



Keeping Track

City of St. Thomas Council Highlights

August 12, 2025 | Issue 18



BUILT FOR ZERO CANADA: NEW FUNDING TO REDUCE CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS

A new federal funding agreement was presented to Council in Report SESS-16-25, detailing \$448,000 from the Homelessness Reduction Innovation Fund through the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness. This funding will support a dedicated Prevention Team with two full-time Housing Program Coordinators focused on early intervention, housing stabilization, and eviction prevention to reduce chronic homelessness in St. Thomas-Elgin. The project aligns with the community's goal to achieve Functional Zero homelessness and strengthens local supports without any financial impact to the municipality.

A LOOK INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

1. Housing Accelerator Fund program
2. Veterans Memorial Crosswalk
3. Burwell Road Sidewalk Extension
4. Upcoming Flag Raisings & Proclamations



COMMUNITY PLANNING PERMIT SYSTEM

Council received Report CMO-37-25 regarding a proposed amendment to the Official Plan to introduce a Community Planning Permit System (CPPS). This streamlined approval process combines multiple development applications into one, aiming to speed up housing development and support local priorities such as affordable housing and environmental standards.

A public meeting is scheduled for September 8, 2025, to gather community input on the proposal.



ADDITIONAL RESIDENTIAL UNITS AND HOUSING INCENTIVES

The City of St. Thomas is proposing amendments to its Official Plan, Zoning By-law, and Community Improvement Plan to support the creation of additional residential units (ARUs). These changes would allow up to four units per lot, update regulations for better clarity and safety, and expand financial incentives to encourage homeowners and developers to build more housing options. A new ARU guidebook will also be developed to help residents navigate the process.

A public meeting to discuss these proposals is scheduled for September 8, 2025. This initiative aligns with the city's commitment to increasing affordable and diverse housing as part of the Housing Accelerator Fund program.



VETERANS MEMORIAL CROSSWALK

Council received Report ES32-25 and authorized the installation of a Veteran's Memorial Crosswalk on the south leg of the Talbot Street and Moore Street intersection - near the Veterans Memorial Gardens. The location and commemorative design were chosen in collaboration with the local Royal Canadian Legion Branch and supported by the 31 Combat Engineer Regiment, aligning with the Remembrance Day procession route. The \$5,000 installation cost will be partially funded by the Legion and fully covered by the Williams Foundation. Maintenance will be included in the City's ongoing pavement marking program. Installation is planned before this year's Remembrance Day ceremony.

BURWELL ROAD SIDEWALK EXTENSION

Council received Report ES31-25 and approved an agreement to acquire road widening from the property at 1125 Talbot Street to enable a sidewalk extension along Burwell Road. This widening, part of the Fairview Avenue Rehabilitation and Bridge Removal project, will improve pedestrian safety by extending the sidewalk north past the truck loading area and connecting to the existing paved shoulder. The cost, under \$15,000, will be covered within the current project budget.

ACCESSIBLE PARKING ADVOCACY

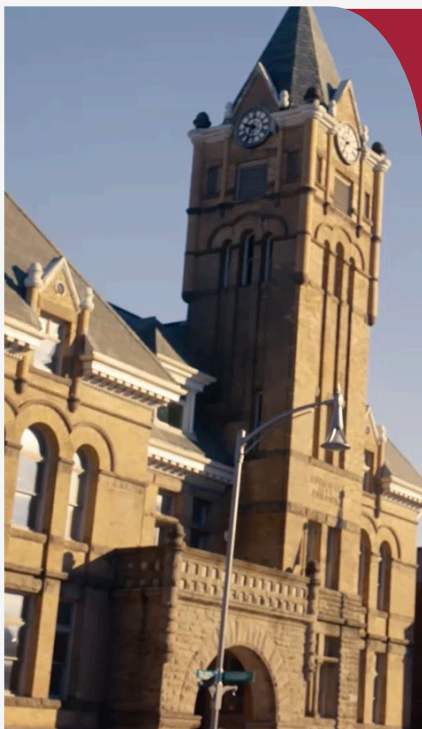
Council backed the Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee's plan to advocate to the Province for stronger accessible parking requirements, as outlined in Report MAAC-01-25. Concerns include the limited number of wider "Type A" spots for people using mobility aids, lack of retroactive requirements for existing properties, and gaps in zoning standards. The recommendations will also feed into the City's parking review planned for 2026.



RAILWAY CITY MUSIC AND ARTS FESTIVAL REQUESTS ADDITIONAL FEE WAIVER

The organizers of the Railway City Music and Arts Festival have thanked City Council for its earlier support through a \$3,500 reduction in Pinafore Park rental fees. This year's festival, set for August 14–17, will feature over 70 musical acts, more than 70 arts, crafts, and food vendors, and a variety of children's programming - all offered free to the public.

Due to rising advertising costs and reduced sponsorship from commercial and industrial partners, organizers have asked Council to consider waiving the remaining \$3,122.87 in park fees to help keep the festival free and accessible for everyone.



UPCOMING FLAG RAISINGS & PROCLAMATIONS

28

AUG

International Overdose Awareness Day

⌚ TBD 📍 CITY HALL
💡 PURPLE

08

SEPT

Crime Stoppers Awareness Month

⌚ 9 a.m. 📍 CITY HALL

15

SEPT

Welcoming Week 2025

⌚ 9 a.m. 📍 CITY HALL

15-21

SEP

Big Brothers Big Sisters Month

⌚ TBD 📍 CITY HALL
💡 TEAL

TBD

SEPT

Prostate Cancer Awareness Month

⌚ 9 a.m. 📍 CITY HALL
💡 BLUE

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

- Tuesday, September 2, 2025 at 5 p.m.
- Monday, September 8, 2025 at 5 p.m.
- Monday, September 15, 2025 at 5 p.m.

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

PAST MEETINGS

Watch archived council meetings:

www.stthomas.ca/archived

View past agendas and minutes:

www.stthomas.ca/pastcouncilmeetings

STAY CONNECTED



www.stthomas.ca



info@stthomas.ca



519.631.1680 '0'



545 Talbot Street, St. Thomas



@cityofstthomasontario



@cityofstthomas



@cityofstthomas



@cityofstthomasontario

