



Elgin County Council Highlights



Experiences of Discrimination in St. Thomas and Elgin Survey

ST. THOMAS • ELGIN
Local Immigration Partnership



The St. Thomas-Elgin Local Immigration Partnership presented the results of a survey conducted to record the experiences of discrimination in the St. Thomas-Elgin area. Participants were broken into three (3) categories - Immigrants and Visible Minorities, Indigenous Peoples, and White, Non-Immigrants. Respondents were asked to comment on their experiences with discrimination in the community including the contexts in which this discrimination was experienced. A copy of the survey results are available [here](#).

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Council Approves Funding for Wildflower Plot at Elgin Manor

Council approved a request for \$5,000 from the Environmental Advisory Committee for the repurposing of one (1) 225 sq ft. garden at Elgin Manor into a wildflower plot. A wildflower plot includes flowering plants that are native to the Elgin County area and provide habitat for pollinator species.

Council also gave approval for the Environmental Advisory Committee to seek out funding opportunities for projects in 2023, and develop a policy to govern the planting of native species in future Elgin County landscape projects. The policy will be developed by the Committee and considered by Council at a future meeting.



Terrace Lodge Redevelopment Construction Update



Councillor Purcell, Chairman of the Terrace Lodge Redevelopment Steering Committee presented an update to Council on the progress of the redevelopment.

Phase One of the project is progressing in accordance with the approved construction schedule and at this time is on track to move to Phase two in late 2022. Minor delays experienced to date have been a result of weather, a discrepancy in building dimensions and the time required to ensure the accuracy of the dimensions to proceed with construction. A summary of construction progress date is as follows:



- March 2021 – Start of project, clearing of site and setting up of construction trailers and staging/storage areas. Construction of temporary access lane for the project.
- April – May 2021 – Begin excavation of addition, prepare for the relocation of the existing ground mounted air handling units for north and south wings.
- June – Aug 2021 – Continue to form and pour concrete foots, pads, and walls. Delays experienced do to multiple heavy rain events throughout the summer.

- Sept – Nov 2021– Completion of foundation, installation of all underground electrical conduit and plumbing. The installation of all structural steel framing and metal studding. Ongoing installation of above ground electrical conduit, Mechanical rough in. Installation of concrete floor on ground level.
- Dec – Jan 2022 – Completion of interior steel partitions, continued installation of mechanical, plumbing and electrical infrastructure throughout the addition. Installation of roofing material and placement of roof top HVAC equipment.

Council Approves New Member on Museum Advisory Committee

Elgin County Council approved the appointment of Jennifer Beauchamp, Curator of the Port Burwell Marine Museum to the Elgin County Museum Advisory Committee. Committee membership is now comprised of:

- Councillor Sally Martyn – County Council representative
- Amanda VandenWyngaert, (1st year of second 4-year term) – Museum liaison member
- Jennifer Beauchamp (1st year of first 4-year term) – Museum liaison member
- Joan Mansell (1st year of fifth 4-year term) – WI member (east)
- Donna Lord (2nd year of first 4-year term) – WI member (west)
- Kim Teuscher (1st year of second 4-year term) – Member-at-large
- Charlie Jenkins (3rd year of second 4-Year term) – Agricultural representative

Confirmation of the 2022 Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary will occur at the committee’s first meeting expected to take place in March 2022.

Human Resources Policy Updates



Elgin County Council approved amendments to HR Policies 9.60 'Paid Sick Leave/Short-Term Disability' and 5.20 'Benefit Premium Payments'.

Among other housekeeping updates, Policy 9.60 'Paid Sick Leave/Short-Term Disability' now includes provision of a small allocation of sick time accrual for temporary, full-time contract staff to cover for occasional absenteeism for these employees.

Updates to Policy 5.20 'Benefit Premium Payment' were largely housekeeping in nature, including a name change for the policy to 'Benefit Plan Provisions'.

Copies of the revised policies are included in the February 8, 2022 Council Agenda Package.

Elgin Receives Local Business Accelerator Funding



In partnership with the St. Thomas Economic Development Corporation and the Elgin-St. Thomas Small Business Enterprise Centre, Elgin County Economic Development applied for funding under the My Main Street Local Business Accelerator Program for Ambassadors in St. Thomas and West Elgin.

The application to support two Ambassadors was approved at the end of 2021. The project and funding will be managed by the Small Business Enterprise Centre

with support from St. Thomas EDC and Elgin County Economic Development.

More information regarding what resources the funding will provide for St. Thomas and West Elgin is available in the February 8, 2022 Council Agenda Package.

Planning Updates



Draft Plan of Condominium - The Ridge Talbotville, Southwold

Elgin County Council granted approval of draft vacant land plan of condominium to the Ridge at Talbotville for a proposed 32 units to accommodate Townhouse-Style dwellings. The lands are located in the south area of the

Talbotville Settlement Area, west of Talbotville Gore Road and will be accessed through Glengariff Drive.

Draft Plan of Condominium - 335 John Street South, Aylmer

Elgin County Council granted approval of a draft vacant land plan of condominium to the lands municipally known as 335 John Street south in Aylmer. The plan includes a proposed 34 semi-detached dwellings and common elements include a private roadway, landscaped areas and visitor parking. The lands are located on the east side of John Street south , south of the intersection of Alexander Drive.

Dutton Lands Holdings Inc. Development

A proposed development by Dutton Land Holdings Inc. will consist of a residential component of 84 single-family units and 17 townhouse units, as well as a commercial component comprising of five buildings including a food supermarket, seven commercial-retail units, a fast food restaurant, bank and gas bar. This subject development is proposed to be undertaken in five phases and is anticipated to be completed by 2024.

The County of Elgin conducted a Traffic Impact Study (TIS) to consider the effects of this development and three additional nearby developments on the County road system.

The TIS has confirmed that the existing County road system can accommodate the future traffic demands generated from all the proposed developments, however a number of remedial measures will be required to ensure traffic movements operate at an expected level of service.

Council approved the addition of \$1,525,000 to the Capital Plan to fund road network enhancements to accommodate proposed future developments in this area.

For more details please see the report included in the February 8, 2022 County Council Agenda Package.

Elgin County Supports Designation of Middlesex as a Low Population Municipality

2022 is an election year which means that the Thames Valley District School Board can make changes to the composition of its Board of Trustees. According to the calculations, Middlesex County is considered a low population municipality, and does not meet the requirements for two (2) Trustees. Elgin County Council passed a resolution supporting the designation of Middlesex County as a low population municipality and indicating support for Middlesex to retain two (2) Trustees on the Thames Valley District School Board. This will ensure that rural communities continue to have equitable representation. The Thames Valley District School Board region includes many rural communities with unique needs. Locally-elected representatives are ideally placed to consider these needs through their work on the Board and its Committees.

For the complete February 8, 2022 County Council Agenda Package visit the Elgin County [website](#).