



# Severn Bulletin

January 2024

## Annual fire permits now available

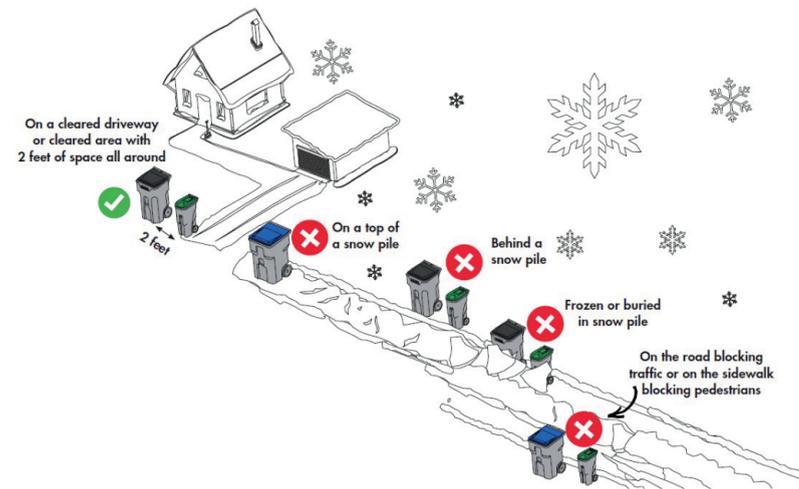
Township of Severn's Open-Air Burning By-law regulates the issuing of fire permits, the size of fires and materials you can burn within an open-air fire. Fire permits are required for all outdoor burning in Severn. Fire permits purchased in 2023 are now expired, as permits are valid until December 31 of the year of issue. Once approved, you can only burn clean dry wood with either permit. Please do not burn leaves or garden waste in an open-air fire. Permits are \$25 and can be applied for online at [severn.ca/firepermits](https://severn.ca/firepermits).

## Reminders for cart collection

The County of Simcoe is responsible for waste, recycling, and organics collection in Severn. When setting out your carts in winter:

- ✓ Shovel a flat spot at the end of your driveway or curb
- ✓ Place your carts with two feet of space all around
- ✓ Place carts within eight feet of the road
- ✓ Don't place carts behind or on top of snowbanks

Download the Simcoe County Collects mobile app to receive collection notifications for your address at [simcoe.ca/waste](https://simcoe.ca/waste).



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## Winter road maintenance

Help ensure roads in Severn are cleared safely and efficiently this winter. Please follow these guidelines:

- ✓ Don't park on the road during snow plowing operations
- ✓ Don't deposit snow on the road without written permission from the Township
- ✓ Keep mailboxes clear of snow to allow the plow driver to see them
- ✓ Promptly remove garbage bins from the road allowance following collection

## Seasonal overnight parking restrictions

To help clear the way for our snowplows, seasonal overnight parking restrictions are in effect from December 1 to March 31. On-street parking is prohibited on Township roads from 12:01 a.m. to 7:00 a.m. Vehicles may be towed regardless of weather or snow clearing operations. Visit [severn.ca/roadsandparking](https://severn.ca/roadsandparking) for details.

## Book your inspection online

Building inspections are completed at various stages throughout your building or renovation project to ensure it meets the requirements set out in your building permit application and the Ontario Building Code. Book your inspection online at [severn.ca/inspections](https://severn.ca/inspections).

## Is the nearest fire hydrant clear of snow?

In an emergency, every second counts! Help keep fire hydrants accessible over the winter. If there's a fire hydrant near your home, you can assist Severn Fire and Emergency Services by clearing snow in a one-metre radius around the hydrant so it can be easily located if needed. For more fire safety tips visit



### Get help clearing snow

Through Snow Angels Canada, you can request assistance to have your driveway or windrow cleared during winter months. If you'd like to volunteer as a Snow Angel, you can find neighbours or community members in need of assistance.

### How it works:

1. Register at [snowangelscanada.ca](https://snowangelscanada.ca).
2. Create a post detailing your needs (e.g. driveway, windrow clearing).
3. Search for and contact volunteers in your area.

