

**TOWNSHIP OF ESSA
CONSENT AGENDA
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 2025**

A – ITEMS RECEIVED AS INFORMATION

- p. 1 1. Nottawasaga Futures Newsletter.
- p. 15 2. Policy Update from Association of Municipalities of Ontario – Continued AMO Action on Trade and Tariffs.
- p. 17 3. Briefing Note from World Animal Protection - Ontario's Roadside Zoos.

B – ITEMS RECEIVED AND REFERRED TO SERVICE AREA FOR ACTION
None.

C – ITEMS RECEIVED AND REFERRED TO SERVICE AREA FOR REVIEW AND REPORT TO COUNCIL
None.



**Nottawasaga Futures is a community
economic development agency serving the
South Simcoe Area.**

Nottawasaga Futures Business Loans

Working Capital Business Loans

Easy and Fast Business Loans Available Now.

- ✓ Loans up to \$70,000
- ✓ Competitive Interest Rate
- ✓ Flexible Terms & Conditions
- ✓ Online Submissions Are Available

[Apply Now](#)



More Information
www.nottawasaga.com



Phone Number
705-502-0311



Terms & Conditions Apply

Looking to expand, innovate, or tackle new challenges?

Our Working Capital Business Loans are designed to help your business thrive:

- ✓ Loans up to \$70,000
 - ✓ Competitive interest rates
 - ✓ Flexible terms & conditions
 - ✓ Convenient online submissions
- Take charge of your success today!

[Apply now](#)

AgKnowledge Forum 2025



Cultivating Growth, Innovation, and Flavour on the Farm

Sincere thanks to everyone who participated in AgKnowledge 2025. The Forum was a sold out event and the Sample and Shop Vendor's Market was a huge success!

Ontario Federation of Agriculture, Nicole Cross -Simcoe County
Federation of Agriculture and Jody Mott- Holland Marsh Growers
Association.

To MP Terry Dowdall, MP Scot Davidson and Warden Basil Clarke
To our Mayors and Council Mayor Lynn Dollin, Mayor James Leduc,
Mayor Richard Norcross, Councillor Liana Maltby, Councillor Marc
Biss, Councillor Grace Constantine Councillor Linda Zanella.
Thank you for your support of the Agriculture community.

To our amazing Speakers Marianne Edward -Sheldon Creek Dairy,
Bert Harrington -Harrington's Sauerkraut and Lisa Peterson - Stone
Horse Farm.

To our fabulous Market vendors:
Bradbury Family Market
Lavender Fox
Breedons Maple Syrup
Holland Marsh Market
Mushroomery at White Pine Meadows
Quayle's Brewery
Beamish Honey
Murphy's Farm
Heritage Estate Winery & Events
Organik Garlic Farm
Breakaway Stable
Sun Sprouts Market.

To our attendees, thank you for taking the time out of your busy day to
attend. We hope that you enjoyed your day!

To our Décor and Door Prize Sponsors Premier Equipment, NT
Temps, Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury, Ontario Federation of
Agriculture, The Gibson Centre, County of Simcoe and Fuelled by
Females.

To the staff at The Gibson Centre especially our event team Angelika
and Will, Pink Peony for the delicious breakfast and Nicole Brown for
marketing.

**Save the date for AgKnowledge 2026
Forum and Vendors Market
Friday February 27 at The Gibson Centre**



Nottawasaga Futures

Submit Your
Nomination by
April 10th, 2025

Business Excellence Awards 2025

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS!

Award Categories

Business Excellence
Award

Customer Service
Awards

Agricultural
Award

Community Excellence
Award

Entrepreneur of the
Year

Youth Entrepreneur
Award

New Business
Award



Name of business, email and award category is required for nomination.

Have Questions? Contact Robin Brown

Email: robin@nottawasaga.com

705-502-0311 ext. 108 • www.nottawasaga.com

Nottawasaga Futures, and partners, endeavor to foster an environment that encourages constant improvement and success for businesses, recognizing that they are the foundation of our community's well-being and prosperity.

As a testament to this commitment, we will be honoring exceptional businesses across South Simcoe with awards in the categories of Agriculture, Business Excellence, Community Excellence, Customer Service, Entrepreneurship, New Business and Youth Entrepreneurship.

Business nominations will be accepted for The Township of Adjala-Tosorontio, Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury, Township of Essa, Town of Innisfil and The Town of New Tecumseth.

Application forms are sent out to the nominee once the nomination is received.

Please note that the sources of nominations are confidential and will not be released to the businesses.

