

Thames Centre MUNICIPAL UPDATE

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Welcome to the Municipality of Thames Centre's third issue of our new service – quarterly newsletters! An excellent tool for communicating vital and timely news and updates and other significant information from all of our departments, directly to our community, all in one release.



Subscribe to get information directly to your inbox

The Municipality of Thames Centre has recently added a subscription function to their website. Through this feature residents can subscribe to receive emails related to a variety of topics:

- Alerts – emergency notifications and service disruptions
- News/Announcements – information from the Municipality such as quarterly newsletters, Council highlights, and public service announcements
- Events – list of upcoming events within Thames Centre
- Employment Opportunities – job postings for the Municipality of Thames Centre

Residents can choose which topic to receive emails on and can subscribe at any time.

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER (CAO)



Following a comprehensive recruitment process, the Municipality of Thames Centre is pleased to announce the appointment of David Barrick as its new Chief Administrative Officer.

Mr. Barrick brings more than 17 years of municipal experience, successfully holding senior administrative roles in the public sector, with a focus on Operations, Corporate and Legislative Services, including serving as CAO of one of the largest municipalities in Ontario.

David has also founded and operated several successful businesses and has experience in risk management. He holds an Honours B.A. in Political Science with a Concentration in Public Law from Brock University and Performance Measurement in Government Certification from York University.

"We are fortunate to have this talented and experienced CAO on our team and are excited to welcome David to Thames Centre" said Mayor Sharron McMillan.

"He has a demonstrated commitment to community services, municipal efficiency, as well as organizational skills, and his proven success as a leader will serve our community well."

"Thames Centre is an incredible community with so many great assets, including its natural heritage, recreational amenities, beautiful hamlets, and rural roots. I'm excited to support this dedicated Council in the fulfillment of its priorities to the residents of Thames Centre", said David Barrick.

David was formally appointed by Council on May 29, 2023 and will take up his new duties on June 12, 2023. Please join Council and the members of Thames Centre staff in welcoming David to his new role in our community.

Sharron McMillan
Mayor, Thames Centre

The Thames Centre Special Events Committee works together with the Municipality to enhance the events within our community and has many planned for 2023.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- Wellburn Movie Night – Friday, June 23
- Canada Day – Friday, June 30 and Saturday, July 1
- Thorndale Movie Night – Friday, July 14
- Dorchester Movie Night – Saturday, August 12
- Harrietsville Movie Night – Friday, August 25
- Bridgefest – Saturday, September 9
- Halloween Light Home Tour – deadline to register Monday, October 16
- Festival of Lights – Saturday, November 18
- Christmas Light Home Tour – deadline to register Monday, December 3

Visit the events website page or social media for event updates within the municipality.

Municipally Significant Events Policy

Thames Centre recently adopted a Municipally Significant Events Policy. The Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO) requires some groups have a letter designating them a Municipally Significant Event prior to issuing a Special Events Permit to serve alcohol.

In order to help streamline groups applying to obtain this designation, the Municipality of Thames Centre adopted guidelines and procedures for groups who are interested in applying for this designation. Read more about Municipally Significant Events.

Thames Centre Playground Program

The Thames Centre Playground Program is open for summer registration.

This program is open to children aged 4-12 years old, who have completed Junior Kindergarten up to grade seven with two locations available:

- Dorchester - FlightExec Centre
- Thorndale - Thorndale Lions Community Centre

Children come together to take part in a variety of games, crafts, sports, outdoor play, swimming (seasonal), along with many other fun activities.

This is a locally sponsored program, therefore all families registering must live, work or go to school in Thames Centre.

- The cost to enroll in a five-day week is \$185.00 per child, per week or a four-day week is \$148.00 per child, per week.
- The program runs from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- Before and after care is available from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., at no additional cost.

Registering for Playground

- Registration will be complete upon submission of the Registration Form, Health Screening Form and Payment.
- Health Screening Form (must be filled out prior to enrollment)
- Registration will close the Wednesday before each week, so staff have adequate time to prepare for a fun week!
- If registration cannot be completed online with a credit card, please stop by the FlightExec Centre office to register (open weekdays 8:30am-4:30pm).

2023 Operating Dates:

July 4-7 (4-day week)

July 10-14

July 17-21

July 24-28

July 31-August 4

August 8-11 (4-day week)

August 14-18

August 21-25

[Register Here](#)

Community Pools and Splash Pads

The outdoor heated pool, located at the Dorchester Park, opens Monday, June 12, 2023.

