



Warden's Report

2022 Year in Review



Thank You from Your 2021-2022 Warden

It is with great pleasure that we present the second annual Middlesex County Warden's Report. It has been an honour and a privilege to be your Warden over the past year. We have done tremendous work across the County in 2022, in areas such as early childhood education, wireless broadband, and emergency services. I will look back and appreciate the strength and wisdom my fellow municipal leaders have shown, not only during my time as Warden, but over the past term of Council. Our accomplishments would not have been possible without the dedication and advocacy of our municipal leaders and the support and guidance of our administration at both upper and lower-tiers of government.

I would like to welcome all of the new and returning faces to council for the 2022-2026 term. I know that the County is in good hands with these individuals and I look forward to the new perspectives and innovative ideas that are sure to move Middlesex County forward. I would also like to congratulate and thank incoming Warden Cathy Burghardt-Jesson as she begins her term as your 2023 Warden.

Thank you all for allowing me to serve our community as I have, I wish you all the best in 2023.

-Alison Warwick

Termination of COVID-19 Declared Emergency

On June 6, 2022, Middlesex County terminated the Emergency declared on March 17, 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The decision was led by Warden Alison Warwick and supported by County Council and staff. While these unprecedented times have been difficult in many ways, they have also provided an opportunity to modernize service delivery and to accelerate the County's plans to bring services closer to residents. Over the past eight years, the County has made significant investments in new capital development within Middlesex and is pleased to now be delivering the majority of County services from locations throughout the County, including transportation, economic development and tourism, social services, planning, libraries, long term care and paramedic services.

Warden Honours Outstanding Community Service

Congratulations to the 2022 Warden's Honour Roll Honourees: Jim Maudsley, Mark Williams, and the Thames Valley Conservation Authority. These residents have made outstanding contributions to the citizens of Middlesex County and we thank them for their service.



Warden's Charity Golf Tournament Raises \$23,000

This year, the annual Warden's Charity Golf Tournament was held at The Willows Golf and Country Club. The tournament raised a total of \$23,000 for two organizations doing phenomenal work for our community. The VON (Victorian Order of Nurses) received \$20,000 to support in-home and community care for Middlesex County residents. The #SickNotWeek Foundation received \$3,000 that will be used towards mental health awareness and helping people understand that mental illness is a sickness, not a weakness.

Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) Agreement

On July 19, 2022, Middlesex County announced the launch of the Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) program in Middlesex County. In 2022, families whose Child Care operators chose to participate in the program, received two 25% reductions to child care fees. The program is also expected to provide a wage floor for qualified Registered Early Childhood Educators, in the hopes of attracting, and retaining ECEs, who play a critical role in the provision of child care and early childhood education. A number of Middlesex County licensed childcare providers have opted into the program. To learn more about the program, please visit our website.



New High-speed internet projects in the County

On August 23, 2022, the province announced that it had signed agreements with eight internet service providers to provide high-speed internet to unserved and underserved homes and businesses across Ontario as part of the Accelerated High-Speed Internet Program (AHSIP). The Province has committed nearly \$4 billion through this program to connect every region in Ontario to reliable, high-speed internet by the end of 2025. Thanks to AHSIP, plans are underway in Middlesex County to expand access to broadband services to over 90% of all residents. Three Internet Service Providers were chosen through a two-stage competitive process to complete these projects including, North Frontenac Telephone Company, Rogers Communications and Xplornet Communications.

Fanshawe College Bursary

On July 19, 2022, Middlesex County Children's Services, in partnership with Fanshawe College, created a bursary to support 10 individuals applying for the Early Childhood Education program with the costs for tuition and books. This bursary is funded through Child Care and Early Years Workforce Funding provided by the Ministry of Education.

The bursary will support the retention and recruitment of high-quality childcare and early years educators. The program is expected to run again this year for the January 2023 and September 2023 academic periods. For more information about the Bursary, please visit the County's website.

Tourism Relief Funding Granted in the County

During the final two quarters of 2022, the Department of Economic Development successfully acquired and administered \$100,000 in Federal tourism relief funding. Investments included the installation of Electric Vehicles chargers at key municipal tourism sites, several public art projects, Visit Middlesex branded bike rack installations, photographic and video content for tourism promotion, the revitalization of the County's heritage trail, and tourism destination signage for business operators throughout the County in keeping with the Grassroutes signage strategy.

MLPS Treat and Refer Pilot Project

Patients calling 9-1-1 experiencing symptoms of mental health and addiction challenges, now have the option to be transported to and treated at a crisis center, or another community-based clinic. Paramedics are providing on-scene assessment, including determining if the patient is medically stable and whether transfer to a community-based clinic is appropriate. If the patient consents, paramedics are permitted to transport patients directly to these centers, including the Centre for Mental Health and Addictions in London, Ontario.

Dedicated Offload Nurse Program have also provided temporary relief and assisted in restoring resources back to the 911 system. MLPS has an agreement with the London Health Sciences Centre to provide a dedicated offload nurse to both Victoria and University emergency departments for 16 hours a day per seven days per week.

Offload delays have been increasing at alarming rates often spanning more than 12+ hours in length in Middlesex-London. Every hour that a paramedic crew spends on offload delay is one less hour that they can respond to 911 calls. One of the solutions to combat these delays is Middlesex-London Paramedic Service successfully expanding patient care models for select 9-1-1 patients.

Cathy Burghardt-Jesson Elected 2023 County Warden

On December 8, 2022 Middlesex County Council elected Lucan Biddulph Mayor Cathy Burghardt-Jesson as the 2022-2023 Warden along with Mayor Aina DeViet of Middlesex Centre as Deputy Warden. Warden Burghardt-Jesson is currently serving her third term as Mayor of Lucan Biddulph. This will also be her third term as Warden.

"I would like to thank my colleagues for this vote of confidence. I am humbled and honoured to represent the residents of Middlesex County as Warden again. I am ready to continue to work together to ensure that the County and our local municipalities are progressive, innovative, and inventive. I am looking forward to working with our newly elected councilors and to moving Middlesex County forward in all areas, with a special focus on social services and housing concerns, EarlyON, economic development, road safety, land ambulance, and recent changes to provincial legislation. I wish Past Warden Warwick all the best in her retirement and extend my sincerest gratitude for her service to the County" said Warden Burghardt-Jesson.

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