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The fires have been set by farmers who are burning their fields to prepare them for the next growing season. The land they are burning has been cleared for years. They're using the fires to control weeds, insects, and pests, and enrich the soil, something farmers and ranchers have been doing for hundreds of years.

Climate scientist Roy Spencer has another term for the fires: "normal agriculture." Said Dr. Spencer, a former NASA scientist who does consulting on global crop-market forecasting, "The driest years in Brazil will have the most fires set by farmers. That isn't a climate story, it's normal agriculture in a country where 50 million people living in poverty are trying to survive."

Plus natural fires do not typically occur in tropical forests anyway – too much humidity, too much dense foliage, and almost daily thunderstorms.

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Trending: Saving Sex For Marriage Is Good For Marriage

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It's worthy of note that there are fires burning in Bolivia but they are being ignored by the media because Bolivia's government is socialist and hence does not fit the media narrative that evil rightwing politicians are to blame for everything. Jair Bosonaro, Brazil's new president, is the Donald Trump of South America, so he makes a tempting target. (In some circles, even Trump is being blamed for the fires in the Amazon – his trade policies with China, don't you know?)

Second, according to NASA, the number of fires is about normal for this time of year. While the number of fires is up this year, what the TSM won't tell you is that about half of the years prior to 2019 were higher, and about half were lower. This year's fires are just 7% above the average of the last decade. Many of the heart-rending photographs the Talking Snake Media tearfully trot out were not even taken this year, or even in Brazil. Some were taken as far back as 1989, and a number of them – especially pictures of charred animals – weren't taken in the Amazon at all but in places like India, Sweden, and California.

Third, the Amazon forests are not the lungs of the earth. They don't provide 20% of the earth's oxygen, contrary to the latest fashionable lie from the left. The Amazon is in effect a closed system that absorbs all the oxygen it produces.

One of the world's leading experts on the Amazon, Dan Nepstad, said, "The Amazon produces a lot of oxygen but it uses the same amount of oxygen through respiration so it's a wash."

Fourth, because CO2 is not a pollutant but plant food, more and more of the earth's surface is greening up. There are more trees and vegetation now than there were 30 years ago. Deforestation in the Amazon, in fact, has decreased markedly since 2005. According to Climate Depot, "For every acre of rainforest that is cut down each year, more than 50 acres of new forest are growing." On top of that, deforestation is 75% below its 2004 peak.

Because CO2 is plant food and not a pollutant, the more CO2 in the atmosphere, the better for growing things. Because of the increase of CO2, Nature magazine, not exactly the home of global warming skepticism, said last year that the world's tree cover has increased over the past 35 years. In the last three decades, 865,000 square miles – an area the size of Texas and Alaska combined – have been added to the world's already existing tree-covered land. CO2 is not our enemy, it is our friend.

We are not "climate deniers" – the earth's climate has been constantly changing since the end of Noah's flood. We are pseudo-science deniers. We are against global warming hysteria which is based on fear, not facts. We are against the deception, the dishonesty, and the distortions of the brain-addled media.

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Simcoe County Forest 'Packard Tract' Forest & Habitat Restoration Project

In 2018, a 42.5 hectare (105.2 acre) parcel was acquired as an addition to the Simcoe County Forest 'Packard Tract' in the Township of Essa. An assessment of the property identified opportunities to substantially enhance planned forest restoration to include habitat creation for the endangered Kirtland's Warbler.

County Council received a report on the progress of work on the Packard Tract. Substantial completion is planned for 2022. The project will include the enhancement of previously planted areas, harvesting, site preparation including a potential controlled burn, seeding, and the planting of 35,400 trees. This complements and aligns with the Forest and Habitat Restoration Project currently underway in the Museum Tract (Midhurst).

Barrie Collingwood Railway Multi-Use Trail

In 2017, the County purchased a section of the Barrie Collingwood Railway (BCRY) approximately 38 kilometers long which extends from the boundary of the Town of Collingwood to Utopia (Essa Township). A 2018 Preliminary Design Report explored the feasibility of creating a multi-use recreation trail, in alignment with the existing Provincial Policy, Ontario Trails Strategy, Ontario's Cycling Strategy, Ontario's Cycling Tourism Plan at the provincial level and County of Simcoe Official Plan, Transportation Master Plan and Trails Strategy at the municipal level.

Council approved including the required studies and detail design for this project in the 2020 capital budget. Councillors also confirmed that the County should preserve the existing right-of-way as a transportation corridor, but discontinue its use as an active rail corridor, which will require the administration to follow a defined public process under the Canada Transportation Act. If successful, this will facilitate the removal of the rails and road signals.

This is a tremendous opportunity to connect Collingwood all the way to Essa with an active transportation trail. Further public consultation will occur as this project unfolds.

