



ElginCounty

# ELGIN COUNTY

## 2023 UPDATE

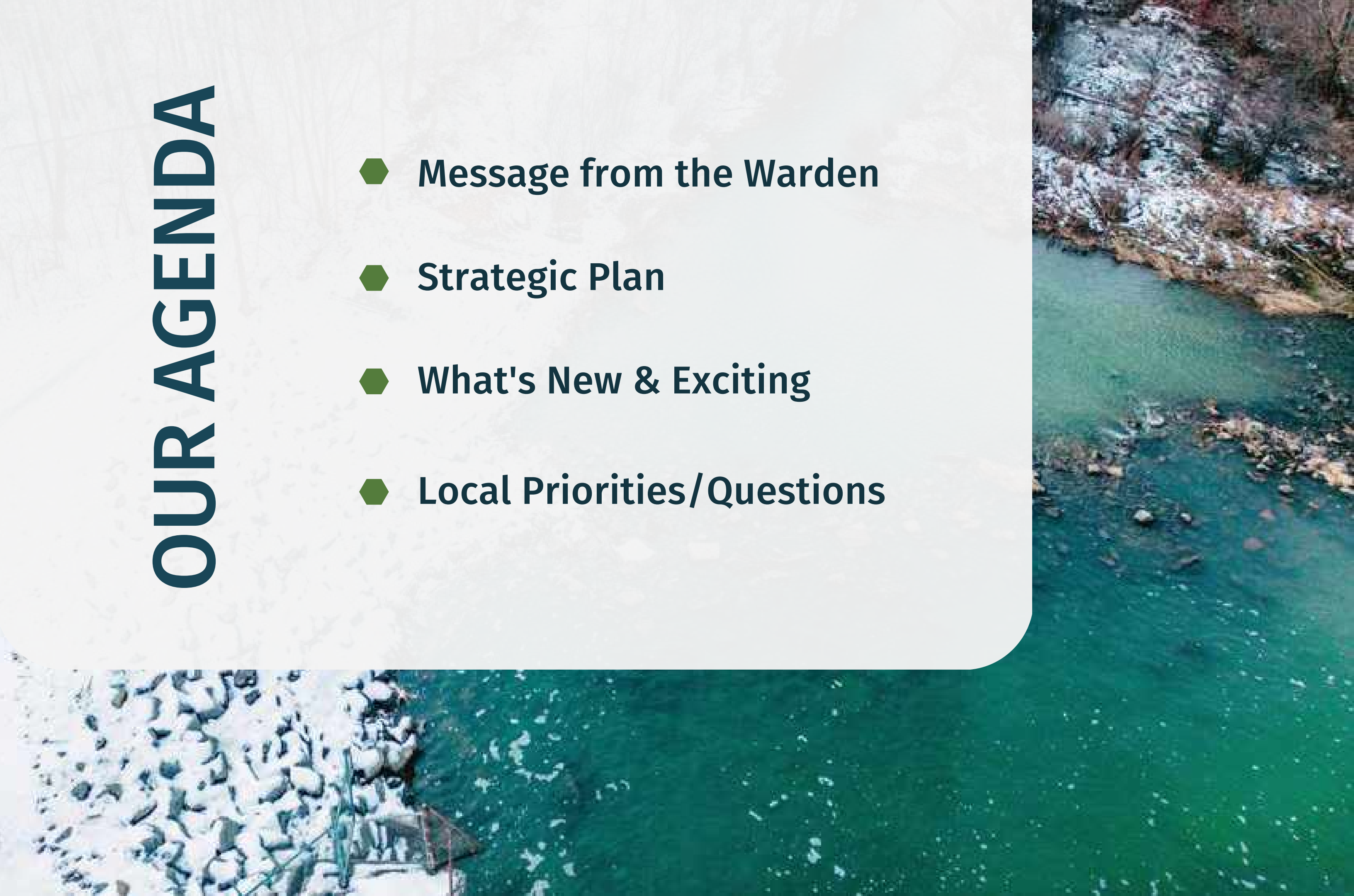
Warden Ed Ketchabaw

Julie Gonyou, Chief Administrative Officer





# OUR AGENDA

- ◆ Message from the Warden
  - ◆ Strategic Plan
  - ◆ What's New & Exciting
  - ◆ Local Priorities/Questions
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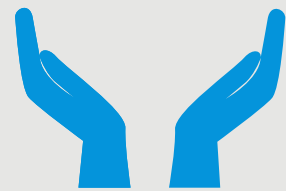


