ED EYRAUD
NEW AND USED VEHICLES
Let 38 years of experience answer your questions and help you with your decision.
Ken Knapp
In beautiful downtown Essex
OVER 38 YEARS IN THE CAR BUSINESS
519-776-6447
519-999-9441
earrow2004@yahoo.ca
390 Tallbot St. N., Essex

www.essexfreepress.com

ESSEX FREE PRESS

Published by The Essex Voice Limited

Proudly serving the community of Essex and surrounding areas.

Vol. 146 | Thursday, November 19, 2026 | Issue No. 44

BUY CANADIAN ADVERTISE LOCAL

KIMBALL
Building Supplies Centre
WE HAVE LIVE EDGE MAPLE AND WALNUT SLABS!
Fast, dependable delivery to keep your construction project on track.
OPEN: Monday to Friday 8am-5pm & Saturday 8am-4pm
E-mail: info@kimballlumber.ca
314 Rd. 8 West, Essex (Corner of Arner Townline & Road 8 West)
www.kimballlumber.com
castle 519 776-6404

A LOOK INSIDE

'Exciting new chapter' for the 2026-2030 Term of Essex Council begins
PAGE 3

Essex Region Goodfellows hit the streets with 2026 Newspaper Campaign to support local food banks
PAGE 10

River Lights Winter Festival rings in the holiday season in Amherstburg
PAGE 12

Raiders settle for silver in senior girls basketball
PAGE 23

Raider Senior Football wins first championship in 17-years
PAGE 24

Looking For A Good Home



"SMOKE"
See Page 5 for adoption info.

We will remember them: *Essex pauses to reflect on Remembrance Day*





Corporal Joe McLeod thanks an Essex Public School student who presented him with a hand-painted Remembrance Day rock.



by Sylene Argent, Local Journalism Initiative

When it comes to taking the time to pause and reflect on what it means to enjoy freedoms, and thank the countless number of individuals who made sacrifices so those freedoms can be enjoyed, the Essex community always shows up.

At the 11th hour, on the 11th day, on the 11th month, hundreds of individuals – from students to seniors – gathered around the Essex Centre Cenotaph on Remembrance Day to show thanks to those who have fought – and in some cases died – for their country.

"Today, as we gathered to honour Remembrance Day, we pause to remember and give thanks to the brave men and women who served our country," Essex Legion Branch President Stephanie McPherson said. "To our Veterans who are here with us today, please know how grateful we are for your courage, your dedication, and your sacrifices. It is a privilege to stand amongst you."

Remembrance Day is a time to remember "those who never made it home, [and] those who gave their lives so that we can enjoy the freedom we sometimes take for granted," McPherson added.

"We remember the families who lost loved ones, and the sacrifices they continue to carry," she commented.

McPherson also acknowledged the soldiers who lost their lives in a tragic incident at CFB Wainwright in Alberta.

"Their sacrifice and the sacrifice of their families will not be forgotten," she said.

"To Veterans, may we always honour their service, remember their sacrifices, and remain faithful to the promise that we will never forget."

"It is difficult for those who never lived

Continued on Page 2

Essex & Tecumseh Home hardware building centre
NOVEMBER 27TH, 28TH & 29TH
BLACK FRIDAY
Gift Card Promo
BUY A $50 GIFT CARD FOR ONLY $40!
(2 PER FAMILY)
CAN NOT BE USED IN CONJUNCTION WITH BIA DOLLARS!
BLACK FRIDAY Sale
FRIDAY-SATURDAY-SUNDAY NOVEMBER 27TH, 28TH, 29TH
SPORTSSTUFF
49" YETI FOAM SLED
Now: $19.77
ITEM: #7471-101
MODEL: #SS-FS-3319
Was: $76.99
WHILE QUANTITIES LAST!
IDESIGN
BINZ
16" X 8" X 3" CLEAR PLASTIC BIN ORGANIZER - WITH HANDLES
Now: $7.77
Was: $21.99
ITEM: #2545-021
MODEL: #63-599
WHILE QUANTITIES LAST!
Follow us NOW on Facebook, Instagram and Tik Tok
CANADA'S AWARD WINNING BEST STORE OF THE YEAR!
HOURS: MON-FRI 7-8, SAT 7-6, SUN 9-5
www.homehardware.ca
340 Maidstone Ave. W., Essex 519-776-4646
1613 Lesperance Rd., Tecumseh 519-735-3400