Category descriptions are available [here](#)

For more information please contact Robin Brown at robin@nottawasaga.com or 705-502-0311 ext. 108

2025 Awards Sponsorship



The South Simcoe Business Excellence Awards is an annual event that recognizes and celebrates the achievements and successes of businesses across South Simcoe. The awards recognize businesses in a variety of categories. The awards are open to any business located within South Simcoe, and nominations are typically accepted in the months leading up to the awards ceremony.

The event is organized by Nottawasaga Futures, an organization that supports economic development in the region.

We invite your company to sponsor one of our awards to show your support in recognizing and celebrating our South Simcoe Businesses.

In exchange for a \$500 sponsorship, we will offer the following opportunities:

- Company logo engraved on the award

Please contact robin@nottawasaga.com if you would like to discuss sponsorship opportunities.

Community Futures Week Webinar Series

Community Futures Week is a dedicated celebration organized by **Community Futures Western Ontario** and **Community Futures Eastern Ontario** with the support of its member Community Futures Development Corporations to promote entrepreneurship, small business development, and economic opportunities in Southern Ontario.

This week is a testament to our dedication to providing SMEs with innovative solutions, funding, services, and guidance to rural small businesses and entrepreneurs.

This year's theme is **Funding the Future: Supporting Entrepreneurial Dreams** and will take place **April 7 - 13, 2025**.



Small Business Fraud Prevention

Learn how to safe guard your business against fraud.
Keeping up with fraud trends, prevention, awareness,
resources and What to Do If You're a Victim.

 LIVE WEBINAR

08 APRIL, 2025
11:30 AM

REGISTER TODAY

Presenter:
John Armit Detective Constable | Economic Crimes
and Corruption Unit (ECCU)
Ontario Provincial Police



Tuesday, April 8, 2025, 11:30 AM

Unlock the secrets to keeping you and your business safe!

Led by John Armit, Detective Constable Economic Crimes and Corruption Unit – OPP, this hour-long webinar is tailored to small business owners.

Register Now <https://bit.ly/3FvYUcY>

Key Takeaways:

- ✓ Fraud Trends
- ✓ Prevention
- ✓ Awareness and Resources
- ✓ What to Do if You're a Victim

BizLink
Business Sellers, Connected & Supported

cdc
Your Business Success Centre

BUY, SELL, SUCCEED: Navigating Business Transitions with Confidence

THINKING OF BUYING OR
SELLING A BUSINESS? GET
KEY INSIGHTS FROM OUR
EXPERTS AT ORILLIA AREA
CDC AND BIZLINK.



09 APRIL, 2025

11:30 AM

REGISTER TODAY



Community
Futures

Community Futures
Eastern Ontario

Wednesday, April 9, 2025, 11:30 AM

Buying or Selling? Find out how to do it the RIGHT WAY!

Are you considering purchasing or selling an existing business? Join us on April 9 at 11:30 AM for a FREE Virtual Workshop designed specifically for business buyers and sellers. This event will help entrepreneurs navigate the transition process with confidence.

Register Now <https://bit.ly/3DSvKnA>

Key Takeaways:

- ✓ Benefits of Buying or Selling a Business
- ✓ Preparing to Sell Your Business
- ✓ The Cost of a Business: What Buyers & Sellers Should Know
- ✓ Finding a Buyer or Seller



How Small Businesses & Nonprofits Can Adapt and Thrive in 2025

Join us for a free webinar

The marketing landscape is ever-changing, with new social media algorithms, AI developments, and shifting audience behaviors. This workshop aims to help small business owners and nonprofit leaders develop a flexible, lasting marketing strategy that will get results.

**Friday, April 11, 2025
10 AM**

REGISTER TODAY



Emily Baillie

Through her practical and interactive workshops, Emily Baillie helps empower small business owners to make better use of their time and efforts to make the most of their marketing efforts.

Friday, April 11, 2025, 10 AM

Struggling with your marketing? Find out how to do it the RIGHT WAY!

The marketing landscape is constantly shifting—new social media algorithms, AI-driven changes, and evolving audience behaviours can make it tough to keep up.

This workshop is designed for small business owners and nonprofit leaders who want to create a flexible, adaptive marketing strategy that is built to last.

You'll learn how to pivot when needed, tweak your strategy for maximum impact, and ensure your marketing efforts continue to thrive—no matter what trends emerge. We'll also explore how AI tools like ChatGPT can help you stay agile, adjust your messaging, and help you make a greater impact. Designed specifically for business so you can market with confidence.

