



Keeping Track

City of St. Thomas Council Highlights

September 9, 2025 | Issue 20

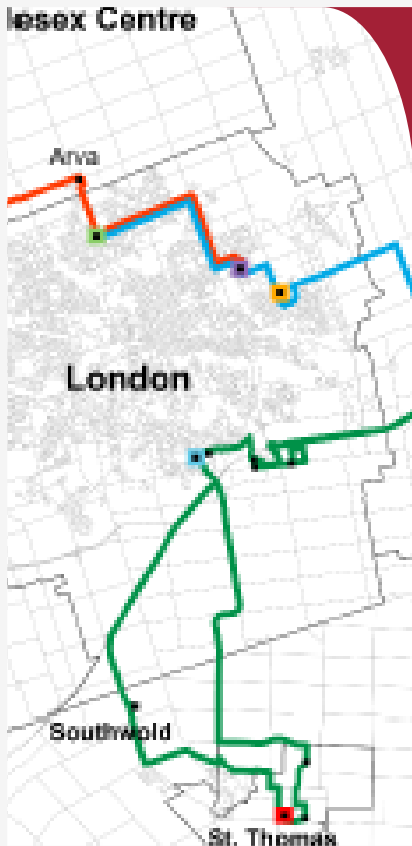


HEALTH RECRUITMENT PARTNERSHIP

Council received Reports CMO-41-25 and CMO-42-25 regarding the Health Recruitment Partnership and approved preparing by-laws to provide incentive funding of \$33K to support Dr. Zulu Okoligwe, who joined PrimePoint Medical Clinic on September 1, 2025, and \$5K to support Nurse Practitioner Julia Petrakis, who recently joined Hint of Health Inc. in St. Thomas. Both funding agreements will help cover start-up costs such as equipment and clinic setup, with the condition that each practitioner provides a minimum of four years of service in the St. Thomas-Elgin area. With these approvals, a total of 11 grants have been awarded in 2025, bringing Health Recruitment Partnership funding to \$261,300 for the year, above the allocated budget and subject to year-end reconciliation.

A LOOK INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

1. Inter-Community Transit Partnership Funding
2. Transit Service Contract Extension
3. New Homelessness Reduction Innovation Fund Positions
4. Heritage Property Alterations: 20 Balaclava Street



INTER-COMMUNITY TRANSIT PARTNERSHIP FUNDING

Council received Report ES-33-25 on Inter-Community Transit Partnership Funding and confirmed St. Thomas's continued participation in the Middlesex County Connect system, which links St. Thomas to London and the broader region. With Middlesex County securing \$3.4 million in provincial Ontario Transit Investment Fund (OTIF) support, the service will operate for another five years with an equal cost-sharing model across five municipalities. St. Thomas's share will total \$422,813.20 over four years, a significantly lower cost than running a stand-alone service. Ridership on the St. Thomas–London route remains strong, accounting for 95% of Route 3 trips. Council also authorized the Mayor and Clerk to execute the contribution agreement with Middlesex County.



TRANSIT SERVICE CONTRACT EXTENSION

Council received Report ES-34-25 on the Transit Service Contract Extension and approved exercising the City's option to extend its agreement with Voyago for an additional three years, through December 31, 2028. The contract covers the operation of St. Thomas's conventional, parallel, and demand-responsive transit services, as well as vehicle maintenance and facility use. The extension, valued at approximately \$6.2 million over the term, maintains existing service levels with annual CPI-based adjustments. This agreement provides stability while the City advances transit master planning and electrification initiatives to meet future growth and accessibility goals.

2025 COMMUNITY GRANTS FOR SEPTEMBER

Council received Report TR-18-25 on 2025 Community Grants and approved a grant of \$1,327 to STEAM Education Centres Inc. to support their eight-week Outdoor Art Experience at Westlake Evan Park and the Elevated Park. While the organization requested \$3,500, the remaining funds in the Community Grants budget allowed for this allocation, which will fully utilize the 2025 budget. This funding supports one-time community initiatives that align with Council's strategic priorities.

NEW HOMELESSNESS REDUCTION INNOVATION FUND POSITIONS

Council received Report SESS-23-25 and authorized staff to hire two additional 12-month contracted Housing Program Coordinators through the Homelessness Reduction Innovation Fund (HRIF) to support the new Prevention in Action initiative. The positions, fully funded by the \$448K HRIF grant, will join the Housing Stability Services team and help reduce chronic homelessness. Recruitment will begin immediately to meet the program launch date of October 1, 2025, with no direct financial impact on the City.

HERITAGE PROPERTY ALTERATIONS: 20 BALACLAVA STREET

Council received Report MHC-11-25 regarding proposed alterations at 20 BalACLAVA Street, a property designated under the Ontario Heritage Act, and approved the changes, including the elevator shaft, balconies, windows and doors, and the new addition. The Municipal Heritage Committee reviewed the updated designs from Invizij Architects and supported the renovations, noting that their prior design comments had been addressed. Notice of Council's decision will be provided to the Ontario Heritage Trust.



UPCOMING FLAG RAISINGS & PROCLAMATIONS



9
SEPT : **Fetal Alcohol Spectrum
Disorder Awareness Day**
🕒 9:09 a.m. 📍 CITY HALL

15
SEPT : **Welcoming Week
2025**
🕒 9 a.m. 📍 CITY HALL

15-21
SEPT : **Big Brothers Big
Sisters Month**
🕒 10 a.m. 📍 CITY HALL
👉 TEAL

22
SEPT : **Childhood Cancer
Awareness Month**
🕒 9 a.m. 📍 CITY HALL

22
SEPT : **Legion Week**
🕒 11 a.m. 📍 CITY HALL

22-28
SEPT : **Prostate Cancer
Awareness Month**
👉 BLUE

29
SEPT : **Immune
Thrombocytopenia
Awareness Month**
👉 BLUE

30
SEPT : **Orange Shirt Day**
🕒 12 p.m. 📍 CITY HALL
👉 ORANGE

16
OCT : **Light it Up!
for NDEAM**
👉 BLUE AND PURPLE

20
OCT : **Foster Family
Appreciation Week**
🕒 9 a.m. 📍 CITY HALL

21
OCT : **Ontario Public
Library 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

- Monday, September 15, 2025 at 5 p.m.
- Monday, October 6, 2025 at 5 p.m.
- Tuesday, October 14, 2025 at 5 p.m.

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

PAST MEETINGS

Watch archived council meetings:

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