County prioritizes curbside recycling collection

The County continues to experience impacts to curbside waste collection services, primarily blue box pick-ups, and is now taking further steps to get waste materials off the streets. In addition to prioritizing garbage and organics to minimize collection misses of these materials, and limit odour impacts to residents, the County has brought in an additional contractor to support with the collection of recycling to the end of September 2019.

As the County's contractor, Waste Connections, continues to experience challenges with staffing due to labour shortages, County Council voted to cancel this year's curbside collection of electronics, which had been scheduled to occur from September 16 through 27, to allow more resources to focus on the collection of garbage, organics and recycling materials. The cancellation of the curbside electronics collection program for 2019, and these other changes, will not result in any additional costs to taxpayers.

Residents are reminded that electronics can be dropped off at a County waste management facility free of charge at any time throughout the year during regular operating hours.

The best way to receive information in real time is through the new Simcoe County Collects app, which can be downloaded from the Apple Store or Google Play free of charge.

Lake Simcoe Regional Airport Ownership

In 2009, the City of Barrie and the Township of Oro-Medonte authorized the creation of a municipal services corporation to manage the strategic and day to day requirements of the Lake Simcoe Regional Airport. In 2014, the Airport Agreement was amended to reflect the County of Simcoe's purchase of 20% of the City of Barrie's shares. On June 12, 2018, County Council approved a resolution which received a new Strategic Plan for the LSRA, requiring substantial investment to expand the regional airport in an effort to boost regional economic development, create jobs and grow commercial, passenger and commuter air traffic.

County Council approved the acquisition of an additional 50 shares from the City of Barrie and 20 shares from the Township of Oro-Medonte, which will see the County of Simcoe become the majority shareholder with 90 shares. The City of Barrie will continue as a key joint owner holding a 10-per-cent stake in the regional airport. The strategic acquisition will allow further development and expansion of the airport to serve regional economic development and job creation objectives. Consultation and engagement with the public regarding the strategic plan will be scheduled in the near future.

Long-Term Care Funding

On May 28th and 29th of 2019, the County of Simcoe received a series of notices from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (LTC) regarding: a 2019/20 accommodation

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NEARLY 100 TEACH FOR CANADA TEACHERS ARE GOING NORTH THIS SEPTEMBER

*Teachers to fill much-needed teaching roles
in northern First Nations*

TORONTO, August 27, 2019 — Nearly 100 Teach For Canada teachers are going North to fill much-needed teaching roles in First Nations schools this September. For some, it's the beginning of a two-year commitment to teach in a northern First Nation school. For others, it's a return to northern classrooms for the third, fourth, or even fifth year.

The two-year commitment is an important one for northern First Nations schools where low teacher supply and high teacher turnover compound historical injustices and systemic inequities between First Nations and non-First Nations communities.

Ranging from recent graduates to seasoned teachers, to retirees re-entering the classroom, Teach For Canada teachers bring diverse perspectives and experiences from across Canada and from countries around the world. Teachers are recruited through the organization's rigorous interview process that is designed in partnership with 18 First Nations in Ontario and Manitoba to ensure teachers have the right motivations, aptitude, and fit to support student success.

Once selected, teachers attend a three-week summer program facilitated by Indigenous leaders and education experts that focuses on First Nations histories, cultures, languages, culturally-responsive pedagogies, and land-based education to help ensure teachers are ready to meet the needs of students in their classrooms.

In September 2019, a new cohort of nearly 30 teachers is going North through Teach For Canada for the very first time. They will have the opportunity to continue to learn from students, Elders, local education leaders, and their peers and colleagues. They will also be offered professional and personal support from experienced northern educators through Teach For Canada. With this learning and support, teachers will have the knowledge and tools they need to enrich the lives of students and stay for their two-year commitment - or longer.



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fee increase of 2.3 per cent to all LTC residents, an annual inflationary increase of 1.0 per cent to Long-Term Care Homes, Level of Care funding based on the 2017/18 annual Case Mix Index results; supplemental funding for Behavioural Specialized Unit and High Acuity Priority Access beds (0.7% increase), funding formula changes applied to several program areas; and the elimination of two significant supplemental funding envelopes (High Wage Transition Funding and the Structural Compliance Premium).

As a result of these funding changes to LTC, the County of Simcoe will experience a provincial funding cut of \$380,675 in 2019 with an annualized impact of \$875,418 in 2020. County Council approved plans to employ an annual funding stabilization fund of \$340,000 to offset the 2019 impact, leaving a net shortfall of \$40,675 and \$535,418 beginning in 2020. New base funding will also be allocated to increase 0.5 FTE of Personal Support Worker hours at Simcoe Manor and an in-depth review of operations will be undertaken to identify potential strategies to reduce costs to address the remaining funding shortfall of \$41,000 in 2019.

To view the full Committee of the Whole or Council Agenda visit: <https://simcoe.civicweb.net/Portal/>

To view the County Council Highlights online visit: <https://www.simcoe.ca/dpt/ccd/news>