Register Now <https://bit.ly/422SSZP>

- ✓ Master the Art of Pivoting: Learn When and How to Adjust Your Marketing Strategy Effectively.
 - ✓ Stay Ahead of Trends: Understand Key Marketing Shifts for 2025 and How to Respond.
 - ✓ Use AI to Stay Agile: Leverage AI tools like ChatGPT to Refine Messaging and Content.
 - ✓ Balance Digital & Offline Strategies: Diversify with Sponsorships, Partnerships, and Non-Digital Outreach.
-

Tariff Resources



Attention Simcoe County Businesses!

The County of Simcoe has created a dedicated webpage with comprehensive Tariff Resources to help you navigate potential changes:

<https://edo.simcoe.ca/tariffs/>

The County is also looking for your input, please take a moment to fill out our Impact Assessment Survey found on the website to help us understand how these tariffs are affecting your business.

Together, we can adapt and navigate uncertain times

NT Temps

We believe there is a job for everyone in our community.

- ✓ **Paid Interviews: We pay to meet you!**
- ✓ **Work Immediately: Positions are available!**
- ✓ **Close to Home: Work in Simcoe County!**
- ✓ **Free Registration: There is no fee to register!**
- ✓ **We'll Stay Connected: We're here to help!**



Call Today! (705) 502-0311
Visit: nttemps.com

At NT Temps, we believe there is a job for everyone in our community.

We are available from 8:30 am - 4:30 pm Monday to Friday

Contact us today at (705) 502-0311 or colleen@nttemps.com.

For more information on NT Temps click here www.nttemps.com.

Community News and Events



Exciting news, New Tecumseth Restaurants! The Town's Temporary Restaurant Patio Program is back for 2025! The Town is now accepting applications! Starting April 15th, Restaurants can expand or establish patios to enjoy the summer weather and offer safe outdoor dining. To apply, visit the New Tec [website](https://newtecumseth.ca/PatioProgram)

Financial Support and Resources

Subject:

AMO Policy Update - Continued AMO Action on Trade and Tariffs



AMO Policy Update – Continued AMO Action on Trade and Tariffs

Investments in Community Housing as a Response to Tariffs

The introduction of US tariffs has already begun disrupting Ontario's economy. While we all remain hopeful for a resolution that avoids a negative impact on our communities, residents and industries, we must consider how to best to weather a potentially extended economic downturn.

Last week, [AMO wrote to the Premier](#) highlighting how investments in municipal infrastructure could protect vital construction jobs while driving future productivity. Today, AMO wrote a [follow-up letter](#) to share a [new report](#) that builds the business case for investments in community housing as a response to tariffs.

Investments in community housing have been an important element to past responses to economic downturns. These investments can both provide a secure pipeline of projects for the residential construction sector and contribute to Ontario's long-term productivity.

AMO is calling for an immediate new investment of \$1.5 billion over 2025/26 and 2026/27 for new capital development, capital repairs to existing stock, and acquisition and rehabilitation of existing buildings to protect Ontario. These investments would protect jobs in the residential construction sector

A2

while supporting increased productivity and economic growth. This would help Ontario's residents, communities, and industry leave this time of uncertainty even stronger and more economically resilient.

In addition to this report, AMO is developing other resources to help municipalities chart an informed path through these uncertain times. We have released a number of data requests in the past weeks to support these efforts and would like to thank every municipality for their contributions to this united effort.

This policy update is also available on [AMO's Website](#).

[EXTERNAL]

Briefing note: Ontario's roadside zoos

Background

With approximately 50 zoos, wildlife displays, and zoo-type exhibits housing wild animals, many of which can be classified as roadside zoos, **Ontario has the most captive wildlife operations in all of Canada**. This province is the only major jurisdiction that has not yet comprehensively addressed issues related to the keeping of wild animals, whether it is for pets or for zoos. Instead, this responsibility has been downloaded to municipalities, which often lack the expertise and/or resources to deal with captive (and often dangerous) wild animals. Additionally, the current existing regulations that are supposed to safeguard the health and wellbeing of captive wildlife and the public are not working.¹ We would like to see the province take ownership and resolve this longstanding issue.

