



March 26, 2026

Warden Dominique Giguère  
Elgin County  
450 Sunset Drive  
St. Thomas, ON N5R 5V1

Dear Warden Giguère:

**Re: Strengthening Volunteerism in Elgin County – Volunteer Elgin Update**

With 2026 recognized as the International Year of Volunteers, and with **National Volunteer Week taking place April 20–26**, I am writing to ensure that you and members of council are aware of Volunteer Elgin and its growing impact in supporting volunteerism across Elgin County.

Volunteer Elgin is a volunteer-run, county-wide non-profit that exists to strengthen volunteerism by connecting residents with meaningful opportunities to contribute in their communities, while supporting local organizations in recruiting the volunteers they need to deliver programs, services, and events.

Our website, **VolunteerElgin.org**, provides a centralized online hub where organizations can post volunteer opportunities and residents can easily discover ways to get involved. The goal is straightforward: to make it easier for those who wish to contribute their time and skills to connect with organizations that rely on volunteers to support community life across the county.

Volunteer Elgin has emerged in response to a growing challenge shared by many communities: organizations are finding it increasingly difficult to recruit volunteers, while many residents are seeking meaningful ways to engage. By providing shared volunteer infrastructure, Volunteer Elgin is helping to strengthen the capacity of community organizations across Elgin County.

We have recently become aware that the Volunteer Elgin portal is attracting interest beyond the county, with other communities informally exploring it as a potential model for connecting residents with local volunteer opportunities. Volunteer Elgin has also become a member of **Volunteer Canada**, connecting the initiative to a national network of volunteer centres and organizations that support volunteerism across the country.

During National Volunteer Week, Volunteer Elgin will be raising awareness across the county, including hosting a **Volunteer Fair at the St. Thomas Public Library on April 25**, along with information displays in Aylmer and Dutton throughout the week.

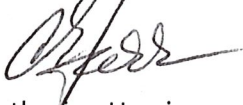
As community leaders, you and members of council are often in conversation with residents, organizations, and community groups. Where it feels natural, we would welcome your help in simply pointing people toward Volunteer Elgin as a place to explore opportunities to get involved.

Even small moments of awareness can make a meaningful difference in connecting people to their communities.

Enclosed is a brief overview of Volunteer Elgin, along with information about our upcoming activities.

Thank you for the leadership you provide across Elgin County. I would be pleased to connect if you would like any additional information.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Harrison', written over the printed name.

Catherine Harrison  
Communications Chair  
Volunteer Elgin

[VolunteerElgin.org](http://VolunteerElgin.org)



## **About Volunteer Elgin**

Volunteer Elgin is a community-based initiative dedicated to strengthening volunteerism across Elgin County, Ontario.

The organization connects residents with meaningful volunteer opportunities while supporting local non-profit and community organizations in recruiting volunteers and promoting volunteerism across the county.

Volunteer Elgin was re-established in 2024 by a volunteer leadership group representing several local organizations committed to strengthening the county's volunteer infrastructure. The initiative is entirely volunteer led, with work supported by membership dues and an initial grant from the Elgin-St. Thomas Community Foundation, which funded the development of the website.

Volunteer Elgin currently includes 15 member organizations and continues to grow across Elgin County.

Leadership and operations are supported by a working committee with representatives from:

- Alzheimer Society Southwest Partners
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of St. Thomas
- Family & Children's Services St. Thomas Elgin
- Southwestern Public Health
- St. Thomas Public Library
- Town of Aylmer
- VON Middlesex Elgin

## **Volunteer Canada Membership**

Volunteer Elgin is a member of Volunteer Canada, the national organization dedicated to promoting volunteerism and strengthening volunteer centres across the country.

## Key Initiatives

Volunteer Opportunity Portal: VolunteerElgin.Org

Launched in late 2024, the Volunteer Elgin website provides a centralized portal where residents can browse and apply for volunteer opportunities with organizations across the county. Member organizations manage their own profiles and can post unlimited volunteer opportunities.

Volunteer Fair

The Volunteer Elgin Volunteer Fair brings together community organizations and residents interested in volunteering. The event provides a welcoming environment where people can learn about local organizations, meet volunteer coordinators, and explore ways to get involved.

Launched in 2025, the Volunteer Fair has expanded in 2026 to include displays in Aylmer and Dutton during National Volunteer Week.

Volunteer Week Outreach

During National Volunteer Week, Volunteer Elgin promotes volunteerism through community outreach activities, displays, and events designed to highlight the impact of volunteers and encourage participation.

## 2026 Priorities

Volunteer Elgin's focus for 2026 includes:

- **Expanding public awareness** of volunteer opportunities through increased advertising, social media and traditional media outreach
- **Increasing membership** among community organizations
- Enhancing our community network **by forging stronger relationships with key stakeholders** across Elgin County

Volunteer Elgin believes that strong volunteer networks help build healthier, more connected, and more resilient communities.

More information is available at:

[www.volunteerelgin.org](http://www.volunteerelgin.org)



As a member of Volunteer Canada, Volunteer Elgin is helping to put Elgin County on the map

# VOLUNTEER CENTRE DIRECTORY

Use the mapping tool below to find a Volunteer Center in your community.

Map Satellite Wingham's Corners London Putnam Salford Burgessville Norwich  
Wartford Stratroy MI Brydges Springford La Salette  
Napier Melbourne Muncie Southwold Tiptonville Aylmer Richmond Stratfordville  
Alvinston Appin Glencoe Sheddin Fergus Union Sparta Malahide Glen Meyer  
Newbury Strathboun Dutton Port Talbot Port Stanley Port Bruce Port Burwell  
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