



Keeping Track

City of St. Thomas Council Highlights

October 20, 2026 | Issue 54



SUBDIVISION ASSUMPTIONS

The City of St. Thomas is taking steps to formalize the assumption of municipal infrastructure in subdivisions developed over the past years. Council directed staff to prepare a by-law addressing outstanding administrative requirements for completed developments. This process confirms subdivision obligations have been fulfilled and formally closes the development files. Moving forward, Staff plan to introduce annual assumption by-laws to ensure timely processing, improve accountability, and support the City's continued residential growth and infrastructure management.

A LOOK INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

1. City of St. Thomas Official Plan - Phase 1 Engagement, Draft Vision and Goals Update
2. Medium Term Hydro Supply
3. Parking Controls - Five-Hour Timed Enforcement
4. Follow Up Report - Zoning By-law Amendment - 417 Wellington Street and 275 Highview Drive



CITY OF ST. THOMAS OFFICIAL PLAN - PHASE 1 ENGAGEMENT, DRAFT VISION AND GOALS UPDATE

The City of St. Thomas is updating its Official Plan to guide growth and development through 2051. Workshops and an online survey were part of the community engagement and residents highlighted affordable housing, downtown revitalization, improved transportation, parks, and environmental protection as priorities. Approximately 71% of survey respondents rated the City as a good or excellent place to live, work, and invest. The draft vision and eight goals emphasize responsible growth, connected neighbourhoods, economic prosperity, and preserving the City's character. Residents are encouraged to attend the additional public engagement events planned for Fall 2026 and Winter 2027. These engagement sessions provide residents further opportunities to help shape the future of St. Thomas.



PARKING CONTROLS - FIVE-HOUR TIMED ENFORCEMENT



Council received the final part of the June 15th motion related to parking controls. City staff reviewed its five-hour parking restrictions to address concerns about vehicles being moved to avoid enforcement, commonly known as “loop parking.” Current enforcement relies on By-Law officer patrols and manual observations. Automated Licence Plate Recognition technology could improve enforcement efficiency but would cost approximately \$25,000-\$40,000 per vehicle, plus ongoing expenses. Staff recommend maintaining current practices, with any future technology upgrades considered through the municipal budget process.



MEDIUM TERM HYDRO SUPPLY

Council endorsed providing comments to the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) supporting expanded hydro infrastructure in the London/St. Thomas region. With significant industrial, commercial, and residential growth anticipated, particularly at Yarmouth Yards, additional electricity capacity is essential. The City supports advancing new transformer stations and transmission lines to meet the increasing demand. Strengthening the region's hydro supply will help attract investment, support new businesses and housing, create economic opportunities, and ensure St. Thomas can continue growing sustainably.

FOLLOW UP REPORT - ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENT - 417 WELLINGTON STREET AND 275 HIGHVIEW DRIVE

Council received a follow-up report regarding the proposed redevelopment at 417 Wellington Street and 275 Highview Drive. The two-phase project includes two 10-storey mixed-use buildings and two single-storey commercial buildings. Following public consultation, staff addressed concerns about building height, privacy, traffic, and parking. The proposed zoning amendments would require underground parking, outdoor amenity spaces, and the preservation of the existing enclosed shopping centre. Council have approved the zoning amendment. This development will introduce new housing opportunities while maintaining the mall's important commercial role in St. Thomas.





UPCOMING FLAG RAISINGS & PROCLAMATIONS

NOVEMBER

20 Eczema Awareness

30 International Gastric
Cancer Awareness
Day

DECEMBER

JUMBO MONUMENT LIGHTING

November 20

Eczema
Awareness



Blue

November 30

International
Gastric Cancer
Awareness Day



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, November 2, 2026 at 5 p.m.
- Monday, November 9, 2026 at 5 p.m.
- Monday, November 16, 2026 at 5 p.m.

To view the council meetings live, visit:
<https://www.stthomas.ca/city-hall/council/council-meetings/>

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