

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

TUESDAY,
MARCH 14, 2023

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COUNTY COUNCIL HONOURS DEPUTY WARDEN DUNCAN MCPHAIL

County Council observed a moment of silence to honour Deputy Warden Duncan McPhail (pictured below), who passed away on March 11, 2023, just two (2) weeks shy of his 70th birthday.

McPhail served for 17 years on County Council. He was elected Warden in 2000, 2001 and 2019, and was appointed Deputy Warden in 2020, 2022 and 2023 until his passing.

McPhail was driven to outstanding community service. Regardless of his role on County Council, he attended to committee assignments, projects and activities with vigour. The flags at all County facilities are lowered to half-mast in honour of McPhail.

A book of condolences is available in the lobby of the Elgin County Administration Building at 450 Sunset Drive, St. Thomas for residents and the community to share their messages of sympathy.





COUNCIL RECEIVES AN UPDATE FROM THE MUNICIPAL PROPERTY ASSESSMENT CORPORATION (MPAC)

The Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) presented County Council with an informative update on its services. MPAC is an independent corporation which is funded by Ontario Municipalities. Their role is to assess and classify all properties and buildings across Ontario.

Elgin County's MPAC Account Manager, Brenda Slater, provided some insight into MPAC's role in property taxation, an assessment update, and shared resources available to the County for educating the public on MPAC's services.

For the full MPAC presentation, please see the March 14, 2023, Agenda Package, found [here](#).

ELGIN COUNTY'S LIBRARY BRANCHES RECEIVE COUNCIL SUPPORT IN MOVING ONE STEP CLOSER TO BECOMING FINE FREE

In June 2022, County Council approved the Elgin County Library to begin its path toward becoming fine free. Phase one (1) of this initiative saw overdue fines eliminated on all children's materials, and the overdue fines on adult DVDs were reduced.

Natalie Marlowe, the Manager of Library Services, presented County Council with a recommendation to move to phase two (2), eliminating fines on all adult fiction materials and reducing fines on adult DVDs. Council approved all ten (10) Library Branches to move to this next phase on April 1, 2023.



COUNCIL APPOINTS SIX (6) MEMBERS TO THE TERRACE LODGE REDEVELOPMENT FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

The Terrace Lodge Redevelopment Fundraising Committee is a sub-committee of the Terrace Lodge Redevelopment Steering Committee and raises funds for value-added enhancements to Terrace Lodge through its Comforts of Home campaign.

In January 2023, correspondence was sent to Elgin's seven (7) local municipal partners requesting an appointed member to sit on the Committee for the 2023-2026 term. At its meeting on February 28, 2023, Elgin County Council approved the appointment of

- Sarah Leitch, Councillor – Township of Malahide
- Amarilis Drouillard, Councillor – Municipality of Dutton Dunwich
- Jamie Chapman, Councillor – Town of Aylmer
- Wendy Carmichael, Community Member
- Jim Jenkins, Community Member
- Kay Haines, Terrace Lodge Auxiliary Representative

ELGIN'S 2023 BUDGET NEARS THE FINISH LINE

Elgin County Council received its final 2023 Budget Presentation from the Director of Financial Services/Treasurer, Jennifer Ford. This presentation provided a detailed overview of the preferred tax rate of 3.76%.

This option results in utilizing some of the project savings from the Centennial/Elm Roundabout Project (\$321K), while allocating the remaining balance of \$245K to the Capital Reserve Fund for future use. As a result, residential properties in Elgin will see a tax rate implication of \$23.88/\$100,000 of assessment.

Once County Council formally adopts the 2023 Budget By-Law at its March 28, 2023, meeting, the 2023 Budget document will be made available for public viewing.

For the complete March 14, 2023, County Council Agenda Package, please visit the [Elgin County website](#).