



Keeping Track

City of St. Thomas Council Highlights

June 16, 2026 | Issue 46



MEMORIAL ARENA ARTIFACT PRESERVATION PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

Council has approved the transfer of Memorial Arena artifact collection to the Elgin County Museum. This transfer will assist with preservation, exhibition, and long-term stewardship. The collection consists of jerseys, trophies, photographs, banners and other St. Thomas' sporting history. Previously displayed at Maple Leaf Gardens, the Clarence "Hap" Day banner is part of the collection. The collection represents approximately 15 years of effort from City staff and the contributions from the community. Staff will continue to work with the Museum and any interested donors to ensure the materials are preserved and recognized in the community's historical record. The City established this partnership with the Elgin County Museum in 2026.

A LOOK INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

1. Community Grant Requests - Intake 3
2. Downtown Development Board Rail Coach Expenses
3. Application to the Development Charges Reduction Fund
4. Homelessness Prevention Program 2026-27 Investment Plan
5. Railway Lands Area Land Use Planning Process (Secondary Plan) - Revised Terms of Reference



HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION PROGRAM 2026-27 INVESTMENT PLAN

Council reviewed the Homelessness Prevention Program (2026-2027) Investment Plan. The provincially funded program through the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing allocated \$2,527,500 for St. Thomas - Elgin. This allocated amount is the same as the previous year's allocation. For 2026-2027, the plan will focus on sustaining critical homelessness services, emergency shelter, supportive housing, rent supplements, outreach services and system navigation. The service categories for the Investment Plan:

- Supportive Housing
- Community Outreach and Support Services
- Housing Assistance
- Emergency Shelter Solutions
- Administration

Homelessness Prevention Program recipients impacted by any adjustments to the program have been consulted and are in agreement with adjustments.



FAIRVIEW AND BURWELL CORRIDOR FENCING



Council received Report ES33-26 related to Fairview and Burwell Corridor Fencing. The fencing on Fairview Avenue, Burwell Road and Ron McNeil Line was installed in 1996 as part of a requirement in the Noise Assessment Report. This report recommended the Developer to install a sound barrier fence. The sound barrier fencing identified in the Subdivision Agreement must be maintained and repaired/replaced as per the report. Staff conveyed 3 options for Council to consider. Staff requested support for Option 1 which is Spot Repair and/or Replacement. Staff will provide information letters to affected property owners with a reminder of provisions in the Subdivision Agreement. All costs for the repair/replacement will be invoiced to the property owner.



DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT BOARD RAIL COACH EXPENSES

The Downtown Development Board requested Council approval to move forward with the installation of replacement windows on the DDB-owned promotional rail coach. The Downtown Development Board uses the Rail Coach for events such as Nostalgia Nights and Oktoberfest. The DDB have a few options to choose from:

- Use funds from the existing contingency reserve (\$45,000)
- Repayment Agreement with ECRM to be paid by no later than 2027
- Combination of both options

Utilizing the contingency reserve fund would eliminate the need for a multi year repayment plan and possible financial burden placed on the Elgin County Railway Museum. The cost of the restoration project is \$15,730 plus tax.

COMMUNITY GRANT REQUESTS - INTAKE 3

Council reviewed the recent intake for Community Grants. There were 6 applications submitted requesting sponsorship, cash grants, waiver of rental fees, medical equipment and police services. Of the 6 applications, the following three submissions were recommended to be approved:

- St. Thomas Kinsmen Club - Easter Egg Hunt - waiver of Pinafore Park rental fees (\$132.20)
- Iron Horse Festival of St. Thomas - Railway City Music & Arts Festival - August 13th-16th - waiver of Pinafore Park rental fees (\$5,644.50)
- Elgin County Pride - Pride Family Day event - waiver of Pinafore Park Bandshell (\$336.00)

A balance of \$11, 708.84 is remaining for additional eligible initiatives for 2026.



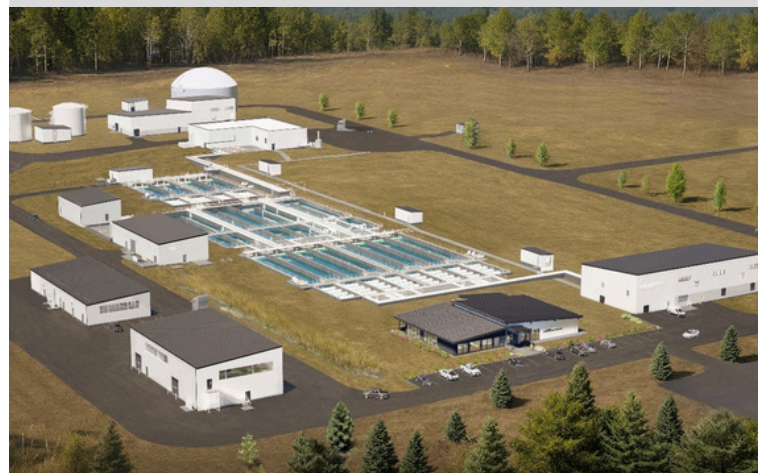


2026 MUNICIPAL ELECTION - GENERAL INFORMATION

Council received information relating to the upcoming 2026 Municipal Election. In the report, there were several points highlighted; nomination/registration, voter's list, voter information letters, and voting method. In an event that Council is in a restricted acts (lame duck) position, a proposed delegation of authority report will be provided to Council. Also, Council will create a Municipal Election Compliance Audit Committee before October 1st. Over the past several weeks, there have been various campaigns through social media, episodes of the Bee Hive, the City website and local newspapers to encourage residents to vote, learn about municipal government and attend local events. Currently an accessibility plan is being drafted and will be forwarded to the Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee for review.

APPLICATION TO THE DEVELOPMENT CHARGES REDUCTION FUND

Council directed Staff to submit an application to the Development Charges Reduction Fund. This application would be submitted for the Dalewood Water Reclamation Plant construction project. The application period is open from June 10th until June 19th. The following points will be part of the application assessment: the scale of the development charge reduction, the number of homes expected to benefit from the relief, the municipality's financial contribution and shovel readiness. The City would seek approximately \$25 million in funding which includes a contingency amount and able to support a 30% development charge reduction over a three-year period. Staff feel that the inclusion of a contingency amount within the request is considered prudent to help mitigate the risk of an unfunded financial impact to the City.





RAILWAY LANDS AREA LAND USE PLANNING PROCESS (SECONDARY PLAN) - REVISED TERMS OF REFERENCE

City staff proposed a revised, City-led planning process for the Railway Lands Area. This process combines a preferred master plan/Secondary Plan for the area with an Official Plan Amendment and Community Planning Permit By-law for a section of this area. Doug Tarry Limited has given their support with the revised approach and will continue to be involved with the process as a landowner. Moving forward, there would be a reduction in project costs from an estimated \$750,000 to \$350,000, shorten timelines to 9-10 months, and provide a coordinated framework for future growth across more than 400 properties with no new municipal tax-supported funding required.



UPCOMING FLAG RAISINGS & PROCLAMATIONS

20
JUL

Drowning Prevention
Month

🕒 10:00AM 📍 CITY HALL

20
JUL

Elgin County Pride
Week 2026

🕒 11:00AM 📍 CITY HALL

JUMBO MONUMENT LIGHTING

July 19-25

Drowning
Prevention
Week



Blue



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, July 13, 2026 at 5 p.m.
- Monday, August 10, 2026 at 5 p.m.
- Tuesday, September 8, 2026 at 5 p.m.

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

PAST MEETINGS

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