

Council Highlights

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Join us at our Next Regular Council Meeting
on Monday, January 26 at 5pm!



Green Champions Awarded

Two Green Champion Awards were presented at Council last night.

Dave and Kathy Breen were named Green Champions for their innovative agricultural practices which focus on protecting soil health by minimizing tillage and maximizing biodiversity.

Monarch Meadows Tree Farm was named as Green Business of the Year, for utilizing an irrigation system powered only by the sun and gravity, as well as their dedication to protecting pollinators. Owner Dave Cole accepted the award.

The Green Champion Awards were created by Council to recognize outstanding local environmental initiatives and excellent land stewardship.

Nominations were received from the public over the course of 2025. Applications were judged by the Environmental Advisory Committee.

Nominations will be accepted this year for the 2026 awards at <https://forms.thamescentre.on.ca/Green-Champion-Award-Nomination-Form>.



The Breen Family accepts the Green Champion Award



Dave Cole (Monarch Meadows) Accepts Green Business of the Year Award



Looking for more information on this meeting?
Visit our **website** or **YouTube channel** for more details!

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2026 Fees and Charges Now Published Online, Lottery Licences Simplified

2026 Fees and Charges were approved at last night's meeting. The 2026 Fees & Charges by-law and schedule of fees for 2026 can be found online at <https://www.thamescentre.on.ca/bylaws>.

Among the changes include changing the lottery fee structure. Moving forward, instead of lottery fees being 3% of the total prize value, fees for each licence will now be a flat rate of \$30, regardless of the type of lottery.

Lower fees help support our local organizations who use lotteries, and makes it easier for organizations to budget. All fees can be paid upfront this way, which allows for more streamlined application process (i.e. no more paying at reporting time for 50/50 raffles).

For more information, visit our Lottery Licences page at: <https://www.thamescentre.on.ca/council-and-administration/lottery-licences>.

Shipping Container By-Law Amendment Moved to January 26 Meeting

The Shipping Container by-law amendment that was scheduled to be debated on January 12 was removed from the agenda at the behest of staff, to review public feedback. A revised draft will be presented on January 26.

To read the proposed amendment or any other draft by-law, you can visit <https://www.thamescentre.on.ca/draftbylaws>. The public can provide comments by e-mailing comments@thamescentre.on.ca.



Budget 2026 Deliberations Continue

Council has requested an additional budget meeting to be scheduled to review potential options for reducing 2026 tax rates.

A date for this meeting has not yet been scheduled; however, residents can follow the meetings of Council and committees of Council on our website at: <https://www.thamescentre.on.ca/agenda-minutes>.

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Firefighters Present Council with 25th Anniversary Plaque



2026 marks the 25th anniversary of the Municipality of Thames Centre!

To help mark the occasion, the Thames Centre Fire Department presented Council with a plaque featuring firefighters from both stations.

The plaque will hang on the walls of the Council Chambers, and establishes a new way to honour our volunteer firefighters within the Council Chambers.

Landfill Agreement with Circular Materials Approved

As of January 1, Circular Materials has taken over the Blue Box recycling program.

Thames Centre has entered into an agreement that will allow Circular Materials to use recycling facilities at the local landfill.

For more information on residential recycling, or to share comments and concerns, residents can visit <https://www.circularmaterials.ca/resident-communities/thames-centre>.



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