



Keeping Track

City of St. Thomas Council Highlights

June 10, 2025 | Issue 15



DEPUTATION

Organizers of Summerfest appeared before Council to announce the return of the beloved community event, a St. Thomas tradition for over 20 years. Taking place June 20–21, this year's Summerfest continues its legacy of bringing residents together through music, food, and celebration, while raising nearly \$70,000 to date in support of local causes. Highlights include a Friday evening fish fry and retro dance party, followed by a Saturday night concert featuring Chicago Transit. The St. Thomas Food Bank has been named this year's community partner, and attendees are encouraged to bring non-perishable food items in support of their efforts.

A LOOK INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

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PARKS AND RECREATION NAMING POLICY

Council has approved a new policy to guide the naming and renaming of municipal parks, recreational facilities, and related assets.

The policy sets clear criteria that prioritize local geography, history, and community contributions. It outlines a formal application and review process, including a 45-day public consultation for proposed names.

A sunset clause allows Council to revisit naming decisions after 10 to 20 years or in special circumstances. The policy does not apply to memorial benches, roadways, or core facilities like City Hall or fire stations. The goal is to ensure naming decisions reflect the values, identity, and heritage of St. Thomas.

EXEMPTION TO BY-LAW

Council has approved by-law exemptions to allow petting zoos at two local events this summer. Families can enjoy a petting zoo during the Canada Day celebration at Password Park on July 1, and again at Pinafore Park on July 24 as part of Summer Camp Nature Week.

The exemptions were requested by event organizers and approved with no cost to the City. Both events aim to offer fun, interactive experiences for children and families.

FREE TRANSIT FOR SENIORS PICNIC

Council has approved free transit for seniors on Wednesday, July 9, 2025, for the annual Seniors Picnic in the Park at Pinafore Park. An extra bus will be added, and Route 4 will detour to drop passengers near the Dance Pavilion.

Voyago will donate an additional bus from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The estimated financial impact is \$300 in lost fare revenue and a \$500 rental fee, covered through the 2025 Council grants budget.



ST. THOMAS EDC: YEAR IN REVIEW

The St. Thomas Economic Development Corporation (EDC) presented its 2024-2025 review, highlighting significant achievements across tourism, small business, and construction. The C.E.O. of the St. Thomas EDC detailed a period of substantial economic growth for the city.

In tourism, Railway City Tourism undertook extensive marketing. Culinary tourism was a key focus, with an annual "Taste Guide" and "Global Flavours" event. The Elgin/St. Thomas Small Business Enterprise Centre (SBEC) exceeded provincial targets, creating 139 new jobs and fostering entrepreneurship.

Additionally, the Horton Farmers' Market surpassed \$1 million in sales. St. Thomas experienced a surge in 2024 building permit values, over \$139 million, and saw strong growth in housing starts. These figures underscore the city's dynamic development and economic vitality.

SPEED MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Council has approved a comprehensive Speed Management Program to address frequent complaints about speeding in residential areas. The program introduces a consistent, data-driven approach that includes traffic calming measures, regulatory tools, and targeted enforcement.

A new Traffic Calming Policy outlines how concerns will be assessed and addressed using non-physical and physical interventions, as well as education and enforcement strategies. Backed by a \$100,000 capital budget, the program aims to prioritize public safety and ensure resources are focused where they're needed most.

HERITAGE SIGNAGE

Council has approved an update to its Delegation By-law, allowing staff to issue Heritage Alteration Permits for signage in the Downtown Heritage Conservation District. The change, recommended by the Municipal Heritage Committee, is intended to simplify the approval process for signage that aligns with the City's Heritage Conservation District Plan and Signage By-law. There are no financial impacts from this update.



UPCOMING FLAG RAISINGS & PROCLAMATIONS

09
SEP

International FASD Awareness Day

📍 9:09 AM 📍 CITY HALL

16
OCT

Light it Up for NDEAM

💡 PURPLE & BLUE

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, June 16, 2025 at 5PM
- Monday, July 14, 2025 at 5PM
- Monday, August 11, 2025 at 5PM

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

PAST MEETINGS

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