

COUNTY OF HURON

# ANNUAL 2023 REPORT



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# Land Acknowledgment

The County of Huron would like to acknowledge that the land we stand upon today is the traditional territory of the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee and Neutral peoples. We recognize the First Peoples’ continued stewardship of the land and water, and that this territory was subject to the Dish with One Spoon wampum, under which multiple nations agreed to care for the land and resources by the Great Lakes in peace.

We would also like to acknowledge and recognize the Upper Canada Treaties signed in regards to this land, which include Treaty #29 and Treaty #45 1/2, and our roles as treaty people, committed to moving forward in the spirit of reconciliation, gratitude, and respect with all First Nation, Métis and Inuit people.

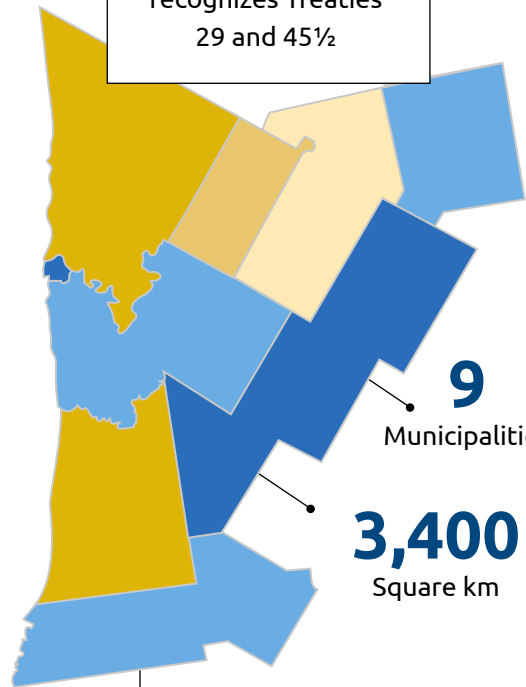
**County of Huron**  
www.Huroncounty.ca  
1 Courthouse Square  
Goderich, ON  
N7A 1M2



# Huron County

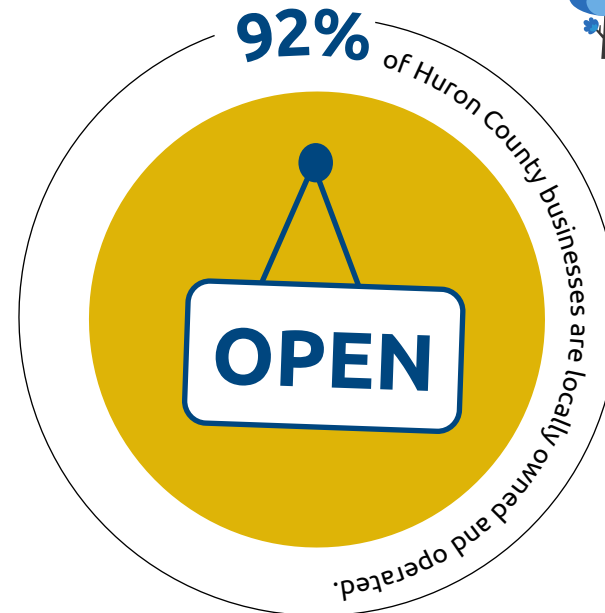
By the numbers

The County of Huron recognizes Treaties 29 and 45½

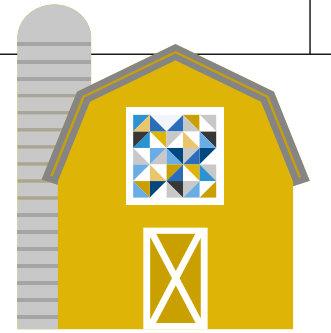


Est. 1847

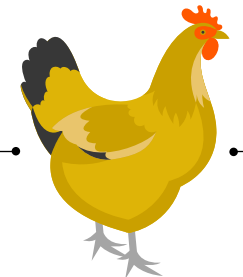
Population (2021) 61,366



25,000+ Private Households



2,500+ Farms



Huron is the most agriculturally productive county in Ontario!

109,167 Acres Wheat  
178,100 Acres Soybeans  
109,250 Cattle & calves  
727,856 Pigs

