



Keeping Track

City of St. Thomas Council Highlights

February 18, 2026 | Issue 34



GEOTECHNICAL SERVICES RFP 2025-049 AWARD

Council received Report ES-04-26 and award RFP 2025-049 to MTE Consultants Inc. In support of the City's 2026 capital projects, an RFP was issued to secure qualified consulting services for geo-environmental testing, quality assurance testing and geotechnical investigations. With 16 submissions received, the following evaluation tool was used:

Part A – Technical Total 75%

- Understanding of the project objectives and requirements (20)
- Project Manager and team experience and qualifications (40)
- Proposed work plan, schedule, and time/task matrix (15)

Part B – Financial Total 25%

TOTAL 100%

The highest scoring proposal was MTE Consultants Inc. at \$288,750 excluding HST.

A LOOK INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

1. Geotechnical Services RFP 2025-049 Award
2. Community Grant Requests
3. Heritage Alteration Permit - 581 Talbot Street
4. Memorandum of Understanding for Data Sharing with the Electrical Safety Authority



HERITAGE ALTERATION PERMIT - 581 TALBOT STREET



Council received Report MHC-02-26 with the recommendation that a Heritage Alteration Permit for 581 Talbot Street be issued. The proposed alterations and repairs on the front facade would include replacement of the second and third storey windows, a new illuminated sign, installation of black vertical metal siding and new window openings. On the rear of the building, new windows have been proposed. The applicant stated that the proposed alterations are restorative and adaptive in nature. Repairing instead of replacing has been a focus and a priority to meet the guidelines for the Heritage Conservation District Plan and individual designation.

LUNCH WITH THE MAYORS EVENT

On February 11th, the St. Thomas & District Chamber of Commerce hosted their Annual event - Lunch with the Mayors. This event brought together business leaders, community partners, and residents for an engaging afternoon of conversation, connection, and local insight. Hosted at the Memorial Arena, the event offered an opportunity to hear directly from Mayor Preston, Mayor Sloan and Mayor Jones about current priorities, economic development initiatives, and the projects shaping the City's and local municipalities' future. Mayor Joe Preston reflected on his time in office and spoke about his decision not to seek re-election this fall. He shared gratitude for the opportunity to serve and for the many "dreamers" he's worked alongside to make great things happen for our community. More than a networking lunch, the gathering reinforced the value of accessibility and transparency in local government. Events like this continue to build strong relationships and help ensure St. Thomas remains a vibrant, forward-looking place to live, work, and invest.



Photo credit: Establish Media



COMMUNITY GRANT REQUESTS

Council received Report TR-03-26 relating to Community Grant Requests. The City of St. Thomas 2026 budget allocated \$35,000 to Community Grants. Council retains full discretion in its decision-making authority and may approve, modify, or decline any application regardless of staff's administrative assessment. City Staff have reviewed and screened applications in accordance to the Community Grants policy, including eligibility criteria related to organizational status, nature of the request, location of the initiative, and alignment with City objectives.

The following groups applied for the Community Grants program:

- Alzheimer Society Southwest Partners - Seniors Picnic in the Park (\$2,500)
 - This grant funding would support the costs associated with entertainment, advertisement, insurance, park rental and the St. John's Ambulance.
- St. Thomas Skating Club - Community Ice Show (\$2821.20)
 - This request for in-kind support will assist with facility fees to allow the show to proceed with two shows and additional time to set up curtains, lights, coverings, etc.
- Focus on Nature - Nature Photography Workshops (\$3,500)
 - The grant funding will help offset the costs of workshops to the schools in St. Thomas for either half-price or free depending on the school and students financial needs.
- Our Place Respite - Pfeffer Derby (\$862.00)
 - This request for in-kind support for the waiver of arena rental fees to host the Pfeffer Derby to accommodate participants - particularly those with physical disabilities and to offer this event free of charge - keeping it equitable and accessible.
- St. Thomas Elgin Food Bank - Loading Deck Addition (\$9,856.04)
 - The request will assist to offset the cost of the building permit for construction of a loading deck to assist with food delivery.

