



Keeping Track

City of St. Thomas Council Highlights

February 3, 2026 | Issue 32



ELECTION SIGNS ON MUNICIPAL ROAD ALLOWANCES

Council received Report CC-03-26 and a by-law amendment to prohibit the placement of election signs on municipal road allowances. The Clerks' office has requested for the removal of the exception for election signs on road allowances in the City of St. Thomas Use of City Resources during an Election Period policy. In certain circumstances, election signs have been thrown out due to the location of the sign and the adjacent property owner believe the sign is on their property. Safety concerns have been brought forward to City staff. If City staff remove signs that interfere with maintenance within park-adjacent road allowances, these signs will be kept at the Parks Office at Pinafore Park and can be retrieved by the candidates or their representatives. To provide clear direction, election signs will continue to be allowed on private property.

A LOOK INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

1. Ryan Davies Project - Aquatic Safety Audit
2. Declaration of Surplus Property - Chestnut Street
3. Proposed Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendments - 417 Wellington Street
4. Election Signs on Municipal Road Allowances



RYAN DAVIES PROJECT - AQUATIC SAFETY AUDIT

Council received Report PRF-02-26 - Ryan Davies Project - Aquatic Safety Audit. Council has approved the recommendations within the report which include installation of lifesaving stations and associated safety signage at Lake Margaret, Pinafore Lake and Waterworks Park and for the installation of commemorative signage recognizing Ryan Davies in connection with the City's waterfront safety initiative. The Lifesaving Society completed the audit that identified the need for standardized lifesaving stations and consistent safety and no-swimming signage at municipal waterfronts where boating and recreational use occurs but swimming is not permitted. In alignment with the audit findings, staff proposed the installation of 10 lifesaving stations distributed across Lake Margaret, Pinafore Lake and Waterworks Park Reservoir. A commemorative plaque and interpretive sign to be placed at the dock in Jim Waite Park to honour Ryan Davies has been recommended as well.



UPDATE TO PARKS BY-LAW NO. 96-2019 - WATER SAFETY AND DRONE USE



Council received Report PRF- 03-26 and requests Council to approve the proposed amendments to Parks By-law No. 96-2019. This update to the Parks By-law will focus on the regulatory amendments arising from Council's direction on report PRF - 02 - 26. A definition of Personal Flotation Device has been introduced which references approved lifejackets and flotation devices that meet federal boating safety standards. A clear municipal safety expectation for water-based recreation within City-owned water bodies has been established to reinforce safe practices and reduce the risk of injury or drowning.

Aligned with terminology used in the Canadian Aviation Regulations, a definition for Remotely Piloted Aircraft has been introduced. A limited exception for small drones (under 250 grams) have been provided if operated in full compliance all federal and provincial rules. This exception does not allow drone use that would violate privacy or create a nuisance.



WOODWORTH AVENUE RECONSTRUCTION - TENDER 2025-041 AWARD

Council received Report ES-02-26 related to the Woodworth Avenue Reconstruction - Tender 2025-041 Award. This project has been awarded to J-AAR Civil Infrastructures Limited. This project is the first phase of constructing a new sanitary trunk sewer and forcemain to convey sewage flows from Yarmouth Yards to the future Dalewood Water Reclamation Facility. The project includes a number of improvements such as replacement of watermain, installation of a sanitary trunk sewer, installation of storm sewer, new curb and gutter and roadway replacement. The project procurement process included a pre-qualification of contractors to maintain high quality workmanship. The project amount is \$4,656,913 excluding HST.



DECLARATION OF SURPLUS PROPERTY - CHESTNUT STREET



Council received Report CMO-07-26 regarding a Declaration of Surplus Property - Chestnut Street. Through the Housing Accelerator Fund Action Plan, staff created a clear process and evaluation matrix to review the City's land inventory for surplus properties suitable for housing. Several unbuilt, City-owned sites larger than one acre are now being assessed as potential opportunities for future residential development. The two Chestnut Street lots would be merged and sold as one R3-zoned parcel, permitting up to four residential units. Sale conditions include at least one Additional Residential Unit, a building permit by December 31, 2027, and a Tree Conservation Plan. The City may repurchase the property if conditions are unmet.



PROPOSED OFFICIAL PLAN AND ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENTS - 417 WELLINGTON STREET - APPENDIX "D"

Council received report PD-04-26 in regard to the Proposed Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendments - 417 Wellington Street and a scheduled public meeting will take place on March 9th, 2026. Elgin Centre Inc. has submitted an application to permit a kennel and pet grooming service at 417 Wellington Street. The Elgin Centre is zoned as Major Commercial Special Provision Zone and kennels are not among the range of permitted uses and an Official Plan Amendment has been requested. The proposed kennel would include both a daycare and overnight accommodation with retail and pet grooming services. There have been previous amendments in 2019 related to permit a hotel and residential apartment uses and to permit a clinic and private recreation centre.



UPCOMING FLAG RAISINGS & PROCLAMATIONS

5
FEB

Optimist Day
⌚ 10:30AM 📍 CITY HALL

7
FEB

Congenital Heart
Disease Awareness
💡 RED

23
FEB

Human Trafficking
Awareness Day
⌚ 11:00AM 📍 CITY HALL

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, February 9, 2026 at 5 p.m.
- Tuesday, February 17, 2026 at 5 p.m.
- Monday, March 2, 2026 at 5 p.m.

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

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