

# Council Highlights

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Join us at our next Council Meeting on Monday, November 18 at 5pm

## Budget 2025 Survey Now Open!



# BUDGET 2025

Last night Mayor McMillan announced that the 2025 Budget Survey is now open to the public!

We're hoping to get your feedback about the state of services in Thames Centre, and to get your ideas about what you think should be included in next year's budget.

To participate in the survey, you can scan the QR code pictured to the left of this article, or you can click on the link in the information box below.

[Budget Survey](#)

## Thames Centre Named One of the Best Places to Work

The Municipality of Thames Centre has been recognized as one of the best places to work in southwestern Ontario.

Ahria Consulting, the HR firm that oversees the Best Places to Work Awards covered in London Inc magazine, has reported that the Municipality of Thames Centre finished in 6th place in the medium sized employer category.

Thames Centre finished with 8 points of a possible 9 in each category measured in the employee engagement survey.

[Learn more](#)

## Council Votes to Change Fairview Road Speed Limits

Last night Council approved a motion to change speed limits on the north side of Fairview Road in Thorndale. Speed limits will be consistent with those found on the south side of Fairview Road.

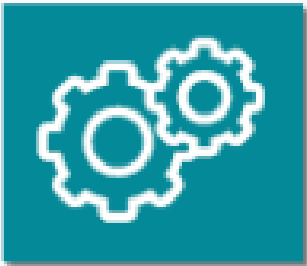


The section of Fairview Road which currently has an 80 km/h speed limit would slow down to 60 km/h, and the section that is currently 50 km/h would be changed to 40 km/h.

Ward 1 Councillor Tom Heeman, who put forward the motion, noted that this change would improve safety near the Lions Active Living Centre.

# 2024 Fall Economic Update

At last night's meeting, Thames Centre CAO David Barrick presented the municipality's 2024 Fall Economic Update to Council. Some highlights from the document are noted below.



According to data from Middlesex County, the number of people employed increased since last year's Fall Economic Statement. County data shows **500 net new jobs** in Thames Centre, representing an average growth in employment of 5.6% per year over the last two years.



**7.5 Days**

Avg. Permit Review Time

Internal tracking shows that Thames Centre issued building permits within **7.5 days** of receiving a completed application. This exceeds benchmarks set in the Ontario Building Code which require permits to be issued within various timeframes which range from 10 days to 30 days.



The Fall Economic Update shows that revenue collected from building permit fees have increased. Revenue from the first 10 months of 2024 have already exceeded revenue from all of 2023. This is an indication of continued investment in Thames Centre.

## OPP Reports 19% Cost Increase

At last night's meeting, Council heard from Ross Stuart, Commander of the Middlesex OPP detachment, who provided an explanation for increased policing costs that are being charged to municipalities across Ontario. The 19% billing increase for Thames Centre amounts to a 2.9% levy increase. Costs are connected to increased officer pay, and a retroactive pay package, that were negotiated in an agreement with the provincial government.



Unlike most services, policing costs are not managed by municipalities - they are instead presented with annual billing statements. The OPP billing statement can be viewed by clicking the information box to the right.

[INFO: OPP Billing Statement, 2025](#)