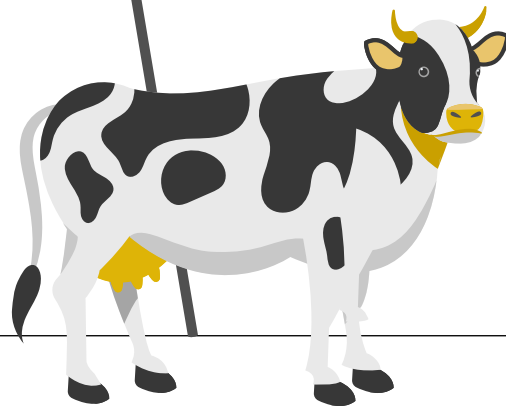
58 Diverse Communities

A living wage in Huron County is: \$22.75

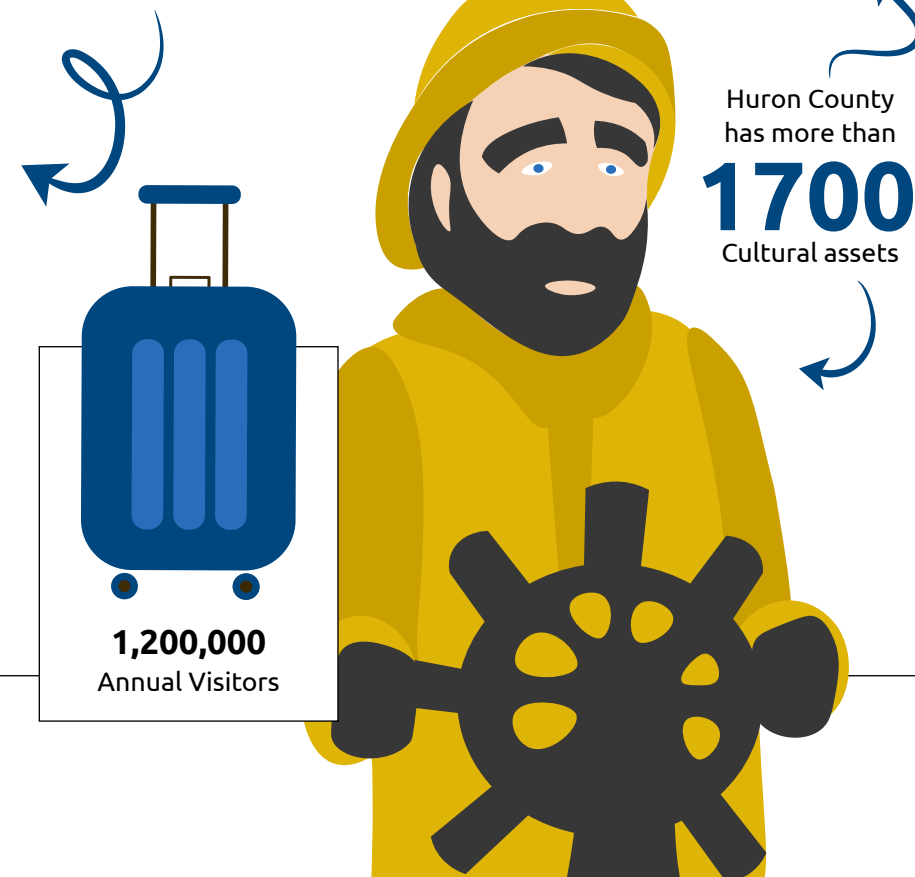


15 Unique Beaches

100 km Scenic Shoreline



35+ Hiking Trails



# Warden's Message

I am pleased to present the 2023 County of Huron Annual Report, which highlights the progress and achievements made by our dedicated staff and community partners over the past year. It is with great pride that I share the incredible work that has been done to address the needs and priorities of Huron County.

In 2023, one of our key priorities has been addressing housing and homelessness in Huron County. We have made significant strides in this area, with *three new housing developments* underway and a *By Name List and Coordinated Access System* in place to ensure that those at risk of homelessness receive the support they need. We are also working to attract a skilled workforce through initiatives such as the Huron County *Job Board* and providing resources for our local businesses.

We continue to advocate for the funding and support we need from higher levels of government. We actively participate in organizations such as the Western Ontario Warden's Caucus (WOWC) and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) to ensure that the voices of Huron County are heard.

I want to express my gratitude to our dedicated staff who have worked to implement these initiatives and provide essential services to our community. Their hard work and commitment are truly commendable. I would also like to thank our many community partners for their collaboration and support. It is through these partnerships that we are able to achieve meaningful and sustainable progress.

Thank you for your ongoing support and trust in the County of Huron. Together, we will build a prosperous and resilient future for our community.