## Due date

Interim property taxes are due in two installments on **March 8** and **May 8**.

## Payment options

### Pre-authorized payments

Pre-authorized payment plans allow you to set up automatic withdrawals from your bank account every month or on due dates. Sign up for pre-authorized payments at [severn.ca/taxes](https://severn.ca/taxes).

### Cheque

Pay by cheque (to Township of Severn) by mail (PO Box 159, Orillia Ontario L3V 6J3) or drop box (1024 Hurlwood Lane, Severn).

### Banking

Pay through online or telephone banking, or in person at a financial institution. Please use the 19-digit roll number found on your tax bill (numbers only, no hyphens or spaces) and select Severn Township or Township of Severn as the payee.

## Receipts

Please let us know if you'd like a receipt and provide your email or mailing address.

## Paperless billing

Sign up for e-billing for water, sewer and property taxes at [severn.ca](https://severn.ca).

## Property assessments

Property assessments are determined in Ontario by MPAC and then shared with the Township of Severn. Your property assessment and property taxes are not the same thing. Severn uses your property assessment to determine revenue requirements, set municipal tax rates, and collect property taxes to pay for municipal services. Visit [mpac.ca](https://mpac.ca) and log onto About My Property for details.



Phone: 705-325-2315

Email: [info@severn.ca](mailto:info@severn.ca)

[severn.ca](https://severn.ca)

Administration Office: 1024 Hurlwood Lane, Severn  
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[severn.ca](https://severn.ca)

# 2024 Budget

## Breakdown

In December, Council approved the 2024 Budget. It incorporates the following priorities:

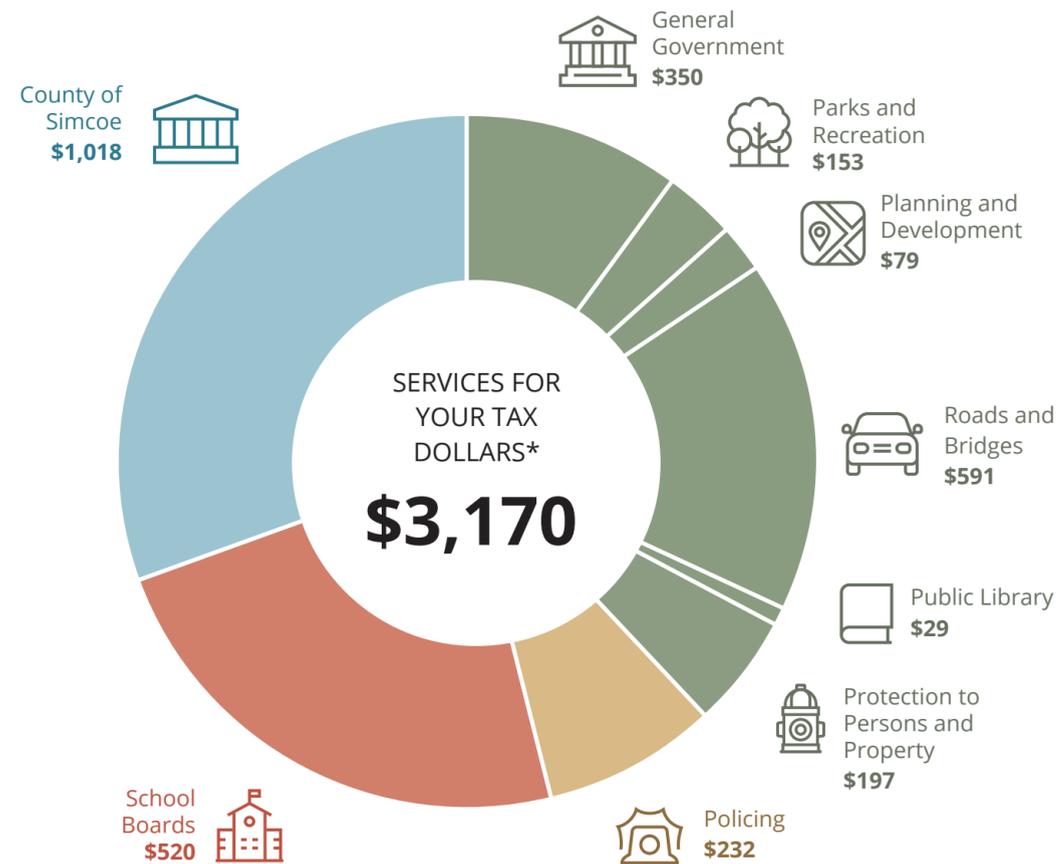
- Enhance levels of service for residents
- Ensure community safety and wellbeing
- Responsibly manage municipal assets

