

**MAYOR**

**MATTHEW**

**SHOEMAKER**



**First  
Year**

**Report**

**Released Fall 2023**

# First Year Report

The opportunity to serve as your Mayor is an honour, and it is a responsibility I carry with me around the clock, every day. From working with City Council over the past year to help address the housing crisis by approving re-zoning applications for 168 additional units, exploring new concepts such as an urban beach at Bellevue Park, navigating a challenging budgetary year, advocating for the resources needed to combat the mental health and addictions crisis and helping find solutions in support of important local assets such as Harvest Algoma, I'm proud of what our community has achieved together.



Sault Ste. Marie is well-positioned for economic progress and population growth in the coming years, but we need to ensure we're getting the support required to address the impact of growth and the issues impeding our growth. Whether it's investment in our electrical grid to support Algoma Steel's plan to decarbonize its steelmaking operations, the implementation of consumption and treatment services, increased police presence to accompany increased municipal investment in the downtown core or upgraded municipal recreational options like an urban beach, I am committed to doing everything I can to help Sault Ste. Marie fulfill its potential. I want to build the city I know we can be.

This first year report is a continuation of the six month report I released in the spring, and it outlines some of the progress City Council has made since the 2022 election. Council meetings span hours and cover a wide variety of topics so it can be difficult to stay informed about what is going on. I also know there is a lot going on at the City and in everyone's lives, and with the constant news cycle it can be easy to miss what we are working on, so the report is an effort to keep the community updated.

Mayor Matthew Shoemaker

## Stay connected with Mayor Shoemaker



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[MatthewShoemaker.ca](https://www.MatthewShoemaker.ca)

# A Plan for Progress - *in motion*

My 2022 Platform: *A Plan for Progress* offers a plan for Sault Ste. Marie rooted in community input, and throughout my mayoralty I will provide updates on its implementation.



## Platform Commitment

Securing New Housing

## Action

Since the beginning of this term, Council has approved re-zoning applications for 168 additional units in our City. Council has committed to meet or exceed the Government of Ontario's target of 1,500 new houses to be built in our community by 2031.

## Platform Commitment

HUB Trail Expansion

## Action

Fought to make the extension of the Hub Trail into James Street the top municipal priority for Hub Trail expansion. The City committed \$560,000 to the approved expansion, with the Federal Government putting in \$1.2M. The expansion of the Hub Trail will also connect the existing trail on Third Line to Hiawatha Highlands.

## Platform Commitment

Conduct Due Diligence on a Potential Downtown Police Station

## Action

Sault Police Services Board has approved a plan to hire 17 additional officers to establish a downtown station staffed with a dedicated platoon. The proposal will now come to Council for debate during budget deliberations.



# A Plan for Progress - *in motion*

## Platform Commitment

Getting More from our Waterfront and boardwalk

## Action

**Waterfront:** Drafted a resolution approved by City Council calling for City staff to explore a potential urban beach at Bellevue Park and report back to Council.



**Boardwalk:** Boardwalk promenade re-opened at the Bondar Marina.

## Platform Commitment

Continued Electrification of City Small Engines and Vehicles

## Action

The City reached a major milestone with the delivery of the City's first electric Zamboni, approval of the purchase of a second electric Zamboni, and is exploring purchasing an electric bus.



## Platform Commitment

A Fun, New Way to See and Visit Our Downtown

## Action

Downtown double decker bus proposed by proven private sector tourist

operators Sheila Purvis and Jeff DiCorpo received funding from Tourism Sault Ste. Marie - building off the downtown trolley concept I have advocated for since 2018.

# A Plan for Progress - *in motion*

## Platform Commitment

More meetings with peer governments

## Action

Held first joint Council meeting between Sault Ontario and Sault Michigan since 2017. Also hosted a Council and Staff Social held in Soo Ontario in spring 2023.



## Platform Commitment

Adjusting Council's Start Time to Accommodate Working People

## Action

Worked with City Council to move the start time of meetings from 4:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. to make it easier for people with day jobs to attend and watch meetings. Also moved proclamations off the Council agenda so Council's time was focused on governing, and proper time and consideration could be afforded to the proclamations, which are now seen on Shaw and through social media.



## Platform Commitment

Lobbying the Provincial and Federal Governments for More Support

## Action

Together with PUC and Algoma Steel, pushed the Government of Ontario to invest in electrical infrastructure upgrades to support Algoma Steel's

green energy transition. Ontario's Minister of Energy announced an acceleration of transmission line upgrades in October 2023, ensuring more power can be delivered to Sault Ste. Marie sooner than previously planned.



# Media Coverage

Mayor Matthew Shoemaker took centre stage as a featured panel speaker at the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative's Annual Meeting in Chicago.

While a number of communities spoke about a targeted smart grid, they were surprised to learn the Sault will soon have what is believed to be the first city-wide smart grid in the country.

Sault Star, June 26, 2023



City officials cut the ribbon on a long-awaited project Saturday morning as the Soo Market, formerly known as the Mill Market, opened its doors on Brock Street.

"I'm confident the Soo Market will thrive in its new location, and the spin-off effects that it represents to our downtown will have a tremendously positive effect."

SooToday, September 23, 2023



Shoemaker sees the potential to develop an urban beach area in what he calls one of the three bays that dip into the park.

"My vision is one where people can walk to get to, use the Hub Trail and sit on a sandy area to let kids build sand castles, or play volleyball or just relax and read a book."

Sault Star, June 11, 2023



# Media Coverage



Mayor Matthew Shoemaker said NOSM University brings the expertise to help the city assist its residents with addictions. He pledged to help NOSM U with any needs for space.

**"I can tell you from the city's perspective we will do whatever it takes to have NOSM U located in Sault Ste. Marie."**

Sault Star, July 26, 2023

The Every Breakfast Counts program provided approximately 7,700 meals this summer as a part of its 2023 programming.

**"Through the hard work of volunteers and the Every Breakfast Counts committee, we were able to provide local children with thousands of badly needed meals."**

SooToday, September 21, 2023



Mayor Matthew Shoemaker is sounding a battle cry after learning all of Ontario's new power generation will be going to southern Ontario for the next six years.

**"What the IESO is telling us is: all the new generation is going to be in southern Ontario. What we're saying is: like heck it is. We need generation or a quicker process to upgrade transmission lines in northern Ontario."**

SooToday, August 2, 2023