Sincerely,



Huron County Warden  
Glen McNeil



# 2022-2026 Council Composition

## Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh

Glen McNeil, Mayor  
Bill Vanstone, Deputy-Mayor

## Bluewater

Paul Klopp, Mayor  
John Becker, Deputy Mayor

## Central Huron

Jim Ginn, Mayor  
Marg Anderson, Deputy Mayor

## Goderich

Trevor Bazinet, Mayor  
Leah Noel, Deputy Mayor

## Howick

Doug Harding, Reeve

## Huron East

Bernie MacLellan, Mayor  
Alvin McLellan, Deputy Mayor

## Morris-Turnberry

Jamie Heffer, Mayor

## North Huron

Paul Heffer, Reeve

## South Huron

George Finch, Mayor  
Jim Dietrich, Deputy Mayor

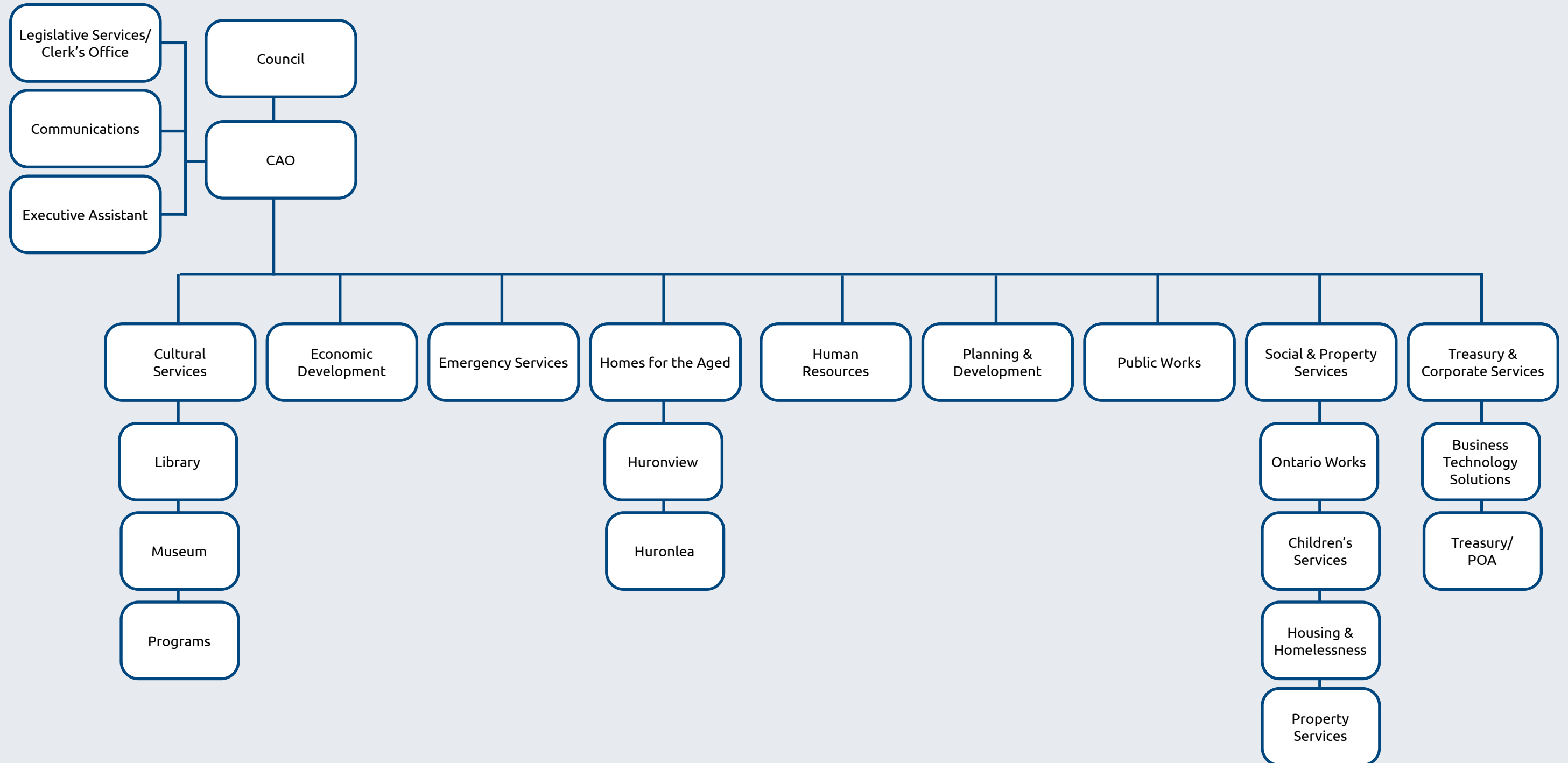


<p><b>Housing</b> Everyone deserves access to a safe and affordable home.</p> <p><b>Homelessness</b> We're working to Be Part of the Solution to prevent and address homelessness.</p> <p><b>Alternate Energy Solutions</b> Exploring economic readiness for environmental initiatives.</p> <p><b>Welcoming &amp; Inclusive Communities</b> Everyone is welcome and everyone belongs.</p> <p><b>Service Level Review</b> Balancing service excellence with fiscal responsibility.</p> <p><b>Asset Management</b> Ensuring resilient infrastructure now and for the future.</p>	<p><b>Workforce Attraction</b> Huron is home to employers of choice.</p> <p><b>Budget Process Review</b> Increasing clarity for better fiscal planning.</p> <p><b>Economic Readiness</b> Ensuring we're ready for new and exciting opportunities.</p> <p><b>Health Service Access</b> Advocating for health services that meet community needs.</p> <p><b>Youth Engagement</b> Giving a voice and increasing opportunities for youth.</p> <p><b>Agriculture</b> Celebrating and advocating for agricultural advancement and long-term sustainability.</p>
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<p><b>Council's Values</b> Collaborative Approach, Environmental Stewardship, Rural Lens, Civic Leadership, Community Engagement, and Inclusivity</p>	
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# County of Huron Organizational Structure



# Treasury | Budget Process

There are many factors that affect the County's operating and capital budget, and these are closely tied to the priorities set out by Council in strategic planning sessions. The County of Huron wants to ensure long-term sustainability while maintaining essential and valued services.

Like many municipalities, the financial sustainability of municipal services has been strained in the past few years as a result of the rising costs associated with inflation. In response, the County has a Financial Sustainability Management Strategy:

- Manage Assets – Asset Management Plan
- Control Spending
- Maintain Reserves
- Increase Efficiencies
- Maintain a level and realistic levy

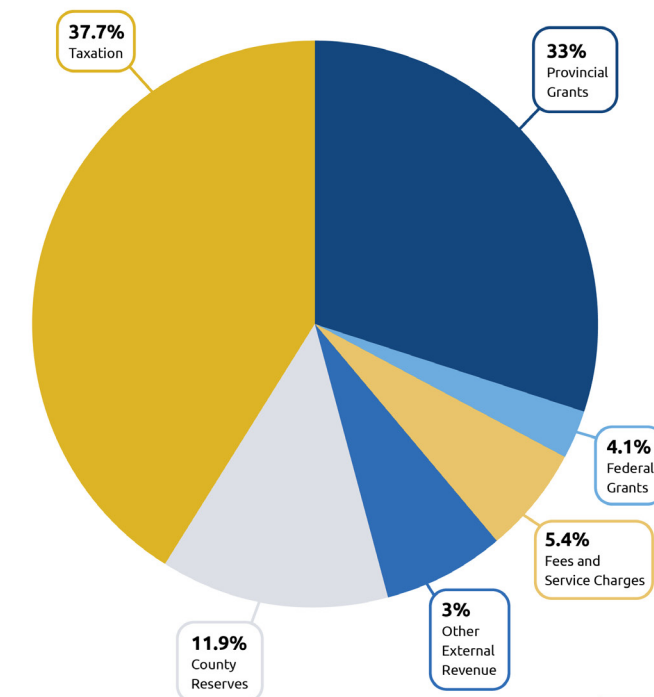
In 2022, a *Budget Survey* was introduced that allowed the community to have their say about what matters most to them. The County of Huron encourages public engagement with its budget process annually.

Find out more about Huron County's budgeting process:  
[www.HuronCounty.ca/budget](http://www.HuronCounty.ca/budget)

## Where does the money for the Huron County budget come from?

**County of Huron Budget 2023**  
 Annual revenue: \$144,280,357

The County's revenue comes from a combination of taxation, provincial and federal grants, service fees and other external revenue sources.



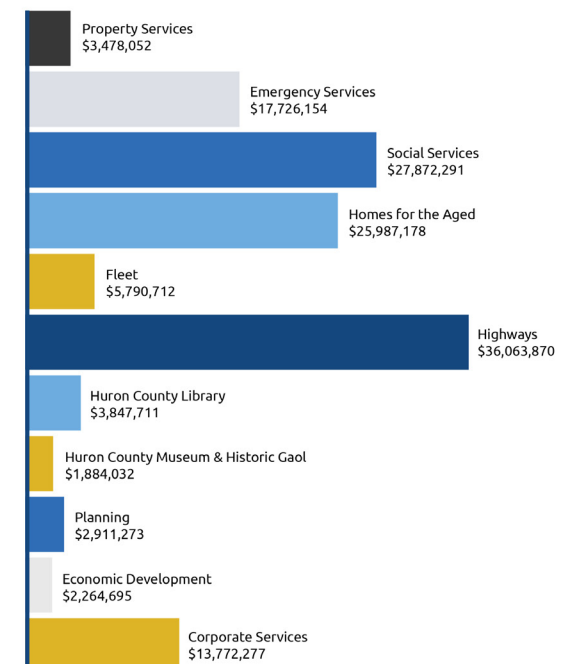
[www.HuronCounty.ca/Budget](http://www.HuronCounty.ca/Budget)



## How does the money from the Huron County budget get spent?

The County of Huron uses its budget to ensure long-term sustainability while maintaining essential and valued services.

The budget for 2023 is allocated as shown.



[www.HuronCounty.ca/Budget](http://www.HuronCounty.ca/Budget)



# Project Spotlights

1. Addressing Housing and Homelessness in Huron
2. Welcoming and Inclusive Communities
3. Farm Succession Planning





# 1. Addressing Housing and Homelessness in Huron

With a comprehensive understanding of the complexity of the current housing crisis and its impacts on those at risk of becoming, and those who are actively homeless, the County of Huron is taking action to address the need for more affordable housing in our community.

