



February 2025

I hope you are enjoying the early days of March. As we close out February, it's a great time to reflect on some of our recent achievements and provide a glimpse of what's coming next as we continue to work towards Council's priorities.

Earlier this week, I had the privilege of presenting a Certificate of Recognition to three exceptional members of the Central Elgin team—Kennedy, Mark, and David—for their heroic actions in saving a life at the Port Stanley Arena in February. They responded to a medical emergency with quick thinking, skill, and compassion, using their training to help a resident in critical need. Their actions are a powerful reminder of the impact we can have when we step up in moments of crisis. I was honored to recognize their dedication and public service.

In February, the Finance Committee began reviewing the proposed 2025 budget for Central Elgin. Since my election, I've committed to ensuring we provide high-quality services to our residents while maintaining affordability for taxpayers. I'm pleased that we're working toward a balanced budget for 2025, made possible by factors such as assessment growth and interest from investments—including the \$15 million settlement we received from last year's boundary compensation agreement with St. Thomas.

You can view the draft budget on our website at centralelgin.org/Budget. The Finance Committee and Council will continue deliberations with the goal of finalizing and approving the budget by March 24.

One of the highlights of February was the St. Thomas & District Chamber of Commerce's annual Lunch with the Mayors event, held on February 26. Mayors Preston, Jones, and I had the opportunity to reflect on the past year and discuss our plans for the year ahead.

I want to reiterate what I emphasized at the event, as it remains just as crucial, especially now that tariffs from the US have been imposed. Central Elgin Council and I are dedicated to addressing the needs of our community, making informed decisions, and prioritizing the interests of our residents and businesses. Our priority remains ensuring Central Elgin is a place where people want to live and work, because when we create an environment that attracts residents and visitors, we also create opportunities for businesses to thrive.

Lastly, I want to remind you of my upcoming office hours for March, which will be held on Tuesday, March 25, from 1-3 p.m. If you plan to attend, please let us know by calling 519-631-4860 ext. 286 or by emailing deleitch@centralelgin.org.

If you're unable to attend or would prefer a different time, please don't hesitate to reach out to schedule a more convenient appointment.

Thank you for your continued support as we work together to make Central Elgin an even better place to live, work, and grow.

All the best,
Andrew Sloan