



Keeping Track

City of St. Thomas Council Highlights

March 3, 2026 | Issue 35



2026 KINSMEN CLUB REQUESTS

Council received Report TR-04-26. The Kinsmen Club of St. Thomas requested a fee exemption related to the City's sale of goods licence fee and permission to use the Joe Thornton Community Centre parking lot between May 22, 2026 to June 20, 2026.

The placement of the trailer at the Joe Thornton Community Centre is supported with the completion of the following requests: sign a No Charge Facility Permit, provide a certificate of public liability and property damage insurance with a covering limit of \$5 million with City of St. Thomas named as an additional insured.

Staff reviewed By-law 23-2002 where there is no specific provision permitting such an exemption for charitable or not for profit organizations. The requested waiver does not apply under the current by-law. Staff have recommended that the Kinsmen Club request the fee exemption through the Community Grants program as other charitable organizations follow this process. The requested fee exemption is in the amount of \$600.

A LOOK INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

1. 2026 Kinsmen Club Requests
2. 2025 Fire Department Statistics
3. City of St. Thomas Official Plan Update - Relaunch
4. City-Initiated Community Planning Permit By-law (Elm-Wilson-Victor Area)



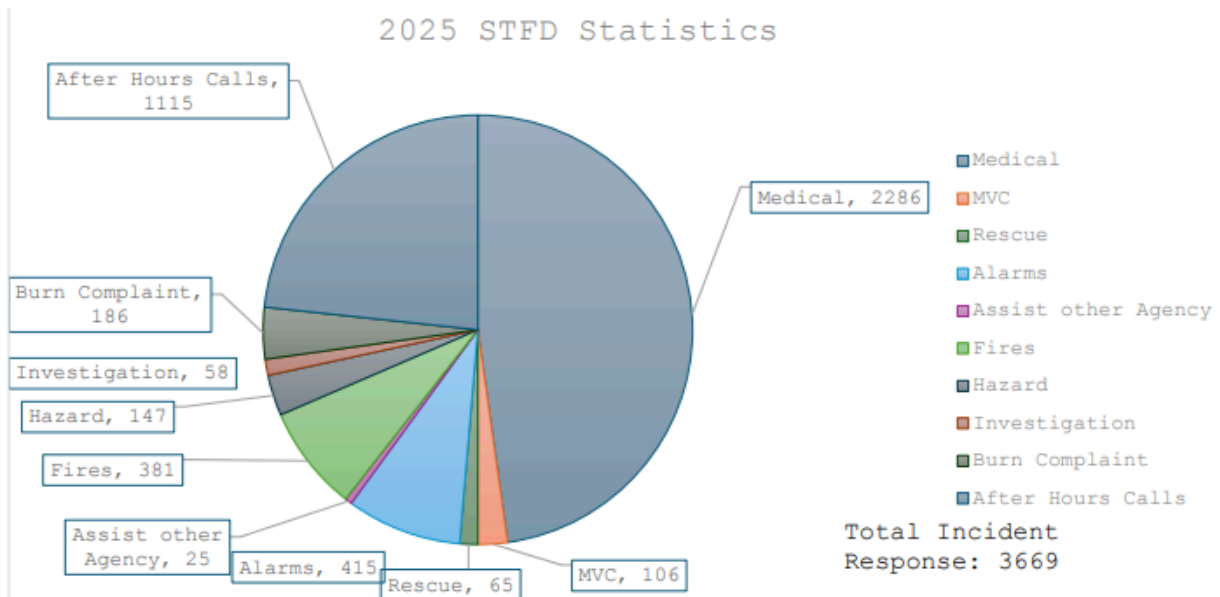
CITY OF ST. THOMAS OFFICIAL PLAN UPDATE - RELAUNCH



Council received Report PD-11-2026 requesting support to relaunch the City of St. Thomas Official Plan review. In addition to the City's Strategic Plan, the Official Plan serves as the City's primary roadmap for growth and development. It guides where housing, jobs, infrastructure, and parks go, while protecting the natural environment, cultural heritage, and ensuring an equitable, accessible city for everyone. The City of St. Thomas began creating a new, modernized plan with consultant support in 2020. Progress has been slowed by significant provincial planning changes, but important background studies and technical work have continued. With major investments like PowerCo and Vianode at Yarmouth Yards, and a new Community Planning Permit By-law, a refreshed Official Plan will reflect community priorities, respond to new legislation, and help shape a vibrant, sustainable future for St. Thomas.

