



Keeping Track

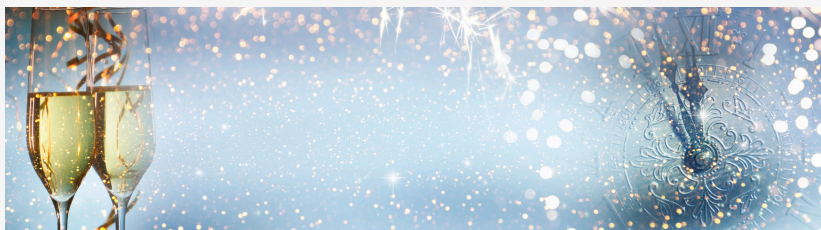
City of St. Thomas Council Highlights

November 18, 2025 | Issue 27



NEW YEAR'S EVE FREE TRANSIT SERVICE - 2025

Council received Report ES-55-25 related to New Year's Eve Free Transit Service. Council approved the free transit service starting December 31st at 5:45pm until January 1st at 2:45am. The goal is to provide safe rides home and raise awareness about drinking and driving. The free transit service consists of On-Demand service that will pick up and drop off passengers from a requested bus stop to a destination bus stop. Annually on December 25, 26 and January 1st, enforcement of overnight parking restrictions are suspended. All drivers are reminded to plan for a safe ride home and to never drive impaired.



A LOOK INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

1. New Year's Eve Free Transit Service -2025
2. Generator Feasibility Study - Joe Thornton Community Centre and Memorial Arena
3. Proposed Planning Act Changes - Bill 60 - Fighting Delays, Building Faster Act, 2025
4. City of St. Thomas Telecommunication Tower - Antenna Siting Protocol

FCM CLIMATE-READY PLANS AND PROCESSES (CRPP) FUNDING AGREEMENT

Council received Report CMO-51-25 regarding the FCM Climate-Ready Plans and Processes (CRPP) Funding Agreement. The City was awarded grant funding of \$70,000 from the FCM's Green Municipal Fund (GMF) to support the initiative. The program provides municipalities with financial support that are undertaking projects to advance environmental sustainability, climate resilience and local innovation. The execution of the agreement will confirm the City's participation in the GMF program and allocated funds to be released when completion of project milestones occur. The Climate Adaptation Strategy will provide:

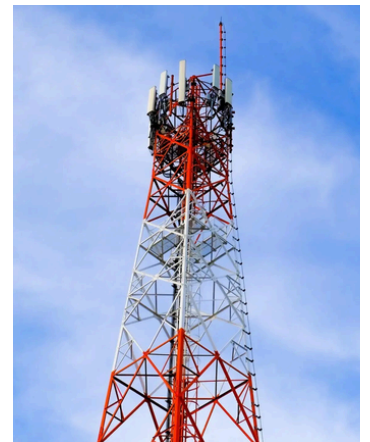
- A comprehensive assessment of local climate risks
- Prioritized adaptation actions and cost estimates
- Integration with City planning and asset management processes
- Measurement tools to monitor implementation and outcomes

The project will be completed by the end of 2026 which will include community and stakeholder input.



CITY OF ST. THOMAS TELECOMMUNICATION TOWER-ANTENNA SITING PROTOCOL

Council received Report PD-59-2025 related to approval of the City of St. Thomas Telecommunication Tower/Antenna Siting Protocol. This protocol would ensure that proponents of new or expanded radiocommunication facilities are aware of the City's specific interests in relation to planning documents and other City interests. This protocol will provide a consistent process for application review and provides an opportunity to address relevant concerns raised by the City and community. Staff have recommended that the proposals follow the City's Site Plan Control process. The City will only be able to comment as they do not have the authority to approve or reuse these Federal applications



PROPOSED PLANNING ACT CHANGES - BILL 60 - FIGHTING DELAYS, BUILDING FASTER ACT, 2025

Council received Report PD-61-2025 relating to a number of initiatives for additional red tape reduction, and to facilitate the development of housing and infrastructure across Ontario. The report included proposed changes to the Planning Act that are part of Bill 60.

There are significant changes proposed to the Planning Act such as:

- Policy Statements and Minister's Decisions
- Minister's Zoning Orders
- Minor Variances (As-of-right Variations from Performance Standards)

Additional changes to Standardizing Official Plans include:

- Structure and Contents of Official Plans
- Limiting the Length of Official Plans
- Creating Permissive Land Use Designations
- Transition to a New Framework

Other areas of change that may impact the City are Consultation on Enhanced Development Standards - Lot Level and Consultation on Minimum Lot Sizes.

City Staff are preparing to address all changes and reviewing areas of concern. City Staff provided an opportunity for Council to raise any concerns or questions that can be submitted to the Province by November 22nd.

GENERATOR FEASIBILITY STUDY - JOE THORNTON COMMUNITY CENTRE AND MEMORIAL ARENA

Council received Report PRF-34-25 referring to the Generator Feasibility Study - Joe Thornton Community Centre and Memorial Arena. Callidus Engineering Inc. assessed the technical and financial feasibility of installing a new standby generator at either Joe Thornton Community Centre or Memorial Arena. The study reviewed existing electrical distribution systems at each facility, peak electrical demand data, generator sizing requirements, estimated capital costs for diesel and natural gas options and the pros/cons of each fuel source. The preferred recommendation from Callidus Engineering would be the Joe Thornton Community Centre (excluding ice plant) as it is part of the emergency management plan. The estimated cost for a diesel generator is \$720,000 and natural gas generator would be \$950,000. Funding opportunities such as grants related to emergency management will be investigated.

2026 COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

Council received report CC-16-25 relating to the upcoming 2026 Council Meeting Schedule. The yellow highlighted dates below are the approved Council Meeting dates for 2026 and have adjusted the dates relating to conferences and holiday schedules. If warranted, a special meeting may be called, in accordance with Council's Procedural By-law 118-2025 at any time.

January	February	March	April																																																																																																																																																																																						
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UPCOMING FLAG RAISINGS & PROCLAMATIONS

26
NOV

Families Accessing
Pediatric Care
YELLOW

30
NOV

Stomach Cancer
Awareness
PERIWINKLE

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, December 1, 2025 at 5 p.m.
- Monday, December 8, 2025 at 5 p.m.
- Monday, December 15, 2025 at 5 p.m.

To view the council meetings live, visit:
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