



Keeping Track

City of St. Thomas Council Highlights

September 9, 2026 | Issue 49



2026 SITE PLAN UPDATE REPORT

Council received the First Report of the 2026 Site Plan Control Committee. The Site Plan Control Committee reviewed several development proposals this spring. The Committee recommended final approval, subject to conditions, for a 12-unit townhouse development at 125 Centennial Avenue, a 22-unit apartment building at 57 Walnut Street, a daycare addition at 8 Hammond Street and portable classrooms at 345 Fairview Avenue. A temporary wireless telecommunications installation at 100 PowerCo Parkway was also reviewed, with no Committee comments, subject to confirmation from the St. Thomas Municipal Airport.

A LOOK INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

1. 2026-30 Accessibility Plan
2. London and Port Stanley Rail Extension Project Update
3. Long Term Hydro Supply
4. Ministry of Transportation Highway 3 - St. Thomas to Aylmer
5. 2026 Pumpkin Prowl - Road Closure Request



LONDON AND PORT STANLEY RAIL EXTENSION PROJECT UPDATE

The City is proud of its railway heritage and the important role it continues to play in our identity. Council remains committed to protecting the L&PS corridor and will continue to advocate for opportunities that could support a future rail connection. By keeping the corridor available, the City is ensuring this important piece of our railway history remains part of the conversation as St. Thomas grows.

For approximately 10 years, the City has worked with CN through ongoing discussions, advocacy and technical review to explore opportunities to reconnect the City-owned rail line to the CN network. While a feasible connection has not been identified at this time, the vision for a future rail connection remains. The City will continue to protect the corridor, maintain the existing rail infrastructure and advocate for opportunities to make a future connection possible. By preserving the corridor today, the City is keeping the door open for future possibilities as circumstances, partnerships and opportunities evolve.

In the meantime, Council asked the Director of Parks and Recreation to explore opportunities for the City-owned lands to serve as a passive recreational green space for the community which allows residents to enjoy the corridor while respecting its railway history and maintaining its future potential.

The allocated funds for the rail extension project of \$285,000 has been transferred to the City's Infrastructure Reserve, where it will be available to support future municipal infrastructure priorities.

Any proposal would return to Council for consideration through the budget process. Most importantly, any use of the lands would be designed to protect the rail corridor and keep the opportunity for a future rail connection open. This approach allows the City to make positive use of the space today while preserving an important transportation corridor, honouring our railway heritage and continuing to advocate for future possibilities.





LONG TERM HYDRO SUPPLY

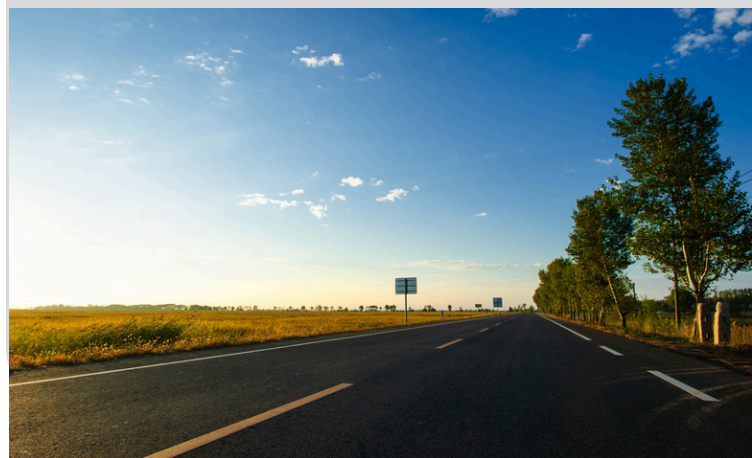
Through a report from City staff, the Independent Electricity System Operator has released its South and Central Bulk Plan. This plan is forecasting significant electricity demand growth in the London region driven by residential and industrial development. Longer-term recommendations include a new 500/230 kV transformer station in the St. Thomas area in the late 2030s, supported by expanded transmission capacity. As St. Thomas continues to grow, the City is also navigating service territory boundaries between Entegrus and Hydro One. These boundaries, which do not automatically change with municipal boundary adjustments, can create additional complexity and duplication for new development, particularly in growing employment areas such as Yarmouth Yards.

MTO HIGHWAY 3 - ST. THOMAS TO AYLMER

Council received the report on the Ministry of Transportation's Highway 3 study between St. Thomas and Aylmer. The study is exploring potential new routes and short-term improvements before identifying a preferred alignment. City staff are providing input to ensure future plans consider St. Thomas' Transportation Master Plan, community growth and continued development of Yarmouth Yards.

