

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

TUESDAY,
JUNE 13, 2023

IN THIS ISSUE:

Don Shropshire Begins Role as
Interim CAO/Clerk

Breaking Barriers: Elgin County's
Journey Towards Accessibility

In Pursuit of Safer Roads: Speed
Zone Adjustments and
Intersection Analysis

Harvesting Concerns: Assessing
the Impact of Bill 97 on
Elgin's Farmland

Planning Progress:
Council Approves Development
Proposals and Amendments



DON SHROPSHIRE BEGINS ROLE AS INTERIM CAO/CLERK

Elgin County Council is thrilled to announce that Mr. Don Shropshire (pictured below) has been appointed Interim Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk (CAO) for the County of Elgin.

Mr. Shropshire brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to Elgin, having served as the CAO for the Municipality of Chatham-Kent for ten (10) years and as the National Director of Disaster Management for the Red Cross for fifteen (15) years.

“On behalf of Elgin County Council, staff, and the community, I would like to extend a warm welcome to Mr. Shropshire,” says Warden Ed Ketchabaw. “Don’s vast experience, exemplary leadership skills, and ability to work collaboratively are highly valued as we strive to implement this term of Council's plans and goals.”



As Council initiates the recruitment process to secure a permanent CAO, Don Shropshire will serve as Elgin County's Interim CAO, ensuring continued stability and effective administration for the County.

BREAKING BARRIERS: ELGIN COUNTY'S JOURNEY TOWARDS ACCESSIBILITY

During the recent Council meeting, Sarah Savoie, the Accessibility Coordinator for Elgin, shared a report highlighting the accomplishments and progress made towards the County's Joint Multi-Year Accessibility Plan (MYAP) for 2022. This plan, legislated by the Provincial Government, was created to prevent and remove barriers for persons with disabilities. The County's Plan outlines various goals for Elgin and its seven Local Municipal Partners from 2021 to 2026.

Council approved amending the MYAP to include accessibility goals and timelines tailored to the Elgin County Heritage Centre. A crucial requirement for the Heritage Centre is to have an Accessibility Plan in place when applying for provincial museum grants, such as the Community Museums Operating Grant and Heritage Organization Development Grant. These modifications aim to enhance future grant applications while continuing to enhance experiences at the Heritage Centre.

IN PURSUIT OF SAFER ROADS: SPEED ZONE ADJUSTMENTS AND INTERSECTION ANALYSIS

Following the Council meeting held on May 23, a traffic study was conducted by County staff on Plank Road in the Village of Vienna to assess the effectiveness of the current speed limit. As per the staff's recommendation, County Council approved the establishment of a 60km/hr speed zone on Plank Road, extending from 755 meters south of the north property line of Light Line to 200 meters north of the north property line of Light Line.

The Township of Malahide recently made a request for information regarding safety concerns at the intersection of Imperial Road (CR 73) and Ron McNeil Line (CR 52). County staff has previously reviewed this intersection during Phase One of the County's Transportation Master Plan (TMP). At this time, staff anticipate an implementation plan for recommended network improvements in Phase 4 of the TMP. However, the TMP is currently on hold due to delays in obtaining revised travel demand and growth data to support the newly announced developments.



HARVESTING CONCERNS: ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF BILL 97 ON ELGIN'S FARMLAND

On April 6, 2023, the Province of Ontario introduced proposed changes to the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) and Bill 97 aimed at supporting the construction of 1.5 million new homes in the province by 2031. These changes include amendments to allow the creation of up to three residential lots on existing agricultural lands and limit municipalities from implementing stricter regulations.

Over the past several months, staff, Councillors, and various stakeholders have expressed concerns about the potential impacts on farmland and existing farm operations. Paul Clarke, Planning Technician / Secretary-Treasurer of the Land Division Committee, presented Council with an overview of the impact of Bill 97 on Elgin's prime agricultural lands.

A spatial analysis was conducted to assess the effects of the proposed lot creation in Elgin County. The analysis estimated the number of potential new lots, the total agricultural land that could be lost, and the impact on the expansion of livestock operations. Based on a conservative estimate, the results showed that approximately 24,372 acres of prime agricultural land could be lost to residential development, equivalent to over one-third of Central Elgin's existing area.

The liberalization of residential lot development in prime agricultural areas is expected to lead to conflicts between farming operators and non-farming residents, as well as hinder the expansion of existing livestock operations. The focus of development may shift away from serviced settlement areas, placing increased pressure on municipalities to provide rural services. Moreover, lot creation around urban boundaries could fragment future development areas and potentially impact groundwater resources, particularly in areas with sandy soils.



PLANNING PROGRESS: COUNCIL APPROVES DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS AND AMENDMENTS

Elgin's Acting Manager of Planning, Paul Hicks, provided Council with four planning-related reports. Council granted approval to the following planning matters:

- Draft plan approval to Draft Plan of Subdivision submitted by Strik Baldinelli Moniz on behalf of James Glover, in the Village of Port Stanley;
- In accordance with Section 9 of the Condominium Act, an exemption to draft plan approval for a draft plan of a phased condominium on Block 65, Plan 11M-241, Part of Lot 1, Concession 1, Geographic Village of Port Stanley, Municipality of Central Elgin for lands contained in Block 65 for the development of a further 16 units; and
- As modified, Official Plan Amendment No. 31 to the Official Plan of the Municipality of Bayham.

Council requested staff to provide a follow-up report with more information about the following:

- Official Plan Amendment No. 32 to the Official Plan of the Municipality of Bayham.

For the complete June 13, 2023, County Council Agenda Package, please visit the Elgin County [website](#).

MISSED A MEETING...

To watch previous Council Meetings, please visit our [YouTube page](#) or read our past [Council Highlights](#).

STAY CONNECTED WITH US



@ELGINCOUNTYADMIN



ELGINTOURIST.COM