

# Council Highlights

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Join us at our next Council Meeting on Monday, January 13th, at 5pm

## Council Passes Budget 2025

# BUDGET 2025

Council approved a new Budget for 2025 at a Special Budget meeting yesterday, which will increase the levy amount by 3.9%.

The total levy increase is based on combination of 1.9% for operational increases, such as increased OPP service costs, and the approval of a 2% Capital Infrastructure Levy, to assist the Municipality in addressing future capital infrastructure projects sustainably.

“Our 2025 Budget invests in revitalizing roads and infrastructure in our community,” said Mayor Sharron McMillan. “This budget helps keeps taxes low, while addressing the issues residents care about the most. That includes investments in parks and trails, and building a more robust road network.”

The 2025 Budget Survey listed the public’s top issues as road infrastructure (42%) and parks and trails (33%). The budget, as passed, includes large investments in roads and infrastructure, as well as trail upgrades and funding for a new Trails and Cycling Masterplan. The survey also indicated 63% of respondents preferred a budget that had inflationary tax increases, while maintaining services levels, an approach which Council followed in Budget 2025.

The budget debate can be viewed on the Thames Centre YouTube channel at: <https://tinyurl.com/TCBudget25>.



## Investing in Roads and Infrastructure



In 2025 there will be 50 active infrastructure projects in Thames Centre.

This includes new sewer and drainage projects in Dorchester, and urbanization projects for Upper Queen Street and Thorndale Road.

Road improvements are also scheduled for Dorchester Road, Hillview Drive and Guest Lane in Mossley, and the residential areas of Gladstone and Crampton.

# BUDGET 2025 Highlights

## Investing in Parks and Trails

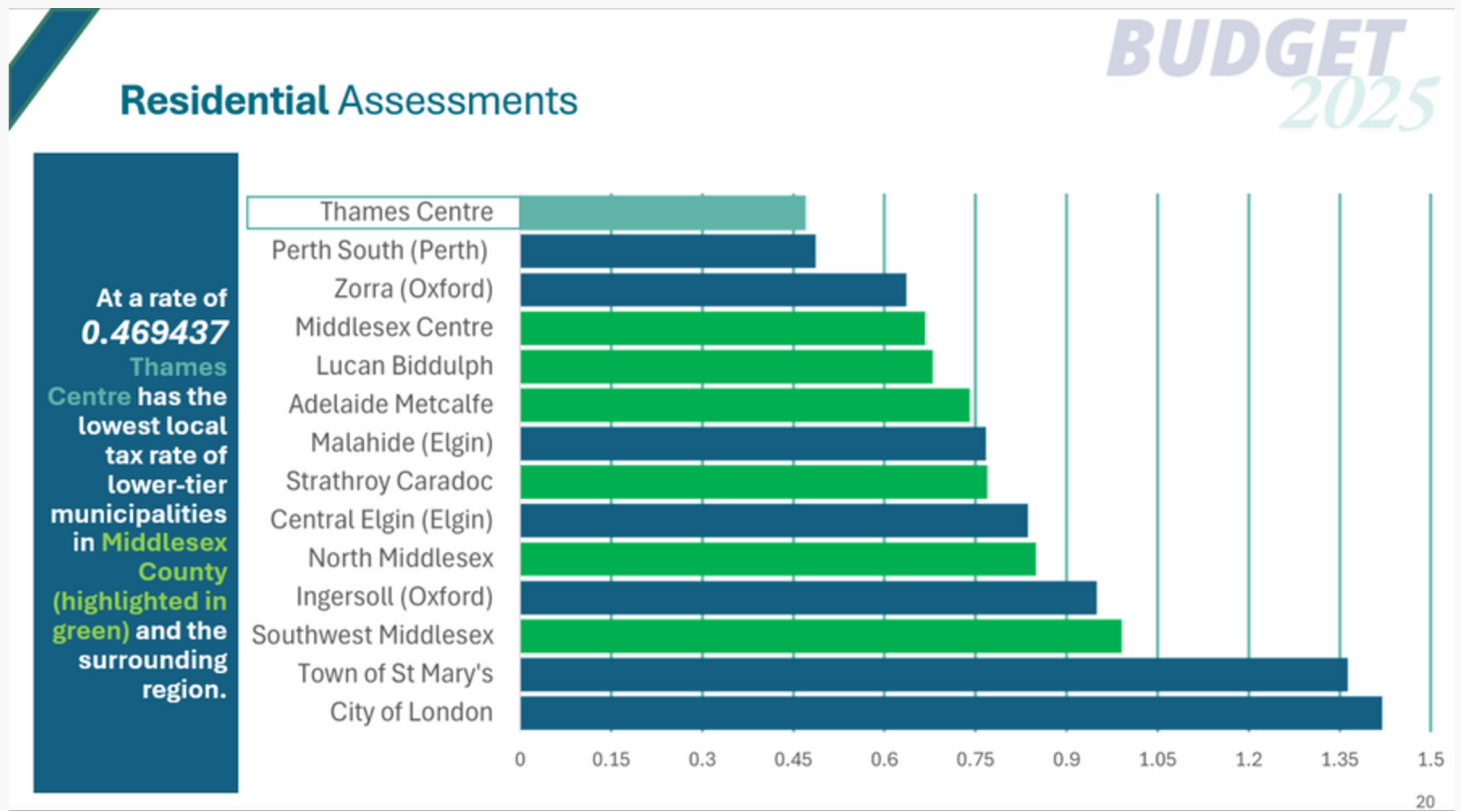
Budget 2025 will invest in recreational facilities and improving parks and trails in the community. Residents identified Parks and Trails as the second highest priority in the 2025 Budget Survey.

