



January 2025

Hello everyone,

It's hard to believe that January is already behind us and we're moving full speed into 2025. The 2025 Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) Conference took place in Toronto from January 19 to 21. I had the pleasure of attending alongside Deputy Mayor Todd Noble, Councillor Michelle Graham, Councillor Dave Baughman, and Councillor Morgaine Griffin, as well as our Chief Administrative Officer Carey Herd and Director of Infrastructure & Community Services, Geoff Brooks.

During the conference, we had the opportunity to meet with Infrastructure Minister Kinga Surma and representatives from Infrastructure Ontario to discuss the future development of the former Psychiatric Hospital land in Central Elgin. Council and I continue to advocate for the best opportunities to utilize this site, ensuring it brings maximum benefit to our community. While our advocacy efforts continue, we are also starting to imagine the many possibilities for the future of this significant property. Just last week, Central Elgin Council participated in a visioning workshop where we brainstormed ideas for what a future community could look like. We discussed ideas for housing, commercial space, transportation, employment, parks and recreation, and community facilities. This presents a transformative opportunity to redevelop underutilized land, and Council is committed to striking a balance between providing affordable housing for our current residents and meeting the housing needs for the growing population expected as a result of the PowerCo plant. There will be opportunities for public input later this year.

In case you missed it, if you receive a property tax bill from the Municipality, you should have also received a copy of our new Central Elgin Connect newsletter. This is a new way for keeping you informed about municipal projects and topics that could impact you and your family. I hope you find it helpful in staying up to date on Council's priorities and decisions, and in learning how you can get involved and share your input.

On February 26, I will attend the St. Thomas and District Chamber of Commerce Lunch with the Mayors event with Mayors Preston and Jones, where we will share plans and activities for the year ahead for our respective municipalities.

Lastly, I want to take a moment to thank our snow plow operators for their hard work this winter. While we're home and in bed, they're out ensuring our roads and sidewalks are clear and safe for travel each morning. Well done, team!

Take care and best wishes for a great February.

Andrew Sloan, Mayor
Municipality of Central Elgin