

# Staff Memorandum



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To	Mayor Nuttall and Executive Committee
Subject	Homeless Encampment near Anne and John Streets
Date	August 13, 2025
Ward	All
From	M. Prowse, Chief Administrative Officer

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As Council is aware, on Wednesday, July 30, Barrie Police began an investigation at a homeless encampment near Anne and John Streets. On Friday, July 31 the City was served with Notice of Execution of search warrant for the lands known as 60 Anne Street South.

On Wednesday August 6, Barrie Police informed the City of Barrie that they would be wrapping up their investigation by the end of the week and would be ready to turn the site back to the City on Friday, August 8. It was at this time that Police informed the City of the condition of the site and indicated that it will require extensive cleanup.

On Thursday, August 7, the City contacted the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) to request they attend the site to conduct an investigation to determine if there were any environmental risks due to the amount of waste on the site. In addition, a letter was sent to the Minister of the Environment from the Mayor requesting immediate action on the site. The City also reached out to the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit to advise of the living conditions of people at the site as the City was concerned about their health and safety. The County of Simcoe was also engaged as the City's service manager for social housing.

On Friday, August. 8, the City began fencing off the site anticipating the need for significant cleanup once the site was released by Police. The MECP attended the site on Friday afternoon to conduct their investigation. Anticipating the need for enhanced security, the City secured paid duty officers to be on site throughout the process. The City continued to work with the County to explore options for housing the individuals living on the site.

The site was released to the City at about 4:30 p.m. on Friday, August 8. The City then responded to media requests with information about why the fencing was installed and informed media that the City was awaiting the results of an MECP investigation on the site.

On Saturday August 9, the City issued a statement to media with information that the MECP had issued an Order under the Environmental Protection Act to close the site down. The amount of waste on the site poses health and safety risks as well as environmental concerns and must be cleaned and restored, given its proximity to a well head (within 100m) and approximately. 1km from Lake Simcoe.

On Monday August 11, it was announced that 29 Sperling Drive (old police station) will be used as a temporary evacuation centre by the County of Simcoe and the City will provide transportation to this evacuation site. Using this facility temporarily will give the County time to find longer term housing for the people impacted. The commitment is to be finished with the temporary site before the start of school to ensure alignment with the new provincial regulations of the 200 m distance from childcare and school sites.

Notices were issued to individuals residing on the site to vacate and remove belongings. The City is working with the County and its service providers in providing these individuals storage options for their belongings along with identifying shelter space and other services for those individuals who are willing to accept.

The City is responsible for the cleanup of the site and will be hiring a contractor to do this work. We have arranged to have security and paid duty officers on the site while City staff and contractors plan the cleanup of the site which is expected to be significant.

Staff will continue to provide you with timely updates as the cleanup progresses.





