



# February 2026

As we wrap up a productive February and look ahead to March, there continues to be strong momentum across Central Elgin.

In February, I was pleased to participate in the annual Lunch with the Mayors event hosted by the **St. Thomas & District Chamber of Commerce**, alongside Mayors Preston and Jones. It was an opportunity to share the progress Central Elgin Council has made over the past year and outline our priorities for the months ahead.

I also participated in the Community Safety & Well-Being Forum alongside municipal leaders and partners from across Elgin County. By working together as a region, we continue to make progress and develop proactive solutions that build safer, healthier, and stronger communities.

In February, we launched the 2026 Community Grant and Sponsorship Program. Applications are open until March 31, and I encourage local community groups and not-for-profit organizations to apply. Council has approved \$25,000 in the 2026 Budget to support initiatives that bring residents together, enhance quality of life, and strengthen our municipality.

Council also met this month to participate in a workshop regarding the Fleet Review. The session focused on recommendations for fleet and maintenance management based on analysis conducted over the past several months. This work supports our commitment to responsible asset management and ensuring that our equipment and vehicles are meeting the needs of our municipality in a cost-effective and sustainable way.

We also made significant progress on the development initiative for the former Psychiatric Hospital Lands. February included our second open house, stakeholder sessions, and the issuance of a Request for Proposal seeking experienced development partners. The redevelopment of the lands lets Central Elgin shape the future of its community and benefit the people who live and work here. We also held a Public Meeting to hear directly from residents, and I encourage anyone interested to stay engaged as this important work continues. Past reports, presentations and a summary of feedback can be found on the project website: <https://www.letstalkcentralelgin.ca/reimaginehospitalands>

As we move into March, community engagement remains front and centre. Open house events for the Community Services Master Plan are taking place, including a session at the Belmont Arena this evening, Tuesday, March 3, 6-8 p.m. and a session in Lynhurst on Thursday, March 5, 2-4 p.m. at the Free Reformed Church.

This Plan will guide the future of parks, trails, recreation facilities, and waterfront amenities across Central Elgin, and resident feedback is essential to shaping that vision. Construction is starting on Phase 1A of the Port Stanley Storm Sewer Upsizing project, with work along William Street and Edith Cavell Boulevard. This important flood mitigation initiative, funded in part by the Government of Canada and the Province of Ontario, will strengthen long-term climate resilience.

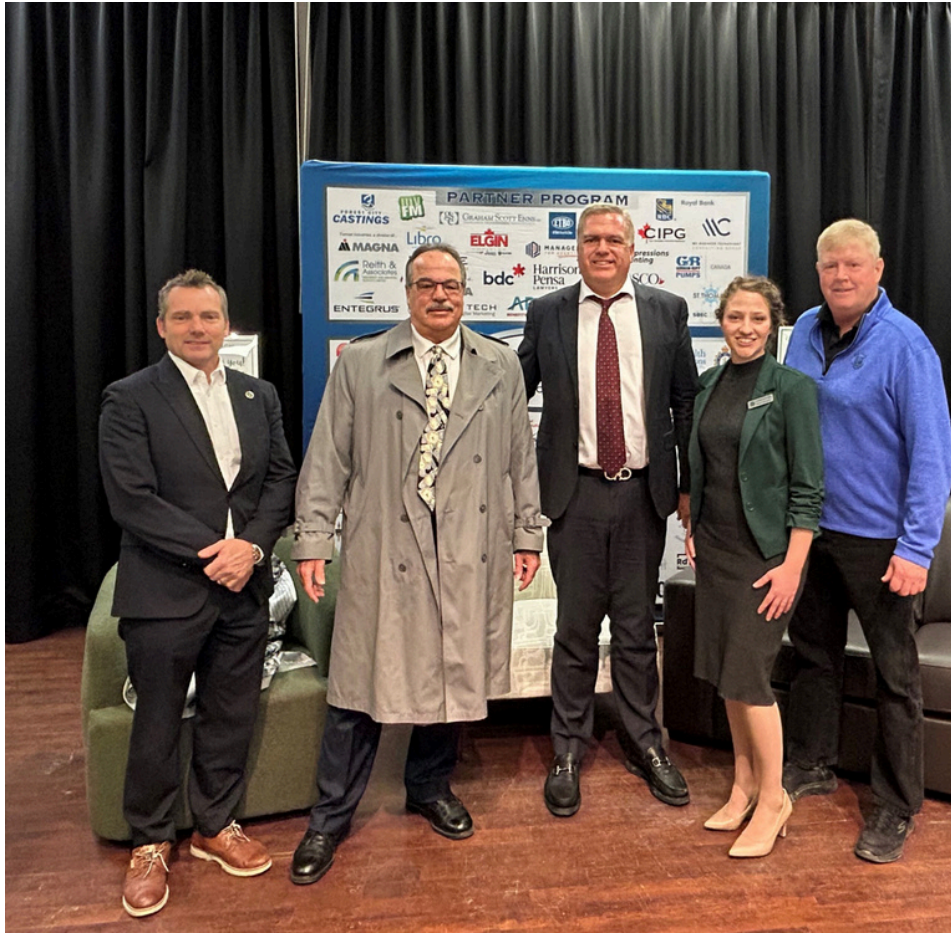
In my role as Chair of Elgin OPP Board, I'd like to mention our OPP is participating in a School Bus Safety Initiative from March 2 to March 13.

