



Keeping Track

City of St. Thomas Council Highlights

May 12, 2026 | Issue 42



POLLUTION CONTROL PLANT - LYSTEK CONTRACT EXTENSION

Council approved the sole-source contract extension to Lystek International Group for an additional 5 year term. Since 2016 the St. Thomas Water Pollution Control Plant has produced over 74,074m³ of Canadian Food Inspection Agency registered Class A fertilizer from biosolids. The material is injected using a tanker mounted injection system designed to have all material applied 10-30cm below the soil surface. This process is an environmental success while assisting a sustainable nutrient cycle. Local farmers are seeing the benefits in reduced costs for fertilizer and improving soil fertility. The value of sales and application is approximately \$500,000 which continues to form part of the Pollution Control Plant annual operation budget.

A LOOK INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- 1.** YMCA Aquatics Partnership - Update and Amendment
- 2.** Pollution Control Plant - Lystek Contract Extension
- 3.** St. Thomas-Elgin 10-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan - MMAH Submission
- 4.** Brighter Future Monthly Update Priority Area 1
- 5.** Proposed Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendments and Deeming By-law Application - 358 Elm St. and 4 Morrison Drive



YMCA AQUATICS PARTNERSHIP - UPDATE AND AMENDMENT

Council received an update from Parks and Recreation related to the partnership between the City and the YMCA of Southwestern Ontario. This partnership provides affordable and accessible aquatics programming for residents. Since launching in 2024, the program has seen strong participation, with more than 4,100 swim passes issued and nearly 500 residents participating in swimming lessons. Due to high community demand, the original \$100,000 funding allocation has been fully utilized. Council approved an additional \$63,000 to continue swim passes and lessons through 2026. The partnership also supports inclusive SwimAble private lessons and helps reduce financial barriers for children, families, newcomers, and individuals requiring additional support while informing future recreation planning and facility needs.



PROPOSED OFFICIAL PLAN AND ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENTS AND DEEMING BY-LAW APPLICATION - 358 ELM STREET AND 4 MORRISON DRIVE



Council received the report PD-34-2026 relating to Proposed Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendments and Deeming By-law Application. An application has been submitted by Oakview Land Use Planning on behalf of Kate and Matt Robinson (Kate Robinson Counselling) to amend the Official Plan and Zoning By-law for 358 Elm Street and 4 Morrison Drive. The proposal would permit a wellness centre/clinic, professional office, single detached dwelling, and accessory uses on the combined property. A Deeming By-law application has also been filed to consolidate these two lots. The existing building at 358 Elm Street would be reused for the clinic and office space, while the current parking lot at 4 Morrison Drive would continue to provide parking for the site. A public meeting has been set for June 8th, 2026.



ST. THOMAS-ELGIN 10-YEAR HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS PLAN - MMAH SUBMISSION

Council received the St. Thomas-Elgin 10-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan report for information. This Plan will be submitted by staff to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing for the mandatory 90 day review. Staff made a few corrections to the previous versions which included updates to the actions or wording of the Plan to address topics such as youth supports, rural service gaps, acuity, early intervention, improving social housing units, system integration with long-term care and the link between income/food/transportation security. The Focus Areas remain: END Homelessness, SUSTAIN Housing, BUILD More and LEAD Collaboratively to implement the vision of “Housing for Everyone”.

BRIGHTER FUTURE MONTHLY UPDATE PRIORITY AREA 1

Council received the report CMO-37-26 related to the City’s Strategic Plan Brighter Future. Priority Area #1: Public Safety and Community Wellbeing was highlighted with the St. Thomas Police Services, St. Thomas Fire Department, Environmental Services, Parks and Recreation, and City Manager’s Office all contributing to the update. Council has the opportunity to offer input on the focus areas, priorities and what success should look like moving forward for the City of St. Thomas. Each department provided a snapshot of programs, activities and priorities that happening, any financial and resource considerations and upcoming priorities and milestones that will help charter the path to accomplishing and meeting the goals that have been set.





2026 CANADA DAY CELEBRATIONS AND SUMMER DAY CAMPS - REQUEST FOR ANIMAL CONTROL BY-LAW EXEMPTION

Council received a request from Special Events Committee to grant three by-law exemptions to permit a petting zoo for July 1st, July 15th and August 12th. Canada Day Celebrations will take place at 1Password Park and the organizers are excited to provide a petting zoo for people of all ages to participate and enjoy some pet visits. The additional dates will be part of the Summer Day Camp program where campers can have an opportunity to engage in visits with animals at Pinafore Park.



UPCOMING FLAG RAISINGS & PROCLAMATIONS

1
JUN

National AccessAbility Week and Red Shirt Day
🕒 10:00AM 📍 CITY HALL

2
JUN

National Deafblind Awareness Month
🕒 11:00AM 📍 CITY HALL

20
JUL

Drowning Prevention Month
🕒 10:00AM 📍 CITY HALL

JUMBO MONUMENT LIGHTING

May 11-16
Victims and Survivors of Crime Week
💡 Teal

May 17-19
Brain Tumor Awareness Month
💡 Orange

June 1-7
National Deafblind Awareness Month
💡 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

- Tuesday, May 19, 2026 at 5 p.m.
- Monday, June 1, 2026 at 5 p.m.
- Monday, June 8, 2026 at 5 p.m.

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