There will be modified hours from June 12th - June 29th with full hours resuming June 30th - August 31st.

Splash Pads

Now open daily from 9:00am until 8:00pm
Locations in Dorchester & Thorndale

[2023 Pool Program](#)



Online Swimming Registration is open for the summer

Each session runs for 2 weeks, Monday-Friday and are based on Lifesaving Society.

- July 3-14, 2023
- July 17-28, 2023
- July 31-August 11, 2023
- August 14-25, 2023

[Register for Lessons](#)

[Read more](#) for additional information on Bronze Star, Bronze Medallion, Bronze Cross, Private Lessons and Swim Team.

Lawn & Sod Watering Notice

Reminder that as per Bylaw #44-2003 requires that lawn watering is done at most every second day. This is done through restricting watering to Odd or Even calendar days matching your house address being either an Odd or Even number.



This initiative greatly reduces the peak water flow demands on the water system to ensure we can supply the community needs at all times. Not adhering to this by-law could result in a substantial fine.

For more information on Water and Wastewater Sewer Billing and Sewer Charges Cap, please see our [notice](#).

EXCESSIVE COST FOR LAWN WATERING IS A COST WE HOPE YOU CAN AVOID.

Getting Married this Summer?



Congratulations on your upcoming nuptials!

In order to get legally married in the Province of Ontario, a Marriage Licence is required. The licence is valid for 90 days and only in Ontario. Couples can obtain a marriage licence through the Municipality of Thames Centre, at a cost of \$140.00. Couples must fill out and submit the application form prior to booking a visit to the municipal office to obtain a licence. [Read more](#) for more information on Marriage Licences.

Booking an Appointment

- Appointments will be scheduled within 3-5 business days of completing the application.
- You may book an appointment by contacting 519-268-7334

FlightExec Centre Expansion Project

Construction is set to begin between mid-July and early-August, with completion slated for June 2024. This project will result in a greatly enlarged Lions Senior Centre (with 3 program rooms), the space used by V.O.N. will be twice the size of their current area (with two respite rooms added and an enlarged Adult Day Program room to accommodate more people), and the auditorium will be moved to a new location and enlarged as well. The Lions Senior Centre will share a new kitchen with the auditorium and will share a courtyard with the V.O.N.



FlightExec Centre Expansion Project continued...

Changes to be aware of once construction begins this summer include:

- all Lions Senior Centre programs and events will be run out of different locations, with no access to the existing Lions Senior Centre during construction.
- Senior Centre Staff's office space will be temporarily relocated to the administration office space found at the south end of the FlightExec Centre.
- VON programming will be relocated to the second level in the north side of the FlightExec Centre, accessed via the entrance with signage "Auditorium, North Rink – CANUSA."
- Parking and driving routes around the FlightExec Centre will be impacted during construction, as shown below:



Community Services & Facilities Master Plan Update

Work continues on updating this department's Master Plan. The end result will be a clear, innovative and flexible planning document to be used by the Municipality to guide department initiatives for the next 10 years. Community input is paramount for a successful Plan, with open houses, stakeholder group meetings, council interviews and an online survey already having been completed. Remaining steps of this process include staff workshops, a mid-term presentation to Council, a second open house in both Dorchester and Thorndale, and then a final Master Plan proposal being presented to Council for approval, tentatively in September of this year.

Lions Senior Centre

There are many benefits to becoming a member of the Lions Senior Centre. The amount and variety of programs and activities offered is amazing! Becoming a member provides you with discounts on programs in Thorndale & Dorchester as well as on bus trips. Members also receive a free newsletter every two months and have the option to sign-up for a weekly e-newsletter which includes details on all the coming activities. [Read more](#) for a list of all the programs offered in both Dorchester and Thorndale.



Joining is easy and only
\$25.00 for the year.

Open to members 50 years or over.

For more information, contact the Senior Centre
519-287-7334.

Karen ext. 708 or Kayla ext. 728



2023 FINAL PROPERTY TAX BILL

Final property tax bills will be sent the first week of August, with due dates of August 30, 2023, and October 30, 2023. Please check your mailbox/inbox. If you have signed up to receive your bill via email, and do not see the email in your in box at that time, please check your junk/spam folder.

It is important to keep this tax bill for future reference if needed for income tax purposes, mortgage companies, realtors or appraisers as it shows the total taxes billed for the year.