# WARDEN'S MESSAGE

Ed Ketchabaw  
2023 Warden



# STRATEGIC PLAN: 2020 - 2022



To re-design how we respond to community needs in a creative, sustainable way.

We do this by focusing on:

1. Ensuring alignment of current programs and services with community need.
2. Exploring different ways of addressing community need.
3. Engaging with our community and other stakeholders.



To be the place where people want to live, work and play.

We do this by focusing on:

1. Planning for and facilitating commercial, industrial, residential, and agricultural growth.
2. Fostering a healthy environment.
3. Enhancing quality of place.



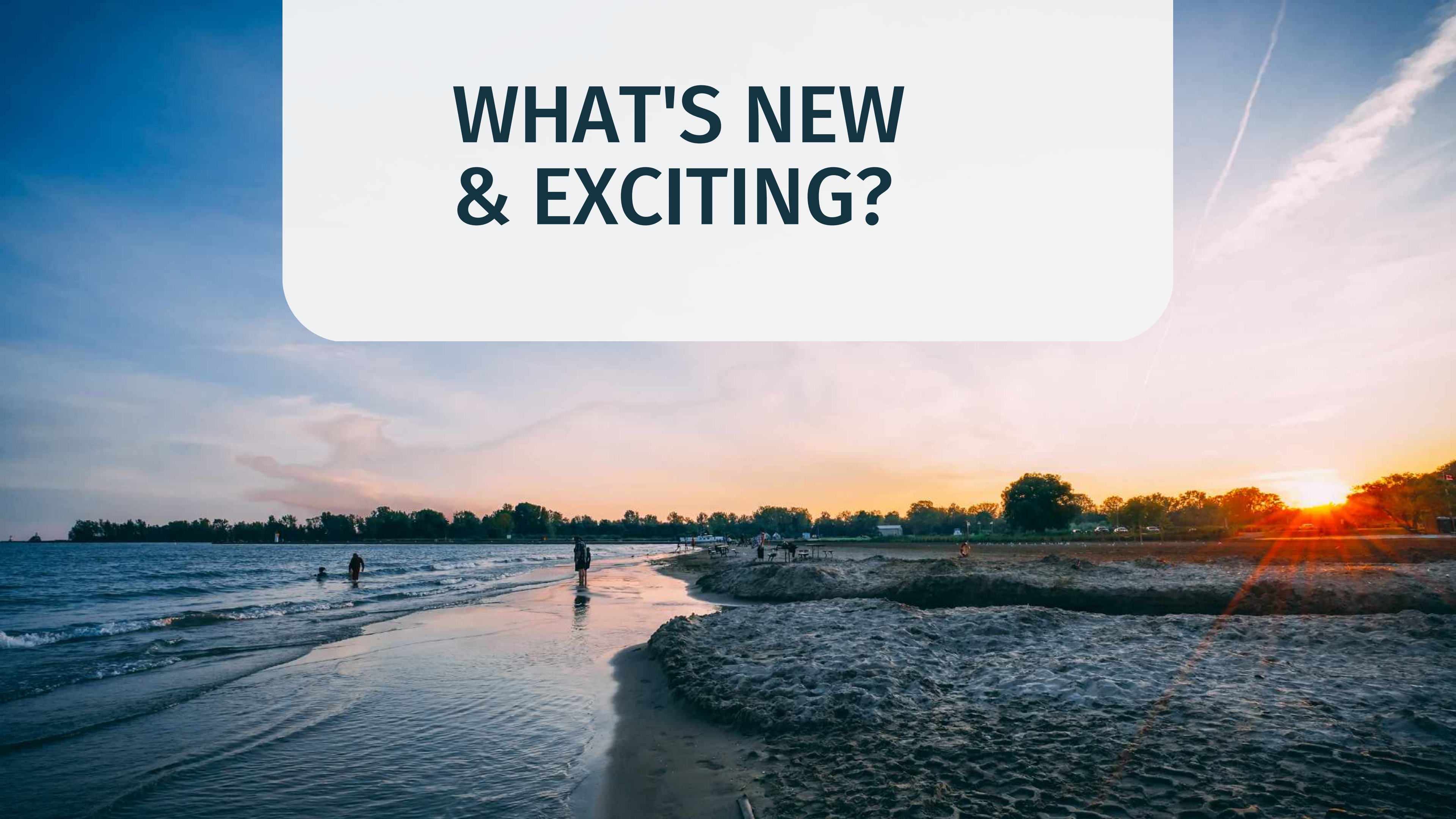
To make responsible financial decisions.

