

COUNTY OF SIMCOE BUSINESS RESOURCES



The business community in Simcoe County is diverse, growing and supported by a host of resources. The following document guides existing and aspiring entrepreneurs to various organizations and resources across Simcoe County. Currently, only government organizations (including members of the Ontario Network of Entrepreneurs), not-for-profits and crown corporations are represented in this document. There are numerous other private sector supports available. Contact edo@simcoe.ca for more information.



Start

Where can I get help to start my business in Simcoe County?



Grow

Where can I get help to grow my business in Simcoe County?



Funding

What funding resources are available?



Innovation

I am a creator, maker, inventor, coder - where are like-minded individuals and resources?



Commercialization

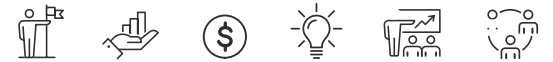
Who can help with commercialization and product launch?



Other Resources

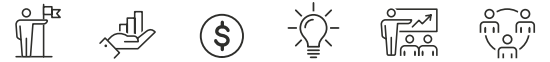
Space (S), Support/Business Community (C), Workforce/employees (E)

RESOURCE PROVIDERS



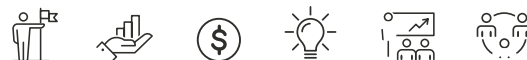
Resource Provider	Start	Grow	Funding	Innovation	Commercialization	Other Resources
South Georgian Bay Small Business Enterprise Centre www.entreprisecentre.ca	•	•	•			
Small Business Centre Barrie, Simcoe County and Orillia www.barriebusinesscentre.ca	•	•	•			
Nottawasaga Futures www.nottawasaga.com	•	•	•			
Orillia Area Community Development Corporation www.orilliacdc.com	•	•	•			C/E
North Simcoe CFDC www.nscfdc.on.ca	•	•	•			
Community Future South Georgian Bay www.cfsouthgeorgianbay.ca	•	•	•			
Government of Canada www.canada.ca/en/services/business.html	•	•	•			
Georgian College - Centre for Changemaking and Social Innovation www.georgiancollege.ca/community-alumni/centre-social-entrepreneurship/	•	•		•	•	
Georgian College - Henry Bernick Entrepreneurship Centre www.georgiancollege.ca/community-alumni/entrepreneurship-centre	•	•		•	•	
Startup Collingwood www.startupcan.ca/community/startup-collingwood/	•					
The Sandbox Centre www.sandboxcentre.com	•	•		•		C
Innisfil Accelerates www.innisfilaccelerates.ca	•	•				C

RESOURCE PROVIDERS



DMZ Innisfil https://innisfilaccelerates.ca/dmz-innisfil/	●		●	●	S/C
GB Accelerator www.gbaccelerator.ca	●		●	●	C
Lakehead University - Innovation, Partnership and Economic Development www.lakeheadu.ca/research-and-innovation/iped	●		●	●	
XcelerateHER www.xcelerateher.ca/	●	●			
South Simcoe Community StartUp www.southsimcoestartup.ca/	●	●			
YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka www.ymcaofsimcoemuskoka.ca	●				
ventureLAB www.venturelab.ca		●	●	●	
Ontario Centres of Excellence www.oce-ontario.org		●	●	●	
Innovation Canada www.innovation.canada.ca		●			
Georgian Angel Network www.georgianangelnet.ca			●		
Business Development Bank of Canada www.BDC.ca			●		
Export Development Canada www.edc.ca			●		
Southwestern Ontario Development Fund www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/food/industry/swodf-program.htm			●		
Regional Tourism Organization 7 www.rto7.ca			●		
Farm Credit Canada www.fcc-fac.ca			●		
Futurpreneur Canada www.futurpreneur.ca			●		
idealLAB www.innisfilidealab.ca/				●	
#LadiesLearningCode www.ladieslearningcode.com/chapters/barrie				●	
Business Improvement Areas Full list on page 3					C
Chambers of Commerce Full list on page 4					C
Libraries www.simcoe.ca/Library/Pages/Consortium-Members.aspx					S/C