If you do not receive your bill, please contact the municipal office by phone at 519-268-7334. You can also reach us by email at inquiries@thamescentre.on.ca

Please note, failure to receive a tax bill does not absolve the property owner from any taxes due or from penalty/interest charges for late payments.

SUPPLEMENTARY TAX BILLS

Supplementary tax bills for new or recently renovated properties, or properties that have changed in use, will be mailed between August and November, with two installment due dates.

If you are currently enrolled in the **Monthly/Installment Pre-Authorization Payment Plan**, the amount(s) owing is **NOT** included in your monthly/installment withdrawal and must be paid by the due dates indicated.

Learn more at [thamescentre.on.ca/taxes](https://www.thamescentre.on.ca/taxes)



SIMPLIFY YOUR TAX AND WATER BILLS

Never misplace another tax or water bill again by signing up for “Paperless” billing! Fill out the form on the Municipal website or pick up a paper copy form at the Municipal Office.

Make paying your bills even easier! Sign up for pre-authorized payments. Fill out the form or pick up a paper copy form at the Municipal Office.



DO WE HAVE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION?

There are many situations where we might need to contact you.
Returned mail,
payment questions etc.

If you are unsure if we have this information, please send an email with the property roll number, property address and contact phone number to inquiries@thamescentre.on.ca

If you do not have an email address, please give us a call at 519-268-7334 Ext 221

MOVING? Please advise Sherri Ridsdale, in the water department of any change in name or address. You are responsible for all charges incurred while the account is in your name. Sherri can be reached at 519-268-7334 Ex 229 or sridsdale@thamescentre.on.ca

RESOURCEFUL MPAC VIDEOS

MPAC's "How to Read Your Property Assessment Notice" video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oQZMdlxoiYs>

MPAC's "How MPAC Assesses Property" video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uikghy2Yz10>

MPACs "How MPAC Assesses Farm Properties" video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rT0cbmkjRtQ>

MPAC's "How MPAC Assesses Business Properties" video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2zsfPIIDThU>

MPAC's "How Your Property Tax is Calculated" video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nrWry5i3TBU>

MFOA's "How Your Municipal Budget Works" video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UG6aksviyFc>

MFOA's "Asset Management Planning" video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=deiyRp9pEo>

PLANNING A PROJECT FOR YOUR PROPERTY?

Are you looking to finish your basement, add a bathroom, install a pool, construct a shed, add an additional residential unit, connect to municipal services, or demolish a structure? A permit is likely required.

Permits are required to protect yourself, other users, future owners, and the public that may enter a space or building.

All construction must comply to applicable law (E.g., Ontario Building Code (OBC), Zoning By-law, Fence By-law) whether or not a permit is required.

Examples that require a permit: sheds greater than 160 sq. ft. (15 m²), a 2-storey accessory structure, septic decommissioning, an in-ground or above-ground pool, swim spas, a deck greater than 24 in. (2 ft.) above grade, or a covered porch. Depending on what is proposed, specific applicable law requirements may apply. Note that all sheds need to be setback at least 1 metre from a side or rear lot line.

Looking to submit a Building Permit?

You can submit online through the [Permits Portal](#).



Helpful links:

- [Building Services](#)
- [Planning Services](#)
- [Applications, Licenses & Permits](#)
- [By-laws](#)

Dorchester Union Cemetery

With the warm weather we look forward to sprucing up the cemetery and for those families who enjoy having the ability to decorate their loved one's graves, please refer to the regulations By-law No. 50-2022 for the Dorchester Union Cemetery.

Here are some friendly reminders for your convenience:

- a compost container is at the north/main entrance to deposit trimmings and old plants
- visitors' vehicles shall not leave the roadway
- glass containers are not allowed in the cemetery
- items are not to be attached to the niche plaques
- remove all items from a lot before April 1st (unless on a monument or in a flowerbed)
- shrubs or flower beds not attended to by June 1st may be removed (charges may apply)
- flower beds are allowed on the east side of a monument (check with us first)

Decoration Sunday is held annually on Father's Day - June 18th

Memory Wall Plaques are available for purchase on the new Columbarium Domes

Check out the [cemetery_price_list](#) for more helpful information!

Please contact Tammy Butt, Cemetery Coordinator, when in doubt or considering any changes to your plot. 519-268-7334 x227 or email: tbutt@thamescentre.on.ca



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The Council and Staff
of Thames Centre
wish everyone a very
Happy and Safe
Summer Season!