We do this by focusing on:

1. Ensuring we have the necessary tools, resources and infrastructure to deliver programs and services now and in the future.
2. Delivering mandated programs and services efficiently and effectively.



# WHAT'S NEW & EXCITING?







WESTERN ONTARIO  
**WOWC**  
WARDENS CAUCUS

- ◆ The Western Ontario Wardens Caucus Inc. (WOWC) is a not-for-profit organization representing 15 upper and single tier municipalities in Southwestern Ontario with more than three million residents.
- ◆ WOWC aims to enhance the prosperity and overall well-being of rural and small urban communities across the region.
- ◆ WOWC advocates on behalf of Counties on key items such as; infrastructure, transportation, long-term care, broadband and economic development.





- ◆ Elgin County is a member of SCOR EDC - a regional partnership comprised of the Counties of Brant, Elgin, Middlesex, Norfolk and Oxford.
- ◆ Provides planning coordination for regional issues, implements regional economic development priorities, identifies funding sources, partners with other levels of government, and acts as a regional catalyst for investment.





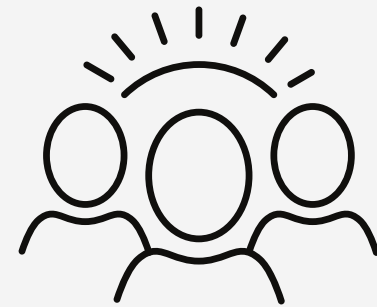
# HEALTH RECRUITMENT PARTNERSHIP (HRP)



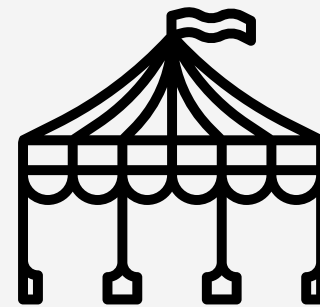
- ◆ In 2023, Elgin County will invest \$71,790 to support the Elgin-St. Thomas HRP.
- ◆ In response to the growing local demand for primary physicians in the community, this joint initiative aims to attract new Family Physicians to the area and offer new physicians support as they join the community.
- ◆ At least 1M Ontarians do not have access to primary care, and at least one (1) in five (5) family doctors in the province plan to retire in the next five (5) years.
- ◆ In 2021-22, five (5) physicians retired, approximately ten (10) local physicians will retire in the next five (5) years, and three (3) may retire in 2023.
- ◆ In Elgin, there were at least 10,000 unattached patients in 2020.
- ◆ The Committee offers an annual Scholarship Program for local students pursuing a family medicine career.
- ◆ Initiated in 2008, this Committee provides physicians with grants to help attract them to the Elgin-St. Thomas area.
- ◆ To date, a total of \$1,123,280 has been allocated to support 36 physicians and 1 nurse practitioner from 2008 - 2023.
- ◆ The majority of recipients have received the current maximum amount of \$33,000.



