

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Statement: Residents deserve to know the impacts of the annexation of specific lands**

**Midhurst/October 8, 2025** – On behalf of County Council, I would like to remind residents about the upcoming County Public Meeting regarding the proposed annexation of lands from Oro-Medonte and Springwater Townships to the City of Barrie. The deadline for residents to provide written feedback or to register to speak at the Public Meeting is this Friday, October 10 at noon, with the meeting occurring October 14, 2025, at 10 a.m. at the County of Simcoe Administration Centre.

As previously expressed, the County is not supportive of the current terms of the forced annexation plan as currently outlined. The area being proposed has expanded greatly without the support of all parties, growing from a small portion of land focused on housing, to over 1,600 hectares total that now includes the potential transfer of significant economic/employment and non-developable lands.

The removal of the economic lands will have long-term tax rate impacts on County residents across the region. The loss of this economic revenue will directly affect the County's ability to pay for vital services and infrastructure. It may also stall planned investments at the Lake Simcoe Regional Airport, which is a major economic driver for our region.

As a rapidly growing region, economic growth must be well coordinated to ensure a sustainable future. Studies conducted through this process have clearly shown that the County of Simcoe requires more employment lands right now to meet the needs of our 16 growing communities and help keep County tax rates fair for our 350,000 County residents. While the same studies show that the City of Barrie has enough economic lands now, and to carry them through to 2051.

We also remain concerned about environmentally sensitive or protected lands being part of an annexation into an urban boundary. These lands are more likely to remain protected under the County Official Plan.

These concerns and others are shared by County Council and reflect our commitment to protecting the interests of all County residents.

We urge residents and stakeholders to share their feedback through the Public Meeting.

Details on the Public Meeting can be found on [simcoe.ca/notices](http://simcoe.ca/notices).

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Warden, County of Simcoe

- 30 -

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