



Keeping Track

City of St. Thomas Council Highlights

April 23, 2025 | Issue 10



PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN UPDATE

Phase 1 of the City's Parks & Recreation Master Plan Update and Feasibility Study shows strong public support for new and improved facilities, especially an indoor aquatic centre and year-round programming.

Nearly 80% of survey respondents say the aquatic centre should be a top priority, with many backing partnerships to help make it happen. Input was gathered from over 2,700 residents, students, and community groups.

A needs assessment and business plan are next, with final recommendations expected by Fall 2025.

A LOOK INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

1. Request for Support
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REQUEST FOR SUPPORT

Council has endorsed a new environmental partnership with Doug Tarry Homes, supporting an application to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' (FCM) Green Municipal Fund. The project, led by Doug Tarry Homes with the City as a co-lead partner, will pilot real-time energy monitoring in high-performance homes across St. Thomas. It aims to compare actual energy use with projected models, providing valuable insight into energy efficiency and climate resilience during extreme weather events and power outages.

Notably, there is no financial contribution required from the City—only staff support during the application process. If approved, the 32-month pilot is set to begin in October 2025.



TARIFF RESPONSE

Council has approved new procurement measures to reduce reliance on U.S. suppliers and support Canadian businesses amid growing tariff concerns.

The strategy includes four key actions: defining U.S. bidders in tenders, allowing award preference to Canadian suppliers within 20% of a U.S. bid, avoiding U.S.-linked cooperative purchasing agreements, and encouraging “Buy Canada” practices.

While most City purchases are already Canadian, the plan ensures flexibility for essential U.S.-only items like IT systems. The measures align with provincial policies and aim to balance fiscal responsibility with supply chain resilience. Existing contracts remain unaffected.





COMMUNITY GRANTS

Council has approved over \$8,000 in community grants for spring and summer 2025 events.

CMHA Thames Valley will receive \$1,200 for Flora's Walk on May 3 at Waterworks Park, aimed at raising awareness of perinatal mood and anxiety disorders. The Rainbow Optimist Club will get \$3,500 for Elgin County Pride 2025 at Pinafore Park from July 26 to August 4. The St. Thomas Kinsmen Club has been granted \$150 for pavilion rental for their Easter Egg Hunt on April 19. The Iron Horse Festival of St. Thomas will receive \$3,500 for the Railway City Music and Arts Festival, held at Pinafore Park from August 14 to 17.

A grant request from Big Brothers and Big Sisters for The Big Toss fundraiser was declined, as fundraising events are not eligible.

With these approvals, \$10,250 remains in the 2025 Community Grant fund.

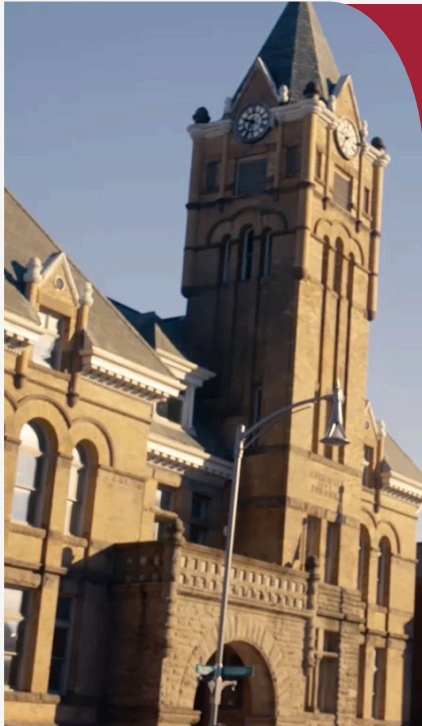
HERITAGE TAX RELIEF PROGRAM

Council has approved a recommendation to investigate a local heritage tax relief program. The initiative, aimed at supporting the maintenance and restoration of heritage properties, could offer tax reductions between 10% and 40% for eligible properties.

A preliminary cost estimate suggests a 40% rebate on the city's 12 heritage properties could total about \$22,200, with individual rebates ranging from \$700 to \$3,100. Council has directed staff to work with the Municipal Heritage Committee on a detailed report for further consideration.

DELISTING HERITAGE PROPERTIES

Council has agreed to explore a formal process for delisting properties from the Heritage Register. Currently, property owners submit a letter to council, but there is no standardized application. The Municipal Heritage Committee has reviewed practices from other municipalities and recommended creating a formal application process. A staff report will be prepared for further consideration.



UPCOMING FLAG RAISINGS & PROCLAMATIONS

28

APR

Beta Sigma Phi

🕒 11:00 AM 📍 CITY HALL

03

MAY

World Press Freedom Day

🕒 TBD 📍 TBD

05

MAY

Mental Health Week

🕒 10:00 AM 📍 CITY HALL

12

MAY

Victims and Survivors of Crime Week

🕒 9:00 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, May 5, 2025 at 5PM
- Monday, May 12, 2025 at 5PM
- Tuesday, May 20, 2025 at 5PM

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

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