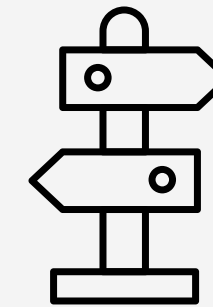
# COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM (CGP)



COMMUNITY  
SERVICES



FESTIVALS  
& EVENTS



COMMUNITY  
SIGNAGE

- ◆ In 2023, Elgin County will invest \$72,900 (\$3.68 per household x 19,800 ) towards the CGP.
- ◆ Eligible non-profit community groups can apply for up to 50% of their program, service or event up to a maximum of \$10,000.
- ◆ The CGP invests in both established and emerging community programs and events that meet identified community need, build capacity, and support Elgin County's Strategic Plan 2020-2022.
- ◆ Through this program, organizations and services can apply for supplementary funds to strengthen their responsiveness, effectiveness and resilience.



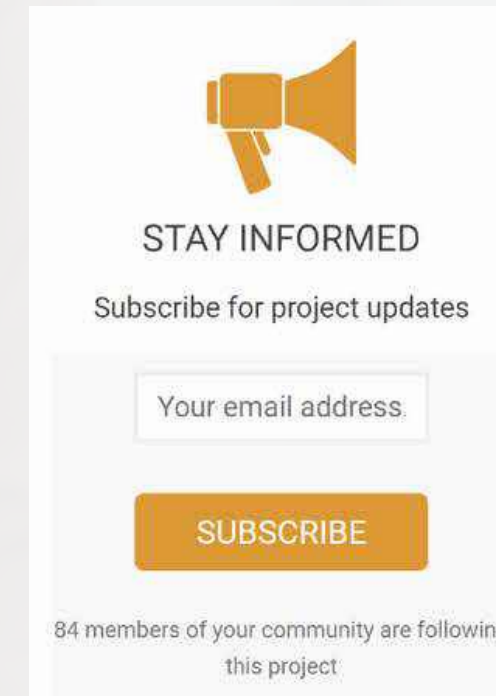


# ADMINISTRATION BUILDING ELEVATOR & ACCESSIBILITY UPGRADES

- ◆ In 2023, Elgin County is investing \$2.9M in upgrades to its Administration Building.
- ◆ Upgrades to the original 1930s vintage elevator systems at the Administration Building are required to address accessibility deficiencies on the main level to ensure compliance with the Province's Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act.



# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



- ◆ Engage Elgin encourages the community to follow and participate in engagement opportunities to help shape projects, policies and initiatives.
- ◆ Councillors, staff, residents, community partners and businesses are encouraged to share ideas that will make Elgin County a better place to "live, work and play."

[www.engageelgin.ca](http://www.engageelgin.ca)





- ◆ The County of Elgin is developing a Transportation Master Plan (TMP).
- ◆ The TMP is the first comprehensive master planning exercise for the County's transportation network and will be coordinated with the County's ongoing Official Plan update.
- ◆ This Plan will be designed to look at "the big picture", identifying challenges, alternatives, steps and actions to take the County of Elgin from where we are today to the multi-modal transportation network and the landscape we envision for our future.
- ◆ The Plan will span 30 years and focus on developing an integrated vehicular transportation network, enhancing active transportation amenities (cycling), and exploring transit options for Elgin's communities.

[www.engageelgin.ca/transportationmasterplan](http://www.engageelgin.ca/transportationmasterplan)





- ◆ Terrace Lodge Long-Term Care Home is located in Malahide Township.
- ◆ Terrace Lodge was originally built in 1977 and has been home to hundreds of Elgin County residents over the past 40 years.
- ◆ The redevelopment has been designed to better meet the complex needs of Long-Term Care residents in 2021 and beyond.
- ◆ The redevelopment will maintain the 100 beds currently available at Terrace Lodge and consist of an addition and significant renovations to existing areas.
- ◆ Anticipated completion is mid-year 2024
- ◆ Project cost ~\$36M