City Staff suggested some short term and long term alternatives such as:

- consideration be given to maintain existing driveways/access points - Technology Trail, Yarmouth Centre Road and existing Highway 3
- timing of the long term Hwy 3 corridor alignment be coordinated with the opening of Technology Trail

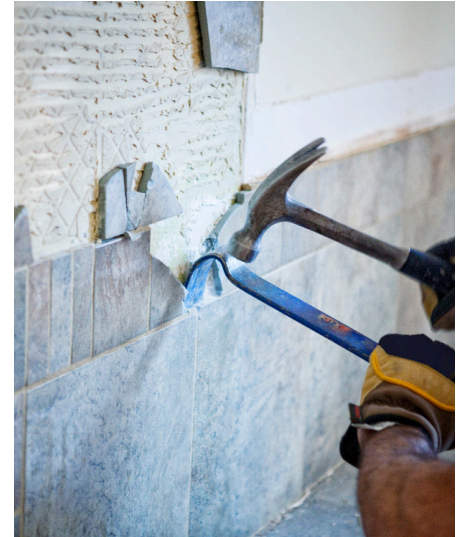




COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN PROJECTS

Council approved Community Improvement Program incentives to support a \$4.3-million redevelopment of 423-427 Talbot Street, creating 30 new residential units and one commercial space. The project will restore and reimagine an existing downtown building, bringing new homes, investment and activity to the heart of our community.

Council received an update on the completed \$75,000 transformation of 581 Talbot Street and directed that an agreement be prepared to provide eligible Community Improvement Program grants. Now home to The Atrium, the restored building features modern offices, meeting rooms and shared workspaces while preserving its heritage character.



HERITAGE ALTERATION PERMITS

Heritage Alteration – 429-431 Talbot Street
The Municipal Heritage Committee reviewed a Heritage Alteration Permit application for 429-431 Talbot Street to allow additional rooftop vents related to interior renovations. The proposed vents would be located at the rear of the heritage building and set back to minimize visibility from the street.



Heritage Alteration – 52 Moore Street
The Municipal Heritage Committee reviewed a Heritage Alteration Permit application for 52 Moore Street, including resurfacing an existing parking area within the Heritage Conservation District. Staff reviewed the proposal against the District's policies and guidelines and identified no concerns from a heritage perspective.



2026-30 ACCESSIBILITY PLAN

Council has approved the City's 2026-2030 Accessibility Plan, outlining how St. Thomas will continue working to prevent and remove barriers across municipal services, facilities and programs. This multi-year plan highlights accessibility improvements already completed and establishes objectives for the years ahead. Developed with input from the Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee and City leadership, the plan supports the City's ongoing commitment to creating a more accessible and inclusive community for residents and visitors of all abilities. The Free AccessAbility Open House will take place on September 22nd at Joe Thornton Community Centre from 2pm to 7pm. Door prizes, vendors, exhibits and a sign language interpreter will be part of the Open House. Free transit will be provided for this event.



COLUMBUS CLUB - FILL THE RINK NIGHT TAILGATE PARTY - REQUEST FOR LETTER OF NO OBJECTION

Council has provided a letter of no objection for the upcoming Tailgate Party as requested by the Columbus Club of St. Thomas. In partnership with the St. Thomas & District Chamber of Commerce and 94.1myFM, the Tailgate Party will take place ahead of the St. Thomas Stars' home opener on Friday September 11th at the Joe Thornton Community Centre. The event will take place in the parking lot of the Columbus Club on Wellington Street from 5pm-7pm. The entire community is invited to help kick off the 2026/2027 season.



ALMA STREET RAIL CORRIDOR INFRASTRUCTURE CROSSING AGREEMENTS

Council directed City staff to prepare a by-law authorizing agreements with Canadian National Railway (CN) for the replacement of aging watermain and sanitary sewer infrastructure beneath the rail corridor on Alma Street, south of Nolan Street. Following technical review, CN approved the proposed crossings in August. The work is part of the broader Alma Street Reconstruction project and is expected to proceed during the final months of the 2026 construction season, within the project's approved budget.

2026 PUMPKIN PROWL - ROAD CLOSURE REQUEST

Council has approved a temporary road closure for Talbot Street on Friday, October 23, from 4:00 to 7:30 p.m. Hosted by the Downtown Development Board, the 2026 Pumpkin Prowl will take place on Talbot Street from Elgin Street to Manitoba Street. The Prowl has become a favourite fall tradition in the downtown area. Families are encouraged to partake in trick or treating, dressing up in costumes and the Goose Chase app. A big thank you to all of the businesses that participate in making the Prowl so much fun! The City will post details related to temporary transit detours for this event on social media. Stop by City Hall for a treat!





UPCOMING FLAG RAISINGS & PROCLAMATIONS

SEPTEMBER

10 Welcoming Week
🕒 10:00 am

14 Big Brothers Big Sisters
🕒 10:00 am

21 Childhood Cancer Awareness Month
🕒 10:00 am

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 6-13
Welcoming Week
👉 Blue & Gold

Sept 14-20
Big Brothers Big Sisters Month
👉 Teal

Sept 21-28
Childhood Cancer Awareness Month
👉 Gold



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 14, 2026 at 5 p.m.
- Monday, September 21, 2026 at 5 p.m.
- Monday, October 5, 2026 at 5 p.m.

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