



# COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

TUESDAY,  
MARCH 28, 2023

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## COUNTY TREE COMMISSIONER/WEED INSPECTOR REPORTS ON HARVESTING, CLEARING, AND WEED COMPLAINTS FOR 2022

The County Tree Commissioner/Weed Inspector, Jeff Lawrence, presented both his Quarterly Report ending December 2022 and his 2022 Annual Report to Council on March 28, 2023. These reports contain information regarding total applications to harvest, total hectares cleared, and total weed complaints received.

Mr. Lawrence also provided industry news related to the highly destructive insect, Hemlock Wolly Adelgid. In August 2022, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) confirmed the presence of Hemlock Woolly Adelgid in Grafton, Ontario. In response to this finding, the CFIA has imposed restrictions and regulations in an effort to reduce its spread in other identified populations. To learn more about his findings, please access the March 28, 2023, Council Agenda package.





## ROWLAND EMERGENCY VEHICLE PRODUCTS INC. SELECTED AS THE PROVIDER FOR THE COUNTY OF ELGIN'S NEW ERVS

The County of Elgin currently has 2 Emergency Response Vehicles (ERVs) in its EMS fleet that are scheduled for replacement. The primary purpose of these vehicles is to provide emergency response services and to support supervisory duties assisting paramedics in daily operations.

The Province of Ontario requires all ERVs to be manufactured in accordance with the current version of the Ontario Provincial Land Ambulance and Emergency Response Vehicle Standard. Accordingly, the County of Elgin issued a Request for Proposal on February 14, 2023, seeking a firm with ERV experience. The Evaluation Committee used a 'Quality Based Selection Process' to select Rowland Emergency Vehicle Products Inc. as the best provider.

On March 28, 2023, County Council authorized the Manager of Procurement & Risk to issue a purchase order for the two new ERVs and declare the existing ERVs as surplus and to be disposed of utilizing the Asset Disposal Policy once the new ERVs are in service.

## ENSURING CONSISTENT QUALITY CARE: DIRECTOR OF HOMES & SENIORS SERVICES PRESENTED UPDATED POLICIES FOR ELGIN COUNTY HOMES

Michele Harris, Director of Homes & Seniors Services, provided Council with an overview of its updated Administration, Housekeeping & Laundry, Infection Prevention and Control, Maintenance and Nursing Policy. These departmental policies and procedure manuals help to ensure that there is consistency in the quality of services across all three Homes, Bobier Villa, Elgin Manor & Terrace Lodge.



## ELGIN COUNTY'S COMMUNITY & CULTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT SEES PUBLIC SERVICES RETURNING TO PRE-PANDEMIC NORMS

Community & Cultural Services Director Brian Masschaele presented County Council with an overview of current services and project updates for the Elgin County Library, Elgin County Museum and Elgin County Archives. After two (2) years of disruptions brought on by Covid-19, public services for Elgin's Libraries, Museum & Archives are returning back to pre-pandemic norms.

Natalie Marlowe, Manager of Library Services, provided an insightful snapshot of the Elgin County Library's overall performance. Emphasis was placed on Library branches across Elgin seeing in-person programming soaring, especially during this year's March Break programming.

This year, the Elgin County Museum will host a collection of several rare bicycles by a local collector, Mr. Rick Wolfe, as part of its exhibit "Cycling: An Unspoken History". Multiple programs are being planned surrounding this exhibit pertaining to the theme of cycling. The Elgin County Archives is well underway on digitizing hard copies of the St. Thomas Times-Journal and its predecessor papers.

For more Community & Cultural Services highlights for 2023, please access the March 28, 2023 Council Agenda.

## ELGIN'S COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM SUPPORTED 14 LOCAL BUSINESSES IN 2022

With the support of its Local Municipal Partners (LMPs), Elgin's Economic Development department continues to see its Community Improvement Plan (CIP) remain popular amongst the business community. This program aims to encourage efficient land use, attract private investment, and coordinate redevelopment activities to promote economic growth, diversification, and sustainability of Elgin's tax base. The CIP offers financial incentives to encourage private investment across the County.

Carolyn Krahn, Manager of Economic Development, Tourism & Strategic Initiatives, shared an overview of the CIP's outcomes for 2022 with County Council. The Elgin incentives program approved 14 applications from April to November 2022, resulting in a total investment of \$591,566.77 from private investors and \$80,000 from Elgin.



## ELGIN COUNTY COUNCIL APPROVES ELGIN'S 2023 BUDGET

On March 28, 2023, Elgin County Council approved its 2023 operational and capital budget of \$92.6M. For this year, residents can expect a 3.76% increase in the County portion of their municipal property taxes. This share of municipal taxes supports road and bridge maintenance on county roads, paramedic services, community planning, long-term care homes, libraries, and more. Homeowners will see a slight addition of \$23.88 for every \$100,000 of residential property assessment.

2023 Budget Highlights include:

- Continuing with existing services and operations, including a non-union salary increase of 2.5%;
- Enhanced land ambulance services through the implementation of a transport-capable ambulance in the Municipality of Bayham;
- Recognizing the impact of a high rate of inflation, cost-cutting measures and efforts to modernize services are included across service areas; and
- Ongoing investment in transportation and critical infrastructure.

For the complete March 28, 2023, County Council Agenda Package, please visit the Elgin County [website](#).