

Elgin County Council Highlights

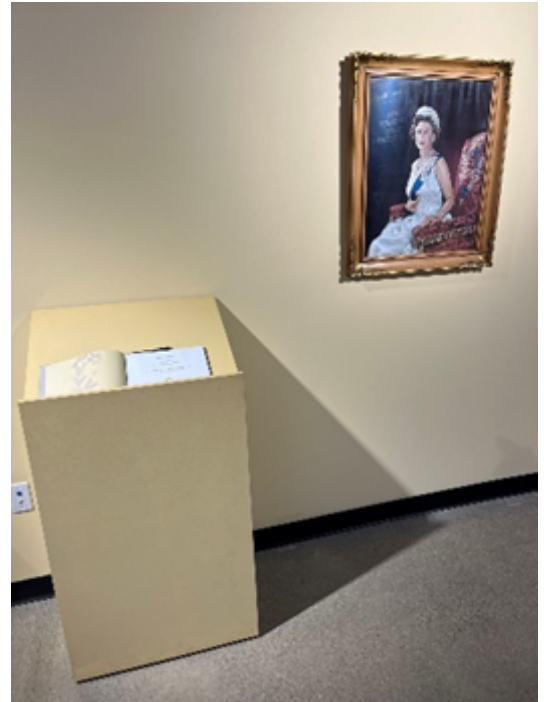


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County Council Observes Moment of Silence in Honour of Queen Elizabeth II

At the beginning of their meeting, County Council observed a moment of silence to mourn and reflect on the life and legacy of Queen Elizabeth II, Britain's longest serving monarch. Residents are invited to sign a book of condolences in-person at the Elgin County Heritage Centre until after the Queen's funeral on Monday, September 19, 2022.



Council Celebrates Best Practice Spotlight Organization Designation for Elgin County Homes

Sue Sweeney, Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario Best Practice Spotlight Organization Coach presented Warden French and staff from each of the three (3) Elgin County Long-Term Care Homes with certificates to celebrate their Best Practice Spotlight Organization (BPSO) designation. The County of Elgin began the process in May of 2019, and staff worked through the pandemic and other challenges to receive BPSO designation status across all three (3) homes. The County of Elgin Homes implemented best practice guidelines in the following areas: Preventing Falls and Reducing Injury from Falls, Promoting Safety: Alternative to the Use of Restraints, and Assessment and Management of Pressure Injuries. More information can be found in the presentation included in the September 14, 2022 County Council Agenda Package.



Warden French Raises Flag in Honour of Childhood Cancer Awareness Month

On Wednesday, September 14, 2022, Warden Mary French proclaimed September as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month in the County of Elgin. Along with representatives from Childcan, Warden French raised the Childhood Cancer Awareness Flag to mark the occasion. By raising this flag, the County hopes to provide awareness about an organization that helps families and children faced with childhood cancer deal with the emotional and financial tolls associated with this disease.



“Elgin County is proud to raise the Child Cancer Awareness flag to demonstrate that we stand with the brave children battling cancer and the families that have not been so fortunate,” said Warden Mary French. “It truly was a privilege to hear the stories shared today and draw attention to such an important topic within our community.”

Council Reignites Elgin–St. Thomas Age Friendly Network

Elgin County Council supported re-engaging the Elgin–St. Thomas Age Friendly Network. The Network is a multi-stakeholder group that takes a leadership role in planning to respond to the growing needs of older adults in our communities. Re-engaging the Network will establish ongoing and productive partnerships between a network of individuals, groups, and organizations committed to planning and incorporating age-friendly principles within a community; encourage existing organizations to incorporate age-friendly activities into their core missions; produce evaluation and document findings on the benefits of age-friendly communities; and secure long-term sources of both non-financial and financial support. By working together with community members and service providers, the Network can ensure that everyone’s future in St. Thomas and Elgin is friendly, safe, inclusive and supportive. To read more about the Elgin–St. Thomas Age Friendly Network, please view the staff report in the September 14, 2022 County Council Agenda Package.

Council Approves Revisions to Collection Development Policy for County Libraries

County Council approved revisions to the Elgin County Library Collection Development Policy. The policy is a critical tool in maintaining a healthy and diverse collection in all formats that respects diversity and upholds principles of intellectual freedom. The policy guides important matters such as purchasing decisions, requests from the public for new acquisitions, and decisions about when to discard materials. The revised policy can be found in the September 14, 2022 County Council Agenda Package.