RESOURCE PROVIDERS



County of Simcoe Site Selection & Online Land Inventory Portal www.maps.simcoe.ca/public?THEME=Economic%20Development
Employment Ontario Centres Full list on page 4-5
Barrie & District Association of REALTORS® www.bdar.ca/
The Lakelands Association of REALTORS® www.thelakelands.ca
Simcoe Muskoka Workforce Development Board www.smwdb.com/
Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario www.christianfarmers.org/
National Farmers Union – Ontario – Local 347 Dufferin Simcoe www.nfuontario.ca/locals/local-347/
Simcoe County Federation of Agriculture www.ofa.on.ca/federations/simcoe/
MPL MakerPlace www.midlandlibrary.com/the-mpl-makerplace/

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LIST OF PROVIDERS

Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC), a financial institution owned by the Government of Canada, offers business loans and advisory services to help Canadian businesses grow, both at home and abroad. They offer a full spectrum of specialized financing, including venture capital, equity as well as growth and business transition capital. www.bdc.ca

A Business Improvement Area (BIA) is a geographic area in a municipality. A BIA board of management is an organization set up to provide certain business promotion and improvement functions within that area. A BIA allows local business people and property owners to join together and with the support of the municipality, to organize, finance and carry out physical improvement and promote economic development in their district. The local municipality is the body that is responsible for approving the budget of the BIA.

Alliston BIA

www.allistonbia.com

Beeton, Tottenham BIA

www.facebook.com/beeton.tottenham

Collingwood Downtown

www.collingwooddowntown.com

Coldwater BIA

www.coldwatervillage.com

Creemore BIA

www.experiencecreemore.com

Downtown Barrie BIA

www.downtownbarrie.ca

Downtown Midland BIA

www.downtownmidland.ca

Downtown Orillia Management Board

www.downtownorillia.ca

Elmvale BIA

www.elmvalebia.ca

Chambers of Commerce (CoC) are business networks with mandates to act in the interest of the local business community. CoCs are made up of a group of members that are local business representatives or owners. The members typically elect a board or council, who then hires a president or CEO to run the organization.

Alliston & District Chamber of Commerce

www.adcc.ca

Angus & Area Chamber of Commerce

www.anguschamber.com

Bradford Board of Trade

www.bradfordboardoftrade.com

Clearview Chamber of Commerce

www.shopstayner.com/clearviewchamberofcommerce

Cookstown & District Chamber of Commerce

www.cookstown.ca

Collingwood Chamber of Commerce

www.collingwoodchamber.com

Greater Barrie Chamber of Commerce

www.barriechamber.com

Orillia District Chamber of Commerce

www.orillia.com

Oro-Medonte Chamber of Commerce

www.romedontecc.com

Ramara Chamber of Commerce

www.ramarachamber.com

Stayner Chamber of Commerce

www.staynerchamber.ca

Southern Georgian Bay Chamber of Commerce

www.southerngeorgianbay.ca

Tottenham Beeton & District Chamber of Commerce

www.tbdcc.ca

Wasaga Beach Chamber of Commerce

www.wasagachamber.com

The Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario is a professional organization for family farm entrepreneurs. As an Accredited Farm Organization, they advocate on behalf of their members, advising provincial government on policy solutions for a broad range of agricultural and rural issues. <https://www.christianfarmers.org/>

Community Futures Development Corporations (CFDCs), a Government of Canada initiative, offer a wide variety of programs and services supporting community economic development and small business growth. In particular, they provide:

- Business loans for small- and medium-sized businesses and social enterprises;
- Business counselling services;
- Access to community and business information;
- Support for community-based projects;
- Strategic community planning and socio-economic development

Simcoe County is home to four CFDCs, each serving different areas:

- Nottawasaga Futures - www.nottawasaga.com
- Orillia & Area Community Development Corporation - www.orilliacdc.com
- North Simcoe CFDC - www.nscfdc.on.ca
- Community Futures South Georgian Bay - www.cfsouthgeorgianbay.ca

County of Simcoe Site Selection & Online Land Inventory Portal is designed to assist potential investors, businesses or site selectors in researching and identifying properties for potential new locations, expansion or relocation of their operations in Simcoe County. <http://maps.simcoe.ca/public?THEME=Economic%20Development>

DMZ Innisfil is a startup accelerator program focused on providing founders with an alternative to building and scaling their startups in the city. DMZ Innisfil enables founders to access world-class acceleration support and a strong connection to the Toronto ecosystem while enjoying a different quality of life in Innisfil. Startups are given access to space, mentorship, exclusive resources and a vast network of support, including partners, customers, and investors. For more information, please visit <https://innisfilaccelerates.ca/dmz-innisfil/>

Employment Ontario Centres are designed to help job seekers find jobs, access resources, and build skills or retrain workers. They act as a link to the Ontario Job Bank and help connect employers with the local labour force. There are centres set up across Ontario in local municipalities to provide direct access to their services.

