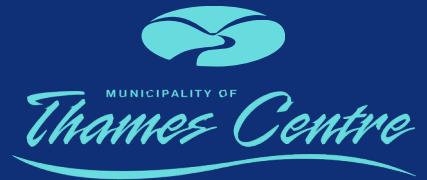


Quarterly Highlights

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2025 Mini Town Halls Begin in Thorndale



On March 26 Thames Centre held the first of our mini town hall meetings.

Ward 1 Councillor Tom Heeman provided an update on recent council decisions and upcoming events, before hosting an open discussion with members of the public about the topics of their choice. Mayor Sharron McMillan, Deputy Mayor Michelle Smibert, and CAO David Barrick were also on hand to engage in the discussions and to answer questions from residents.

“It’s important to have transparency in your local government,” noted Councillor Heeman. “These events aren’t always easy, but meeting with people who care about their community is always encouraging. I’m always ready to listen to residents about what we can do to build a better Thames Centre.”

Mini town hall meetings will continue throughout the spring. A Ward 2 event is scheduled for April 15 at the FlightExec Centre. These events allow for residents to directly communicate their concerns with council and staff, and we thank everyone who stopped by to take part in the discussion.

New Parklands to be Established



In March Mayor Sharron McMillan announced that new parklands would be established in Thames Centre, following the Municipality's acquisition of 9.13 acres of land in Dorchester that is west of Eva Street and Ida Street.

No new taxes or debt issuances will be required. The land was purchased at 85% of assessed value using existing capital infrastructure funds and parkland dedication reserves, with a tax receipt issued to the previous landowners for donating the remaining balance of the land.

The new parklands are located squarely in what was identified as a "gap area" in the 2023 Community Services and Facilities Master Plan. Residents in the area will have access to parklands that are closer to home, and the new parklands will preserve a green space in an area where future housing developments have been proposed.

More information is available at: <https://www.thamescentre.on.ca/articles/thames-centre-establish-parklands-newly-acquired-property>.

Bringing Local Concerns to the Province at the ROMA Conference



In January Council members brought local concerns to the provincial government at the annual ROMA (Rural Ontario Municipalities Association) Conference in Toronto.

Council members met with MPPs, ministerial staff, and talked to Hydro One, who agreed to investigate the cause of power outages in Thorndale.



Other issues discussed included rural road safety, access to health care, policing, and emergency response protocols along Highway 401.

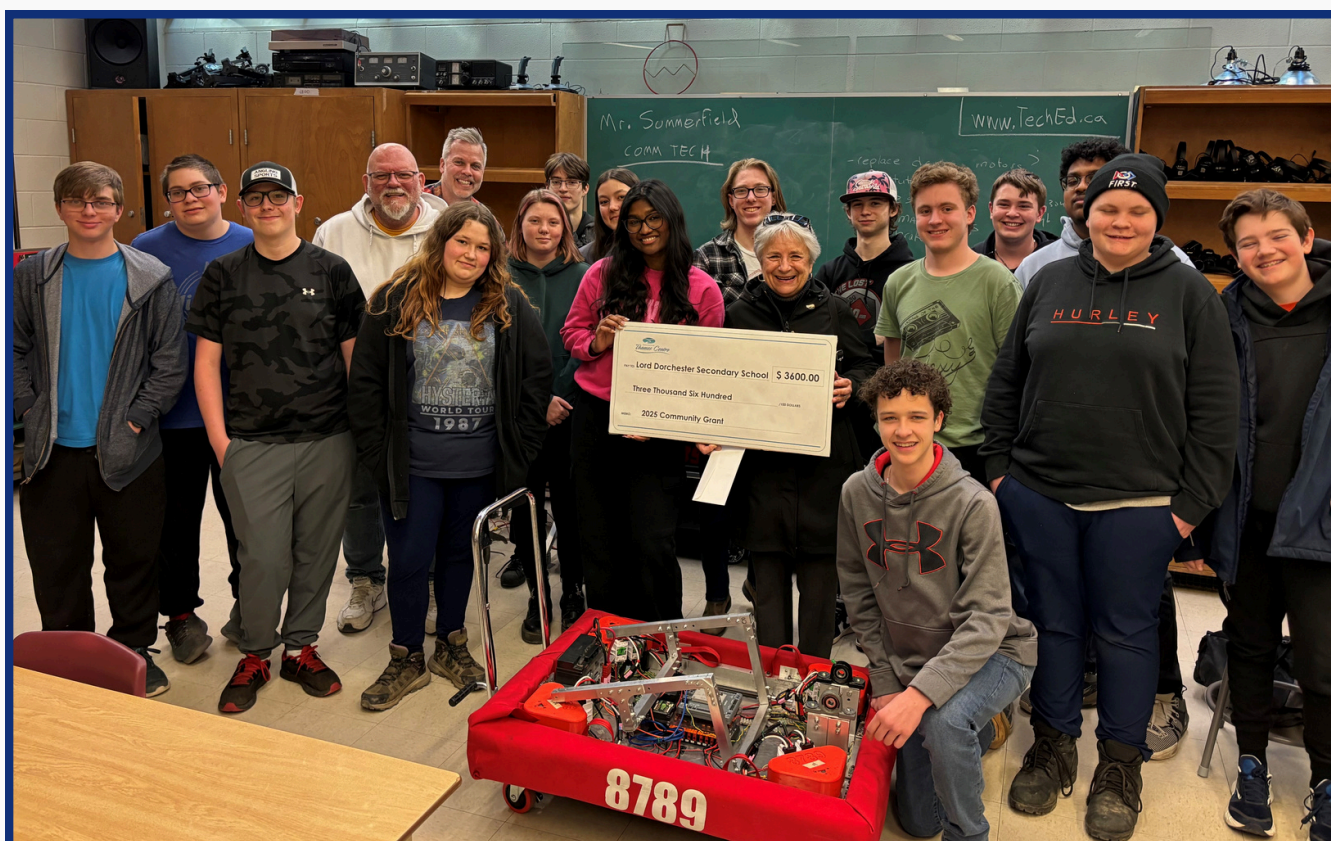


#ROMA2025 provides an opportunity to address municipal priorities and develop solutions to rural challenges.

ROMA 2025

Community Grants Awarded

Community Partnership Grants returned in 2025, with Council reallocating some of the Council initiatives budget to increase the funds available for Community Grants!



First Quarter Highlights

Budget 2025 Invests in Infrastructure While Maintaining Lowest Property Tax Rates in Middlesex County

Council officially passed the 2025 Budget in January.

Budget 2025 features significant investments in revitalizing roads across the municipality, and establishing a new Trails & Cycling Master Plan. It also contained a 3.9% levy increase, which maintained the lowest tax rates in Middlesex County.

BUDGET 2025

Strengthening Protections for Drinking Water



In January, Council approved a report regarding updates to the Thames - Sydenham & Region Drinking Water Source Protection Plan.

These changes include efforts to reduce the use of road salts, limitations on the use of commercial fertilizers within 100 metres of our drinking water source, and strengthening protections against fuel impacting the water source.

Thorndale Lions Community Centre Ad-Hoc Committee Established to Design Next Phase of Construction

Council established an Ad-Hoc Committee to work on creating a shovel-ready design for the next phase of the Thorndale Lions Community Centre.

Members of the committee will work with staff to create a detailed design for a potential future expansion of the Thorndale Lions Community Centre that will meet the needs of the community.

