



Keeping Track

City of St. Thomas Council Highlights

February 11, 2025 | Issue 4



ST. THOMAS EDC

Sean Dyke, CEO of the St. Thomas Economic Development Corporation, has received the Joseph A. Montgomery Economic Development Achievement Award, the highest recognition in the field. The honour highlights his 20+ years of strengthening the local economy, fostering partnerships, and creating opportunities for growth.

Sean has led transformative projects, emphasizing that economic development is about people, collaboration, and building a prosperous future. His leadership has left a lasting impact on the City of St. Thomas and those around him.

A LOOK INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

1. By-law 50-88
2. Parks & Recreation Fees By-law
3. Field Lighting Tender Award
4. Housing Needs Assessment and Action Plan



BY-LAW 50-88

Council is reviewing proposed updates to Zoning By-law 50-88, which aim to introduce new regulations concerning shipping containers, oversized vehicles, and billboards. A public meeting is scheduled for March 17, 2025, where residents can provide their feedback on these amendments before Council makes its final decision.

The updates would regulate the use of shipping containers, allowing them only for temporary use in residential areas, while imposing stricter regulations for commercial zones. Additionally, parking restrictions for oversized vehicles would shift from weight-based to length-based limits, ensuring clearer guidelines for residents and businesses.

Under the proposed amendments, billboards—currently prohibited in the city—may be addressed in a new sign by-law with specific conditions.

PARKS & RECREATION FEES BY-LAW

Council has approved updates to the 2025 Parks and Recreation Fees By-law, including a 5% increase to 2023 rates and new fees for various facilities and programs. Key changes include revised rates for baseball, tennis, pickleball, advertising, and rental structures.

The new fees are projected to generate approximately \$18,600 in additional revenue. A Pinafore Park Racket Courts Maintenance Reserve will be established to fund equipment upkeep, aligning with the city's commitment to fiscal accountability and facility improvements.

FIELD LIGHTING TENDER AWARD

Council has approved the \$253,400 (excluding HST) contract for new field lighting at the Athletic Park, awarding it to Pfaff Electric Ltd. The project is fully funded through donations from the St. Thomas Minor Soccer Club and Entegrus, along with capital budget allocations. This upgrade supports the city's commitment to enhancing local sports facilities.



HOUSING NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND ACTION PLAN

Council has received the Housing Needs Assessment and Action Plan as information. The report, prepared by Watson & Associates Economists Ltd., builds on the City's Growth Analysis Study and projects a need for approximately 7,700 new housing units between 2024 and 2034, with 2,700 of those being rental units. The Housing Action Plan outlines three strategic priorities: increasing affordable housing supply, supporting local development, and assisting individuals facing housing insecurity.

View the full report on our [website](#).

CHILD CARE FUNDING AGREEMENT

Council has approved updated Child Care Funding Agreements to align with Ontario's new cost-based funding model, improving transparency, accountability, and sustainability while keeping childcare affordable.

Key changes include stricter financial reporting, ongoing fee reductions, and increased wage support for educators. A by-law will be introduced to finalize the agreements with local providers.

TRANSFER PAYMENT AGREEMENT

Council approved updates to the Transfer Payment Agreement (TPA) for Children's Services, aligning with the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) model.

The revised agreement, effective November 2024, caps child care fees at \$22 per day (targeting \$10 by 2026). St. Thomas-Elgin will receive \$30.1 million, an \$8.9 million increase, for wage enhancements, fee subsidies, and special needs resourcing, lasting until December 2027.



UPCOMING FLAG RAISINGS & PROCLAMATIONS

14
FEB

Kin Kindness Day

🕒 9:00 AM 📍 CITY HALL

21
FEB

Human Trafficking Awareness

🕒 9:00 AM 📍 CITY HALL

21
FEB

World Thinking Day

🕒 TBD 📍 CITY HALL

02
APR

World Autism Awareness Day

🕒 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

- Monday, March 3, 2025 at 5PM
- Monday, March 10, 2025 at 5PM
- Monday, March 17, 2025 at 5PM

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

PAST MEETINGS

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www.stthomas.ca/archived

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