

TO: Warden Jones and Members of Elgin County Council

Thank you, Elgin County Council, for this opportunity to respectfully add to the conversation about the future of the Aylmer Old Town Hall Library. Aymer has laboured hard to bring an actionable plan for a downtown library into the world. It was a labour of love, determination and courage, but like all births, it was not without some pain and uncertainty. Thank you for your patience and forbearance during this process.

Highlighting several points of this process:

Based on community response at the Forum of April 7 at the Old Town Hall where support for a downtown location was overwhelming and the response at the County-sponsored session at the EECC on May 6, the Mayor of Aylmer recognized the need for Aylmer's Town Council to endorse and present an actionable plan for expansion in the downtown area adjacent to the Old Town Hall. The community support including the Aylmer BIA, the Aymer Performing Arts Council, and other diverse resident populations, has evolved into a strong set of voices who are united in their commitment to work positively with the mayor.

During the voting process in support of the mayor's proposal, the Aylmer Town Council were eloquent in their reasons ranging from safety concerns to the loss of the community space to the reality that their own children would no longer be able to visit the library on their own were it to relocate to the EECC.

Finally, we would emphasize to the County that Aylmer should have the democratic right to determine the location of the library. We ask you to please accept and support the Town of Aylmer in realizing this long overdue library expansion in our downtown. We call on the County to respect this decision and to work collaboratively with Aylmer on this plan.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christina Mayhew', with a stylized, cursive script.

Christina Mayhew,

On behalf of DALES (Downtown Aylmer Library Expansion Committee)

cc. Brian Masschaele – Director Community and Cultural Services