We will remember them: *Essex pauses to reflect on Remembrance Day...* Continued from Front Page





through the experience of armed conflict to understand what those brave men and women faced, and yet we do our best – even though all of our efforts are inadequate, we will remember them," Padre Kim Gilliland added.

While the Essex Center Remembrance Day ceremony is always a moving and thoughtful event that the Essex Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion (Branch 201) hosts, this year's ceremony had an extra special touch with students from Essex Public School presenting hand-painted rocks to Veterans as a show of appreciation and a commitment to always remember their sacrifices.

In addition, the Windsor Regiment Band and the Silver Ambassadors Band were on-site to provide live music to enhance the ceremony. The Sun Parlour Pipes and Drums, the RCNA Firing Party, and Branch 201 Colour Party also contributed to the event. In addition, the Leamington Air Cadets also showed support for the event, with two of its members standing vigil at the cenotaph for the duration of the ceremony.

Later that afternoon, the Essex Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion hosted a second Remembrance Day ceremony in Cottam.

Prices in effect from FRIDAY, NOV. 20 to THURSDAY, NOV. 26

Schinkels' MEAT MARKET

Gift Cards Available!

It's Better at Schinkels'!

TRAEGER 2024 TRAEGER TOP DEALER

NOW TAKING ORDERS FOR CHRISTMAS! Turkeys, Hams, Turducken & More!

Fresh A Grades of Beef
LEAN GROUND BEEF
Any Size Packs $6.49 lb
Reg. $9.49 lb
10 lb Bulk Bag $59.99/Each Reg. $89.99/Each
5 lb Bulk Bag $31.25/Each Reg. $46.25/Each

Frozen – Made In Store
COUNTRY STYLE BREAKFAST SAUSAGE
$4.49 lb
Reg. $5.49 lb

TRAEGER WOOD FIRED GRILLS
BLACK FRIDAY SALE
Up To $200.00 OFF

Made In Store • Oven Ready
CHICKEN CORDON BLEU
Reg. $11.99 lb
$10.99 lb

Frozen
PIE & TART SHELLS
40 x 2" SHELLS $10.59 Pkg
30 x 3" SHELLS $8.79 Pkg
6 x 5" SHELLS WITH LIDS $7.99 Pkg
1 x 10" SHELLS $3.09 Pkg
3 x 10" SHELLS WITH LIDS $16.99 Pkg

Deli-Sliced
SLOW ROASTED IN STORE!
ROAST BEEF
$15.99 lb

35 Flavours & Brands
GOUDA CHEESES
20% OFF
All Gouda's Marked At Regular Price Will Scan 20% Off At Cash

love it local SALE!
FEATURES OF THE MONTH

Sour & Salt Artisan Sourdough Bakery, Tecumseh
SOUR & SALT SOURDOUGH LOAVES
$1.00 OFF
TASTING EVENT NOVEMBER 14
Specialty flavoured breads featured for the month of November

Blak's Bakery, Windsor
FRENCH PASTRIES
$1.00 OFF
• Apple
• Strawberry
• Blueberry
• Cherry

STORE HOURS:
Mon.-Sat. 9am-6pm
Open til 8pm Fridays
Closed Sundays

THIS SALE STARTS FRIDAY!

