

May 25, 2021

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Council Remembers Former Warden Larry Shaw

Elgin County Council observed a moment of silence at its meeting on May 25, in remembrance of Larry Shaw who passed away on May 10, 2021 at the age of 80. Larry served on Elgin County Council from 1977-1982 and in 1991 as both Reeve and Deputy Reeve of the Township of Yarmouth. He served as Elgin County Warden in 1982 and was Co-ordinator of the Elgin County International Plowing Match in 1985. On behalf of Elgin County Council, the Warden expressed his condolences to the Shaw family and recognized Mr. Shaw's service to the Township of Yarmouth and the County of Elgin.



Black and white photograph used in St. Thomas Times-Journal article published December 10, 1981 with caption: "New Warden Installed - 1982 Elgin County Warden Larry Shaw, reeve of Yarmouth Township, is congratulated by past Warden Ken Monteith at County Council's inauguration meeting Wednesday."

First Official Plan Review “What We Heard” Report Released

The County of Elgin is currently undertaking a 5-year Review of its Official Plan, an exercise to ensure that the vision/values, directions, policies, and actions in the Official Plan meet the needs of the community into the future. As part of this process, Elgin County Council adopted a Public Engagement Strategy for the Official Plan Review to guide the engagement process over the course of 2021. In accordance with this Strategy, the Rural Initiatives and Planning Advisory Committee (RIPA) approved the first edition of the “What We Heard” report to be presented to Council at the May 25, 2021 meeting.



The “What We Heard” report provides a summary of the engagement efforts completed to date, comments consolidated into various topic themes, the provision of some statistical data, and actual “as we heard it” feedback directly from the community.

Please click [here](#) to view a full copy of the What We Heard Report #1.

Council Enters into Telecommunications Agreement

On March 23, 2021, County Council approved a Telecommunications Agreement for installation of telecommunications equipment, including fibre optic cable, within County Road allowances. On May 11, 2021, Council directed that the agreement be revised to address concerns, particularly in relation to securities requirements. Council approved these changes and their full details are contained within the May 25, 2021 County Council Agenda Package.

Subsequently, County Council approved a proposed Telecommunications Agreement with Uplink Communications Inc., in keeping with the revised agreement format as approved by Council. Uplink is a local telecommunication distributor/provider proposing to extend fiber-optic installations, in part located within County Road Allowances, to establish and/or improve telecommunication services within unserved or poorly serviced areas in Elgin County.

Elgin County Council Strategic Plan 2020-2022 - Staff Action Plan Update

A Staff Action Plan was developed in conjunction with the Elgin County Council Strategic Plan 2020-2022. The action items contained in the Staff Action Plan are aligned with the strategic priorities (Serving Elgin, Growing Elgin, and Investing in Elgin) contained in Council's 2020-2022 Strategic Plan and are designed to advance Council's goals over the next two (2) years.

The Chief Administrative Officer and Elgin's Leadership Team continue to make meaningful progress towards the completion of these action items and improving existing County processes through departmental collaboration and forward-thinking. Although delays have occurred as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Team continues to advance these projects in a timely manner.

Since the last update in March 2021, staff have made progress on a number of initiatives particularly in relation to priority areas identified as part of the Service Delivery Review.

A full copy of the Staff Action Plan Chart which indicates all action items and progress made towards their achievement is contained in the May 25, 2021 County Council Agenda Package.

International Plowing Match Scholarship Applications Deadline Approaches

Warden Marks and Councillor McPhail (Chairman of the 2010 International Plowing Match) reminded students enrolled in an agriculturally-related discipline at a post-secondary institution, that the deadline to apply for the International Plowing Match Legacy Scholarship is approaching on June 1. This year marks the 10th and final year that the scholarship will give \$2,500 each to one male and one female applicant from Elgin County or St. Thomas. The Scholarship was designed to encourage the next generation in the agricultural industry, ensuring it remains vibrant in our community for years to come.

For more details about eligibility or to download an application visit www.elgincounty.ca/ipmscholarship



Are you a resident of Elgin County or St. Thomas and studying at a post-secondary institution in Canada in a discipline related to agriculture?



2021 INTERNATIONAL PLOWING MATCH SCHOLARSHIP

[https://www.elgincounty.ca/council/
ipmscholarship/](https://www.elgincounty.ca/council/ipmscholarship/)

The complete May 25, 2021 County Council Agenda package can be found [here](#).