Agilec: Barrie Employment Services Centre

www.agilec.ca/contact/barrie/

Agilec: Innisfil Employment Services Centre

www.agilec.ca/contact/innisfil/

Agilec: Orillia Employment Services Centre

www.agilec.ca/contact/orillia/

Contact Community Services

www.contactcommunityservices.ca/employment/

Career Solutions

www.careersolutions.ca/

Career Centre

www.barriecareercentre.com/

Collège Boréal Employment Options Emploi

www.collegeboreal.ca/en/career/employment-centre

Focus Community Development Corporation

www.focuscdc.on.ca/

Georgian College Career**and Employment Community Services**

www.georgiancollege.ca/community-alumni/centre-for-career-and-employment-services/

La Clé de l'emploi Employment Services

www.lacle.ca/emploi-formation/cre/

TRACKS Employment and Resource Services

www.racks.on.ca/

YMCA Employment Service

www.ymcaofsimcoemuskoka.ca/

Export Development Canada (EDC) is Canada's export credit agency, helping Canadian companies respond to international business opportunities. EDC is a self-financing, Crown corporation that operates at arm's length from the Government providing insurance and financial services, bonding products and small business solutions to Canadian exporters and investors and their international buyers. www.edc.ca

Farm Credit Canada (FCC) is a financially self-sustaining federal commercial Crown corporation reporting to Canadians and Parliament through the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food. They provide financing, knowledge and software to over 100,000 customers. www.fcc-fac.ca

Futurpreneur Canada has been fueling the entrepreneurial passions of Canada's young enterprise for nearly two decades. They are the only national, non-profit organization that provides financing, mentoring and support tools to aspiring business owners aged 18-39. The internationally recognized mentoring program hand matches young entrepreneurs with a business expert from a network of more than 2,800 volunteer mentors. www.futurpreneur.ca

GB Accelerator is an intensive six month program fully customized to the needs of your team and business. A highly-targeted strategic plan is developed by our experienced coaches following a deep dive of your business. You will have the opportunity to work with our senior leadership team (coaches, mentors and industry experts) who are dedicated and passionate about helping innovators in our community. Tap into the GB Accelerator program to rapidly grow and scale your business." www.gbaccelerator.ca

Georgian Angel Network is a group of private investors from across the region that come from a wide variety of backgrounds and careers. The group's investment capacity typically ranges from \$100,000 to \$350,000 (sometimes more) and look at participating in subsequent financing rounds (follow-on investment). Furthermore, they consider syndication opportunities with other angel investors, other commercialization partners and early-stage venture capital funds. Since inception in 2012, the members of GAN have invested over \$20 million in 75 different companies. GAN also manages a fund (GAN Xcelerate Fund) that invests smaller amounts in very early stage start-ups to help them become "angel investment ready". www.georgianangelnet.ca

Georgian College

The Henry Bernick Entrepreneurship Centre (HBEC) is a resource for entrepreneurs at various stages, across all industry sectors. With the support of Georgian College and the Ontario Centres of Excellence, HBEC helps students and community based entrepreneurs validate their business ideas and grow existing businesses by connecting them with the tools they need to be successful including mentorship, funding, training and networking. www.georgiancollege.ca/community-alumni/entrepreneurship-centre

The Centre for Changemaking and Social Innovation inspires positive social change across central Ontario by

joining forces with non-profit organizations and Georgian College students and faculty leaders to respond to complex social issues. Through the Social Enterprise Network Central Ontario (SENCO), student-led projects, research, workshops, experiential learning opportunities and innovative curriculum, the Centre is motivating the next generation of changemakers to use social entrepreneurial skills and mindsets to transform their community. www.georgiancollege.ca/community-alumni/centre-social-entrepreneurship/