The Community Grant funding total year to date is \$19,539.24. The balance remaining in the Community Grants program is \$15,460.76. This amount will remain available throughout 2026 to support any additional eligible initiatives.

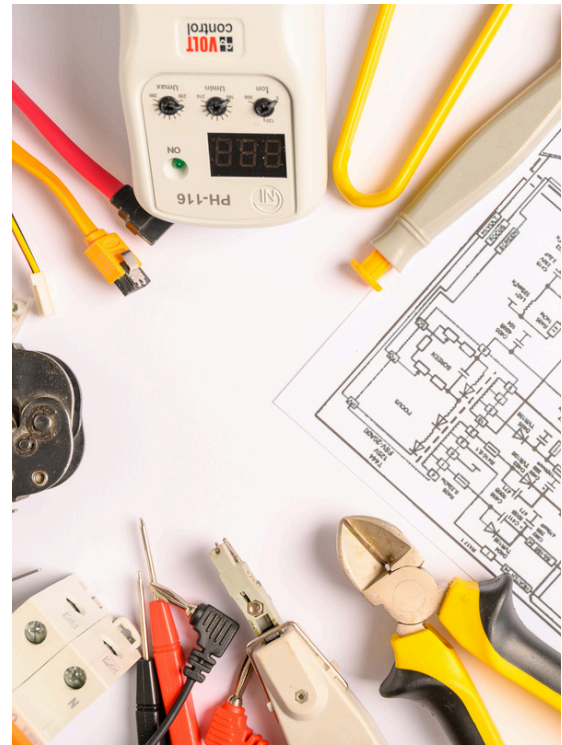




MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR DATA SHARING WITH THE ELECTRICAL SAFETY AUTHORITY

Council received report PD-04-2026 in relation to data sharing with the Electrical Safety Authority. As part of the Building Services monthly reporting, the Electrical Safety Authority (ESA) receives permit data from the City of St. Thomas. This data allows the ESA to coordinate electrical inspections within their scope of permit processes. The City's report includes all permits issued in the previous month.

The Electrical Safety Authority has now offered to provide the City with reciprocal data on select electrical work that does not require a building permit issued by the City. This report includes installations such as electric vehicle charging stations, solar panels, and battery storage systems. In collaboration with Fire Services, this information will help identify properties where additional electrical risks may be present such as electric vehicle charging units, Solar Panel installations, and electrical battery storage systems. Having this knowledge in advance supports safer, more informed emergency response and improves fire fighting preparedness. As with the City's reporting, the data shared by ESA contains no personal information and is used strictly for operational and public safety purposes.



UPCOMING FLAG RAISINGS & PROCLAMATIONS

23
FEB

World Thinking Day
⌚ 10:00AM 📍 CITY HALL

23
FEB

Human Trafficking Awareness Day
⌚ 11:00AM 📍 CITY HALL

Make your mark in the community with a proclamation, flag-raising, or by lighting up the iconic Jumbo monument! The Proclamation, Flag-Raising, and Jumbo Lighting Request Form can be found on the City's website or is available at the City Clerk's office in City Hall. Requests should be submitted as far in advance as possible to ensure they can be placed on a Council agenda. Request forms can be submitted in electronic or hard copy format.



FUTURE MEETINGS

- Monday, March 2, 2026 at 5 p.m.
- Monday, March 9, 2026 at 5 p.m.
- Monday, March 16, 2026 at 5 p.m.

To view the council meetings live, visit:
www.stthomas.ca/watch

PAST MEETINGS

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www.stthomas.ca



info@stthomas.ca



519.631.1680 'O'



545 Talbot Street, St.
Thomas



@cityofstthomasontario



@cityofstthomas



@cityofstthomas



@cityofstthomasontario