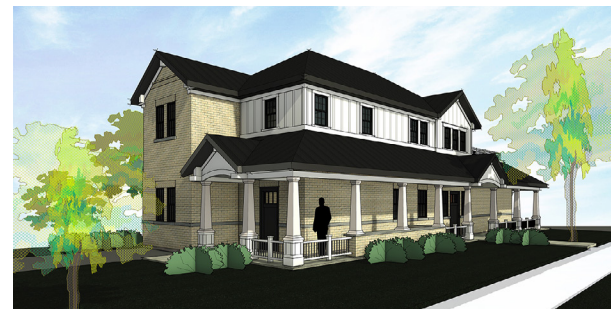
In 2023, we completed a triplex development that brought six new units online and we are in the construction phase of a 20-unit apartment building, located in Exeter, Ontario that is anticipated to be complete by summer 2024.

In addition, we have recently begun construction on a 40-unit apartment, located on Gibbons Street in Goderich, Ontario. While we are committed to seeing this development through to completion, funding continues to be sourced to support this project.

Those interested in supporting this development can learn more about the project including how to donate at: [HuronCounty.ca/gibbons](https://HuronCounty.ca/gibbons)

## Bennett Street Development Quick Facts:

- Designed by Allan Avis Architects.
- Construction on this project is now complete.
- 6 units.
- The triplexes were constructed on County owned property, replacing two single-detached dwellings.
- The High Performance Building Standard tool was used in the design of this building. This resulted in a build that has a higher energy efficiency than the provincial standard.
- The building has accessible units on the ground floor.



## Sanders Street Development Quick Facts:

- Designed by Allan Avis Architects.
- Construction on this project is underway and anticipated to be complete by summer 2024.
- 20 units.
- The building is being constructed on a site currently owned by the County of Huron.
- The High Performance Building Standard tool was used in the design of this building. This will result in a build that has a higher energy efficiency than the provincial standard.
- The building will have 8 barrier free units, which also exceeds the minimum standards.



## Gibbons Street Development Quick Facts:

- Designed by Allan Avis Architects.
- Construction on this project is underway and anticipated to be complete by summer 2025.
- 40 units overall: 30 one-bedroom units and 10 two-bedroom units.
- 10 of the total units will be reserved for supportive housing units.
- The building will be constructed on a site that was sold to the County of Huron from the Town of Goderich for \$1.
- The High Performance Building Standard tool was used in the design of this building. This will result in a build that has a higher energy efficiency than the provincial standard.
- The building will have 8 barrier free units, which also exceeds the minimum standards.



## 2. Welcoming & Inclusive Communities

The County of Huron is committed to providing a diverse and inclusive work environment as well as contributing to a community where everyone is included and everyone belongs.

In 2023, the County of Huron participated in a variety of initiatives across multiple service areas designed support this goal.

### IDEA Specialist

In 2023, the County of Huron hired an Accessibly, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Specialist to better support staff in their knowledge and understanding of these topics and to move forward work in the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Framework.

### Immigration Partnership

The Immigration Partnership continues to collaborate with community members, organizations and business partners from multiple sectors within the region to create a welcoming community for newcomers.

In 2023, this group

- Hosted multiple events.
- Coordinated volunteers.
- Undertook research.
- And more.

### Accessibility Committee

The Huron County Accessibility Advisory Committee (HCAAC) is an advisory committee to County Council made up of community members. This committee provides vision, guidance and advice of the removal of barriers to accessibility to all municipal councils within the Huron County.

In 2023, this committee:

- Distributed the 2023 Accessibility Awards of Merit.
- Completed 18 Review of Site Plans.
- Ongoing community education about accessibility.

### Community Programming

Many of Huron County's service areas, including Economic Development and Cultural Services host a variety of diverse programming and events:

- Huron Multicultural Festival.
- Tastes Like Home Community Cookbook project.
- Diverse and inclusive events such as Cricket, Conversation Circles, Curling, and more.
- Diverse speakers and author talks.
- LGBTQ2S+ Gab Sessions Library.
- And much more.

### Truth and Reconciliation

As outlined in the 94 Calls to Action, the County of Huron recognizes its responsibility as a municipal government and public institution towards Truth and Reconciliation.

- The County's Land Acknowledgment continues to be utilized and in 2023, a new accompanying Users Guide was developed.
- Continued participation in the local Indigenous Working Group along with other community partners and educators.
- National Day for Truth and Reconciliation was recognized through events, reading lists, film screenings, blog posts, and more.
- Indigenous speakers, artists and authors continue to be invited to participate in cultural programming.
- Huron County Library's adoption of *First Nations Reads Spine Labels* to better identify Indigenous materials in the collection.
- Many County staff participated in First Nation University's Four Seasons of Reconciliation training.
- A review of the Museum and Archives policies and best practices was undertaken and work continues to be done.
- Exhibits such as the *Ribbon Skirt Project* and *Residential School Survivors Quilts* hosted in partnership with Indigenous community members.

### Youth Employment Opportunities

The County of Huron continues to encourage youth and student participation in the workplace. Each year, the County offers a number of employment opportunities for students across all service areas.

In 2023, the County undertook its first student focused job fair. The event, held in early spring at the Huron County Museum, invited students to meet directly with county staff and apply for a variety of positions available at the County for the summer season.

### Youth Engagement Opportunities

- Summer Company.
- TD Summer Reading Program.
- Camps and Education programs at the Huron County Museum.
- EarlyON Programming.
- High School Volunteer credit opportunities for high school students.
- High School co-op placements.
- And much more.



# 3. Farm Succession Planning

The County of Huron recognizes the importance of farm succession planning and has undertaken several initiatives to support local farmers in this area.

## The Importance of Farm Succession Planning

Huron County is the most agriculturally productive county in Ontario, with 2,564 farms controlling total capital assets of over \$12.2 billion. However, only 14% of farm families in Huron County have a written succession plan, leaving over \$10.3 billion of capital unprotected by multi-generational agreements.

The median age of farm operators in Huron County is 57 years, making farm succession planning crucial for the future of the agricultural sector.

## Finding Fairness in Farm Transition Event

In November 2023, the Economic Development department hosted the "Finding Fairness in Farm Transition" event in Goderich, which was attended by 180 people.