[www.engageelgin.ca/tlredevelopment](http://www.engageelgin.ca/tlredevelopment)





**Terrace Lodge**  
COMFORTS OF HOME

- ◆ Fundraising campaign aimed at creating an inviting and state-of-the-art Home with a more familiar physical environment.
- ◆ Fundraising goal: \$675 (almost 1/2 way there!)
  - Beautifying the courtyards
  - Provide the "Comforts of Home"
  - Enhance resident enjoyment and activities
  - Support families

[www.donatetoterracelodge.ca](http://www.donatetoterracelodge.ca)





- ◆ We are pleased to announce that the Draft Elgin County Official Plan (OP) was endorsed by Rural Initiatives Planning Advisory Committee in February 2023 and is now available for public review and comment.
- ◆ This document is the culmination of over two years of research, analysis, and community consultation, resulting in an updated and refreshed vision for Elgin County's future.
- ◆ The draft OP is built around ten strategic directions that will help to guide policies and decision-making on important matters such as but not limited to: housing; economic development; the rural area; and natural resource management.

[www.engageelgin.ca/officialplanreview](http://www.engageelgin.ca/officialplanreview)



# POPULATION, HOUSING AND EMPLOYMENT FORECASTS & ASSOCIATED LAND NEEDS ANALYSIS

- ◆ This report (Discussion Paper #3) is a key background document to the Official Plan Review. It provides a long-range growth outlook for the County and its lower-tier municipalities and assesses urban land requirements to 2051. It also provides Official Plan policy recommendations to managing growth over the next 30 years consistent with the Provincial Policy Statement, 2020 (PPS).
- ◆ The report also provides population, housing, and employment forecasts for the County of Elgin to 2051.

[www.engageelgin.ca/officialplanreview](http://www.engageelgin.ca/officialplanreview)





# A PATH FORWARD ON LIBRARY FINES

at  ElginCountyLibrary

- ◆ The Fine Free movement seeks to remove barriers of access to everyone in a community. Research shows that fines are not as much of an incentive to return materials as once believed. Materials that are overdue for a long time will still be subject to replacement costs.
- ◆ We are taking a phased in approach to going "fine-free" over the next few years.

[www.engageelgin.ca/libraryfines](http://www.engageelgin.ca/libraryfines)





