

Council Highlights

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Join us at our next Council Meeting on Monday, July 28 at 5pm



Council Approves New Ice Pad Construction in 2026

Council officially approved the construction of a new ice pad at the FlightExec Centre.

It was previously announced that the Ontario Government would be providing \$1 million in grant funding to help finance the project, which will replace the current CANUSA rink.

The new ice pad will feature a new foundation, modern refrigeration system, and improved boards, safety glass, and benches.

Steve MacDonald, Director of Community Services & Recreation, outlined the timing of the project at the meeting, noting that the project would go out to tender in January. Construction would begin when the ice is removed in March and would projected to be completed in time for the fall.



MPP Rob Flack Toured the CANUSA Rink with Council members when the funding was announced last week.

Thames Centre Receives Award for Innovation

Clerk Jana Nethercott (centre) and Deputy Mayor Michelle Smibert accept the E.A. Danby Certificate of Merit for Thames Centre's innovative use of OpenBook software.



The Mayor highlighted that Thames Centre received a Certificate of Merit at the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO) E.A. Danby Awards.

The awards recognize innovation in municipal finance, administration, and legislation.

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Municipality Signs New Lease With VON



Council approved a new lease extension with the Victorian Order of Nurses.

The new deal is a five-year lease, which would see VON pay roughly 10% of market rent for their space.

The deal can be extended for a further three years, with mutual consent of both parties.

This will allow VON to remain in their space in the FlightExec Centre while continuing to offer services to our community!

New Guidelines for ARUs

Council was presented with new guidelines on Additional Residential Units (ARUs).

ARUs are separate units with their own kitchen, bathroom and sleeping area(s). ARUs are different from other residential uses because they are clearly secondary to the main dwelling on the property use and appearance

The new guidelines were prepared by staff in the Planning & Development Services department, and outline when municipal approvals are required.

To find the new guidelines, visit

<https://www.thamescentre.on.ca/agenda-minutes>



2024 Financial Update Shows Surplus



Last night Council received its final (unaudited) 2024 Financial Update, showing an operating budget surplus of \$1,350,705.30.

This moderate surplus is a result of accurate budgeting and higher than projected investment income. The Municipality's capital reserves came in at \$16,121,422.28.

Council also approved a schedule for the development of the 2026 budget.

You can view the meeting at:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/municipalityofthamescentre>

View the Financial Update Presentation at:

<https://tinyurl.com/TC2024FinUpdate>

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Motion Calls for County to Establish Community Safety Zones Near Schools



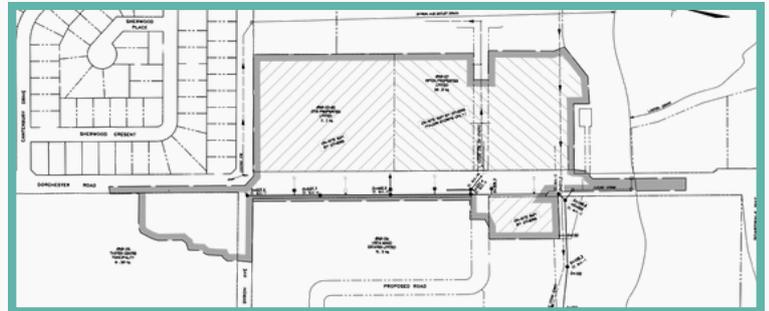
Council approved a motion from Councillor Lockie requesting that Community Safety Zones be established near local schools.

These are zones which have reduced speeds and increased fines to improve road safety near schools.

Many of the relevant roads in Thames Centre are county roads, and as such, the motion requests the change from Middlesex County Council.

Other Business and Events

- Council voted to pursue declaring the municipally owned gravel pit at 3002 Cromarty Drive as surplus land. This could allow for a potential sale of the land in the future.
- A motion from Councillor Lockie passed to create a consolidated Growth Related Financial Assessment. This document would consolidate recommendations from existing studies and plans, and identify their costs, inclusive of population growth projections.
- Council approved a motion from Special Events Committee to establish a Monster Walk in October in Dorchester and Thorndale.



Plans for the Dorchester Road Drain Were Reviewed at Last Night's Meeting



The Mayor Notified Council of Commemorative Benches Which Were Created to Recognize the 75th Anniversary of the Donnybrook Legion.