



Severn Bulletin

June 2023

Due dates

Property taxes are due in two instalments on **August 8** and **October 8**.

Payment options

You can pay your property taxes in a variety of ways.

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.

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.

Supplementary or omitted tax bills

Supplementary and omitted tax bills are issued based on a change in the value of your property. This value is determined by the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC).

You may receive a supplementary or omitted tax bill if you:

- build a new house
- build an addition on your current house
- build a deck, shed or other structure

Supplementary bills are for the current year. Omitted bills are for previous years.

severn.ca



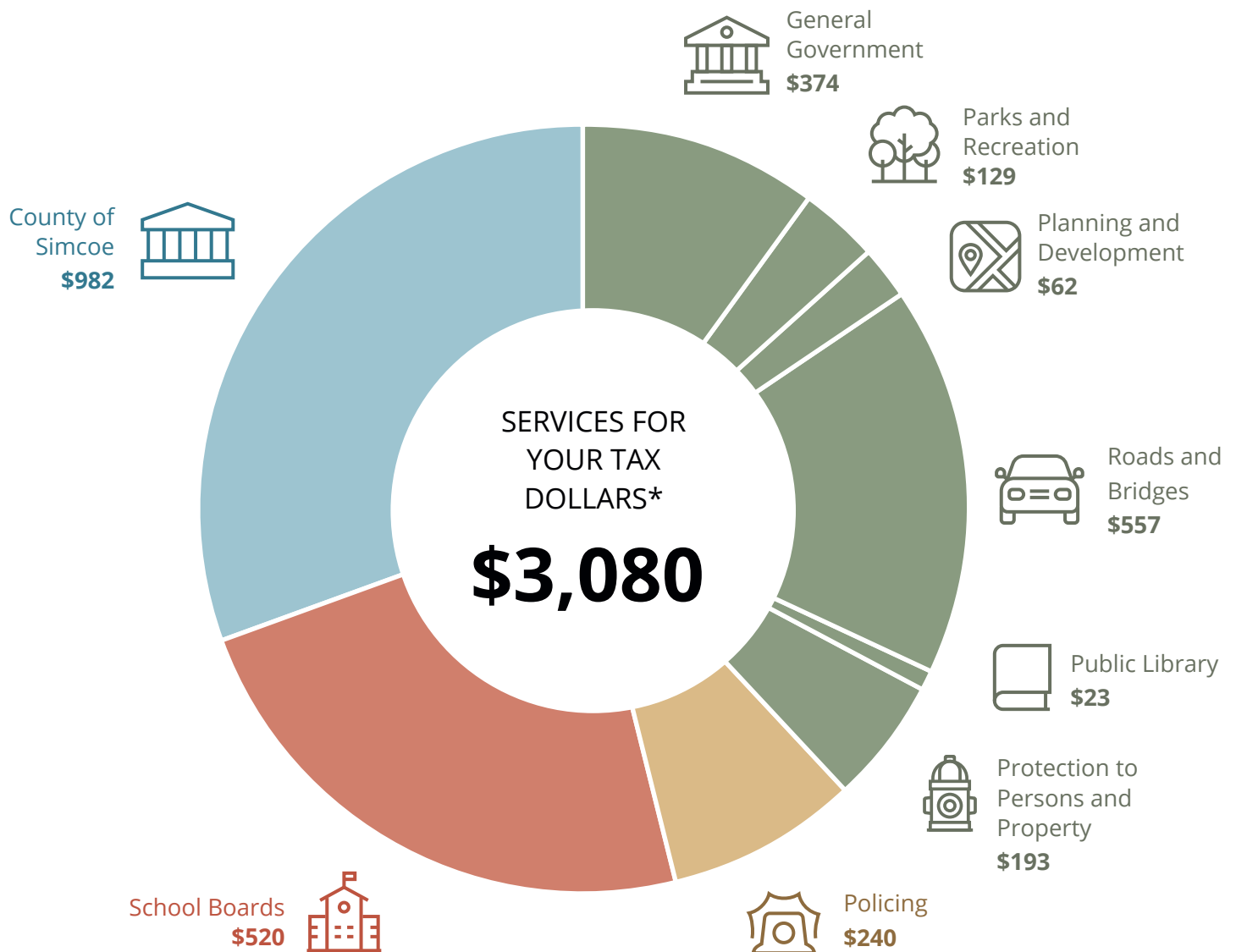
Did you know?

Finance is responsible for the collection of property taxes, water and sewer billing, and other revenues. Township of Severn keeps **0.43 cents** of every property tax dollar collected. The rest goes to County of Simcoe (**0.32 cents**), education (**0.17 cents**) and policing (**0.08 cents**).

2023 Budget breakdown

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. With a 3.9% increase in the blended tax rate for 2023, the average single-family home in Severn with an assessed value of \$340,000 will pay an additional \$115.58.

For more information about Township of Severn's 2023 Budget or upcoming capital projects, visit severn.ca/budget.



Get involved in your community

Find ways to offer feedback and stay up to date on the latest news and notices.

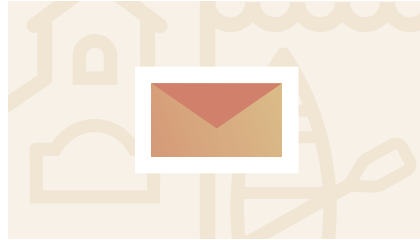
Have your say



Provide your input on a variety of municipal services and programs. We're committed to community collaboration and value your feedback.

► severn.ca/haveyoursay

Stay informed



Subscribe to our news and notices and follow us on social media so you never miss an important update.

► severn.ca/stayinformed

Report a concern



If you have a concern about roads, streetlights, or a by-law infraction, please report your concern and we'll follow up.

