



Stratford Town Crier

February 14, 2026

Public Information, Notices and Meeting Schedule

ATTENTION STRATFORD PROPERTY OWNERS

2026 Interim levy due date February 25, 2026

Property tax payments may be made at your bank: in person, telephone, or online banking. Cheques payable to "City of Stratford" can be mailed to P.O. Box 818, Stratford, ON N5A 6W1 or dropped off at the rear entrance mailbox. Cash, Debit, or Cheque is also accepted at City Hall (Ground Floor – Clerk's Office).

Looking to sign up for monthly or quarterly pre-authorized payment plan? Email pap@stratford.ca or call the City Tax Office (ext. 5212).

Go paperless for future notices by visiting www.stratford.ca/eSend.

FAMILY DAY SCHEDULE

Administration Offices and the Landfill Site will be closed on Monday, February 16, 2026.

RETAIL CLOSINGS – FAMILY DAY

Shoppers and merchants are reminded that under the Retail Business Holidays Act, Family Day, February 16, 2026, is among the days annually when most stores must be closed.

The Act, administered by the Ministry of Government Services, exempts some retail operations. Flower shops, gas stations and book or magazine stores under 2,400 square feet with a maximum of three employees, are among the exempted businesses.

Stratford's designated tourism season is May 1 to November 12 each year and does not extend to Family Day.

There are fines for opening on prohibited days of retail operation. Retail outlets found guilty may be fined up to \$50,000 or the total amount of gross sales for the day, whichever is greater. Enforcement of the Retail Business Holidays Act in Stratford is the responsibility of Stratford Police Services.

To find out which retail operations are exempted by the Act, please call the Ministry of Government and Consumer Services toll-free at 1-800-889-9768. For more information, visit www.cbs.gov.on.ca.

CANDIDATE INFORMATION SESSIONS – 2026 MUNICIPAL ELECTION

The City of Stratford, Town of St. Marys, Municipality of North Perth, Municipality of Perth East, Municipality of West Perth, and the Township of Perth South are jointly hosting Election Candidate Information Sessions for residents who are considering running for municipal office.

The sessions will be led by experienced and knowledgeable trainers from Clerks On Call and are designed to provide prospective candidates with essential information to

help them make informed decisions before entering the municipal election process. Participants will learn about reasons to run or not run for municipal council, key personal and financial considerations, and the roles and responsibilities of council members and municipal staff. The sessions will also include an overview of the powers and influence of municipal government and council members, including strong mayor powers, as well as governance, legislative, and decision-making processes. The importance of transparency and accountability in local government will be discussed, along with general campaign information and strategies for engaging with the media and the public.

Join one of these two sessions being offered to provide accessibility across the region:

Session 1:

Date: Wednesday, February 25

Location: Pyramid Recreation Centre End Zone, 317 James Street South, St. Marys

Time: 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Join virtually by registering via email by 4:30 p.m. on the day of the session: clerksoffice@town.stmarys.on.ca

Session 2:

Date: Wednesday, March 25

Location: Perth East Recreation Complex, 40 Temperance Street, Milverton

Time: 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Join virtually by registering via email by 4:30 p.m. on the day of the session: elections@pertheast.ca

The Election Candidate Information Sessions are open to residents of all participating municipalities. No prior political experience is required.

ANNUAL COMMUNITY INCOME TAX CLINIC - REMINDER

Serving low-income residents of the City of Stratford, Town of St. Mary's and County of Perth.

Complimentary Services for current year tax returns provided by:

- Famme & Co. Professional Corporation
- McCutchen & Pearce Professional Corporation

Total annual gross income restrictions to participate:

Participants	Income Restrictions
On Social Assistance (Ontario Works, ODSP) with a T5007	Eligible
Seniors 65+	Single: \$25,396 or less Couple: \$34,346 or less
All others	Single: \$16,000 or less Couple: \$32,000 or less

Disability income received should be included in your total gross income.

Please ensure you are within the limits stated.

Participants should bring Photo ID and the following if applicable:

- T4s, T5s

- Rent Receipts and/or Property Tax Receipts
- Medical Receipts
- Donation Receipts
- Disability Tax Credit Certificate Form (T2201)
- Date of Entry to Canada

Please call to **register in advance by Wednesday, March 18, 2026** by contacting the Social Services Department at 519-271-3773 Ext. 6208 Monday to Friday between 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. An appointment time will be provided for document delivery between March 19 – 27, 2026.

NO OVERNIGHT PARKING (2AM-6AM) - REMINDER

Drivers are reminded that overnight parking in the City of Stratford is not permitted on any roadway, shoulder, or City parking lot between 2:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m., unless otherwise designated. Parking in a manner which obstructs municipal snow clearing operations is also prohibited. This is even more important during significant snowfall events to ensure that City snowplow operators can safely and efficiently clear roads. Parking in a manner which obstructs municipal snow clearing operations and/or parking overnight (between 2 a.m. and 6 a.m.) each carry a set fine of \$80.00, or a \$60.00 voluntary payment if paid within 7 days.

Stratford Police Services enforce this restriction and should be contacted if there is an overnight parking situation at the non-emergency line of 519-271-4141.

For additional information, please contact the Clerk's Office at 519-271-0250, extension 5230.

www.stratford.ca