



Keeping Track

City of St. Thomas Council Highlights

March 18, 2025 | Issue 7



FIRE STATION UPGRADE

Council has approved a renovation at the Wellington Street Fire Station to add a dedicated change room for female firefighters. The project, which is estimated at \$90,000, will be funded through the City's infrastructure reserve.

The current lack of appropriate facilities raises concerns around privacy, safety, and workplace compliance. The new space will provide direct access to showers and secure gear storage, supporting a more inclusive and equitable work environment.

A phased approach will be used to minimize disruptions. The project reflects the City's commitment to safety, inclusivity, and accessible public service.

A LOOK INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

1. Housing Accelerator Fund
2. Annual Reports
3. Industrial Development Update
4. 2026 Municipal Election



HOUSING ACCELERATOR FUND

Council has approved an Action Plan for the Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF), a federal program aimed at accelerating housing development. The city will receive \$6.6 million in funding, contingent on permitting 1,183 new housing units.

The plan includes seven initiatives: Community Affordable Housing Strategy, ADU Program and Enhancements, Sustainable Urban Intensification and Infill Development, Acquisition and Disposal of City-owned Lands for Housing, Development Charge Review and Disincentives Program, Community Planning Permit System, and Partnership Grants for Affordable Housing Projects.

To support these efforts, a new temporary full-time position will be created, funded by the HAF program, to assist in managing the initiatives. The City Manager will oversee the program's progress, with regular updates to Council.

URRBAN DESIGN GUIDELINES

Council has officially adopted the "City-Wide Urban Design Guidelines," developed by Dillon Consulting. The guidelines focus on promoting sustainable growth, improving public spaces, and fostering equitable community connections. While not directly controlling development, they will inform updates to the Official Plan and zoning regulations. The guidelines will also play a key role in planning the railway lands and other areas in the city, helping to shape the future of St. Thomas.

SALARY DISCLOSURE REPORT

Council received a report from the Director of Human Resources on the 2024 Public Sector Salary Disclosure, showing 105 employees earned over \$100,000, up from 84 in 2023. This includes City staff, with the Police Service and Public Library reporting separately. The disclosure was submitted by March 7, 2025, and will be available to the public by March 31, 2025.

CITY OF ST. THOMAS 2024 ANNUAL REPORTS

WATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

Council received the 2024 Annual and Summary Reports for the St. Thomas Water Distribution System. The system passed a MECP inspection with a perfect 100% rating for the second consecutive year, meeting all regulatory requirements. The Annual Report has been filed, and the Summary Report will be submitted by March 2025. The reports are available to the public upon request.

SEWAGE COLLECTION SYSTEM

Council received the 2024 Annual Performance Report for the St. Thomas Sewage Collection System, which covers 213 km of sewer infrastructure. The report addresses system performance, maintenance, and overflow events. The In-line Storage Facility mitigates wet weather spikes but can't contain all events, leading to overflows. The city is working on sewer upgrades to reduce overflows as outlined in the Pollution Prevention Control Plan.

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL PLANT

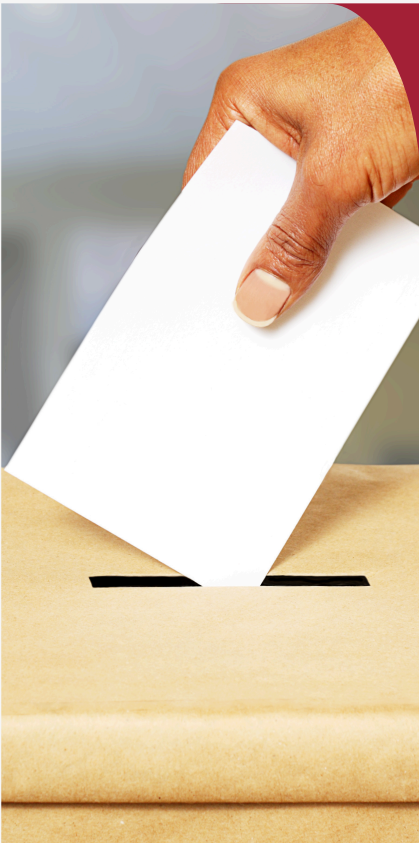
Council received the 2024 Annual Performance Report for the St. Thomas Water Pollution Control Plant, which operated at 70% of its capacity on average and 72% during peak flows. The city is addressing overflow issues through sewer upgrades and the WPCP optimization project, which began in November 2024. Odour complaints have decreased, and new aerated storage tanks are under construction for further improvement.



INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Council received the fifth work update on the city's Yarmouth Yards industrial park from the Industrial Development team. Key activities include site preparation, grading, and infrastructure development for the EV Battery Factory and Volkswagen Training Center, along with progress on the South Edgeware Booster Station, HydroOne Transmission and Substation, and the "triple corridor."

The City's leadership team, with support from external partners, reported that the project remains on schedule, with over a dozen projects planned for 2025, and all challenges being addressed through strong collaboration.



2026 MUNICIPAL ELECTION

Council has approved internet and telephone voting for the 2026 Municipal Election, continuing the successful model from 2022, when 73% of voters cast their ballots remotely. The City will again partner with Simply Voting Inc. to improve accessibility and reduce costs. The election is expected to cost \$126,950, with savings from a paperless process helping to offset expenses.

The possibility of a ward system was mentioned in the staff report and at the meeting. While no decision was made, staff recommended deferring consideration until the northwest area of the City is developed.



UPCOMING FLAG RAISINGS & PROCLAMATIONS

02

APR

World Autism Awareness Day

🕒 9:00 AM 📍 CITY HALL

28

APR

Beta Sigma Phi

🕒 11:00 AM 📍 CITY HALL

05

MAY

Mental Health Week

🕒 10:00 AM 📍 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, April 7, 2025 at 5PM
- Monday, April 14, 2025 at 5PM
- Tuesday, April 22, 2025 at 5PM

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

PAST MEETINGS

Watch archived council meetings:

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