The Government of Canada created the Canada Business Network – Government Services for Entrepreneurs portal. The portal contains information and resources pertaining to Start-Up, Planning, Financing, Managing and Growing your business. www.canada.ca/en/services/business.html

ideaLAB – Design and create unique projects at Innisfil’s community hackerspace. Members get access to 3D printers, vinyl and laser cutters, and a digital media lab. Record and produce videos or audio content; use a green screen for special effects; build a robot; solder simple electronics; or craft sculptures and jewellery. Local entrepreneurs have access to the equipment to develop and create marketing packages, websites, vinyl signs and stickers, promotional videos, business cards, and more. Thousands of resources and help guides are also available through the adjoining library. www.innisfilidealab.ca

Innisfil Accelerates is the home of the Town of Innisfil’s Economic Development Team. Innisfil Accelerates offers a wide range of resources, services, and programs designed to help entrepreneurs start and scale their businesses. For more information, please visit <https://innisfilaccelerates.ca/>

Innovation Canada is a single access point to funding, expertise, facilities, and global opportunities for small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) seeking to grow through innovation. The only service of its kind in Canada, it offers free, one-on-one assistance from expert advisors who provide customized guidance in selecting the most relevant programs and services to help you grow your business. www.innovation.canada.ca

#LadiesLearningCode is a not-for-profit organization with the mission to be the leading resource for women and youth to become passionate builders - not just consumers - of technology by learning technical skills in a hands-on, social, and collaborative way. www.ladieslearningcode.com/chapters/barrie

Lakehead University Innovation, Partnership and Economic Development Office (EDI) acts as a liaison for industry to access University resources, while striving to support and assist faculty spin-off companies, student start-up companies, and entrepreneurial Alumni. The office is an essential component in developing and maintaining linkages with research and business partners, furthering local economic development while working with private industry, investors, and government. It is also responsible for the management and commercialization of the University’s intellectual property, and assists researchers in transferring knowledge and innovations to those outside the University community. www.lakeheadu.ca/research-and-innovation/iped

Libraries

From your company’s ideation to its growth and expansion, your local library has resources, connections, and space to support your success. Simcoe County is home to 28 public library locations across its municipalities, plus 3 locations in Barrie and Orillia. Call or visit them to:

- Brush up on business tactics with audiobooks, ebooks, or traditional print
- Meet privately with partners or clients in free study rooms, or book larger board rooms for formal presentations and meetings
- Attend workshops or get 1:1 tech coaching
- Start your research (local markets, history, genealogy, GIS)

Looking for a nearby co-working space? With free hot desks, wifi, and customer service, your ideal solution may be closer than you think! Local libraries are also experts at connecting with the community. If you’re looking to pilot a project or you’re seeking customer validation, consider offering a public program! For more information, ask about your library’s program strategy and policies. Find them at www.simcoe.ca/Library/Pages/Consortium-Members.aspx

The MPL MakerPlace is a space for the community to discover and share skills, tools, equipment, and ideas, and to gather and learn together. The space includes: a MakerLab with 3D printing, laser cutting, and other light manufacturing & making equipment; a MediaLab with audio / video recording, production, and digitization equipment; and a collaborative learning space with a computer lab, robotics and electronics kits. Participation is free with a Midland Public Library card, available free to residents of Midland, Christian Island, Penetanguishene, Tiny, Tay, Oro-Medonte, Barrie, and Orillia. For more information, email makerplace@midlandlibrary.com

The National Farmers Union – Ontario – Local 347 Dufferin Simcoe is a group of dedicated people who care deeply about the future of regenerative farming. By promoting local food, as well as farmers who use ecological practices, they create a safe and sustainable food system. They advocate for stronger policies that protect local farms and food, and tackle the many challenges farmers face. Their mission is to develop and enhance awareness of regenerative agriculture by advocating for, and inspiring sustainable agricultural practices. www.nfuontario.ca/locals/local-347/

Ontario Centres of Innovation (OCI) focuses on ensuring the people of Ontario reap the personal and economic benefits of leading-edge research underway at our publicly funded universities, colleges and research hospitals. OCI supports the commercialization of academic intellectual property (IP), industry-academic collaborations and the development and adoption of emerging technologies. This includes overseeing the execution of advanced technology platforms that will equip Ontario companies to compete in a competitive global digital economy. OCI also support and invest in early-stage projects where the probability of commercial success and investment return on innovation are substantial. OCI's strong expertise in de-risking innovation helps attract private investors and other funders to new ventures, bolstering their success. www.oc-innovation.ca

