



Keeping Track

City of St. Thomas Council Highlights

September 15, 2026 | Issue 50



RESIDENTIAL DRIVEWAY WIDTH REVIEW AND ZONING BY-LAW REGULATIONS

Council directed City staff to prepare proposed updates to residential driveway width and parking regulations for public consultation. The review will consider whether standards established in 1988 continue to reflect today's housing types, lot sizes and parking needs, while balancing landscaping, neighbourhood design, pedestrian safety, stormwater management and street trees. Residents, the development community and other stakeholders will have an opportunity to provide input before any changes are recommended to Council.

A LOOK INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

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Priority Area #6: Environmental Stewardship
2. Railway Lands Area Master Plan -
Phases 1 and 2
3. St. Thomas-Elgin's 10-year Housing
and Homelessness Plan
4. Proposed Parkland Dedication By-
law and Required City Official Plan
Amendments
5. Provincial Data Centre Playbook -
Options for Municipalities

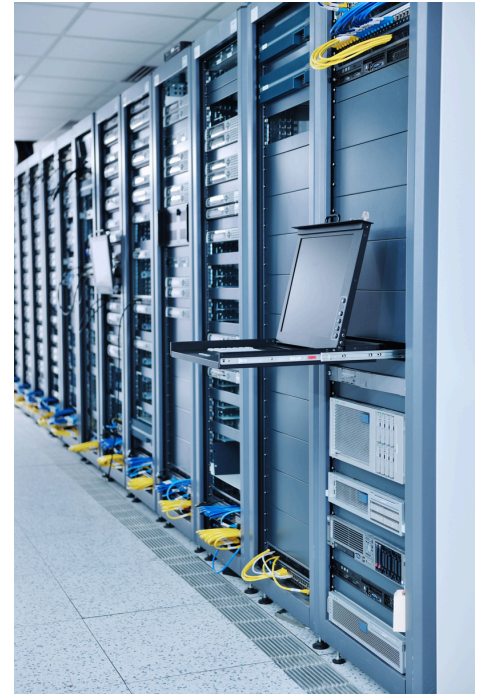


PROVINCIAL DATA CENTRE PLAYBOOK - OPTIONS FOR MUNICIPALITIES

As interest in data centre development grows, Council is taking a thoughtful approach to how these facilities could fit within St. Thomas. Council received an update on Ontario's Data Centre Development Playbook and directed staff to study potential opportunities and impacts locally.

Data centres can bring new investment, strengthen digital infrastructure and generate property tax revenue. While some facilities can place significant demands on electricity, water and wastewater services, newer cooling technologies mean some data centres require little or no municipal water for cooling, making it important to consider each proposal individually. The City's review will consider infrastructure capacity, noise, vibration, emissions, environmental impacts, surrounding land uses and the long-term needs of employment lands. Staff will also explore whether updates to the Official Plan and Zoning By-law are needed.

Council has directed staff to prepare an Interim Control By-law for consideration at the September 21st meeting, providing time to carefully study the issue and ensure future decisions support responsible, sustainable community growth.



RAILWAY LANDS AREA MASTER PLAN - PHASES 1 AND 2

Council received an update on the Railway Lands Area Master Plan, which will guide the future of this area over the next 25 years. Three preliminary concepts explore opportunities for new housing, mixed-use development, parks and green space, trails, transportation connections and commercial uses.

Community feedback has highlighted the importance of more housing choices, green space, trails, heritage, connectivity and access to the CASO Station and museum. The Project Team will use public feedback and technical studies to develop a preferred Master Plan. Further public consultation is planned for November, with the final plan expected to come to Council later this year.





