



Keeping Track

City of St. Thomas Council Highlights

September 3, 2025 | Issue 19



ST. THOMAS-ELGIN 10 YEAR HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS PLAN: 2024 PROGRESS REPORT

The 2024 Progress Report on the St. Thomas-Elgin 10-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan highlights significant achievements since its launch in 2014, including the creation of 246 new affordable and supportive housing units, expanded housing allowances and rent supplements to help over 300 households maintain stability, and enhanced system-wide responses such as a 24/7 emergency shelter, coordinated access to housing, and street outreach services. The plan has been driven by strong collaboration with community partners and service providers, with the shared goal of functionally ending homelessness.

Looking ahead, staff will begin preparing for a provincially mandated 10-year review and update of the plan, due in May 2026.

A LOOK INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

1. St. Thomas-Elgin Social Services 2025-26 Investment Plans
2. Updates to Environmental and Infrastructure Fees and Charges By-Laws
3. 2024 Audited Consolidated Financial Statements
4. Crime Severity Index - Values for 2024



ONTARIO PRIORITIES HOUSING INITIATIVE INVESTMENT PLANS

Council received Report SESS-18-25 outlining the 2025-26 Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative (COCHI) and Ontario Priorities Housing Initiative (OPHI) Investment Plan. The \$1,427,900 in provincial funding will be directed toward new affordable housing development, repairs to existing housing, rent supplements to improve affordability, and program administration. The plan also sets a target of 10 new rent-assisted units this year and confirms funding allocations through 2027-28.



HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION PROGRAM INVESTMENT PLANS

SESS-19-25 outlining the 2025-26 Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP) Investment Plan. The \$2,527,500 in provincial funding will support key services such as supportive housing, emergency shelters, rent supplements, rural homelessness navigation, and financial assistance to help households stay housed.

Adjustments for this year include increased funding for Family Central's extended hours, expanded rural emergency accommodation supports, and additional financial assistance to respond to growing community need.

2024 AUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Council received Report TR-16-25 presenting the 2024 Audited Consolidated Financial Statements. Prepared in accordance with the Municipal Act and audited by Scrimgeour and Company, the statements outline the City's financial position for the year ended December 31, 2024.

Council approved the consolidated statements, the City's Trust Fund statements, and authorized the Mayor to sign the Audit Findings Letter. To address the 2024 deficit, approximately \$2.87 million will be drawn from the infrastructure reserve, which may affect funding for future non-budgeted projects.

UPDATES TO FEES AND CHARGES BY-LAWS

Council received Report ES33-25 and Report TR-15-25 regarding updates to municipal fees and charges. The draft Environmental and Infrastructure Services Fees and Charges By-law consolidates and updates fees across ten existing by-laws, introducing modest increases and new charges in areas such as animal services, enforcement, engineering, waste management, and the Community Recycling Centre.

These changes are expected to generate approximately \$130,000 in additional annual revenue beginning January 1, 2026.

Separately, the Treasury Fees and Charges By-law has been updated for the first time since 2013 to better reflect actual costs and align with surrounding municipalities. Proposed changes include increases to tax certificates, reprints, and service charges, which are estimated to generate \$38,000 in additional annual revenue. Both by-laws support the City's commitment to fiscal accountability and continuous improvement.





INCREASE IN CITY STAFFING

Council received Report FD-11-25 regarding a temporary increase in Fire Department staffing. To address extended leaves and maintain minimum NFPA 1710 staffing levels, Council approved adding two Probationary Firefighters. This approach is more cost-effective than relying on overtime for First Class Firefighters, reducing strain on existing staff while ensuring public safety and operational readiness.

Notice was given that Administration will present a report at the September 8, 2025 Council meeting seeking approval for an unbudgeted operating expenditure to fund two Housing Program Coordinator positions.

CRIME SEVERITY INDEX - VALUES FOR 2024

Council received Report CHIEF-2025-26 regarding the 2024 Crime Severity Index (CSI) values for St. Thomas. The CSI measures the seriousness of police-reported crime and tracks changes over time.

In 2024, St. Thomas experienced unprecedented call volumes and complex incidents, creating high operational pressures. Overall crime severity decreased by 17.57% from 2022–2024, with non-violent crime down 31.76% and violent crime up 22.3%.

The Police Service continues to invest in targeted initiatives including the CIRT team, Street Crime and Property Crime Units, a crime analysis unit, and a second K9 unit. These efforts, combined with intelligence-led policing and cross-sector partnerships, aim to sustain long-term public safety.

The report notes that future budgets must reflect increasing operational demands while supporting community safety initiatives.

UPCOMING FLAG RAISINGS & PROCLAMATIONS

7
SEPT

**World Duchenne
Awareness Day**



08
SEPT

**Crime Stoppers
Awareness Month**

🕒 9 a.m. 📍 CITY HALL

9
SEPT

**Fetal Alcohol Spectrum
Disorder Awareness Day**

🕒 9:09 a.m. 📍 CITY HALL

15
SEPT

**Welcoming Week
2025**

🕒 9 a.m. 📍 CITY HALL

15-21
SEPT

**Big Brothers Big
Sisters Month**

🕒 10 a.m. 📍 CITY HALL
👉 TEAL

22
SEPT

**Childhood Cancer
Awareness Month**

🕒 9 a.m. 📍 CITY HALL

22
SEPT

Legion Week

🕒 11 a.m. 📍 CITY HALL

22-28
SEPT

**Prostate Cancer
Awareness Month**



29
SEPT

**Immune
Thrombocytopenia
Awareness Month**



30
SEPT

Orange Shirt Day

🕒 12 p.m. 📍 CITY HALL
👉 ORANGE

16
OCT

**Light it Up!
for NDEAM**



20
OCT

**Foster Family
Appreciation Week**

🕒 9 a.m. 📍 CITY HALL

21
OCT

**Ontario Public
Library Week**

🕒 TBD 📍 CITY HALL

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, September 8, 2025 at 5 p.m.
- Monday, September 15, 2025 at 5 p.m.

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

PAST MEETINGS

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