



May 2025

As we look back on a busy May and look ahead to an exciting June, I'm proud to share some highlights from across Central Elgin.

Earlier this month, Central Elgin Council approved the Vision and Guiding Principles for the redevelopment of the former Psychiatric Hospital Lands. This milestone marks the beginning of a comprehensive planning process for a transformative mixed-use community. I'm encouraged by the community support and excitement surrounding this project, as well as the positive attention it's received from local media and reporters. It was a pleasure speaking with them and sharing Council's vision for the site.

To read the coverage and stay informed about the redevelopment, visit

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

Deputy Mayor Noble and I were pleased to attend the grand opening of **Port Stanley Brewing Co.** located within RIVA Italian Restaurant on the scenic Port Stanley harbour. This exciting addition adds even more energy and flavour to our vibrant food and beverage scene in the Village.

Another highlight this month was the opportunity to join Deputy Mayor Noble, Mayor Joe Preston, and Minister Flack for a ride from St. Thomas to Port Stanley on Car 14, a beautifully restored railcar from the London and Port Stanley Railway. Car 14 represents a proud chapter of our region's railway history and it was a pleasure to see it return to the rails for the first time since 1957! Congratulations to the **Elgin County Railway Museum** and many local volunteers for their work.

I was also pleased to join Councillor Graham and Minister Flack at the Port Stanley Walk for Dog Guides, hosted by the Kettle Creek Swans. This annual event raises funds to provide Dog Guides at no cost to Canadians with disabilities.

Looking ahead to June, there's much to be excited about:

The Belmont Time Capsule Committee will be opening the cairn in front of the Belmont Arena on Sunday, June 1 at 10 a.m. I encourage everyone to join and discover what was placed in the capsule 25 years ago.

On Thursday, June 5, we have the Ward 4 Town Hall from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Free Reformed Church, 145 St. George Street in Lynhurst. Deputy Mayor Noble, Councillor David Conners, and I will be there to share updates, answer your questions, and hear your thoughts on the issues that matter most to Ward 4.

On Monday, June 30, join us in Port Stanley for a spectacular fireworks display at dusk. A thank you goes to the generous local community supporter who helped bring this event to life.

Canada Day, Tuesday, July 1, head to Belmont for a full day of family-friendly festivities hosted by the Belmont Lions Club and Belmont Swans Club. The day will feature a bike parade, lunch at Don Yeck Park Pavilion, face painting, cake, and a dazzling fireworks show to close out the evening.

My next Mayor's Office Hours will be held on Tuesday, June 24 from 1 to 3 p.m. If you'd like to meet, please call 519-631-4860 ext. 286 or email deleitch@centralelgin.org to book an appointment.

All the best,
Andrew