



September 2025

From community celebrations to key planning decisions, September showcased the energy and spirit of Central Elgin.

I was pleased to participate in several events that celebrated our community and advanced important initiatives. Highlights included the Elgin County Plowing Match, with a friendly competition among local elected officials—my thanks to the local farmers and Elgin County Plowman's Association for keeping this tradition alive. I also attended the Knox Presbyterian Church Kirkin' O' the Tartan, celebrating our region's Scottish roots, and joined Mayor Preston, Elgin County Warden Grant Jones, and MP Andrew Lawton to tap the keg for St. Thomas Oktoberfest, a great way to kick off the fall season.

This past weekend, I joined the Elgin Hiking Trail Club to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Elgin Hiking Trail. This milestone is a testament to the dedication and conservation efforts of the club's volunteers and community members over the decades.

Earlier this month, Central Elgin Council approved funding for seven local projects through the 2025 Community Grant and Sponsorship Program, providing a total of \$26,261 in support. These grants reflect the dedication of our local organizations and their commitment to strengthening our community. You can [learn more here](#).

September also brought progress on the former Psychiatric Hospital Lands.

We met with Minister Rob Flack to continue discussions on the property's future, and Council approved the Draft Policy Directions and Land Use Plan for public engagement. These documents outline how the lands could evolve into a sustainable community supporting affordability, growth, and municipal goals. I encourage residents to attend the Open House on Wednesday, October 8, from 6:30–8 p.m. at the Central Elgin Municipal Office to meet the project team and share input. Learn more here:

<https://www.letstalkcentralelgin.ca/reimaginehospitallands>

Looking ahead to October, I will join Councillor Baughman for the Ward 5 Town Hall in Belmont on Tuesday, October 21 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. to share updates and hear directly from residents. I will also be holding office hours on Thursday, October 23 from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Municipal Office, and I encourage anyone with questions or ideas to schedule a meeting, either by calling 519-631-4860 ext. 286 or email deleitch@centralelgin.org.

As we closed out September, we also paused to mark the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, which honours the children who never returned home and Survivors of residential schools, as well as their families and communities. It is a time to reflect and reaffirm our commitment to learning, understanding, and reconciliation within Central Elgin.

Thank you to everyone who makes Central Elgin such a vibrant, welcoming community. As we head into October I wish you a happy Thanksgiving filled with the warmth of family and friends. A special thank you to our farming community, whose dedication during the harvest season is vital to our local economy and well-being.

- Andrew Sloan