Council Endorses Amendment to Township of Southwold Official Plan

County Council approved Official Plan Amendment No. 1 to the Township of Southwold Official Plan. The amendment redesignates approximately 10 ha (25 acres) of land at 4485 Thomas Road from “Residential” to “Agricultural Area”, as well as 10 ha (25 acres) of the land at 4509 Union Road from “Agricultural Area” to “Residential”. The amendment will impact the Township of Southwold and ensure that the Township has an adequate supply of ‘shovel ready’ residential land. More information can be found in the September 14, 2022 County Council Agenda Package.

Council Approves the 2021 Financial Statements

County Council approved the 2021 Financial Statements. The statements show a small surplus of \$3M, some of which has been set aside to support future years. The Corporation of the County of Elgin Consolidated Financial Statements can be viewed in the September 14, 2022 County Council Agenda Package, as well as on the County website.

Council Grants Exemption to Draft Plan Approval for Plan of Condominium in Town of Aylmer

County Council granted an exemption to draft plan approval for Plan of Condominium on Part of Park Lot 6, Plan 145; Parts 1, 2 and Parts 7-10, 11R-8159, in the Town of Aylmer, County of Elgin (85 Forest Street, Aylmer), File No. 34CD-AY2201. The subject lands are located in the Town of Aylmer, which is designated Tier 1 Settlement Area on Schedule 'A' of the County of Elgin Official Plan. Tier 1 settlement areas are the primary focus areas for growth in the County OP, in part due to the level of services and infrastructure available. Policy E1.2 of the County OP states that County Council shall approval only those plans of condominium which comply with the provisions of the plan and applicable local official plan. The proposal conforms to the purpose and intent of the County OP and Town of Aylmer OP and has undergone a previous planning review as part of the site plan approval process in the Town of Aylmer.

Full details can be found in the September 14, 2022 County Council Agenda Package.

Council Approves Extension of Reduced Speed Zone in Hamlet of Eden

In response to a resident request, County Council approved an extension to the reduced speed zone along Plank Road (CR #19) in the Hamlet of Eden. Elgin County Engineering staff supported the extension of the reduced speed limit as additional residences are being constructed in that area. The existing 50km/h speed zone will be extended by 231 metres to the north and by 450 metres to the south to the Hamlet's limits along Plank Road.

Proposed Redistribution of Federal Electoral Districts

On August 19, 2022, the Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission for the Province of Ontario released its proposed new electoral map for consideration at public hearing this fall. County Council is committed to coordinating efforts with Local Municipal Partners and the City of St. Thomas to represent interests and concerns pertaining to the proposed federal electoral boundary districts. Council approved by resolution to develop a submission and make a presentation at the Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission for the Province of Ontario that emphasizes the necessity for the County of Elgin to remain contained and represented within one federal electoral district with the entirety of Elgin County and the City of St. Thomas. More information regarding the proposed redistribution of the federal electoral districts can be found in the September 14, 2022 County Council Agenda Package.

Council Awards Contract for Integrity Commissioner, Closed Meeting Investigator and Municipal Ombudsman

County Council awarded the contract for Integrity Commissioner, Closed Meeting Investigator and Municipal Ombudsman to Aird & Berlis LLP for a two-year term. The request for proposal was issued as a cooperative purchasing project that included the City of St. Thomas and all constituent municipalities, except the Town of Aylmer. More information can be found in the September 14, 2022 County Council Agenda Package.

Pilot Project for East Road

The General Manager of Engineering, Planning & Enterprise/Deputy CAO presented a report that provided three (3) different traffic calming options for East Road in Port Stanley. County Council directed staff to proceed with Option #1 – Reduced Lane Widths with Flexible Bollards with an estimated cost of \$15,000 with all costs associated with installation, maintenance and removal to be funded by the Municipality of Central Elgin. The pilot project will be in place for one-year and staff will report to Council immediately after the project's completion. Full details of the project can be found in the Council Agenda Package.

For the complete September 14, 2022 County Council Agenda Package please visit the Elgin County [website](#).