



December 2025

I want to take this opportunity to offer my best wishes for the Christmas season. It has been a year of important investments in Central Elgin:

- 15 consecutive years of Blue Flag status at Main Beach
- 18 Special Event permits were issued
- 39 new lights installed in Turvey Park
- 272 Building Permits issued
- 372 metres of new sidewalk completed in Belmont
- Over 700 public service work orders completed
- 935 metres of new drainage tiles installed to improve water drainage at Union Ball Diamond

In addition, Planning Services were brought in-house, improving efficiency and aligning decisions with community priorities. Updates to Development Service Rates and Fees were also made to ensure costs are appropriately covered while maintaining the high standard of services residents expect.

The 2025 Municipal Budget maintained a zero per cent tax increase while investing \$15.3 million in 58 capital projects, including road and bridge repairs, park upgrades, sidewalk improvements, and enhancements to recreation facilities.

As we move into 2026, we are excited to build on this momentum - strengthening neighbourhoods, supporting local businesses, and improving quality of life for everyone who visits or calls Central Elgin home.

Throughout the year, I enjoyed connecting with residents at Town Halls in Port Stanley, Belmont and Lynhurst, service club meetings, and monthly Office Hours. Some very frank exchanges took place and as always, I learned a great deal!

As I have mentioned before we are working hard to redevelop the former Psychiatric Hospital lands. Council approved a Vision and Guiding Principles and residents provided feedback on Draft Policy Directions and the Land Use Plan, helping shape this transformative project.

Community safety and accessibility remained top priorities in 2025:

- Mobility Mat installed at Little Beach to improve access to the waterfront.
- Lifejacket Loaner Program launched at Main Beach to enhance water safety for visitors.
- Short-Term Rental By-Law (effective January 1, 2026) ensures rental accommodations are safe, accessible, and respectful of the broader community.
- 2025 Community Grant and Sponsorship Program awarded over \$26,000 to local organizations, supporting community connections and enriching residents' lives.

Looking ahead to the new year, several milestones are on the horizon, including the 2026 Municipal Budget, a Community Services Master Plan to guide recreational spaces and services, the opening of Belmont's new elementary school, and the opening of the new Greg Tarry Park in the Eagle Ridge neighbourhood. In addition, we are launching an Aquatics Pass Pilot Program in partnership with the YMCA of Southwestern Ontario, giving Central Elgin residents access to swimming at the YMCA's St. Thomas facility at reduced, resident-friendly rates.

These achievements are made possible by the dedication of the entire Central Elgin team - Council, municipal staff, and volunteer firefighters - all of whom are committed to making our community the best it can be.

While our administrative office is closed for the holidays, residents requiring urgent attention are asked to call 519-631-4860 and follow the prompts. Arenas will be open for skating on a modified holiday schedule, and garbage and recycling collection will continue on a holiday schedule.

Please know that I can always be reached by phone at 519-868-8355 or by email at asloan@centralelgin.org.

As we welcome 2026, my family and I wish you a safe, healthy, and prosperous New Year.

All the best,
Andrew