ST. THOMAS-ELGIN'S 10-YEAR HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS PLAN

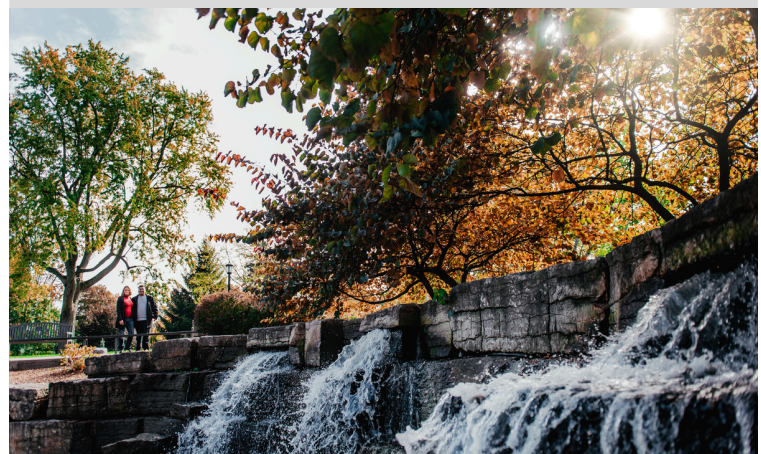
Council approved “On the Right Track: St. Thomas-Elgin’s 10-Year Housing & Homelessness Plan 2026-2036”, following the review by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. The 10-year Plan establishes a vision of “Housing for Everyone” and focuses on four key areas:

- ending homelessness
- sustaining housing
- building more homes
- leading collaboratively.

The Province recognized local efforts to expand affordable and supportive housing, increase housing stability and move people along the housing continuum. An implementation framework will guide the work ahead, with annual progress reports beginning in 2027 to track results and support continued collaboration across St. Thomas-Elgin.

PROPOSED PARKLAND DEDICATION BY-LAW AND REQUIRED CITY OFFICIAL PLAN AMENDMENTS

Council directed staff to move forward with a proposed Parkland Dedication By-law and related Official Plan amendments to help meet the City’s future park and recreational needs. Building on the 2026 Parks and Recreation Master Plan, the proposed changes will provide tools to secure parkland or cash-in-lieu contributions through new development and redevelopment. The updated framework will help the City respond to continued growth, higher-density development and intensification while supporting parks, trails and recreational opportunities for residents. Draft amendments and the proposed by-law will be presented through the required public consultation and public meeting process.





BRIGHTER FUTURE MONTHLY UPDATE PRIORITY AREA #6: ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

Council received its latest Brighter Future Strategic Plan update, highlighting progress on Environmental Stewardship and the work underway to create a greener, healthier and more resilient St. Thomas.

Recent successes include:

- more than 150,000 kWh of solar energy generated at the Joe Thornton Community Centre
- five new electric City vehicles
- naturalization projects at Waterworks Park and the Doug Tarry Stormwater Management Pond
- continued investment in our urban forest
- approximately 17 kms of new trails at Yarmouth Yards
- chronolog installations in Waterworks Park and Lake Margaret

These investments are about more than protecting the environment—they help create healthier neighbourhoods, welcoming green spaces and a community better prepared for the future. The City is also developing a Climate Adaptation Plan and advancing plans for fleet electrification and EV charging infrastructure, while exploring opportunities for residents to participate through tree planting, environmental monitoring and other community initiatives.





UPCOMING FLAG RAISINGS & PROCLAMATIONS

SEPTEMBER

21 Childhood Cancer Awareness Month
🕒 10:00 am

21 Legion Week
🕒 11:00 am

25 Franco-Ontarian Day
🕒 2:00 pm

30 Orange Shirt Day
🕒 12:00 pm

OCTOBER

16 International Day for the Eradication of Poverty
🕒 10:00 am

19 Foster Family Appreciation Week
🕒 9:00 am

20 Ontario Public Library Week
🕒 11:00 am

JUMBO MONUMENT LIGHTING

Sept 14-20
Big Brothers
Big Sisters
Month
💡 Teal

Sept 21-28
Childhood
Cancer
Awareness
Month
💡 Gold

Sept 28
Immune
Thrombocytopenia
💡 Purple



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, September 21, 2026 at 5 p.m.
- Monday, October 5, 2026 at 5 p.m.
- Tuesday, October 13, 2026 at 5 p.m.

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

PAST MEETINGS

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