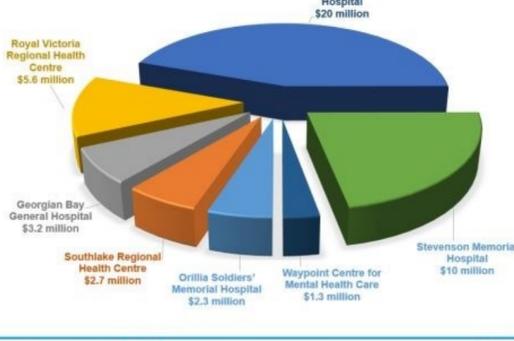




Council Highlights are intended to provide a summary of Council proceedings only. The information contained within the Highlights is based on approved material from within the associated agenda packages, linked at the bottom. These reports were part of the agendas from the **Council Meeting on May 10, 2022**, and **Committee of the Whole on April 26, 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



Simcoe County Hospital Alliance Annual Presentation

On April 26, 2022, Chair of Simcoe County Hospital Alliance and President and CEO of Stevenson Memorial Hospital Dr. Jody Levac provided a presentation to Committee of the Whole on the Simcoe County Hospital Alliance.

The presentation featured an update on local hospitals' COVID response, highlighting their treatment of 3,278 COVID patients, staffing an additional 210 inpatient beds and 50 additional ICU/CCU beds. The presentation also highlighted capital projects at Waypoint Centre for Mental Health, Stevenson Memorial Hospital, Southlake Regional Health Centre, Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre, Orillia Soldiers Memorial Hospital, Georgian Bay General Hospital, and Collingwood General and Marine Hospital, which are supported through the County's \$45 million in hospital alliance funding as part of the current 15-year policy term that extends from 2017 - 2031. Since 1994, the County has committed \$107M to support area hospitals.



Health & Emergency Services Staff Appreciation

The County's Paramedics, Emergency Management and Long-Term Care and Seniors Services (LTCSS) team provides significant care and support to the lives of our residents who are some of the most vulnerable individuals in our communities. The County is extremely proud of the tremendous commitment and dedication of its staff and takes great pride in honouring our everyday heroes during the month of May each year. It is important to recognize our emergency management and paramedic services staff along with each and every role in our homes and seniors services, as without them, it wouldn't be impossible to deliver the quality and level of service local residents deserve.

On April 26, 2022 and May 10, 2022, Committee of the Whole received reports on the County's Long-Term Care, Seniors Services, Emergency Management and Paramedic staff appreciation efforts. Health and Emergency Services celebrates all of their staff each year, throughout the month of May. This includes special consideration and events that are planned in celebration of National Doctors' Day May 1; Nursing Week May 9 - 15; National Personal Support Worker Day May 19; National Paramedic Services Week May 22 - 28, Emergency Preparedness Week May 1 - 7, and All Staff throughout the entire month.

Reaching Home Incremental Funding 2022-23 and Homelessness Prevention Program 2022-23

Homelessness is a complex issue that has become more visible and prevalent with growing numbers of individuals requiring shelter services throughout the course of the global COVID-19 pandemic locally, provincially and nationally. The County of Simcoe provides leadership to local homelessness prevention community planning and funds numerous related programs and services. Homelessness system funding is provided through federal, provincial and municipal funding streams to the County of Simcoe, Community Services department.

On February 8, 2022, Committee of the Whole approved the 2022-2023 Homelessness Prevention System Funding Allocations, which were approved by Council on February 22, 2022. Since that report, the County of Simcoe received new federal and provincial funding of \$3,769,646 and \$881,875, respectively.

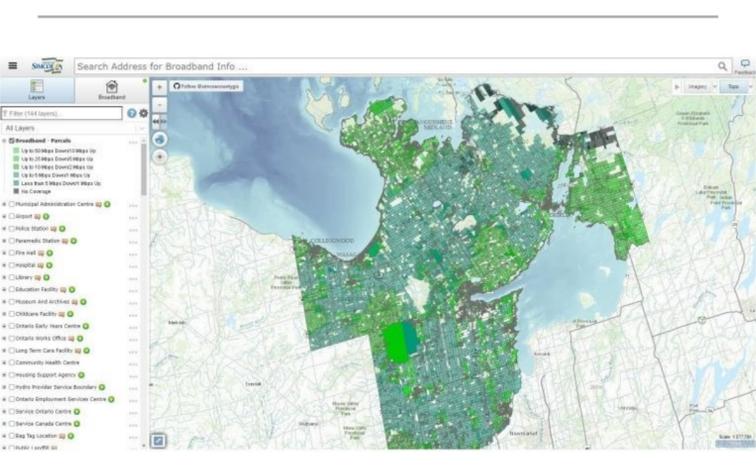
On May 10, 2022, Council approved the receipt of new federal Reaching Home (RH) funding, new provincial Homelessness Prevention Program funding, and an update on the provincial Strong Communities Rent Supplement Program. These are regular annual funds and are not directly related to temporary pandemic supports received over the past two years.

Additional County news - Funding update for the temporary emergency motel shelter model

In consultation with the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) and funded homeless shelter operators and key stakeholders across the region, the County of Simcoe has been engaging in transition planning aligned with the province's *Re-Opening of Ontario Act*. This will result in a gradual reduction in emergency funding supports from both the provincial and federal levels including Provincial Social Services Relief Funding (SSRF) and enhanced federal Reaching Home (RH) funding for the temporary emergency motel shelter model, which was a direct response to the needs of homeless individuals during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Planning includes winding down the ongoing temporary emergency motel shelter model by June 30, 2022; to allow shelter operators some advanced time to prepare for a safe return to regular shelter settings after over two years in the current temporary model as a result of the pandemic. The County was pleased to have received confirmation from the SMDHU on May 11, 2022, that homeless shelter providers may resume operations at their regular locations at full capacity. In light of this positive news, the County will continue to work with homeless shelter providers throughout the region to resume operations at full capacity in the coming weeks.

With the return to regular shelter settings, individuals will continue to have access to a range of shelter and supports that they will along the continuum toward housing. We understand that the need is great and continue to work with our funded community partners to provide these services and supports. The County of Simcoe appreciates the emergency shelter service providers' ongoing efforts to support homeless residents throughout the pandemic and during this transition to return to their regular locations.



Click on the image above to navigate to our broadband mapping tool.

Simcoe County Broadband Mapping Resource Informational Report

On March 23, 2021 County staff presented CCW 2021-101 Simcoe County Broadband Information report providing information regarding the existing broadband internet landscape across Simcoe County.

On April 22, 2022, County IT GIS staff presented a new publicly available online interactive map to Committee of the Whole. This new interactive map shows current and future broadband availability across the county, utilizing data from the Federal Government Innovation, Science and Economic Development open data source. This is the most up to date and accurate data source for current and future broadband availability in Canada which is also utilized by the Universal Broadband Fund.

Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee - Report - April 21, 2022

The Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee is established in accordance with Ontarians with Disabilities Act 2001, and the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 to help identify, remove and prevent barriers to persons with disabilities as required by legislation.

On May 10, 2022, Council approved the April 21, 2022 Advisory Committee Report, with the exception of the Township of Springwater recommendations. This report included among other things a presentation on the Simcoe County Museum Accessible Trail and the draft 2022 Election Accessibility Plan.

Council Meeting Agenda - May 10, 2022

Committee of the Whole Meeting Agenda - April 26, 2022

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