Regional Tourism Organization 7 (RTO7) provides strategic and collaborative leadership to build, sustain and grow tourism in BruceGreySimcoe (see map). RTO7 offers funding programs and access to resources and data. Their mission is to work collaboratively with tourism partners and stakeholders to build, sustain and grow visitation, investment and visitor spending. www.RTO7.ca

Sandbox Centre is a resource hub for entrepreneurs, business individuals, and leaders, providing collaborative opportunities for connections to be made, the sharing of knowledge, and professional development in order to support all on their journey to success. www.sandboxcentre.com

Simcoe County Federation of Agriculture develops and consolidates farmers' positions for the protection and promotion of activities within the County to improve the welfare of individual farmers and the agricultural industry. They focus on bringing the viewpoints and concerns of the membership to the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) and to the municipal, provincial, and federal representatives for policy development. We facilitate the spread of information of concern to the Agricultural industry to all farmers in the county. www.simcoecountyfa.org/

The Simcoe Muskoka Workforce Development Board is a community directed, non-profit corporation, 1 of 26 local planning board areas funded by the Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development (MLTSD). SMWDB acts as a neutral broker, sourcing, conducting and distributing local labour market research as well as engaging and facilitating community stakeholders in workforce development activities. www.smwdb.com/

Small Business Enterprise Centres (SBECs) are a resource helping local enterprising people start and grow their businesses to meet their entrepreneurial aspirations. Part of the provincial Ontario Network of Entrepreneurs (ONE), the Centres provide support to new and existing businesses offering free one-on-one consultations, business plan reviews, seminars, networking opportunities and more. The two Centres serving Simcoe County are:

- **South Georgian Bay Small Business Enterprise Centre**
Serving Clearview, Collingwood and Wasaga Beach www.enterprisecentre.ca
- **Small Business Centre Barrie, Simcoe County and Orillia** www.barriebusinesscentre.ca
Serving all other areas of the County, including Barrie and Orillia.

South Simcoe Community StartUp is a non-profit social enterprise. They are a catalyst for entrepreneurs, town councils and all stakeholders in the Innisfil, Adjala-Tosorontio, Bradford West Gwillimbury, Essa and New Tecumseth area to come together and develop a business community that supports and enriches the success of small businesses and startups. www.southsimcoestartup.ca/

The Southwestern Ontario Development Fund is a fund designed to help businesses create new jobs, and invest in new technologies, equipment or skills training for workers. It will also support economic development projects that will attract or retain investment in Ontario-based industries and communities. This program considered Simcoe County as part of Southwestern Ontario. <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/food/industry/swodf-program.htm>

Startup Collingwood is led by Collingwood Foundry, a coworking space and community hub for entrepreneurs in Collingwood and beyond. They have a strong focus on building community and connection to support the growth of their members' businesses whether that's through access to work space, meeting space, mentorship, networking, programming, events, or funding. www.startupcan.ca/community/startup-collingwood/

ventureLAB is the non-profit Regional Innovation Centre (RIC) servicing Simcoe County. It is a member of the ONE network that supports Simcoe County, Muskoka and York Region. ventureLAB helps entrepreneurs bring their innovations to market, by offering a unique combination of mentoring, partnering and connecting tailored to the unique needs of each business. ventureLAB offers the BUILD training program, 1:1 advisory services, workshops, conferences, investor meetings and other special events. www.venturelab.ca

XcelerateHER empowers women entrepreneurs with support and resources to help them start, grow or scale their business and overcome barriers and challenges they face in today's economy. A coalition of leading women entrepreneurs and community partners launched XcelerateHer to unite women entrepreneurs and connect them to the support and resources available in the central Ontario entrepreneurial ecosystem. <https://xcelerateher.ca/>

YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka provides various youth employment & self-employment programs. Programs include the High School Entrepreneurship Outreach Program (HSEOP), Youth Job Connection and Youth Quest. www.ymcaofsimcoemuskoka.ca

Errors and Omission:

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