



August 2025

August was a memorable month with the spirit of Central Elgin shining through festivals, new initiatives, and community gatherings.

The month began with the Calipso Festival in Port Stanley, a highlight of the summer season. I joined Deputy Mayor Todd Noble in the boat parade and was glad to see so many residents and visitors enjoying this event.

I joined Elgin County Council colleagues for the opening of the 177th Aylmer Fair, a long-standing celebration of community and heritage in our region. Congratulations to the Belmont Volunteer Fire Fighters Association for a job well done on the Fire Muster during the fair.

Volunteers from CharterAbility, a registered charity based in Oakville, visited Port Stanley this month to provide accessible boat rides in the harbour. The organization ensures that individuals who might otherwise be excluded have the chance to enjoy the water, and I am grateful they brought this opportunity to our community.

I was also pleased to welcome 160 cyclists to Port Stanley from across Canada, the United States, and the United Kingdom as part of the Great Waterfront Trail Adventure. Their 640-kilometre journey connected Lakes Ontario, Huron, and Erie, bringing them through the Whistlestop Trail, along Sunset Drive, and into our community.

Another milestone was the launch of Central Elgin's Lifejacket Loaner Program at Port Stanley's Main Beach. This initiative offers free access to lifejackets, encouraging safe enjoyment of our waterways. The program is made possible through a partnership between the Municipality of Central Elgin, the Elgin County Drowning Prevention Coalition, Lifesaving Society Ontario, and the support of many residents who played an important role in its success.

The 2025 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Conference took place in Ottawa last week, bringing together municipal leaders from across the province to share ideas and discuss challenges facing Ontario communities. I attended alongside Deputy Mayor Todd Noble, Councillors Michelle Graham, Morgaine Griffin, and Dave Baughman, as well as Chief Administrative Officer Carey Herd.

I also toured Work Equipment Ltd. in Courtland, which recently assisted the municipality in acquiring a new Trackless MT7 municipal tractor. This investment will strengthen our capacity for sidewalk plowing, sweeping, and roadside maintenance, while also supporting a local Canadian business.

Finally, I want to highlight a new community initiative from the Belmont Swans: the Belmont Poppy Project. This effort invites residents to create handmade red poppies to honour our Veterans while fostering community spirit. You can learn more about how to take part in this meaningful project here: [Facebook](#)

I encourage everyone to make the most of the final days of summer with family, friends, and neighbours, and to continue celebrating all that makes Central Elgin a wonderful place to live, work, and visit.

Lastly, my office hours will be resuming in the fall, watch for dates and more information in the coming weeks.

All the best,
Andrew

