumeration was scheduled for November 17 – 23, 2021. However, due to a surge in COVID-19 cases and outbreaks at that time, the County of Simcoe was granted an extension to complete enumeration, with data to be submitted to the MMAH by February 15, 2022.

On March 22, 2022, Council received the 2022 Simcoe County Homelessness Enumeration Preliminary Results. The enumeration results demonstrate the highest count of people experiencing homelessness to date. A total of 441 surveys were completed and 722 people experiencing homelessness were counted. Preliminary analysis indicates a number of factors contributing to the high count, including greater need in the community.

Municipal Comprehensive Review - Special Meeting of Council Working Session (Presentation by: Stefan Krzeczunowicz, Hemson Consulting; Sal Spitale, North South Environmental; Nick McDonald, Meridian Planning)

The MCR is a planning project required to be completed as directed by the Province, so that the County's Official Plan is brought into full conformity with the provincial growth plan (A Place to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, 2020). The MCR project is being completed by all upper-tier and single-tier municipalities that are subject to the provincial growth plan.

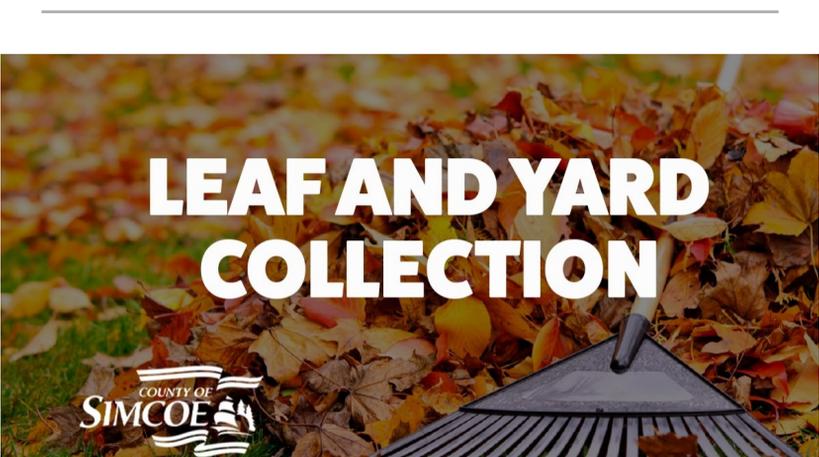
On April 12, 2022 a Special Meeting of Council working session took place to provide Council and the public with an update on the tasks underway for this project and build upon the presentations and discussions that occurred during the previous December 9, 2021 Special Meeting of Council on the MCR. A particular focus of this working session was on the Land Needs Assessment work that has been completed to identify if and where more land may be needed in the County for future population and employment growth. Further partner consultation, engagement and education initiatives will follow over the coming months, including an Open House and Public Meeting.

2022 Tax Ratios and Tax Rates (Presentation by: Peter Frise, Municipal Tax Consultants Inc.)

On April 12, 2022, Council approved that the 2022 tax ratios and rates be approved. For 2022, there will be no changes to the current policy for tax ratios, no change to the current policy for farmland awaiting development or commercial and industrial vacant / excess land.

While 2021 should have been the first year of a new reassessment cycle, with all destination values being updated to reflect January 1, 2020 market conditions, the Province put a pause on reassessment in the spring of 2020. This decision was made in response to the ongoing pandemic. This means that property taxes for 2022 will again rely on the full destination values based on the January 1, 2016 valuation date.

A change Small Scale On-Farm Business Sub-Class (SSOFB) threshold to \$100,000. SSOFB provides a special property tax treatment for commercial and industrial operations on farm properties. These subclasses are optional for municipal property tax purposes and are intended to give municipalities a means of supporting small scale Agri-food enterprises. As part of the Province's 2021 Fall Economic Statement it was announced that this threshold would be increased to 100,000 for the purposes of education tax. The County chose to extend its program from the original 50,000 threshold.



Bi-weekly Spring Leaf & Yard Collections begins April 11 (Zone 1) & April 18 (Zone 2). Determine your collection week by downloading the Simcoe County Collects App. Place materials out by 7 a.m. on Monday of your collection weeks. Collections will occur during the week, not necessarily on your regular collection day. Does not apply to residents of Barrie and Orillia. Download the Simcoe County Collects App or view your Waste Management Calendar for full details.

Council Meeting Agenda - April 12, 2022

Special Council Meeting - Municipal Comprehensive Review (MCR) - Agenda - April 12, 2022

Committee of the Whole Meeting Agenda - March 22, 2022

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