As always, I remain proud of the collaboration I see across Council, staff, community groups, and the business sector. There is real momentum here and real potential. Together, we will continue building a community that is welcoming, well-planned, and full of opportunity.

-Andrew



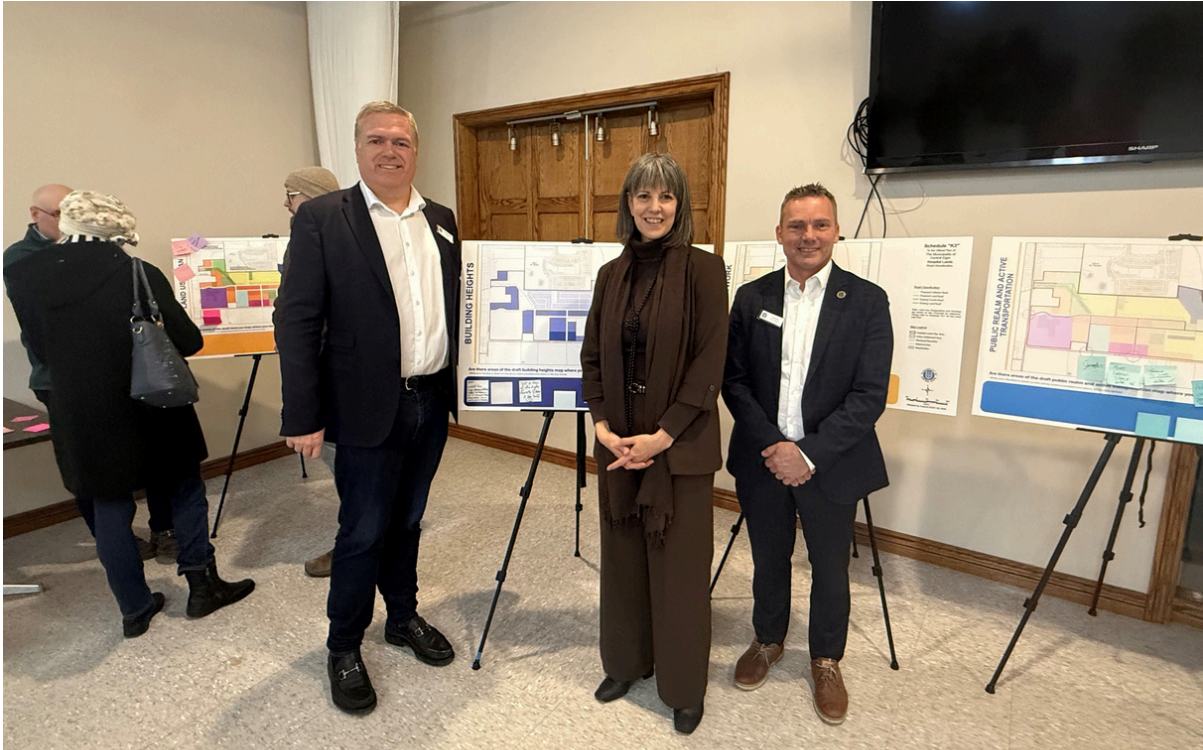
2026 Lunch with the Mayors



With Deputy Mayor Todd Noble, Councillor David Conners, Mayor Andrew Sloan, Councillor Morgaine Griffin, Councillor Dave Baughman at 2026 Lunch with Mayors



2026 Lunch with Mayors



Mayor Andrew Sloan, Elgin County Warden Dominique Giguère, Deputy Mayor Todd Noble at the Hospital Lands Public Open House



Hospital Lands Public Open House