Provincial responsibilities

There are two Ontario ministries with authority to regulate the keeping of wild animals.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) issues licences for keeping certain native wildlife in captivity through regulations under the *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act*. **Very few conditions are attached to these licences and there are no required minimum qualifications, such as professional training in the humane and safe caretaking of these animals.**

The Ministry of the Solicitor General (SOLGEN) is responsible for the welfare of all captive wildlife (native and exotic) through the *Standards of Care and Administrative Requirements* under the *Provincial Animal Welfare Services (PAWS) Act*. **Animal care provisions are vague and have shown to be unenforceable, and there are no prescribed minimum safety standards.**

To this day, the province has not regulated the keeping or the use of exotic wild animals for display purposes (i.e., zoos). Lions, tigers, monkeys, parrots, snakes, etc., can be kept and displayed in the province without restrictions, unless a municipality has a bylaw preventing this. **Ontario is the only major jurisdiction in Canada that hasn't regulated this issue at provincial level (see attached score card).**

¹ https://www.worldanimalprotection.ca/sites/default/files/media/WAP_Roadside_Zoo_Report_FINAL_092322_LR_1.pdf (World Animal Protection, 2022)

Impact on Municipalities

- In Ontario, between 1,000 and 2,000 wild animals are currently kept at roadside zoos and tens of thousands more are being kept in private homes.² In many cases, the exact location of these wild and potentially dangerous animals is unknown, presenting a safety concern for neighbours, firefighters, police, by-law enforcement officers, and other first responders.
- In addition to public safety and animal welfare issues, poorly run facilities can be a community nuisance contributing to odour, noise and other problems, which can result in a decrease in property value of adjacent properties and ultimately impact the municipal tax base.
- Captive wildlife related issues can overburden already stretched municipal services - animal control staff may have to catch escaped animals, find homes for surplus or abandoned animals, and respond to noise and other complaints.
- Retroactively closing facilities or stopping exotic animal owners from bringing their animals into municipalities causes significant pressures on municipal legal staff and other departments, on financial resources, and can lead to significant unrest within communities.
- Municipalities that have bylaws in place are increasingly facing challenges from unregulated zoo-type facilities and wild animal owners who have sought bylaw exemptions or have attempted to open zoo-type facilities and bring in prohibited wild animal species despite existing bylaws.

Resolution

World Animal Protection is asking municipalities to support and adopt the resolution to urge the Ontario government to stop downloading responsibilities to municipalities. Instead, the Ontario government should restrict the possession, breeding, and use of non-native ("exotic") wild animals and license zoos to support municipalities and guarantee the fair and consistent application of policy for the safety of Ontario's citizens and the captive wild animal population.





























































Our campaign has been supported by major municipal associations such as AMO, AMCTO, and MLEOA.

Contact details

Michèle Hamers, Wildlife Campaign Manager, MicheleHamers@worldanimalprotection.ca

² [Risky Business, the unregulated exotic pet trade in Canada](#) (World Animal Protection, 2019)



	ON	MB	NL	NB	NS	PEI	BC	SK	QC	AB
Provincial licence										
Permit for non-native wildlife										
Permit for native wildlife										
Animal welfare standards										
Public safety & security standards										
Liability insurance										

[name of municipality] RESOLUTION
Provincial regulations needed to restrict keeping of non-native ("exotic") wild animals

WHEREAS Ontario has more private non-native ("exotic") wild animal keepers, roadside zoos, mobile zoos, wildlife exhibits and other captive wildlife operations than any other province; and,

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario has of yet not developed regulations to prohibit or restrict animal possession, breeding, or use of non-native ("exotic") wild animals in captivity; and,

WHEREAS non-native ("exotic") wild animals can pose very serious human health and safety risks, and attacks causing human injury and death have occurred in the province; and,

WHEREAS the keeping of non-native ("exotic") wild animals can cause poor animal welfare and suffering, and poses risks to local environments and wildlife; and,

WHEREAS owners of non-native ("exotic") wild animals can move from one community to another even after their operations have been shut down due to animal welfare or public health and safety concerns; and,

WHEREAS municipalities have struggled, often for months or years, to deal with non-native ("exotic") wild animal issues and have experienced substantive regulatory, administrative, enforcement and financial challenges; and,

AND WHEREAS the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO) and the Municipal Law Enforcement Officers' Association (MLEOA) have indicated their support for World Animal Protection's campaign for provincial regulations of non-native ("exotic") wild animals and roadside zoos in letters to the Ontario Solicitor General and Ontario Minister for Natural Resources and Forestry;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT [given the recent [enter incidents if any]], the [name municipality] hereby petitions the provincial government to implement provincial regulations to restrict the possession, breeding, and use of non-native ("exotic") wild animals and license zoos in order to guarantee the fair and consistent application of policy throughout Ontario for the safety of Ontario's citizens and the non-native ("exotic") wild animal population;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution will be forwarded to all municipalities in Ontario for support and that each endorsement be then forwarded to the Premier of Ontario (premier@ontario.ca), Ontario Solicitor General, Ontario Minister for Natural Resources and Forestry and MPP [name and email address provincial representative], AMO (amo@amo.on.ca), AMCTO (advocacy@amcto.com), and MLEAO (mleo@mleoa.ca).