



Keeping Track

City of St. Thomas Council Highlights

May 13, 2025 | Issue 12



HOSPICE OF ELGIN

Representatives from Hospice of Elgin appeared before Council to provide an update on the hospice project and to recognize the City's continued support, including the donation of land for the site. The future facility, "The Cottage", will overlook Waterworks Park and serve as a "hub of care" for individuals and families across Elgin County and St. Thomas. Designed to provide compassionate, end-of-life care, the hospice will focus on dignity, comfort, and helping people live fully to the end. The project will include 30 new staff roles, 200 volunteer opportunities, and 40 newly planted trees. Special cuddle beds will allow loved ones to remain close during care.

A LOOK INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

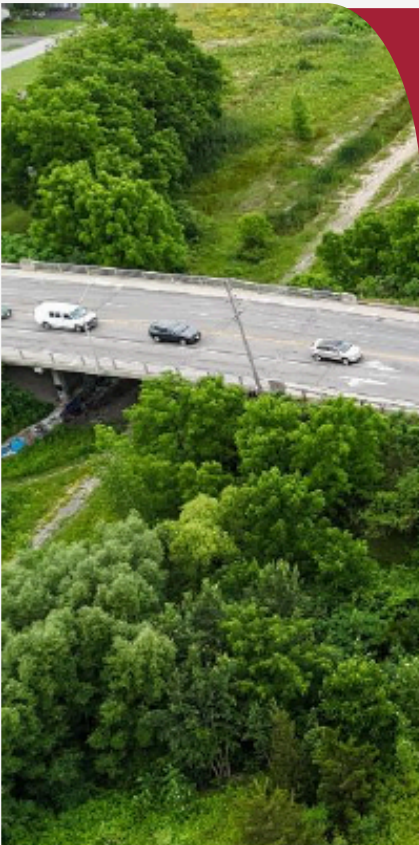
1. Lake Margaret Area Water Safety
2. Fairview Ave Tender Award
3. Scott Street Surplus Land
4. City of St. Thomas Flag



LAKE MARGARET AREA WATER SAFETY

Council approved the installation of clearly marked entrance and exit signage around Lake Margaret to support emergency response and provide better wayfinding for lake users. Additionally, Council directed staff to draft a Personal Floatation Device (PFD) by-law that would require the use of PFDs for recreational activities on the lake.

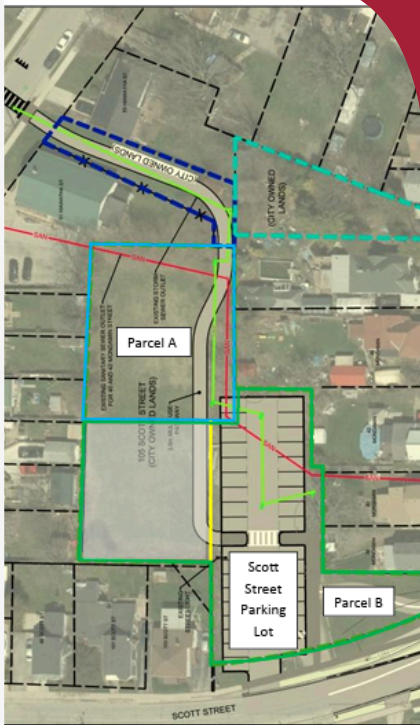
In a further step to improve water safety, Council also supported the installation of ring buoys at designated access points around the lake. The installation will be accompanied by a maintenance schedule, safety signage, and a by-law to prevent tampering with the equipment. The new signage will be funded through Parks and Forestry operational budgets.



FAIRVIEW AVENUE TENDER AWARD

Council has approved the \$4,849,931 (excluding HST) contract for the rehabilitation of Fairview Avenue and removal of the deteriorating bridge over the former CASO rail line. The work was awarded to Bre-Ex Construction Inc., the lowest of five bidders, and is set to begin in June 2025 with completion expected by October.

The project will upgrade aging infrastructure, including sewers, watermains, street lighting, and traffic signals, while also improving intersection safety. It includes space for future active transportation features such as multi-use paths and a new pedestrian underpass. The construction schedule has been carefully coordinated with the First Avenue project to reduce traffic disruption.



SCOTT STREET SURPLUS LAND

Council has declared portions of land near Scott Street as surplus, supporting plans for new housing development in partnership with the YWCA St. Thomas-Elgin.

The surplus designation includes a vacant lot on Hiawatha Street (parcel A) and part of the Scott Street parking area (parcel B). The City will retain the main parking lot, and access to the Hiawatha Trail and underground infrastructure will be protected through formal easements.

There are no financial impacts tied to the decision, and staff will continue to update Council as the project progresses.

STRONG MAYOR POWERS

Council has deferred the discussion on strong mayor powers. Report CC-09-25, which outlines the strong mayor powers that took effect locally on May 1, 2025, was scheduled for review. The report details the new authorities granted to the Mayor under Part VI.1 of the Municipal Act, 2001, aimed at accelerating housing construction and addressing other key provincial priorities.

CITY OF ST. THOMAS FLAG

Council has authorized Communications staff to explore the potential for a new City flag, following a request from the Downtown Development Board. The current flag, created in 1976, no longer reflects the City's modern brand. Communications staff will guide the development of a refreshed symbol for Council's consideration, with input from community stakeholders, including the Downtown Development Board, to ensure it reflects the values and vision of St. Thomas.



UPCOMING FLAG RAISINGS & PROCLAMATIONS

1
JUN
National Deafblind Awareness Month
BLUE

07
JUN
LemonAID Day
TBD CITY HALL

16
OCT
Disability Employment Awareness Month
PURPLE & BLUE

Make your mark in the community with a proclamation, flag-raising, or by lighting up the iconic Jumbo monument! To submit your request, write a formal, signed letter addressed to the Mayor and Members of City Council, explaining your cause and desired date. Letters must be sent to the City Clerk at least one month in advance. See the [website](#) for more information.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- Tuesday, May 20, 2025 at 5PM
- Monday, June 2, 2025 at 5PM
- Monday, June 9, 2025 at 5PM

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

PAST MEETINGS

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