

Council Highlights

**Tuesday,
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Charting Progress: Elgin County Land Division Committee's 2023 Report

The Elgin County Land Division Committee presented its report detailing land division activities for the year 2023. Established in 1971, the committee serves as the consent-granting authority for the county, overseeing the separation of land parcels where subdivision plans are deemed unnecessary. The committee meticulously evaluates applications for consent, taking into account various legislative frameworks, including the Planning Act and the Provincial Policy Statement, alongside input from the public and relevant agencies.

Throughout 2023, the Land Division Committee diligently conducted its duties. An orientation session at the start of the year acquainted members with recent legislative changes and existing policies. The implementation of the More Homes, Built Faster Act, 2022 brought significant changes to the Planning Act, notably eliminating third-party appeals on consent decisions, leading to a notable reduction in appeals to the Ontario Land Tribunal. Despite delays in the release of the revised Provincial Policy Statement, the committee processed a total of 89 consent applications, with diligent oversight ensuring fair and efficient decision-making. The report underscores the committee's commitment to transparent and accountable land division practices, essential for fostering sustainable development within Elgin County.

Project Lifesaver: Transforming Safety for Elgin County's Vulnerable Residents

Elgin County Council received a delegation from Inclusive Communities Consulting & Life Skills regarding a project known as Project Lifesaver. This project is aimed at enhancing community safety and supporting vulnerable individuals with cognitive disorders or intellectual disabilities. Spearheaded by a dedicated team, this initiative seeks to implement a proven program that quickly locates individuals who may wander away from home. Through the use of trackable devices and specialized radio technology, first responders can swiftly locate enrolled individuals, potentially reducing search times from days to minutes. Despite being absent in Elgin County thus far, Project Lifesaver has garnered support from various agencies and police services, including Elgin OPP, Aylmer Police, and St. Thomas Police, all committed to safeguarding their communities.

To bring Project Lifesaver to fruition, funding for essential equipment is needed. The delegation presented a plan to purchase four receiver units strategically stationed across key agencies in Elgin County. With training already underway for officers, the goal is to have Project Lifesaver operational by spring 2024. The delegation emphasized the importance of community involvement, with families encouraged to purchase wearable devices and subscribe to the program annually for its long-term sustainability. Despite the hope that this system will never need to be utilized, its potential to save lives and resources in emergency situations underscores its importance. The delegation expressed confidence in the council's support, highlighting the value Project Lifesaver would bring to the residents of Elgin County. Council directed that the request for funding be referred to the Elgin County Rural Initiatives and Planning Advisory Committee for consideration as part of the Community Grant Program.



VictimServices
Elgin

Breaking Barriers: Annual Highlights from the Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee

The Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee presented its Annual Council Committee Update which focused on the activities and achievements of the committee for the year 2023. Established in 2002, the committee serves as a vital advisory body, tasked with advising council members on matters pertaining to the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) and the Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation (IASR). Comprised of representatives from the County of Elgin and the Municipality of Central Elgin, the committee plays a crucial role in promoting accessibility and inclusivity within the community.

Throughout 2023, the committee demonstrated its commitment to enhancing accessibility by reviewing and approving various initiatives. Notable accomplishments include endorsing plans for a Multi-Use Path in Port Stanley, advocating for snow clearing practices to ensure accessible parking spaces remain unobstructed, and endorsing key reports and policy amendments aimed at fostering inclusivity. Additionally, the committee successfully organized the 'AccessAbility' Open House in collaboration with the City of St. Thomas Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee, fostering awareness and engagement on accessibility issues.

Looking ahead to 2024, the committee will continue its efforts by reviewing the Joint Annual Accessibility Status Report and collaborating with local partners to advance accessibility initiatives outlined in the Joint Multi-Year Accessibility Plan. With a steadfast commitment to promoting accessibility and equity, the committee remains dedicated to creating a more inclusive environment for all residents of Elgin County and the Municipality of Central Elgin.



Clean Sweep: Council Awards Contract Cleaning Services to Corporate Mirror Inc.

Elgin County Council received a report on awarding Contract Cleaning Services for the Administration Building, Elgin County Heritage Centre, and Provincial Offences Administration building. After careful consideration, Corporate Mirror Inc. emerged as the preferred bidder, with a comprehensive proposal aligning with the County's requirements. The recommendation, backed by the Evaluation Committee, proposed awarding Corporate Mirror Inc. a two-year contract valued at \$248,583 plus HST. Furthermore, Council authorized staff to extend the contract for an additional three one-year terms, subject to satisfactory performance. With the assurance of consistent quality and financial alignment with the operating budget, Council authorized the Warden and Chief Administrative Officer to sign the contract, ensuring seamless facility maintenance and upkeep for the next several years.



For the complete **February 13, 2024 Agenda Package**, please visit the following link:
[County Council Agenda Package](#)