



# Keeping Track

City of St. Thomas Council Highlights

April 15, 2025 | Issue 9



## HEALTH RECRUITMENT PARTNERSHIP

Council has directed that several By-laws be prepared to enter into a Health Recruitment Partnership with Dr. Allison Wright, Dr. Ikechukwu Walter Ibeme, Dr. Katharine McLaughlin, Dr. Laura McCracken, and Nurse Practitioner Shelby Ethier for a total of \$91,300 in Health Recruitment Incentive funding.

The funds will be used to make necessary improvements and updates to existing clinics, and to cover startup costs for new clinics in the City of St. Thomas.

## A LOOK INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

1. Ontario Works Annual Report
2. Draft Corporate Communications Strategy
3. Yarmouth Yards Sewage Pumping Station - Tender Award
4. Yarmouth Yards Shunting Yard - Contract Extension



## ONTARIO WORKS ANNUAL REPORT

Council received a report from Ontario Works (OW) for St. Thomas and Elgin County highlighting significant trends and operational insights from 2024:

- There was a 7.8% increase in caseloads, reaching 1,500 cases.
- 42.3% of cases received referrals to Employment Ontario, but there was a slight decline in both workforce participation and employment-related exits.
- A key initiative of 2024 was the expansion of the centralized intake system to streamline processes and reduce workloads, maintaining high service levels amidst staffing shortages.
- OW anticipates an 8.5% increase in caseloads in 2025 due to economic uncertainty and unchanged OW benefits since 2018. Plans include introducing services in secondary schools and collaborating with Ontario Health Teams for clinical services.

## DRAFT CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

Council has reviewed the draft City of St. Thomas Corporate Communications Strategy and approved its adoption to enhance internal and external communications, transparency, and engagement with staff, residents and stakeholders. Staff will now proceed with the next implementation phase and launch a public-facing campaign to share and promote the strategy broadly.

## 2025 ONTARIO SENIOR OF THE YEAR

Council has received a letter from the Minister for Seniors and Accessibility inviting nominations for an exceptional local senior for the 2025 Ontario Senior of the Year Award.

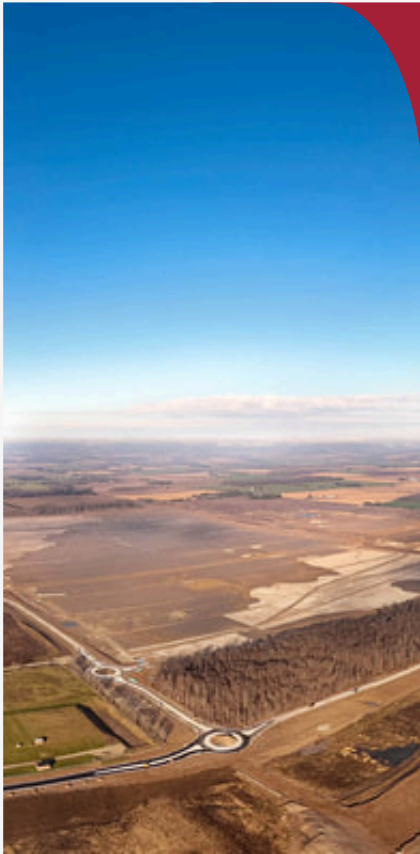
Each municipality in the province can honour one outstanding senior for their contributions to enriching the social, cultural, and civic life of their community.

The deadline for nominations is April 30, 2025. Visit the Ontario Senior of the Year [webpage](#).

## YARMOUTH YARDS SEWAGE PUMPING STATION

Council has awarded the contract for the Yarmouth Yards Sewage Pumping Station to Birnam Excavating Ltd. for \$4,563,251.54, excluding HST. This new station will provide sanitary servicing to the eastern side of the Yarmouth Yards Industrial Park—an area designated for future suppliers of PowerCo, along with other standalone industries planning to establish operations in St. Thomas.

The Yarmouth Sewage Pumping Station (YSPS) will have a peak sewage capacity of 199L/s that includes a 10m deep wet well, valve chamber, control building, 3 sewage pumps with room for a 4<sup>th</sup> pump, electrical controls, standby generator, and other ancillary components to the YSPS. This project is expected to start in early May and finish on October 15, 2026.



## YARMOUTH YARDS SHUNTING YARD

Council has approved a \$19,983,226.77 (excluding HST) contract extension with Amico Infrastructures Inc. for the construction of the Yarmouth Yards Shunting Yard, a key component of the Yarmouth Yards Industrial Park.



In April 2024, Amico was awarded the original contract for the rail bridge and spur line. A subsequent extension advanced site grading work. This latest extension will keep the momentum going, with project completion targeted for September 15, 2026. City staff secured approximately \$1.3 million in cost savings during negotiations and will continue exploring further reductions. The total project cost, including contingency and HST, is \$21,352,531.56—within the approved \$21,500,000.00 budget.



## UPCOMING FLAG RAISINGS & PROCLAMATIONS

**28**

APR

**Beta Sigma Phi**

🕒 11:00 AM 📍 CITY HALL

**03**

MAY

**World Press Freedom Day**

🕒 TBD 📍 TBD

**05**

MAY

**Mental Health Week**

🕒 10:00 AM 📍 CITY HALL

**12**

MAY

**Victims and Survivors of Crime Week**

🕒 TBD 📍 CITY HALL

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, April 22, 2025 at 5PM
- Monday, May 5, 2025 at 5PM
- Monday, May 12, 2025 at 5PM

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)

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