



# Keeping Track

City of St. Thomas Council Highlights

August 11, 2026 | Issue 48



## COMMUNITY GRANT REQUESTS - INTAKE 4

Council received Community Grant Requests report. The City's Community Grants Program helps support eligible initiatives that provide meaningful benefits to St. Thomas residents and align with community priorities. During the latest intake, applications were received from the St. Thomas & District Chamber of Commerce, St. Thomas Curling Club and St. Thomas Shock Basketball Association. Following a review under the City's Community Grants Policy, staff recommended that the three requests not be funded. The City's 2026 budget includes \$35,000 for community grants, with approximately \$9,710 remaining to support eligible initiatives throughout the rest of the year.

## A LOOK INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

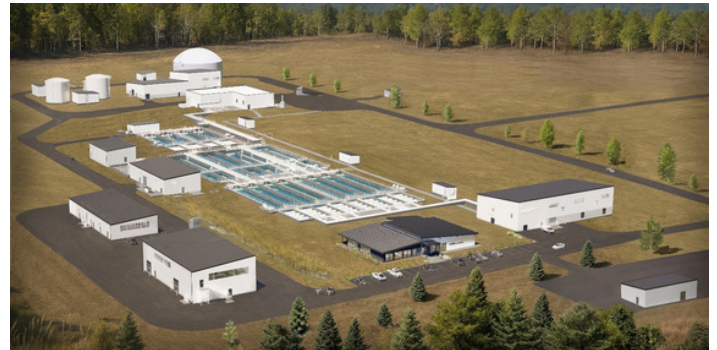
1. Yarmouth Yards Financial Plan
2. 2025 Audited Financial Statements
3. Residential Land Needs 2021-2051
4. School Crossing Guard Location Review
5. Crime Severity Index - Values for 2025



## YARMOUTH YARDS FINANCIAL PLAN

Council received the report regarding Yarmouth Yards Financial Plan. Yarmouth Yards represents the largest infrastructure investment in St. Thomas' history, creating new opportunities for industrial, commercial and residential growth. The overall investment is estimated at \$1 billion, with approximately \$833 million expected from new and external funding sources secured through agreements, partnerships and Province of Ontario commitments.

A major remaining project is the new Dalewood Water Reclamation Facility, expected to cost approximately \$440 million and be substantially completed by 2030. The City's current financing strategy anticipates approximately \$167 million in borrowing. Importantly, current forecasts do not anticipate property tax or utility rate increases to meet annual debt payments. Staff will continue monitoring growth, funding and financial risks to ensure this generational investment remains financially responsible while creating lasting benefits for St. Thomas.



## 2025 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS



|                                                                                              |           |          |           |          |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|
| Financing                                                                                    | 0         | (1,000)  | 0         | (186)    |
| Common stock issued                                                                          | 208       | 660      | 544       | 837      |
| Common stock repurchased                                                                     | (1,042)   | (5,052)  | (2,976)   | (9,451)  |
| Common stock dividends paid                                                                  | (1,683)   | (1,363)  | (3,024)   | (2,481)  |
| Net cash used in financing                                                                   | (2,513)   | (6,751)  | (5,382)   | (7,390)  |
| Investing                                                                                    |           |          |           |          |
| Additions to property and equipment                                                          | (498)     | (491)    | (934)     | (1,055)  |
| Acquisition of companies, net of cash acquired, and purchases of intangible and other assets | (8,627)   | (69)     | (9,502)   | (69)     |
| Purchases of investments                                                                     | (10,047)  | (5,896)  | (21,346)  | (13,313) |
| Maturities of investments                                                                    | 6,061     | 1,836    | 8,886     | 2,706    |
| Sales of investments                                                                         | 7,835     | 2,603    | 15,371    | 4,030    |
| Securities sold                                                                              | (292)     | 447      | (358)     | 1,174    |
| Net cash provided by investing                                                               | (5,568)   | (1,570)  | (7,883)   | (6,527)  |
| Operating                                                                                    |           |          |           |          |
| Net cash provided by operating                                                               | \$ 10,610 | \$ 4,023 | \$ 10,610 | \$ 4,023 |

Council received the City's 2025 audited financial statements report. It shows that the City is in a significantly stronger financial position than previously anticipated, which is largely driven by development activity at Yarmouth Yards. The City's final tax-supported operating deficit was \$748,675, improving from earlier projections. The City remains focused on strengthening reserves, sustainably funding infrastructure and building long-term financial resilience.



## TACTICAL READINESS VEHICLES

Through a report by Police Services, Council approved the purchase of the tactical readiness vehicles. The St. Thomas Police Service is continuing to modernize its response capabilities as our community grows. As part of its transition to a Tactical Response Team, STPS is proposed the purchase of two near-new, fully equipped 2024 Ford F-250 police vehicles for \$159,900. The vehicles will support specialized responses to critical incidents while also being used for regular frontline patrol, ensuring they provide value every day. Funding is proposed through Police Service development charge reserves, recognizing the increased public safety demands associated with community and industrial growth. The purchase would also reduce the number of tactical vehicles required through the 2027 capital program from three to one.

## 2026 ELGIN ST. THOMAS AGE FRIENDLY COMMUNITY STRATEGY

Council has endorsed the updated Age Friendly Community Strategy. St. Thomas and Elgin County have been recognized by Ontario as Age Friendly Communities, reflecting a shared commitment to helping older adults live active, healthy, independent and connected lives. The updated Elgin St. Thomas Age Friendly Strategy identifies opportunities for collaboration in healthcare, housing, transportation, recreation, social connection and accessible public spaces. Through continued participation in the Age Friendly Committee, the City will work alongside municipalities, healthcare organizations and community partners to reduce barriers, improve accessibility and support independence, helping ensure St. Thomas remains an inclusive, welcoming and supportive community for residents at every stage of life.





