



## *2020 Highlights*

### **COVID-19 Response**

The County has worked closely with its municipal partners and Southwestern Public Health to find solutions and stop the spread of COVID-19 in our community.

### **Service Delivery Review**

The County undertook a comprehensive Service Delivery Review. The review assessed service levels and identified actions that will result in more efficient and effective service delivery, organizational and operational arrangements and associated savings.

### **Community Safety and Well-Being Plan**

The County of Elgin, the City of St. Thomas, and the Town of Aylmer began working together to develop a joint Community Safety and Well-Being Plan. We are confident that through this work we can achieve a sustainable community where everyone is safe and where individuals and families are able to meet their needs for education, health care, food, housing, income, and social and cultural expression.

### **Strategic Plan**

Council developed a Strategic Plan and Action Plan for 2020-2022 to serve as a roadmap that will align efforts and resources in a way that supports Elgin County to be the best County it can be.

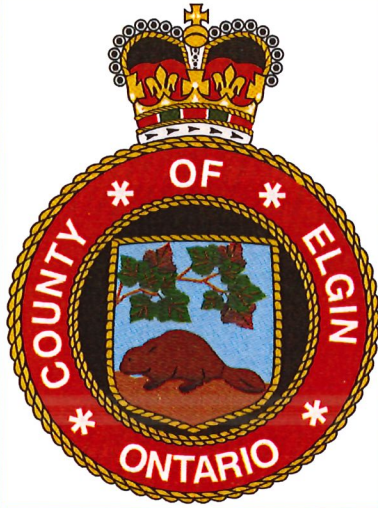
### **Community Grant Program**

The Rural Initiatives and Planning Advisory Committee developed a new Community Grant Program which will invest in both established and emerging community programs that meet identified community need, build capacity and support Elgin County's Strategic Plan 2020-2022.

### **Connectivity Committee and Environmental Committee**

County Council established two (2) new Committees to support their priority of "Growing Elgin: to be the place where people want to live, work and play." The Environmental Committee will help develop an annual plan that identifies ways to reduce the County's environmental footprint. The Connectivity Committee will support Council as they work to ensure wider access to reliable, affordable internet.





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### **Port Bruce Bridge Replacement**

Following the collapse of the Imperial Road bridge over Catfish Creek in the village of Port Bruce in 2018, K. Smart Associates Limited Consulting Engineers and Planners was awarded the engineering services for the replacement of the bridge.

Ongoing delays associated with material delivery resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic has delayed the project. Despite these delays and weather dependent, bridge construction should be substantially completed and reopened to the public by year's end. Final restoration including top coat asphalt may however need to be deferred and completed in the spring of 2021.

### **Terrace Lodge Redevelopment**

Despite delays related to the COVID-19 pandemic, meaningful progress continues to be made towards the redevelopment of Terrace Lodge. The Terrace Lodge Redevelopment Committee is working tirelessly with Council and staff to ensure that the Home's design will be both safe and comfortable for current and future residents

At the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Province of Ontario announced additional funding for the construction of Long-Term Care Homes including an additional \$4.3M for the Terrace Lodge Redevelopment Project.

Considering lessons learned from the pandemic and best practices at other Long-Term Care Homes, County Council approved additional infection prevention and control measures as they relate to the safety of staff and residents during a pandemic or outbreak situation, including additional funds for oxygen storage, negative pressure rooms, modifications to the staff locker room, a replacement of the aging Nurse Call System, and additional cleaning and safety measures during construction.

Council also approved expanded dining areas that will allow for a more pleasurable dining experience for residents, more efficient use of staffing resources and space for physical distancing during future pandemics or outbreaks.





## *Warden Dave Mennill*

It has been an unprecedented year for those serving in elected office. The COVID-19 global pandemic has resulted in the cancellation of numerous events across the County and Province. Just as past Councils and Wardens have had to adjust to difficult circumstances, County Council and I have had to adjust our roles to meet the needs of our residents during this emergency. Out of respect for the health and safety of Elgin County residents and due to Provincial restrictions on public gatherings, I have made the difficult decision to cancel the Warden's Banquet this year.

As a member of County Council, I have always looked forward to this event, and I am disappointed that we can't all get together to catch up this year. Despite the many challenges we have faced, Council, staff and community members have worked together to overcome obstacles and move forward to implement solutions for our residents. Looking back over the past year, we should be proud of our achievements in 2020.

If there is one good thing that has come out of this challenging and unprecedented time, it has been that our incredible community has worked together in ways that I have never witnessed before. Thank you for your continued support, and I look forward to seeing you at next year's banquet.

**Stay safe and healthy until we can see each other in person again.**

**Warden Dave Mennill**

**COUNTY OF  
ELGIN**

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