The event featured guest speaker Elaine Froese, known as Canada's Farm Whisperer, who provided tips and guidance on effective communication and conflict resolution in farm succession planning.

## Life on the Coast Podcasts

The new Huron County "Life on the Coast" podcast series dedicated four episodes to the topic of farm succession planning. These episodes covered various aspects of farm transition, including setting the stage, the role of the next generation, female founders in agriculture, and the consequences of not having a succession plan.



## Education Campaign and Resources

The Economic Development team gathered and created a range of resources to support farmers in succession planning. They developed a dedicated website resource page and launched a social media campaign to raise awareness and provide information on farm succession planning.



**Farm Succession Planning**  
 The County of Huron is actively working to raise awareness about the importance of farm succession planning and provide resources and support to local farmers in Huron County.



# Service Areas

What follows are highlights of some of the work undertaken by County departments in 2023.

To learn more about County services, visit:

[www.HuronCounty.ca](http://www.HuronCounty.ca)

1. Administration, Human Resources, and Corporate Services
2. Cultural Services
3. Economic Development
4. Emergency Services
5. Long-term Care: Huronview & Huronlea
6. Planning and Development
7. Public Works
8. Social and Property Services



# 1. Administration, Human Resources, and Corporate Services

## Clerk's Office

In 2023, the Clerk's Office hosted 24 County Council Meetings and 23 Committee and Board meetings, with both virtual and in-person attendees. In addition, Huron County Municipal Clerks have collaborated on joint education sessions for Councillors and staff. The Clerk's Office also oversees the County's records management program and accessibility for persons with disabilities in accordance with provincial legislation. This team continues its work in ensuring a transparent and accessible bridge between County Council and Huron.

## Communications

Communications staff manage a number of channels that keep the public and staff informed. This team issues media releases, manages the corporate website, intranet, and social media, and they facilitate projects on the County's online engagement platform, Huron County Connects.

## Human Resources

The Human Resources Department is responsible for Human Resources Management functions related to the life cycle of the County's more than 700 employees.

This includes:

- Talent Acquisition
- Training, Learning and Development
- Employee Wellbeing
- Total Rewards
- Labour Relations
- Culture and Leadership
- Employee Retention and Offboarding
- Human Resource Information System (HRIS)
- Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility (IDEA)

## Treasury

The Treasury team provides services related to:

- Financial reporting
- Budget support
- General reception
- Payroll
- OMERS processing
- Accounts payable
- Accounts receivable

## Business Technology Solutions (BTS)

Over the past year, BTS continued to implement cloud-based solutions, support digital initiatives, and contributed to business projects to meet expanding priorities, enable a digital workforce, and provide efficiencies in the overall support and security of County IT infrastructure and business solutions.

BTS provided technical services and capacity management for ongoing IT operations and infrastructure services, specialized business process services including GIS (Geographic Information Systems) and 9-1-1, application programming and development, and IT data and security best practices and governance, to ensure that the use of technology is optimized and reliable across the corporation.

## 2023 Admin, HR, Corp. Services By the Numbers



700 County Staff.



46 Media Releases.  
304 Media Mentions.



363,581 Website Visits  
Most traffic'd page:  
HuronCounty.ca/jobs



1,101 Facebook Followers.  
1,284 LinkedIn Followers.



2,901 IT Help Desk Tickets Processed.  
99.95% IT System Uptime.



47 Council, Committee and Board Meetings.



## 2. Cultural Services

### Huron County Library

#### New Library Strategic Plan

In 2023, the Huron County Library undertook a strategic planning process and launch their new *2024-2028 Strategic* plan in December.

#### Decodable Books

The Huron County Library purchased a new *decodable books* collection supported by \$500 International Dyslexia Association donation.

#### In Your Backyard

The Huron County Library received the *Ontario Public Library Service Award – Minister’s Award for Innovation* for the In Your Backyard program. In Your Backyard was a popular Library led program that expanded on a summer tourism campaign that encouraged residents to learn more about and visit ‘Huron’s Hidden Gems’.

### Huron County Museum & Gaol

#### Industry Gallery Redevelopment

Throughout 2021 and 2022, staff planned a *major redevelopment* of one of the Museum’s exhibition spaces, the Northwest/Industry Gallery, to better reflect the stories of industry from across Huron County. In 2023, a *fundraising campaign* was launch to support the completion of this project

#### Temporary Exhibits:

##### Stories from Storage (Take a Seat)

The Huron County Museum & Historic Gaol collection holds a variety of artifacts donated over the last 70 years. Through regular review, the collection is assessed for relevance, condition, documentation, and potential for further research and exhibition. As portions of the collection are brought out for examination, visitors are invited to enjoy these *stories from storage*.

#### Day Camps and Children’s Programs

In 2023, PA Day and Summer *Day Camps* returned to the Huron County Museum & Historic Gaol. In addition many of the Museum’s children’s programs were revitalized.

#### Archival Digitization Project

Thanks to funding from the Department of Canadian Heritage, portions of the Huron County Archives Collection were digitized and made available publicly online including, a portion of the Henderson photo collection as well as eight local diaries from the late 19th century.

### Cultural Programming

#### Alice Munro Festival of the Short Story

Each year, the Huron County Library hosts a Short Story contest, for youth and adults, in partnership with the Alice Munro Festival of the Short Story.

#### Huron Multicultural Festival

The *Huron County Multicultural Festival* is a free outdoor festival celebrates the customs and traditions of Canada’s diverse populations. The festival includes a stage show, a global food court and marketplace, children’s activities, and licensed beer garden.

#### Tastes Like Home Cookbook

*Tastes Like Home* was a community cookbook project that was a collaboration between the County’s Immigration Partnership and Library service areas.

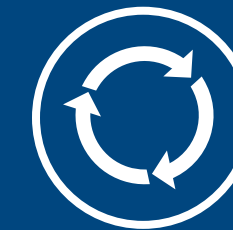
#### Heritage Round Tables

Quarterly meetings for local heritage groups.

## 2023 Cultural Services By the Numbers



**17,107** Active Library Card Holders.



**365,573** Circulation (Items Borrowed).



**22,352** Museum & Library Program Attendance.

\*Attendance totals do not include cultural programs, outreach, or groups.



**170,588** In-branch visits.



**7,167** Past Perfect artifacts available on-line.



**201,437** Library Website Visits.  
**126,545** Museum Website Visits.

### 3. Economic Development

#### Thrive: Invest

##### Workforce Attraction

Workforce attraction was addressed in 2023 with a new *Huron County Job Board*, collection and development of employer and employee resources, employer round tables, job fairs, and more.