## TRANSIT MASTER SERVICING PLAN - PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

Council received the report related to the Transit Master Servicing Plan. This spring, residents, students, transit users, employers, community organizations and other stakeholders shared their experiences and ideas through pop-up events, focus groups, workshops and an online survey that received 244 responses.

Feedback highlighted several priorities, including:

- longer evening service,
- more frequent routes,
- increased Paratransit
- On-Demand capacity,
- expanded service to growing residential and industrial areas,
- improved connections to surrounding communities and London.

In the fall, a second community survey will share preliminary service concepts and gather feedback to help shape the future of transit in St. Thomas.



## RESIDENTIAL LAND NEEDS 2021-2051



Council accepted the report by Dillon Consulting Limited as the City begins to plan ahead to accommodate the significant residential growth over the next 30 years. A new Residential Land Needs Assessment projects the City's population will reach 79,500, requiring approximately 15,285 housing units. The study identifies a need for an additional 283 hectares of residential land to support this future development. These assessment findings will help guide the City's Official Plan Update, including further analysis of potential growth areas and future settlement boundary expansion opportunities.



## 2026 ORANGE SHIRT DAY FLAG RAISING - ROAD CLOSURE REQUEST

Council has approved the requested road closures for Orange Shirt Day Flag Raising and festivities. September 30th marks the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day, a time to honour residential school Survivors, the children who never returned home, their families and Indigenous communities. The day encourages learning, reflection and recognition that Every Child Matters. At noon, there will be a flag raising and proclamation at City Hall. The event will include Indigenous cultural performances, guest speakers, educational displays, vendors and more.

To support Orange Shirt Day events in downtown St. Thomas, Talbot Street from White Street to St. Catharine Street and Mondamin Street from Talbot Street to Curtis Street will be closed from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Curtis Street, from Mondamin Street to St. Catharine Street, will be closed from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Transit detours will be in place as well.

## 2026 RAILWAY CITY ROAD RACE 2026 - ROAD CLOSURE REQUEST

Council approved the request for road closures for the Railway City Road Race. On Sunday, September 27, the Railway City Road Race featuring a half marathon, 10 km and 5 km walk/run, and a 1 km Kids Fun Run—all while raising funds for charity will take place in the City.

Residents can expect temporary road closures and traffic controls along portions of the race routes, between 6 a.m. and 1 p.m. City staff, St. Thomas Police Service and event volunteers will help keep participants and motorists safe throughout the event. Event organizers will notify all residents and facilities that will be impacted by this event.

Drivers are encouraged to plan ahead, watch for signage and volunteers, and allow extra travel time.





## SCHOOL CROSSING GUARD LOCATION REVIEW

Council has authorized the deployment of a School Crossing Guard starting September 2026. The City of St. Thomas continues to prioritize safe routes for students and families travelling to and from school. Following community requests, the intersection of Edward Street and Balaclava Street, near June Rose Callwood Public School, was reviewed under the City's updated School Crossing Guard Policy. The assessment found approximately 150 pedestrians and 2,350 vehicles use the intersection during peak school travel periods, exceeding the threshold for a crossing guard. As a result, a new School Crossing Guard will be added, helping students and families cross safely and supporting a safer, more welcoming community for everyone. The cost of this position is \$5000 for the remainder of 2026 and \$12000 annually. This cost will be taken from the Environmental Services operating budget.

## CRIME SEVERITY INDEX - VALUES FOR 2025

Council received the Crime Severity Index (CSI) - Values for 2025 from Police Services. The City is seeing encouraging progress in community safety, according to Statistics Canada's 2025 Crime Severity Index (CSI). The City's overall CSI decreased 6.1% from 2024 and 10.1% since 2023, while the Violent Crime Severity Index saw a significant 17.4% year-over-year reduction. These positive results reflect continued investments in frontline policing, specialized enforcement, crime analysis and strong partnerships between police, health, housing and social service providers. While there is more work ahead, the results demonstrate that a coordinated, community-wide approach is making a difference. The St. Thomas Police Service will continue monitoring emerging pressures and focusing resources where they are needed most to help keep St. Thomas a safe and welcoming community.





## UPCOMING FLAG RAISINGS & PROCLAMATIONS

### SEPTEMBER

8 Crime Stoppers  
Awareness Month  
🕒 10:00 am

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

- Tuesday, September 8, 2026 at 5 p.m.
- Monday, September 14, 2026 at 5 p.m.
- Monday, September 21, 2026 at 5 p.m.

To view the council meetings live, visit:  
[www.stthomas.ca/watch](http://www.stthomas.ca/watch)

## PAST MEETINGS

Watch archived council meetings:

[www.stthomas.ca/archived](http://www.stthomas.ca/archived)

View past agendas and minutes:

[www.stthomas.ca/pastcouncilmeetings](http://www.stthomas.ca/pastcouncilmeetings)

## STAY CONNECTED



[www.stthomas.ca](http://www.stthomas.ca)



[info@stthomas.ca](mailto:info@stthomas.ca)



519.631.1680 'O'



545 Talbot Street, St.  
Thomas



@cityofstthomasontario



@cityofstthomas



@cityofstthomas



@cityofstthomasontario