2025 FIRE DEPARTMENT STATISTICS

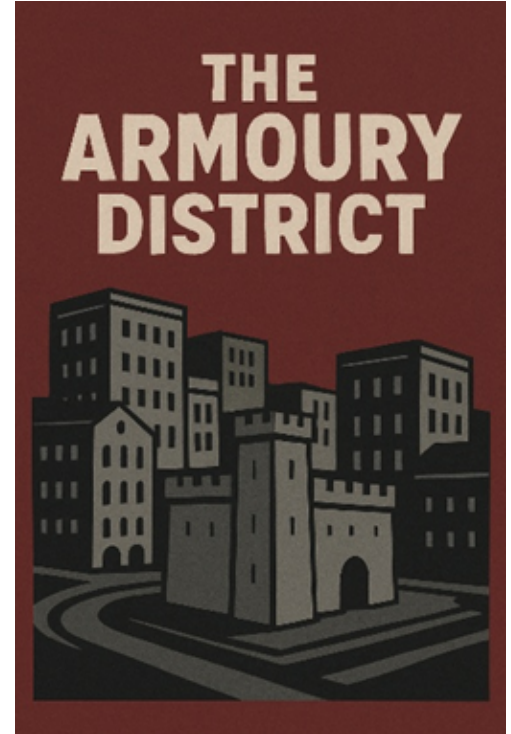
Council received Report FD-02-26 related to the 2025 Fire Department Statistics. This report highlighted the 4,784 calls received which included 3,669 operational incident responses and 1,115 after hours calls. Medical emergencies were the largest portion with 2,286 calls while requests from outside agencies to assist were at 25 calls. In comparison between 2024 and 2025, there were an additional 179 calls to Fire Services.





CITY INITIATED COMMUNITY PLANNING PERMIT BY-LAW (ELM-WILSON-VICTOR AREA)

Council received Report CMO 13-26. The draft proposed City Initiated Community Planning Permit By-law was provided at the January Council meeting where Council directed City staff to conduct public meetings and prepare the By-law for a decision. At Memorial Arena on January 28th, a Public Information Centre was held with 15 individuals attending alongside the landowner/developer which presented the proposed development in the Elm-Wilson-Victor area also known as the Armoury District. City staff stated that the City Initiated CPP By-law will allow for a new and streamlined approach to permit appropriate residential intensification of known brownfield sites in the Elm-Wilson-Victor area that will provide needed housing options and supply while being compatible with the surrounding context. There are several benefits to future development of an intensification area such as: use of existing hard infrastructure, support of existing community infrastructure, one-time development fees and charges, significant long-term increase in annual assessment compared to the existing condition and additional rental supply to reduce housing pressures. This By-law includes City-owned land which could have positive implications and financial benefits for its future use.



CHILDREN'S SERVICES - 2025 REVIEW AND 2026 PLANS



Council received Report SESS-02-26. This report discussed the data from 2025 and future plans for 2026. The Canada Wide Early Learning Child Care program was fully implemented in licensed child care programs within St. Thomas-Elgin. All families with children 0-5 years of age attending a licensed child care program will pay no more than \$22/day. New funding guidelines that were implemented January 1, 2025, have caused an increase in administrative workload for City staff.

Looking ahead for 2026 - a new 88 space child care centre, a new 49 space child care centre, a 24 space expansion of an existing centre and 26 new JK/SK spaces at a new school in Belmont. The development of an updated Children's Services System plan will reflect the realities of the Canada Wide Early Learning Child Care, align with provincial expectations and set clear priorities to guide service planning, funding decisions and community partners in the future.



O.REG. 747/21: EXPANSION OF TAILGATE EVENT PERMITS

Council received report CMO-17-26. The Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario will be renaming “Tailgate Event” permits to “bring your own event” permits on April 30th, 2026. The City will have the power to decide which local events qualify for these permits as the organizer must first obtain a letter or resolution from the City, designating the event as a “cultural or community event”. The City can authorize BYOB at a wider variety of gatherings, such as outdoor movie screenings, fairs, and neighbourhood tournaments. The City will not have to update the Municipal Alcohol Policy as the new permit type is within the Special Occasion Permit framework. Any events on City property will follow the procedure set out through the Special Events Committee. City Staff proposed the following definition to be used: “A *Community or Cultural Event is an organized public outdoor gathering that promotes community engagement, cultural expression, recreation, tourism, or local economic activity and is open to the general public.*”



UPCOMING FLAG RAISINGS & PROCLAMATIONS

Stay tuned for upcoming dates!

Make your mark in the community with a proclamation, flag-raising, or by lighting up the iconic Jumbo monument! The Proclamation, Flag-Raising, and Jumbo Lighting Request Form can be found on the City’s website or is available at the City Clerk’s office in City Hall. Requests should be submitted as far in advance as possible to ensure they can be placed on a Council agenda. Request forms can be submitted in electronic or hard copy format.



FUTURE MEETINGS

- Monday, March 9, 2026 at 5 p.m.
- Monday, March 16, 2026 at 5 p.m.
- Tuesday, April 7, 2026 at 5 p.m.

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

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