##### Drive Less - Live More - Work Local

The Drive Less - Live More - Work Local Campaign was launched in 2023. This campaign included the design and purchase of two billboards on major arterial roads showcasing Ontario's West Coast lifestyle and encouraging locals to "turn the car around" and consider jobs offered by local employers.

##### Supporting Local Economic Development (SLED)

The 2023 SLED fund received 27 applications and dispersed \$100,000 to 16 recipients.

##### Wecast Job Fair and Employee Support

In March, Wecast announced it would be reducing its operations and laying off over 100 workers within the coming months. Economic Development responded by partnering with the Township of North Huron, local employment service providers, and upper levels of government to develop a coordinated response that included hosting job fairs and maintaining communications with Wecast management.

#### Ontario's West Coast

##### Destination Marketing

The Ontario's West Coast website, associated social media accounts, and annual marketing campaign invite visitors to the region to explore and enjoy all that Huron County has to offer. The Ontario's West Coast website had 53,680 visits in 2023

##### Travel Guides

Three tourism guides were printed and distributed:

- 2,000 Dining guides distributed.
- 4,000 Holiday guides distributed.
- 12,000 Visitor guides distributed.

##### Wayfinding

Ontario's West Coast Signage Program includes 67 signs with 57 business sign blades.

##### Community Event Calendar

The Community Event Calendar provides a centralized listing of events happening throughout Huron County. Organizations and individuals are invited to contribute events to the moderated calendar.

##### Community Events

Three community events were held:

- Maple Mania.
- Oktoberfest.
- FeastON the Farm.

#### Huron Business Centre

##### Business Coaching

Through the Huron Business Center, 1,280 individual inquiries were answered and 282 businesses were supported through various coaching and training activities.

- 8 businesses were started.
- 54 businesses were sustained.
- 9 businesses were expanded.
- 17 new jobs were created.

##### Starter Company Plus

This year's Starter Company Plus program saw the largest intake since the program began.

- 45 applicants.
- 25 graduates.
- 14 grants issued, totaling \$39,500.
- 7 businesses expanded.
- 15 businesses started.

##### Summer Company

This provincially funded program allows students, aged 15-29, to start their own business each summer.

- 8 applicants.
- 4 graduates.
- 4 grants issued, totaling \$10,500.
- 4 businesses started.

##### Digital Main Street

- The Digital Service Squad supported 199 individuals.
- Digital Transformation Grant fund provided \$267,500 to 107 businesses.

#### Immigration Partnership

##### Volunteer Coordination

59 volunteers contributed an estimated 1,851 hours to support newcomers by providing temporary accommodation, driving people to appointments, supporting English language learning, connecting newcomers to service providers and more.

##### Capacity Building

- 100 employers and municipal workers participated in learning events.
- 62 newcomers from Ukraine participated in a webinar with an immigration consultant.

##### Events

- Welcoming Week 2023.
- Newcomer Day at Camp.
- Cultural diversity programming at local schools.
- Community potlucks.
- Diwali events.
- Conversation Circles.
- Cricket Day.
- And much more.

##### Research

200 immigrants and newcomers participated in the Huron-Perth Immigrant Survey.

##### Community Cookbook Project

*Tastes Like Home* was community cookbook project that was a collaboration between the County's Immigration Partnership and Library service areas.





**We Partner!**

We work alongside business owners, community organizations and volunteers. Harpreet and Gurpreet Singh, owners of Circle K in Wingham, Clinton and Lucknow, helped plan events for other immigrants in 2023 including Cricket Day in Wingham or a Diwali celebration.

## 2023 Economic & Development By the Numbers

-  27 SLED fund applications. Dispersed \$100,000.00 to 16 recipients.
-  2,000 Dining guides.  
4,000 Holiday guides.  
12,000 Visitor guides.
-  27 business started  
16 businesses expanded  
58 jobs created
-  1,280 Huron Business Center calls answered.
-  700+ newcomers to Canada arrived in Huron County.
-  59 volunteers contributed 1,851 hours to support newcomers.



## 4. Emergency Services

### Emergency Management

In 2023, the County of Huron Emergency Management Division prioritized community safety through effective emergency response, training, and outreach. Key achievements include:

- Conducted training sessions for emergency management and emergency control group personnel to enhance their capabilities.
- Conducted a tabletop emergency exercise focused on severe weather to enhance preparedness and coordination.
- Executed various public awareness campaigns on emergency preparedness, utilizing social media, handouts, and engaging in public activities.
- Review of the County of Huron's Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment, along with an evaluation of critical infrastructure, revealed a comprehensive approach to emergency preparedness. The assessment considered a range of potential threats. The data used was verified for accuracy, and the prioritized risks were clearly outlined based on likelihood and impact.
- The County of Huron has achieved compliance with the Ontario Emergency Management standards, demonstrating our commitment to the safety and resilience of our community. This accomplishment is the result of a thorough and collaborative effort across various areas of emergency management.

### Community Paramedicine Team

The Huron County Community Paramedicine Team was established in 2020 and receives ongoing funding by the Provincial Government.

Approximately 3.5% of Huron County Residents have utilized our program. The Huron County Community Paramedicine Team is a vital clinical initiative. Its primary goal is to care for and refer patients who are at high risk of medical outcomes. By doing so individuals receive the most appropriate care available outside the Emergency Department. Recognizing that certain conditions can be managed safely and effectively outside the hospital, this program aims to keep patients in their homes, thereby reducing the reliance on Paramedic Services and Emergency Department visits. The program plays a crucial role in ensuring that non-emergency, chronic illness, and palliative care are provided in the comfort of patients' homes, preventing avoidable hospitalizations, and contributing to the overall quality of life for many residents of Huron County.

### 9-1-1 Response

Huron County Paramedic Services delivers emergency pre-hospital care to all residents and visitors of Huron County by following these main objectives:

- Providing the highest quality of paramedic care.
- Promoting the paramedic profession within the County of Huron through our interaction with patients, families and during PR events.
- Working with our allied agencies so that all of our citizens receive the best care possible.
- Promoting injury and accident prevention with our H&S committee.
- Showing our patients, staff, and community the respect and value, they deserve.

