



July 2025

Summer is in full swing here in Central Elgin, and July has been a month of celebrations and important initiatives.

We kicked off July by celebrating Canada Day with festivities in Port Stanley and Belmont. It was wonderful to see many families, friends, and neighbours coming together to enjoy the festivities and share in the celebration of our great country. Thank you to all the volunteers and community members who brought these celebrations to life and made them such a success.

This month, we launched the Community Grant and Sponsorship Program, designed to support local groups, volunteer organizations, and not-for-profits working to make Central Elgin an even better place to live. If your group is interested, I encourage you to visit our website or reach out to municipal staff with any questions about eligibility or how to apply. Property tax bills have also been mailed this month. Inside your envelope, you'll find the latest issue of Central Elgin Connect, our community newsletter with updates on municipal programs and projects. You will also find a new "Property Taxes Explained" brochure to help you better understand how your tax dollars are calculated and invested right here in the community. You will see that for 2025 Central Elgin Council approved a municipal budget with a 0% property tax rate increase from 2024. I hope this brochure helps you better understand property taxes calculations and the important services and projects they fund in the community.

At the start of the month I also had the opportunity to speak at the hearing for Bill 9, the Municipal Accountability Act, 2025, a piece of legislation with implications for every municipality across Ontario. I emphasized that at Central Elgin we are dedicated to upholding the highest standards of accountability and transparency in our local governance. It's what our residents expect, and what they deserve. The conversation around Bill 9 will be ongoing, and we'll continue to engage with provincial and municipal partners as it moves forward.

I attended the National Drowning Prevention Week flag raising alongside Elgin County Deputy Warden Ed Ketchabaw, MP Andrew Lawton, members of the Elgin County Drowning Prevention Coalition, and the RIP Currents Project. While the official awareness week has ended, drowning prevention is important every day.

I was pleased to take part in the Hawk Cliff Woods Expansion Celebration, marking the completion of a conservation project led by the Thames Talbot Land Trust. Thanks to their hard work and the support of many partners, another natural space has been protected and preserved for future generations to enjoy. To learn more about this project, you can visit the Thames Talbot Land Trust https://www.thamestalbotlandtrust.ca/hawk_cliff_woods...

Finally, I was joined by Deputy Mayor Noble at the St. Thomas & District Chamber of Commerce MP MPP Luncheon to hear from MP Andrew Lawton and MPP Rob Flack about the key priorities that are shaping the future of our communities.

As summer continues, I hope you take time to explore, relax, and enjoy everything Central Elgin has to offer.

All the best,
Andrew