► severn.ca/reportaconcern

We're always planning for the future. Help us develop services that meet your needs and provide your feedback and input on our variety of programs, services and plans. We're committed to providing programs that serve our community.

- ✓ **Coldwater Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion Study**
We're completing a Municipal Class Environmental Assessment to identify and evaluate options for expanding the wastewater pumping and treatment capacity to accommodate anticipated growth in Coldwater.
- ✓ **Economic Development Strategy**
We're preparing an Economic Development Strategy and we'll be sharing different ways for you to get involved and give your input. We're listening!

- ✓ **Transportation Master Plan**
The Transportation Master Plan is our road map to guide transportation improvements in Severn—now and in the future. Learn more at severn.ca/haveyoursay.
- ✓ **Roads studies and reports**
In order to ensure that we're providing quality road networks and infrastructure, we have updated our Roads Needs Study. Learn more at severn.ca/plansandstudies.

Building and construction

We issue building permits and provide building inspections to help with your next building and renovation project. Follow these important steps to plan your construction project:

1. plan your project in advance
2. connect with our team
3. hire a professional designer

4. get the proper approvals
5. hire building professionals
6. call us for inspections
7. get final approval
8. enjoy

Visit severn.ca/building or contact us at 705-325-2315 or building@severn.ca for more information.

Fire permits

Fire permits are required for all open-air burning in Severn. Our 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 permit fees vary depending on the size and type of fire. It costs \$25 for an annual fire permit and \$75 for an agricultural fire permit.

You can apply for your fire permit online at severn.ca/firepermits. If you don't have internet access, you can contact us at 705-325-2315 x242 to request a fire permit.

You can only burn tree branches or clean, dry wood with either permit. You're not allowed to burn leaves or garden waste in an open-air fire. Instead, you can dispose of yard waste through the County's of Simcoe's yard waste and leaf pick up program.

Always keep fire safety in mind. Check the fire rating before starting a fire. We've placed signs throughout the community to show the current fire rating.

You can also contact us at 705-325-2315 or fire@severn.ca for more information.

"Whether in the backyard of your home, the cottage or at a campground, make fire safety a priority. Open-air burning, especially if left unattended, can become difficult to control and result in a serious widespread fire. Supervise the fire at all times and keep a pail of water or garden hose nearby."

—Tim Cranney, Fire Chief

What do the ratings mean?

LOW: Burning is permitted

MODERATE: Burn with caution.

HIGH: Extra care should be taken, with a recommendation of no burning. Severn may issue a municipal-wide fire ban.

EXTREME: No burning of any kind is allowed. A total fire ban will be issued by the Township.

FIRE BAN: When the fire ban is in place, no burning of any kind is permitted. Fireworks are also not allowed.

Subscribe to fire danger rating updates at severn.ca/firerating.

Traffic calming

We're dedicated to maintaining and improving our road network. That also includes ensuring our roads are safe for all users. Traffic calming aims to prevent high-speed rushed driving by 'calming' motorists using visual cues that influence drivers to pay more attention and to change their driving behaviours.

How can I learn more?

We use signal lighting, Black CAT radar devices, radar feedback signs, flexible posts, children silhouette roadside signs, and other methods to help reduce speeds. Find out more at severn.ca/slowdown.



BBQ safety

Few things can match the fun and enjoyment of a barbecue with family and friends. Practice sensible, safe barbecuing and your get-together will be a sizzling success.

Test for leaks

At the start of the BBQ season, do this three-step safety check of your BBQ:

CLEAN: Use a pipe cleaner or wire to ensure burner ports are free of rust, dirt, spider webs or other debris.

CHECK: Examine the hose leading from the tank to the burners. Replace if cracked or damaged.

TEST: Find leaks by applying a 50/50 solution of water and dish soap to propane cylinder connections and hoses. If bubbles appear, tighten the connection and/or replace the damaged parts and retest.

Light it right

Take these steps when starting a BBQ:

1. open the hood
2. turn on the gas release valve on the tank
3. turn on the grill controls or heat settings
4. take a step back
5. push the igniter button

If there's no igniter button, insert a long match or BBQ

lighter through the side burner hole first, then turn on the heat control knob. If the burner doesn't ignite right away, turn the gas off and wait five minutes, keeping the hood open, before repeating the steps.

Keep it safe

BBQs are approved for outdoor use only. They produce carbon monoxide, a poisonous gas that can lead to unconsciousness and even death. Never use or store propane cylinders inside any structure, including garages.

Learn more at

severn.ca/bbqsafety and follow us on social media for more fire safety tips.

Council Strategic Plan

Township of Severn's Strategic Plan communicates Council's priorities, goals, and high-level actions for the 2023 to 2026 term.

Mission

Township of Severn is a welcoming, community-focused municipality that promotes responsible development, encourages all-season tourism, and delivers a high level of service. We celebrate our unique identity, preserve the natural environment, and value our historic small-town charm.

Vision

Through excellence in service and preservation of our historic and natural assets, the Township of Severn enhances the quality of life for residents and creates opportunities for the community. We welcome investments that complement and respect our rural character.

Strategic directions, priorities, and goals

We outlined four strategic directions along with key actions that we can take to reach our goals.

1. Economic development

Goal: To complete an economic development strategy to enhance our capacity to attract and retain businesses.

2. Customer service focus

Goal: To improve responsiveness, communications, engagement, outreach, and ease of access.

3. High-speed internet

Goal: To advocate for affordable broadband to our residents and businesses.

4. Infrastructure to match growth

Goal: To ensure we are prepared and can adapt to meet the housing demand and changing demographics with servicing, water, and roads.

Read the plan and learn more about the actions we will take at severn.ca/strategicplan.



Phone: 705-325-2315

severn.ca