#### Quality Assurance:

Training and learning new concepts is an integral part of Huron County Paramedic Services' Quality Assurance Program. Paramedics undergo extensive training each year. In addition, a large percentage of Ambulance Call Reports (ACRs) are audited/reviewed both in-house and by our physician overseeing medical control to ensure service excellence.

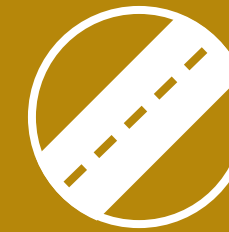
## 2023 Emergency Services By the Numbers



106 Huron County Paramedics.



8,785 Calls for paramedic service answered.



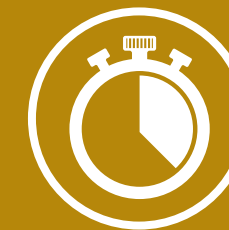
720,809 km Travelled.



13 Ambulances.  
5 Rapid Response Units.  
3 Community Paramedic Units.



24 Specially trained Community Care Team paramedics.



8:45 Minute Average response time.  
9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Busiest hour of the day  
Wed is the busiest day of the week.



## 5. Long-term Care

The County of Huron, in cooperation with the Province of Ontario, operates two not-for-profit municipal long-term care homes, located in Clinton and Brussels. Residents of the Homes are provided with support for all of their individual care needs through a team approach, including family, health professionals and the local community.

Long-term care homes provide a place for residents to live, and offer many support services in a “home-like” setting. They are often the right choice for residents who:

- Need help with the activities of daily living.
- May require 24-hour nursing care.
- Need supervision within a secure setting.

Long-term care homes offer higher levels of personal care and support than typically offered by either retirement homes or supportive housing. The Homes offer student and PSW placement opportunities in several departments.

### Homes for the Aged Key Functions

- Create a home-like atmosphere for residents and their families to enjoy.
- Maintain a safe living environment.
- Daily housekeeping and meal service.
- Offer a person-centred approach to care tailored to the resident’s individual needs.
- Provide access to health professionals and personal care services.
- Individualized religious and spiritual services.
- Dynamic and engaging programs and activities.
- Facilitate volunteers and resident care givers.
- Collaborate with local community partners.
- Work with provincial and federal regulatory agencies.

### Programs

Each year, the Homes run a robust schedule of creative and interactive programming. In 2023, more than 2,400 programs were hosted including:

- **Resident Entertainment.** Residents were entertained with many different groups and bands.
- **Physiotherapy Activities.** Resident exercise classes, walking programs and assistance with mobility aides provided by Physiotherapist/Physiotherapist Assistants.
- **In-Home Activities.** Residents were engaged with a variety of in-house activities that included paint nights, brain games, spa days, happy hour bank, and Bingo!
- **Scenic Drives.** Residents were escorted in the Home’s mobility van to many areas throughout Huron County. This also included visits to local restaurants, parades, wineries/breweries, dances, and much more.
- **Community Involvement.** Residents attended local events, and developed relationships through local schools such as Co-op placements and pen pal programs.

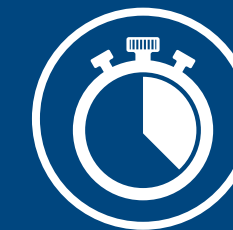
## 2023 Long-term Care By the Numbers



184 Care beds.



94 New admissions.



24 Hour service and care.



2 Facilities.



2400+ programs, events and activities.



278 Skilled and caring staff.

## 6. Planning and Development

### Land Use Planning

In 2023, the County's Planning and Development Department processed 224 development applications under the Planning Act (80 of those were severance applications).

This included the final approval of 3 Plans of Subdivision and draft approval of 1 Plan of Subdivision across Huron County.

Planning policy work was also advanced. This included the completion of the Goderich Official Plan 5 Year Review and Zoning By-law Update, Bayfield Secondary Plan and implementing amendments, North Huron Zoning By-law Update (not yet in full force and effect), and implementation of the Housing Friendly Lens in multiple planning documents across the County.

### Environmental Stewardship

#### Water Protection:

The Huron Clean Water Project provides financial and technical assistance to Huron County residents to improve and protect water quality in Huron County. It is funded by the County of Huron and service delivery is provided by Ausable Bayfield and Maitland Valley Conservation Authorities.

Under the \$500,000 allocated by Huron County, there were 277 Clean Water Projects approved for a total project value of \$1,245,025.

#### Forestry and Stewardship:

The County of Huron owns and maintains 14 forest tracts (1600+ acres). In addition, the Forestry and Stewardship Team:

- Monitored forest harvest activities from 109 Notices of Intent filed under the Forest Conservation By-law.
- Planted a "Miyawaki Forest" in the Huronview property Arboretum.
- Planted 1500 trees and shrubs at Huronview, Bannockburn and Sheppardton Tract County sites.
- In partnership with the Huron Stewardship Council, continued administration of \$102,042 for the protection of species at risk and land stewardship.
- Hosted the Annual Turtle Release in collaboration with Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority, which was attended by approximately 600 individuals.

### Climate Change and Energy

#### EV Charger Network

The Regional EV Charging Network Strategy: Feasibility Study, spearheaded by Wellington County, was a collaboration designed to increase the number of Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations in the region. The project included the participation of multiple municipalities.

#### EnergyCAP

Continued to use EnergyCAP to track utility data, energy usage, greenhouse gas emissions, and determine energy savings and identify inefficiencies.

#### Climate Risk Assessment

Initiation of a Climate Risk Assessment of County Bridges and Culverts.

#### Rural Roadside Pilot Project

Creation of two acres of wildflower habitat along two County forests as part of the Rural Roadside Pilot Project to increase pollinator habitat and reduce invasive species and need for mowing.

#### Energy Audits

Conducted energy audits on all facility and social housing buildings to understand how we can reduce our energy usage.

#### Presentations

Presented the County's corporate climate change actions at the Lake Huron Coastal Centre Annual Conference and the EV Expo.

### Sustainable Community Planning

In 2023, Planning staff hosted meetings of the Sustainable Huron Steering Committee on the topics of Housing: The Economics, Getting It Built and Creative Solutions in Huron; Building Community: Social Trends and Actions; Path Towards Truth and Reconciliation.





**We Engage Youth!**

Like all County of Huron departments, the Planning and Development team works with students each year. These paid positions and internships provide valuable learning opportunities for youth while they contribute meaningfully to Huron's community.