The Township's 2024 Budget was approved with a 3.41% net tax increase over 2023 rates. When combined with the County of

Simcoe's approved tax increase of 3.7% and a 0% increase in education rates, residents can expect to see a 2.93% blended tax increase on their 2024 property tax bill.

For an average home in Severn assessed at \$340,000\*, the approved blended rate amounts to a \$90.09 increase over 2023 levels, or \$7.51 per month, with a total tax bill of \$3,170 in 2024.

Visit [severn.ca/budget](https://severn.ca/budget) for details.



## Highlights

Although we only keep 44 cents of every property tax dollar collected, we work hard to ensure that money is spent wisely.

### Keep our community moving

An investment of \$4.4 million in road renewal will improve sections of:

- Brodie Drive
- Carlyon Line
- Hodgins Road
- New Brailey Line

Additional capital projects include:

- Lovering Line Bridge Replacement
- Agnew Road Reconstruction
- Design for South Sparrow Lake Road Reconstruction

### Enhance community parks and spaces

With support of federal and provincial grants, residents will see new signage and surfacing on the Uthoff Trail, completion of three multi-use sports courts, and upgrades to the outdoor rink at Bass Lake Woodlands Park. The Coldwater Community Centre will receive \$335,000 in repairs and enhancements. This upgraded infrastructure will make it easier for park and facility users to stay active in Severn.

### Protect our citizens

Severn Fire and Emergency Services 2024 Budget includes the replacement of Rescue 3 and Car 1. The new Rescue Truck will transport equipment for rescue operations and medical emergencies. Onboard equipment can include power saws, hand

tools, water rescue gear, winches, a defibrillator, first aid bags, and the jaws of life. The replacement car 1 pickup truck will provide vital transportation of Fire personnel and equipment.

### Customer service focus

Improvements to the Township's Customer Service Policy, a new customer service portal, and enhanced communications will help ensure better service for our residents and businesses. Funds were allocated to bring on a new full-time Customer Care position to increase service delivery.

### Produce safe drinking water

Below the ground, over \$1.08 million will be invested into water and wastewater utilities, with over \$891,000 earmarked for the continued production of safe drinking water.

### Plan for the future

This budget accounts for a new Development Charges Study, the Coldwater Fairgrounds Master Park Plan, and a study to assess the potential for an arts, culture, and recreation centre in Port Severn. Also included is continued work on the Servicing Master Plan and the Coldwater Wastewater Treatment Plant study. Together, these plans provide a road map for our community's future needs and growth. Public engagement is a critical component when updating these plans, so stay tuned for details on how you can get involved.

Visit [severn.ca/haveyoursay](https://severn.ca/haveyoursay).

## Did you know?

Township of Severn keeps 44 cents of every property tax dollar collected. The rest goes to the County of Simcoe, education and policing. Our annual budget helps us deliver services and infrastructure that people use every day. It also ensures we provide value for money and that your tax dollars are spent wisely.

### Services for your tax dollars



## Learn more

For more information about Township of Severn's 2024 Budget or upcoming capital projects, visit [severn.ca/budget](https://severn.ca/budget).

## Lifetime dog licences

If you own a dog that's older than 20 weeks in Severn, you must buy a dog tag. This tag acts as a lifeline between you and your pet if they get lost. Severn issues lifetime dog tags rather than annual tags. You can only have a maximum of four dogs per household in Severn. The price is \$75 and the replacement fee is \$15. To purchase your licence, complete the application at [severn.ca/animalcontrol](https://severn.ca/animalcontrol).