



COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

TUESDAY,
MAY 23, 2023

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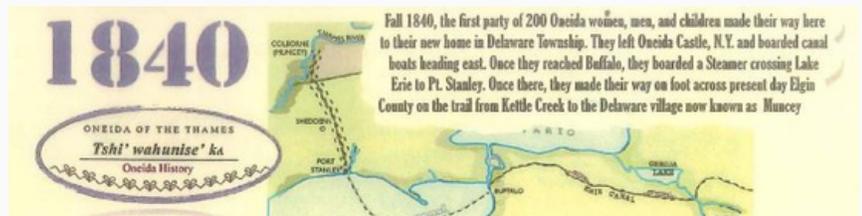


COMMEMORATING ONEIDA HERITAGE THROUGH MURAL COLLABORATION

Elgin County Council has given the green light for a mural to be placed on the west-facing external wall of the Elgin County Heritage Centre. The mural is set to showcase the 1840 journey of the Oneida Nation of the Thames, which saw them travelling from upstate New York, across Lake Erie, and through present-day Elgin County before settling on lands near the Thames River.

Elgin's Community and Cultural Services Department has forged a strong partnership with the Oneida Language & Cultural Centre in recent years. This has led to discussions on ways the two neighbouring communities can collaborate more closely on Indigenous programming and historical research.

This mural project will be painted on-site at the Oneida Language & Cultural Centre. These panels will be mounted together at the Heritage Centre to create a cumulative mural size of 8 feet by 16 feet. The project is set to be finished and installed by the end of 2023, with an unveiling ceremony planned for either fall 2023 or spring 2024.



ADVOCATING FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDING TO SUPPORT TERRACE LODGE'S REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT

The Ministry of Long-Term Care announced a Construction Funding Subsidy (CFS) Top-Up in November 2022 to aid in developing or redeveloping long-term care homes in Ontario. The funding was intended to speed up the creation of new long-term care beds before August 31, 2023, by providing eligible homes with an additional \$35 per bed per day.

Unfortunately, the redevelopment of Terrace Lodge (one of Elgin's three long-term care homes) is not eligible for the CFS Top-Up, as the development agreement was signed in March 2022. However, receiving the additional funding of \$35 per bed per day for 25 years would have been a significant boost for the project, as it could have supported most, if not all, of the debt repayment related to the capital loan taken out to rebuild Terrace Lodge. Moreover, this funding would benefit all residents of the County of Elgin by reducing the burden of debt repayment on the levy, particularly for Phases 2 and 3 of the project.

Council members have been actively trying to secure additional funding from the Ministry of Long-Term Care through delegations and meetings with Provincial officials. Staff have also discovered two other potential advocacy opportunities to support and advance Council's efforts to fund the Terrace Lodge Redevelopment Project.

CHEVRON SIGNS TO BE ADDED TO IMPERIAL ROAD IN PORT BRUCE TO ADDRESS SAFETY CONCERNS



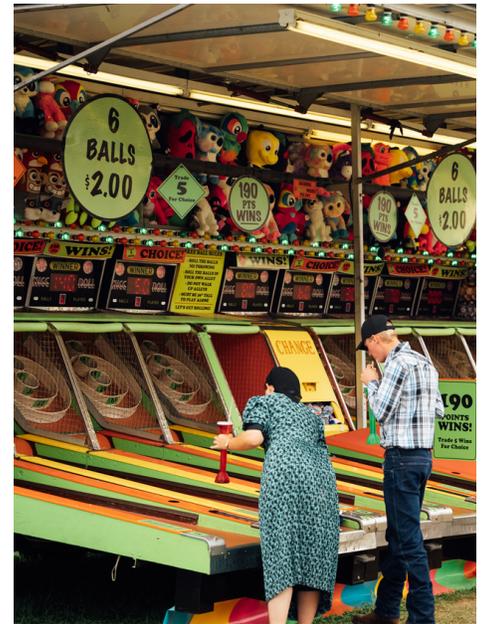
The Township of Malahide requested the installation of guard rails on Imperial Road in the Village of Port Bruce. In response, Council instructed staff to install Chevron alignment signs on the road instead, based on the Ontario Traffic Manual, along the horizontal roadway curve immediately north of Rush Creek Line.

Even though it's not required at this location, the installation of Chevron signs is a reasonable solution to address the safety concerns raised by the Township of Malahide. Elgin County staff will monitor the area to ensure these signs are effective.

LOCAL FESTIVALS, EVENTS, AND SERVICES TO BE STRENGTHENED THROUGH COUNCIL'S COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM

In 2020, the Rural Initiatives and Planning Advisory Committee established the Community Grant Program (CGP) to determine how the Council's grant budget should be distributed. Every year, community organizations have the opportunity to apply for either the Community Services or Festivals and Events streams.

During the May 23rd County Council Meeting, 13 grant requests were approved for a total of \$72,900, equivalent to \$3.68 per household. Additionally, the County will provide \$500 towards Fanshawe College's Personal Support Work Program.



ON THE ROAD TO PROGRESS: EVALUATING TRAFFIC CONCERNS IN VIENNA

In response to a request received from the Municipality of Bayham, Council directed staff to complete the following:

- Conduct a traffic and speed study on Plank Road located at Chute Line in Vienna;
- Review the 50 km/h speed limit zone on Plank Road situated at Light Line in Vienna; and
- Provide a report on their findings during an upcoming Council meeting.

UNANIMOUS SUPPORT FOR ADDRESSING CONCERNS OVER CHANGES TO EAST ELGIN SECONDARY SCHOOL'S POTENTIAL BOUNDARY CHANGES

The Town of Aylmer has expressed their concerns to the County Council regarding the proposed changes that would affect the East Elgin Secondary School catchment area. Elgin County Council unanimously supported the matter and requested the Warden to write a letter to the Thames Valley District School Board outlining their concerns about these changes.

For the complete May 23, 2023, County Council Agenda Package, please visit the Elgin County [website](#).