## 2023 Planning & Development By the Numbers



**224** Development applications reviewed.



**3** Plans of subdivision received final plan approval.  
**1** Plan of subdivision received draft plan approval.



**1600+** Acres of County owned and maintained Forest Tracts (14 locations).



**1500** Trees and shrubs planted on three County Tract sites.



**277** Clean Water Projects.



**\$1,245,025** Total value of 2023 Clean Water Projects.



## 7. Public Works

The County of Huron's Public Works department undertook a number of projects in 2023 that were designed to improve Huron's roadways and Public Work's operations.

### Self-Performed Bridge Rehabilitations (County Bridge Crew)

Two bridges, Trick's Creek Bridge and Cunningham's Bridge, were rehabilitated.

### Rehabilitations and Replacements performed through awarded contract

Two bridges, Robert Edgar Bridge & Donnybrook Bridge, were rehabilitated.

One bridge, Boundary Bridge 23, was fully replaced in a partnership between the Municipality of West Perth and the County of Huron.

One major culvert, 86-02.4, was lined with a polymer coated CSP tunnel liner in partnership with Bruce County. The process of lining the existing concrete arch culvert allowed County Road 86 to remain fully open during the construction phase.

### Wingham CR4 and CR86 Improvements

- The entrance to Tim Hortons was realigned.
- Sidewalks were extended on both sides of CR4 to CR86.
- Pedestrian crossing was added at the CR86 intersection.
- A new mid-block pedestrian crossing was installed between Victoria Street and CR86.

### Blyth CR4 and CR25 Traffic Signals

- Upgraded existing 2-way stop controlled intersection to fully signalized intersection.
- Sidewalks were installed along the north side of CR25.
- Traffic signals were installed and grade elevation was adjusted to improve intersection safety.
- A pedestrian crossing, with accessibility features, was added to the intersection.

### CR83 Paving

Cold In Place Recycling was completed:

- Hwy 21 to Dashwood West Limit
- Dashwood East Limit to Wets of Airport Line.

Paved Shoulders were completed:

- Pickard Rd to Huron Produce.

Rumble Strips were added to the Paved Shoulders to increase driver awareness and separation between roadway and paved shoulder.

### Speed Control - Transition Zones

- Transition Zones were implemented in some of Huron's high speed areas.
- 70km/h zones were introduced.
- Changes were implemented along CR3, CR4, CR15, CR22, and CR25.
- The speed control project will continue in 2024.

### County Road 83 Dashwood Reconstruction

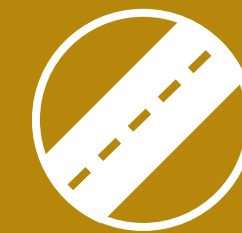
- Design and engineering completed in 2023.
- This project is currently out to tender.
- 2 year phased reconstruction of Dashwood's urban limits.

### Wingham Facility Phase 1

The Wingham facility will accommodate the County Bridge Crew, and Sign Shop. The contracted plows will also operate out of Wingham. These upgrades will improve operational efficiency and response times for various operational activities.

In 2023, Phase 1 was completed and included reconstruction of the materials storage building.

## 2023 Public Works By the Numbers



775 km Roads maintained.



81 Bridges maintained.



5 Bridge rehabilitations.



210 Culvert structures.



Ongoing winter road maintenance and snow removal.



94 Vehicles in the fleet.

## 8. Social and Property Services

### Housing & Homelessness Services Children's Services

#### Housing Projects

Three housing developments in various stages of construction are underway.

- Bennett, St. Goderich (complete).
- Sander St., Exeter (in progress).
- Gibbons St., Goderich (In progress).

#### By Name List

Achieved a "Quality By Name List" from Built for Zero Canada.

#### Coordinated Access

Continued to expand Huron County's Coordinated Access Program ensuring local organizations can effectively work together to address the specific needs of those experiencing homelessness within the community.

#### Cold Weather Emergency Sheltering

Transitioned the former congregate, evening only emergency shelter setting to a new 24 hour, motel model in partnership with the Canadian Mental Health Association Huron Perth Addiction and Mental Health Services.

#### Be Part of the Solution

Continued promotion of the Be Part of the Solution education campaign that included updating the [housing](#) and [homelessness](#) web pages.

#### Children's Service Conference

Children's Services partnered in hosting a four-county conference at Blue Mountain in March 2023 with all early childhood educators from Bruce, Grey, Stratford and Huron attending. Learning topics included outdoor playgrounds, Indigenous parenting, anti-black racism and unconscious biases.

#### Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child

The second phase of the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care plan was launched which implemented a reduction of parent fees to 50% of their 2020 rates.

#### EarlyON

EarlyON programs saw 10,472 child visits throughout 2023.

#### Growing Together

Growing Together supported an average of 107 children and families each month. An average of 242 families accessed Huron County's fee subsidy each month in 2023.

### Ontario Works

#### Employment Services Transformation

Ontario Works launched the Employment Services Transformation in April 2023 within a multi-partner agreement with Bruce County, Grey County and Stratford/Perth. This shifts the focus on gaining employment for Ontario Works clients to the Employment Ontario sites, which then allows the Life Stabilization supports to be the main priority for the Ontario Works Caseworkers.

#### Embedded Caseworkers

Ontario Works Caseworkers have embedded themselves in the community and work in geographical regions to support individuals without creating further transportation issues or barriers for the clients. Caseworkers work in 27 locations across Huron County and had 1,351 in-person appointments at these locations in 2023.

### Property Services

In 2023, the property services team completed the following projects:

- More than 650 preventive maintenance tasks.
- More than 1,300 work orders.
- Refurbished 41 housing units for new tenants to move into.
- Replaced the boilers at the Courthouse with energy efficient models.
- Created an accessible parking lot at 57 Napier Street.
- Made all ground floor patios at 45 Alfred Street accessible.
- Replaced all exterior doors at the John Street family units.



## 2023 Social & Property Services By the Numbers



**10,472** Children visits to EarlyON programming.



**242** Families accessed fee subsidies monthly.



**415** Rent-geared-to-Income units maintained.



**110** County properties maintained (includes County facilities and housing units).



**41** Housing units refurbished.

### We're good neighbours!

Our team manages more than 400 units, located throughout Huron County. We take great pride in the living spaces we provide for our residents and we always strive to be good neighbours!

Our friendly staff are frequently on-site providing services such as:

- Property maintenance
- Landscaping
- Snow removal
- Repairs and upkeep
- Communal area and outdoor cleaning
- And more!





**HURON**  
C O U N T Y

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