



COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

TUESDAY,
AUGUST 8, 2023

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RIISING TO NEW HEIGHTS: THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

The County Administration Building is currently undergoing its largest renovation since it was first occupied in 1985. The building, which was constructed in 1938, is in need of new elevators due to the existing ones being outdated. The first floor elevation changes also pose accessibility challenges. In 2022, County Council awarded a renovation project to Elgin Construction to address these issues by constructing new elevator additions.

Elgin Construction was awarded the project on November 16th, 2022, with work scheduled to begin on January 17th, 2023. The anticipated completion date was October 2023, and the project costs have remained within the budget allocation. However, a number of delays have occurred, which have extended the anticipated completion date.

As of now, the north elevator is scheduled to be commissioned by November 2023, with a revised completion date of May 2024.



PAVING THE WAY: REVAMPING ELGIN COUNTY'S ROAD MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT

County Council gave its approval for the 2023 County Roads Maintenance Agreement and directed staff to present the draft County Roads Maintenance Agreements to each of Elgin's Local Municipal Partners (LMPs).

Following the municipal restructuring/amalgamation in January 1998, the constituent lower tier municipalities in Elgin County became responsible for maintaining roads and related infrastructure under the jurisdiction and ownership of Elgin County. Until 2012, the terms of the maintenance relationship were summarized inadequately, lacking detail on respective rights, obligations, and operational processes.

Over the years, these concerns were addressed through the creation of a comprehensive road maintenance agreement. These agreements detailed the road maintenance relationship, including a statement of services to be performed by the LMPs. However, the agreement still addressed a number of operational and administrative concerns raised by the LMPs.

In 2021, Elgin County hired StrategyCorp as a consultant to lead discussions with representatives of the County and LMPs to address identified areas of concern. StrategyCorp prepared a report detailing its findings, conclusions, and recommendations for a new County Roads Maintenance Agreement to become effective on January 1, 2023. County Council previously approved the report, adopted its recommendations, and directed staff to prepare an agreement format to reflect the same.

Over the past twelve months, Elgin Legal Services, with input from Engineering Services and direction from the former General Manager - Engineering, Planning, and Enterprise, has developed an Agreement format in keeping with StrategyCorp's recommendations. Representatives from Elgin's LMPs have confirmed that the final version of the Agreement format is acceptable.



GREEN LIGHTS FOR OFFICIAL PLAN AMENDMENTS IN ELGIN COUNTY

Elgin County Council has given the green light to Official Plan Amendment No. 22 for the Township of Malahide. PH Engineering Solutions is a company that specializes in designing control systems for manufacturing businesses. They are currently located in a former Township Fire Station that has been repurposed for their use and are looking to expand their operations by adding 0.7 acres of land to the east and constructing a new building. However, the proposed expansion lands are currently designated as 'Agriculture' and an amendment to the Township's Official Plan is necessary.

Similarly, the County Council has approved Official Plan Amendment No. 33, in the Municipality of Bayham. The applicant is looking to sever a farm residence that has been rendered surplus due to the acquisition of additional farm parcels. However, a site-specific amendment to the Bayham Official Plan is required due to the applicant's primary operations being based in the neighboring Malahide Township.



PRESERVING HISTORY: REVIVING ELGIN COUNTY'S COUNCIL CHAMBERS AND ENTRANCE

With renovations to Elgin County Council Chambers and the entrance to the Elgin County Administration Building now complete, County Council approved the re-installation of certain photographs and plaques both in County Council Chambers and in the building entrance.



FINANCIAL FORTUNES: COUNTY'S 1ST QUARTER SURPLUS SHINES BRIGHT

During the Council meeting, the Director of Finance shared the 1st Quarter Operating Financial summary report, which gives an overview of departmental performance from January to March 2023. After assessing each County department, it was found that there was an operating surplus of \$304,096 by the end of March.

EMBRACING UNITY: ELGIN COUNTY CELEBRATES PRIDE WEEK WITH FLAG-RAISING CEREMONY AND COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY

Warden Ed Ketchabaw proclaimed August 7th through 13th as Pride Week in Elgin County. Warden Ketchabaw was joined by MP Karen Vecchio, Spokesperson Devon Church, and Martin Withenshaw of the Rainbow Optimist Club- Southwestern Ontario to officially kick off Pride Week.

This flag-raising event was intended to show the County's support for the Rainbow Community and to demonstrate the community's commitment to providing safe and welcoming places for all members.

On behalf of Elgin County Council, Warden Ketchabaw encourages all citizens to take pride in our diversity and celebrate our differences to help make our community a place that we can all be proud to call home.



For the complete August 8, 2023, County Council Agenda Package, please visit the Elgin County [website](#).