

Allan Alls on the accomplishments in 2021 and looking into 2022

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News

Alls hopes to establish a Chamber of Commerce for Erin

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With 2021 tucked neatly behind us and 2022 just beginning to shine a light on the year's possibilities, the Erin Advocate caught up with Mayor Allan Alls to chat reflections and looking forward.

The biggest accomplishments of 2021:

- Secured \$2.64 million in funding for the Erin Community Centre (Centre 2000), which will enable the town to make a number of upgrades to the facility.

“This was one of my ambitions since I became mayor,” said Alls. “Several years ago, we had a major freezing rainstorm and had nowhere to house people. Now we will, because we can put a generator in that will keep the place running.”

- Council approved new Urban Design Guidelines for development in Erin.

“This is significant because it helps keep people connected to the rural community, but at the same time allows for

the more intense growth that is supposed to happen,” said Alls.

- Solidifying the plans for the wastewater treatment plant and getting bids for construction to begin.

“That was a major accomplishment,” Alls said.

- Moving forward with the Community Improvement Plan, which provided opportunities for small businesses such as grants to improve the facade of their business.
- Passing a budget of 2.9 per cent, particularly with the new equipment the town has had to purchase and taking into consideration the inflation during COVID. This included a new Zamboni for the arena.

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Looking towards the projects of 2022:

- Alls said he is hoping they can begin Phase 2 of the Rotary Riverwalk project, which was previously delayed due to COVID. The walk will go along the river as a trail.
- The wastewater treatment plant will begin early in 2022, with the framing of the building aiming to be in place by the summertime. Although Alls says it will not be completed before the end of this council’s terms, the project will be well underway.
- Establishing a formal Chamber of Commerce following the disbanding of the BIA, which Alls said was not a formal organization. Alls notes the chamber would focus on the whole town, and hopefully help bring businesses and changes to help everyone.

Reflecting on council’s term together:

“If there’s anything I’m proud of, it’s the fact this council has worked together without much arguing,” said Alls. “Obviously we don’t always agree, but we’ve always agreed to disagree civilly, and hence we’ve accomplished a lot. It makes a big difference.”

Hopes for council in 2022:

The Town of Erin owns a lot of land Alls says they will never use, and unopened roadways that will never be completed. He would like to see a policy developed on how they sell that land and what the funds can be used for.

He noted there won’t be a lot of new things council will likely be able to accomplish, as this term of council technically ends before the middle of the year.

“I don’t see an awful lot being able to happen in the next six or seven months, but I do hope during that time we can encourage some good people to put their names forward,” said Alls.

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