The Budget also commits to developing a new Trails and Cycling Master Plan to support the active living of Thames Centre residents.

The Budget also features funding for improvements to the Outdoor Recreation Centre and Thorndale Lions Community Centre.



## Thames Centre Has Lowest Property Tax Rates in the Region (Regional Property Tax Comparisons - 2024)



This slide was featured as part of a presentation during the Special Budget meeting.

Thames Centre currently has the lowest property taxes in Middlesex County, and is projected to remain in that position in 2025.

# BUDGET 2025 Highlights

## Investing in the Tree Planting Plan and Other Green Initiatives

Budget 2025 will continue to invest in the Tree Planting Plan.

It will also pursue other green initiatives, informed by Council's Strategic Plan, and resident feedback that was received through Green Town Hall Meetings and the Environmental Advisory Committee online survey.

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Thames Centre celebrates the planting of 15,000 trees in 2024



(Source: Municipality of Thames Centre)

## Accelerating Permit Approvals with New Software and Process Automation

Budget 2025 is investing in technology upgrades.

One of these upgrades is the new Cloudpermit program which will help people filing their applications for building permits, and accelerate the approvals process.

This makes it easier to build and to invest in Thames Centre.



## Investing in New Equipment

Budget 2025 invests in revitalizing roads and infrastructure, and it also invests in renewing the equipment used to maintain that infrastructure.

A new plow truck to the public works fleet is among the many investments we're making to give residents improved services.





# Council Highlights

## New Benchmarks for Greenhouse Gas Emissions

After the Special Budget meeting, Council held its regular Monday evening meeting.

Council discussed a Corporate Benchmarking Report that was completed in partnership with eMission Software.

Council will continue working with eMission Software and others to find ways to reduce energy use by the municipality. This would lead to lower energy costs, which means reducing costs to taxpayers while helping the environment.

Read the Report at  
<https://tinyurl.com/ThamesCentreCBR>



## Mayor Acknowledges Work of Staff, Volunteers During Significant Weather Event

In her report to Council Mayor McMillan acknowledged the efforts of the Public Works team that dealt with snow removal during the Significant Weather Event last week.

She also commended the staff and volunteers who helped organize an Emergency Warming Reception Centre to help a dozen people who were left stranded following a multi-vehicle collision on Highway 401 on Thursday evening. The Mayor also noted that Municipal staff had just completed a training simulation for such an event in November, and were well-prepared to help the stranded motorists.

## Council Approves 2024 Stormwater Rate Study

At last night's meeting Council received and approved a report on the 2024 Stormwater Rate Study.

This study will inform how stormwater rates are set for urban areas of Dorchester and Thorndale. Rural areas of Thames Centre remain exempt from stormwater charges.

If you'd like to learn more, you can read the study linked below.

Read the Stormwater Rate Study at  
<https://tinyurl.com/ThamesStormwaterStudy>