## ELGIN COUNTY LIBRARY 2022 STATISTICS



**Jan. 5-30**

**Modified Step 2:**  
Branches Open;  
Curbside Plus

**Jan. 31-Feb. 17**

**New Step 1:**  
Branches Open;  
Curbside Plus

**Feb. 18-Mar. 1**

**New Step 2:**  
Branches Open;  
Curbside Plus

**Mar. 2-28**

**New Step 3:**  
Curbside Plus; In-Person  
Staff-Led March Break  
Programs Return

**Apr. 1-28**

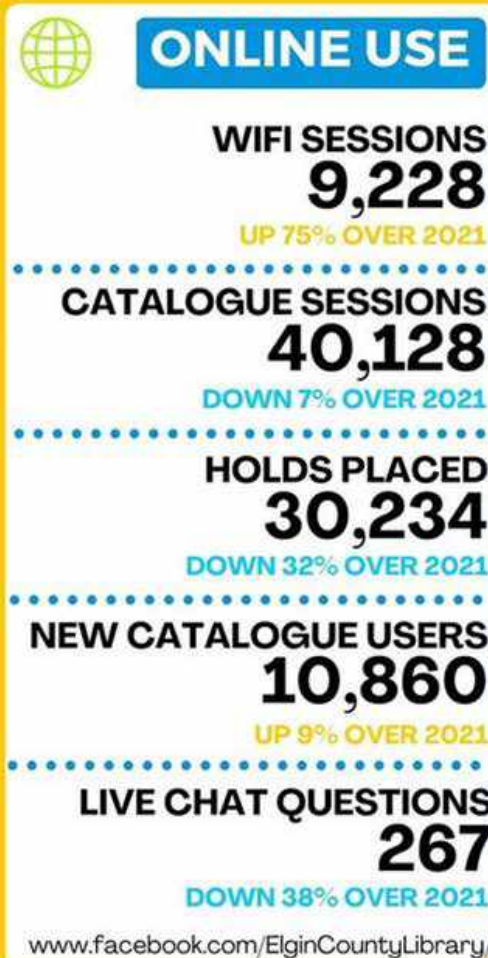
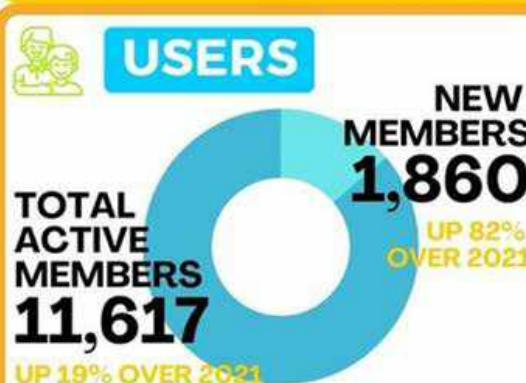
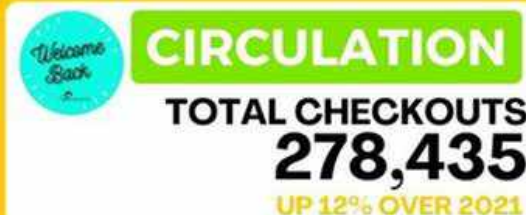
**Network Disruption:**  
Branches Open; Modified  
Offline Service

**Apr. 29-May 5**

**Network Disruption  
Recovery:** Branches  
Open & Process Offline  
Transactions

**May 6-Dec. 31**

**Pandemic & Network  
Disruption Recovery  
Continues; Fine Free  
Approach Begins (Jun. 1)**







- ◆ On March 28, 2023, Elgin County Council approved its 2023 operational and capital budget of \$92.6M. For this year, residents can expect a 3.76% increase in the County portion of their municipal property taxes. This share of municipal taxes supports road and bridge maintenance on county roads, paramedic services, community planning, long-term care homes, libraries, and more.
- ◆ Homeowners will see a slight addition of \$23.88 for every \$100,000 of residential property assessment.

### Budget Highlights:

- ◆ Continuing with existing services and operations, including a non-union salary increase of 2.5%;
- ◆ Enhanced land ambulance services by implementing a transport-capable ambulance in the Municipality of Bayham;
- ◆ Recognizing impact of high rate of inflation cost-cutting measures and efforts to modernize services are included across service areas; and
- ◆ Ongoing investment in transportation and critical infrastructure.





# COMMUNITY PARAMEDICINE



- ◆ Beginning March 1, 2023, eligible residents in Elgin County and St. Thomas will have access to Community Paramedicine.
- ◆ This referral-based program is entirely funded by the Province and will bring high-quality care to residents living in seniors housing and retirement homes while offering accessible home-based care for our community's most vulnerable population.
- ◆ Community paramedics will work collaboratively with primary care and community care providers to deliver the following mobile support to residents:
  - In-person and Remote Patient Monitoring services
  - Chronic/complex disease monitoring /surveillance
  - Medication safety and reconciliation
  - In-home visits and point-of-care testing capabilities; and
  - Client and family navigation, coordinated care planning to various services, agencies and resources.

