



# Keeping Track

City of St. Thomas Council Highlights

May 6, 2025 | Issue 11



## STEGH DEPUTATION

St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital (STEGH) made a presentation to Council highlighting the need for a new facility as its 70+ year-old building no longer meets growing healthcare demands. Serving over 94,000 residents annually, STEGH faces increased demand, with 83% more space needed by 2033.

Options include a new greenfield site, redevelopment of the existing hospital, or a hybrid model. The Ministry of Health will decide the direction, with funding for construction split 90% provincially and 10% locally.

Mayor Preston offered the City's support to advocate on STEGH's behalf.

## A LOOK INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

1. CCR Protocol
2. Tennis & Pickleball Court Usage Policy
3. The Imagination Station
4. Tender Awarding



## COORDINATED COLLABORATIVE RESPONSE PROTOCOL

Council has endorsed the continued implementation of the Coordinated Collaborative Response (CCR) protocol following a review of 2024 outcomes. Developed by St. Thomas-Elgin Social Services, the CCR brings together multiple City departments to respond to reports of unsheltered homelessness, prioritizing community safety and support for vulnerable individuals.

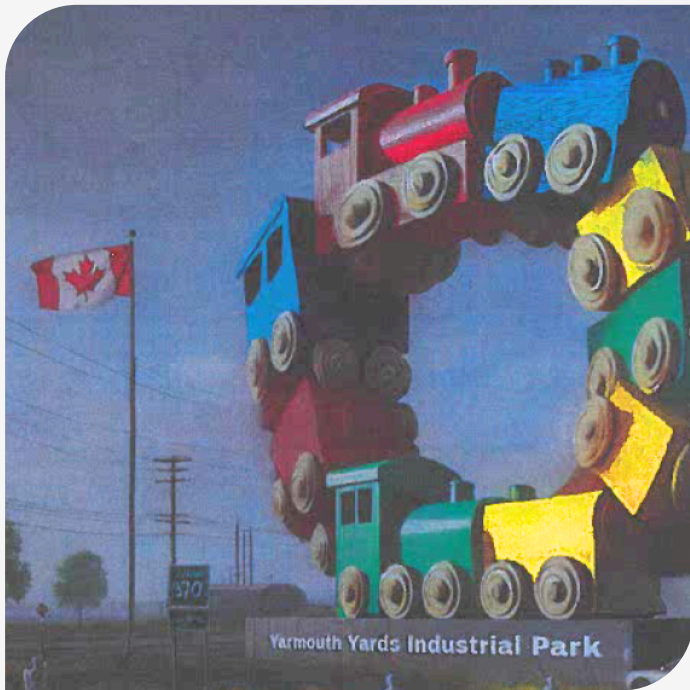
In 2024, the protocol facilitated 250 service requests—172 on public property—with all cases resolved. The CCR supported 85 unique individuals in accessing local services, including low-barrier emergency shelter at The INN, with 17 individuals successfully transitioning into housing. Council received the report for information, reaffirming its commitment to a collaborative, compassionate approach to homelessness that aligns with the City's strategic priority of public safety and well-being.



## TENNIS & PICKLEBALL COURT USAGE POLICY

Council has approved a revised Tennis and Pickleball Court Usage Policy to ensure fair, transparent access to public racket courts. The policy, which replaces a 2017 version, applies to courts at Pinafore Park and Godeeris-Luyks Park and outlines permitted times for organized clubs, defines types of court use—such as leagues, tournaments, programs, and casual play—and includes detailed rules, restrictions, and hours of operation.

The changes reduce exclusive permit hours and increase evening availability for walk-on play. The St. Thomas Pickleball Club was the sole organization to respond and contribute suggestions that informed the final draft of the Policy.



## THE IMAGINATION STATION

Council has approved the installation of "The Imagination Station," a large, colourful public art sculpture, at the Yarmouth Yards Industrial Park Gateway. The artwork, designed by artist Briony, takes the form of a giant, colourful wooden toy train set arranged in a dynamic circular design.

Inspired by St. Thomas's rich railway heritage, the piece aims to create a sense of joy and connection to the city's past for residents and visitors, particularly those using the nearby trails. Following a recommendation from the St. Thomas Public Art Committee, the sculpture will become a prominent feature at the north end of the city and will be added to the municipal public art collection.

## TENDER AWARDING

Council has awarded the Burwell Sewage Pumping Station Upgrade to Stone Town Construction Limited for \$5,011,988.20 (excluding HST), with R.V. Anderson Associates Limited providing contract administration and inspection services through a single source contract valued at \$375,000.00.

The upgrade, supporting the PowerCo site and Yarmouth Yards Industrial Park, will expand capacity and replace aging infrastructure identified in the 2020 Development Charges Background Study. Improvements include a 14-metre-deep wet well, control building, four sewage pumps, and a standby generator. Construction is set to begin in late May 2025 and be substantially complete by October 2026.

## WINTER WARRIORS

The Winter Warriors: Name Our Road & Sidewalk Fleet Contest is complete and the winning names are:

- Snow Thornton
- Control 'Salt' Delete
- Sir Plows-a-Lot



## UPCOMING FLAG RAISINGS & PROCLAMATIONS

**12**  
MAY : **Victims and Survivors of Crime Week**  
⌚ 9:00 AM 📍 CITY HALL

**1**  
JUN : **National Deafblind Awareness Month**  
👤 BLUE

**16**  
OCT : **Disability Employment Awareness Month**  
👤 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, May 12, 2025 at 5PM
- Tuesday, May 20, 2025 at 5PM
- Monday, June 2, 2025 at 5PM

To view the council meetings live, visit:  
[www.stthomas.ca/watch](http://www.stthomas.ca/watch)

### PAST MEETINGS

Watch archived council meetings:  
[www.stthomas.ca/archived](http://www.stthomas.ca/archived)

View past agendas and minutes:  
[www.stthomas.ca/pastcouncilmeetings](http://www.stthomas.ca/pastcouncilmeetings)

## STAY CONNECTED

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