



# Mayor's Update

## A brief overview of 2019-2022 Term of Council Achievements



Dear Residents

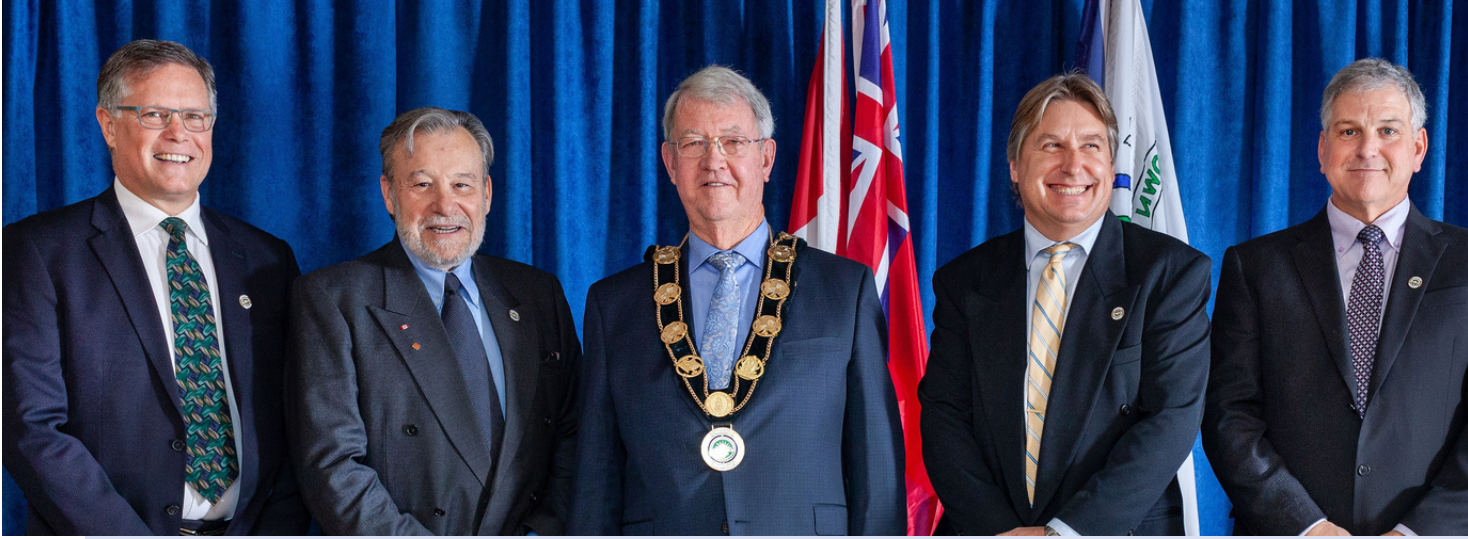
As the current Council approaches the fourth and final year of this term of office, I would like to share some of our achievements and extend a thank you to all our residents for their patience during the last two years of a very trying time.

The pandemic hit us hard and we had to take unprecedented measures to tackle it. We had to move quickly to a virtual world in order to ensure that we were able to provide necessary services to our residents. Town staff has been incredible as they took the changes in their stride and switched to remote work while continuing to provide service to our residents and value to our taxpayers.

The last four years have been immensely busy and we hit a number of key milestones on our road to building a future-ready Erin.

- We began this term by approving the 2019-2023 Town of Erin Strategic Plan, developed following extensive public consultation. This plan is a true reflection of the future-ready approach that has been instilled in the corporation and will continue to be a force as the Town continues to flourish and grow.
- We continued to maintain our property tax rates lower than the rate of inflation while making strategic investments that are needed to move us forward and provide service excellence.

- The Town in the last year alone has had 21 new small to medium businesses open in Erin and this number continues to grow every year.
- We invested up to \$40,000 annually in our business community to help it grow and thrive through the Community Improvement Plan (CIP). In the four years since launching the CIP, 30 businesses have received grant funding through the program which has initiated over one million dollars of private capital re-invested into the community to revitalize, redevelop and expand our local businesses.
- We launched an Entrepreneurial Hub to provide support and resources for local entrepreneurs and small business owners during and post pandemic.
- We not only completed a comprehensive Growth Management Strategy, but also established the Urban Design Guidelines that will help shape the form and character of development in Hillsburgh and Erin, while retaining its historical charm.
- As part of our commitment to the environment, Council approved the Town's Single-Use Plastic Reduction Program. The program aims to identify and promote ways to incorporate environment-friendly alternatives to single-use plastic products at all Town of Erin facilities.



- To ensure that our infrastructure assets are maintained, we completed an Asset Management Plan; undertook major rehabilitation of Station Street Bridge and Dam and Bridge 11.
- Our Roads Operational Review confirmed that our winter maintenance service exceeds the Minimum Maintenance Standards and the service is delivered for an average cost based on comparable municipalities.
- We got approval for our Water Expansion Environmental Assessment and approved two new wells that will serve our community as it grows and act as backup when required.
- We continued to invest in our parks and recreational facilities and we are currently exploring the feasibility of a twin pad ice arena and a multi-use recreational facility at Barbour Field. Riverwalk Phase 2 has been approved and tendered, which will provide our community with another trail to enjoy in our beautiful town.
- We were successful in receiving \$2.64 million in grant funding to refurbish the Erin Community Centre.
- From a community safety perspective, Council approved the purchase of three new fire trucks this term ensuring that we are able to provide and maintain the highest level of fire and emergency services.
- Council continues to support private enterprises to bring reliable, high-speed internet service to our community. The Province of Ontario is investing nearly \$4 billion in funding-based programs and projects to ensure that every household and business in the province has access to high-speed internet the end of 2025.
- Our most significant achievement has no doubt been the approval for our wastewater treatment facility Environmental Assessment and we are poised to award the tender for construction and break ground in the coming months. This is the single largest capital project in the 150-year history of all Wellington County.
- We raised more than \$90 million from the development community to build the wastewater treatment plant and the main sewer trunk lines. We are continuing our advocacy on behalf of our resident for funding support in order to ease the cost burden for our existing urban residents who will be connecting to the system.
- The wastewater plant will allow the Town to undertake measured development that is essential to the future of Erin and it will also have positive effects on the economy of the Town and the Province. Being able to accommodate more residents and businesses means additional tax dollars to help us replace or maintain the infrastructure we rely on every single day.

Council is dedicated to the community that we serve. I am proud that together we have achieved all this and so much more as a unified team. This Council has worked together to achieve stable growth and long-term sustainability while creating a prosperous, healthy, environmentally progressive, livable, and inviting community through well managed municipal services, programs, assets and amenities.

I am grateful for the opportunity to work for this community that has been my home for more than four decades. The best interest of this community and our taxpayers is, and will always be, a priority for me and all of Council.

Thank you  
Yours Sincerely

Allan Alls  
Mayor, Town of Erin