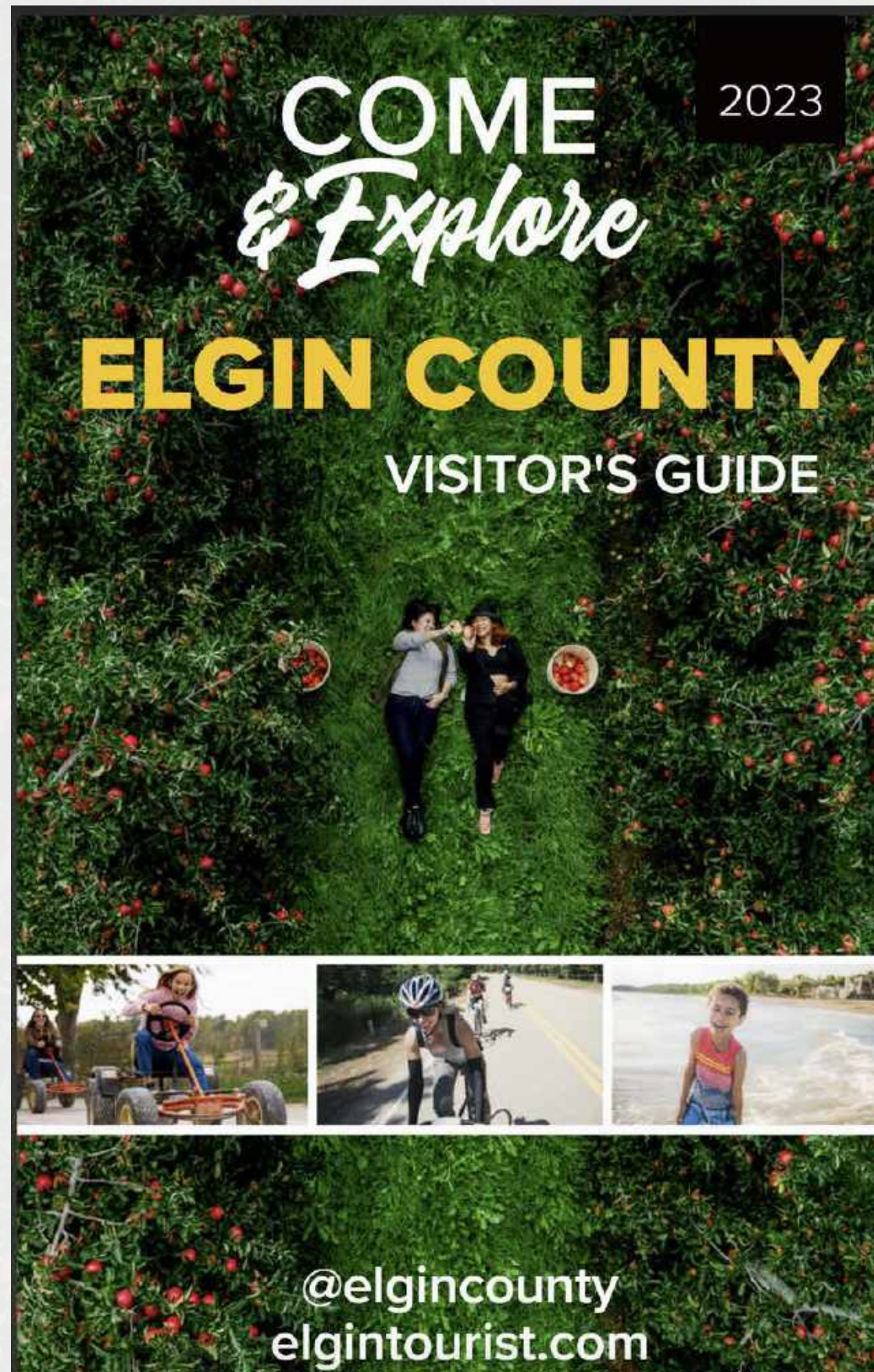




[www.engageelgin.ca/connectedelgin](http://www.engageelgin.ca/connectedelgin)

