

## **You might not have noticed...**

West Lincoln has made rural infrastructure improvements during the past council term, including bridge repair, road resurfacing, and new buildings.

### **Bridges rebuilt**

After staff showed council the cost estimates of refurbishing Bridge 34 on North Chippewa Rd, it was slated to be closed, removed, and hammerhead turnarounds installed on each side of the creek.

“One of the first orders of business addressed by the new council was to examine the cost, which was just shy of a million bucks,” said Mayor Dave Bylsma. “We found a solution for about half the price, because council worked with our public works director to get it done safely, without overengineering.”

Mayor Bylsma has always been an advocate for rural infrastructure. He earned a civil engineering degree from McMaster.

Next, the township re-decked three additional bridges – Dochstader Rd, Patterson Rd, and Boyle Rd; a four-fold increase over the previous term. Additionally, the Region has redone bridges on Regional Rd. 69 and Road 14 near Warner.

“We have 90 bridge- and culvert-like structures, each with a lifespan of 90 years,” Bylsma said. “We ought to be doing one per year.”

### **New structures**

Construction of Fire Station 2 is going ahead. The township secured funding for its community center bandshell from Canada Games and continues to support Abingdon Community Center.

“We get perfect scores on our water system, which reflects the high quality of township staff,” noted Bylsma.

### **Roads resurfaced**

Council and staff negotiated the largest partnership in West Lincoln history, securing \$4 million in provincial and federal funds to rebuild St Ann’s Rd and bridge. While the township is ready to proceed on the heart of Wellandport, the Region has shifted priorities for the time being.

All municipalities receive gas tax rebates, which West Lincoln applies to road rehabilitation. One example is the recent 8Km paving of Concession 5.

### **What you can expect**

“We’ll continue bridge replacements and upgrading gravel roads to the more stable chip and seal,” said Bylsma. “We’ll also keep advocating at the Region for improvements to Regional Roads 63 and 69.”

**Express your views on rural infrastructure in the voting booth.**

**If you value principles over politics, vote to re-elect West Lincoln mayor  
Dave Bylsma**