



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 24, 2022**, and **Committee of the Whole on May 10, 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 Funding Allocation

In 2006, a Health Care Strategy Committee completed a review and recommended that County Council ensure effective and equitable utilization of County health care tax dollars to help fund health care needs within the County of Simcoe. As a result of this review, County Council approved continued hospital funding in the amount of \$3 million annually to the Simcoe County Hospital Alliance for a 10-year period extending from 2007 to 2016. This funding has been subsequently extended until 2031 in the amount of \$45 million. Funding of area hospitals is Provincial jurisdiction, however County Council recognizes the important role our hospitals play in our communities and provides this annual funding on behalf of its member municipalities.

On May 26, 2022, Council approved payments of the 2021 Simcoe County Hospital Alliance Funding Allocations, as requested by the Simcoe County Hospital Alliance Chair in alignment with the funding policy. The requested payments totalled \$1,800,526, including \$8,040 to Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre, \$3,680 to Southlake Regional Health Centre, \$788,806 to Orillia Soldiers' Memorial Hospital, and \$1,000,000 to Georgian Bay General Hospital.



Paramedic Services Week and Paramedic for a Day

May 22 to 28 is National Paramedic Services week, a time to reflect on the dedication and resilience of these exceptional first responders serving our communities. This year's theme, "Faces of Paramedicine" will focus on the diverse and growing range of specialties within the profession.

In addition to responding to approximately 80,000 calls annually, County of Simcoe Paramedic Services is evolving its programs and services to meet the needs of our growing communities, ageing population, and increased demands.

Congratulations to Chloe, a Grade 5 student at Warnica Public School in the City of Barrie for her winning entry to the virtual Paramedic for a Day contest. She enjoyed her visit with County of Simcoe Paramedic Services and Siren the Fox. [Chloe's creative video entry](#) highlighted the steps that should be taken if ever the first responder is you!

Barrie Collingwood Railway Trail

In 2017, the County purchased a 38km long section of the former Barrie Collingwood Railway (BCRY) corridor, which extends from the southern boundary of the Town of Collingwood to Utopia, with the intention of preserving the BCRY Right-of-Way for a future higher order transportation corridor and to use it as an active transportation trail during the interim.

On May 26, 2022, Council reaffirmed the protection of the BCRY corridor for potential future higher order transit use through retaining a contiguous corridor and right of way. Staff will continue to work with Metrolinx, the Ministry of Transportation, and other levels of government to examine long-term higher order transportation needs of the BCRY corridor. Initial development of the BCRY corridor will proceed on the basis of non-motorized uses until a Master Trails Strategy and Plan is completed.



National AccessAbility Week

In 2019, the Accessible Canada Act came into force. National AccessAbility Week brings together all Canadians in recognizing the valuable contributions of Canadians with disabilities and strengthening, the collaborative effort needed to create a country that is fully accessible and inclusive.

National AccessAbility Week is a time to look at the gains that the County has made in removing barriers and improving access for all who live, work and play in Simcoe County and look forward to the work that still needs to be done. Through the work of the Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee, the County continues to remove and prevent barriers to persons with disabilities, as required by legislation.

Anti-Human Trafficking Services and Supports

On February 22, 2022 Council requested that staff provide information on the provincial Anti-Human Trafficking Strategy and an update on anti-human trafficking services and supports available to victims and survivors of human trafficking in Simcoe County.

On May 10, 2022, Committee of the Whole received a report with information on designated national and global awareness raising dates; the nationally designated Human Trafficking Awareness Day, and the global World Day against Trafficking in Persons.

Human trafficking has been identified as one of the fastest growing crimes in the world. As part of their report, staff produced [a list of organizations throughout Simcoe County dedicated to and/or specializing in services and supports to survivors of human trafficking](#). Many local organizations are also members of the National Human Trafficking Hotline, www.canadianhumantraffickinghotline.ca, 1-833-900-1010, a 24-hour, seven days per week hotline, available in telephone and online chat format.

[Council Meeting Agenda - May 24, 2022](#)

[Committee of the Whole Meeting Agenda - May 10, 2022](#)

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