- ◆ The need to improve high-speed internet connectivity across Elgin is a key priority for Elgin County Council. Work is underway to support availability, affordability, speed, and awareness.
- ◆ Input and data was collected from the community regarding current internet availability, access and usage.
- ◆ Elgin County engaged IBI Group to complete an analysis of current state and provide recommendations for future state.
- ◆ An advocacy plan was developed and supported by County Council. Work is ongoing.
- ◆ Work is underway by Southwestern Integrated Fibre Technology Inc (SWIFT) to expand broadband service to 1,132 locations throughout West Elgin, Dutton Dunwich and the Township of Southwold. SWIFT has partnered with North Frontenac Telephone Corporation and EH!tel Networks on these projects.
- ◆ In 2021, Ontario passed the Supporting Broadband and Infrastructure Expansion Act, 2021 to help speed up construction of broadband projects. To build upon this legislation, the Ontario government passed the Getting Ontario Connected Act, 2022, which further reduces barriers, duplication and delays. In 2022, the Province announced the Accelerated High-Speed Internet Program, and Xplornet will undertake the work required to bring fibre to more areas in Elgin County.





# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

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[elgintourist.com](http://elgintourist.com)





[www.elgintourist.com](http://www.elgintourist.com)

[www.progressivebynature.com](http://www.progressivebynature.com)

# BUSINESS RETENTION & EXPANSION

- ◆ Elgin County's Economic Development and Tourism will be launching a community engagement project later this year. The project will see staff visiting local businesses to understand their needs and concerns in order to help retain and create jobs.
- ◆ The initiative aims to build relationships with existing businesses, strengthen community capacity and identify positive and negative aspects of the business environment. The team will also address immediate concerns of individual businesses and collect data to inform economic planning.
- ◆ This data will inform our action plan to increase competitiveness, enable business development, investment and job creation, and enhance the overall business environment.





Funding up to \$15,000 per year  
for Commercial and Agricultural  
Business Improvements!

- ◆ Elgin County invests \$80,000 in a Community Improvement Plan called "Elgincntives".
- ◆ A Community Improvement Plan (CIP) is a tool that allows municipalities to direct funds and implement policy initiatives toward specifically defined project areas.
- ◆ The Elgin County Economic Development office has prepared this CIP in order to achieve important community goals such as:
  - Facilitating and coordinating the improvement of neighbourhoods and designated areas;
  - Stimulating economic growth and development;
  - Assisting businesses and property owners with repairs, restorations and redevelopment projects; and,
  - Raising awareness of local needs and priorities.
- ◆ Having a CIP in place allows the municipality to assist financially with improvements to private properties.





taste

EXPERIENCE THE  
FLAVOURS OF ELGIN  
AND ST. THOMAS



2023

# savour ELGIN

- ◆ We are redesigning our Savour Elgin guide. With a fresh new logo and a magazine-style layout, the Savour Elgin Guide will highlight our signature culinary experiences.
- ◆ To reach a wider audience, we are not only printing the new Savour Elgin Guide but also creating a digital version complete with interactive links and easy sharing functions.



# WELCOME HOME CAMPAIGN



- ◆ In 2022, Elgin County launched a "Welcome Home Campaign" to celebrate our communities and inspire a sense of pride in residents, as well as attract future residents, visitors, and investors.
- ◆ The next phase of the campaign involves furnishing a model home in Elgin County with locally sourced furnishings, decor, and art. This initiative aims to promote the unique products of the county while continuing to market it as a great place to live, work, and play.

[www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1110594976159617](https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1110594976159617)





- ◆ Elgin County was thrilled to work with the Township of Southwold as it supported Broccolini and the development of the former Ford Assembly Plant in Talbotville.
- ◆ This 2M square foot facility is slated to be among the top six highly automated plants Amazon operates globally.
- ◆ The fulfillment centre is anticipated to need 1,500 workers.





## 4118

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# ELM LINE





- ◆ Elgin County received provincial designation as a regional training centre for firefighters in 2021.
- ◆ The training centre provides firefighters from Elgin County, Middlesex County and Southwestern Ontario with the opportunity to receive new recruit training and higher-level training courses.







- ◆ Work is underway to support a renewed Age Friendly Network for Elgin and St. Thomas.
- ◆ Elgin County undertook a Seniors Services Study in 2022.
- ◆ More to come!





# LOCAL PRIORITIES





# QUESTIONS?