24 Talbot St. N., Essex
www.schinkels.com
519-776-7541

'Exciting new chapter' for the 2026-2030 Term of Essex Council begins







by Sylene Argent, Local Journalism Initiative

"Tonight marks the beginning of an exciting new chapter for the Town of Essex," CAO Kate Giurissevich said on the evening of Monday, November 16, while inaugurating the new Term of Essex Council.

The official ceremony was hosted in the Shaheen Room at the Essex Center Sports Complex, where friends, family members, and community members were invited to participate in the official ceremony that swore in those elected to serve on Essex Council during the October 26 Municipal Election.

"This term presents an opportunity to build on the progress we have made, embrace new ideas and opportunities, and continue working toward a strong and vibrant future for our community."

Giurissevich noted that serving on Municipal Council is a significant responsibility and privilege.

"The decisions made around this table have meaningful impact on the everyday lives of our residents, businesses, and community organizations," Giurissevich said, noting she looks forward to working alongside all eight members of Essex Council during this 2026-2030 Term as the Chief Administrative Officer to continue delivering the programs and services that make Essex a great place to live, work, and visit.

While their roles are different, administration and Council share one common goal: serving the best interests of the residents of the Town of Essex, Giurissevich said.

"I am confident that through collaboration, open communication, and shared commitment to our community, we can accomplish great things together."

She's looking forward to the opportunities.

While being presented with the Chain of Office and gavel, Essex Mayor Sherry Bondy said she is honoured to lead new and returning members of Council in what will be her second term at the helm.

"I'm so excited to welcome some new faces to our Council Chambers and to work again alongside some seasoned colleagues," she noted.

Bondy will be joined by Deputy Mayor Rob Shepley, who was unchallenged this past election, returning Ward 1 – Essex Centre Councillors Katie McGuire-Blais and Joe Garon, and Ward 2 – McGregor Area Councillor Kim Verbeek.

Ward 3 – Colchester representatives Bill Baker and Ron Rogers have both served in this role previously, but not during the past Term of Council, sparking a joke from Rogers, who quipped he was happy the community recycles.

Newly elected Rachael Mills will represent Ward 4 – Harrow. She is the only individual on Council who has not had past Council experience.

"We are going to have an amazing term serving the residents of Essex," Bondy predicted.

In addition, Bondy thanked former Councillors Jason Matyi, Brad Allard, and Rodney Hammond for their past service to the community, and noted she hopes they stay active and involved.

"We enter this Term of Council with a solid foundation built on years of hard work from previous terms of Council. We made bold and focused moves last term," Bondy relayed. That included consolidating services under one roof at Town Hall, divesting and investing the proceeds from the sale of ELK, developing a Capital Roads Plan, creating a Parks and Recreation Master Plan, a focus on finding savings through bringing water billing in-house, and a thorough look for alternative sources of revenue. In addition, a Naming Rights Policy was established and utilized, a Debt Management Program

Continued on Page 6







Editorial & Opinion

ESSEX FREE PRESS
Published by The Essex Voice Limited

Serving Essex and the surrounding communities since 1896.

Published Thursdays as an independent weekly newspaper, owned and operated by The Essex Voice Limited. Printed off-site.

A London Publishing Corporation Publication

LIMITED OFFICE HOURS:
Our office is open to the public.
We are working in-office, so if you do need to come into the office, simply knock on the door.

OUR STAFF
Desiree Elachkar - Office Administration
Jessica Beaudoin - Creative Editorial Director
Lana Warwick - Graphic Design
Greg Belchuk - Advertising Sales
Sylene Argent - Editor/News Reporter
Doug Rowe - Regional General Manager

CIRCULATION
The Essex Free Press is a publication with controlled circulation of 11,000. Also, it can be read online at: issuu.com/essexfreepress or www.essexfreepress.com

DELIVERY
Delivery concerns can be addressed by contacting our office during regular office hours at 519-776-4268

ARCHIVES
The Essex Free Press has been digitized from 1895 to 1968 and is fully searchable at http://ink.ourontario.ca.

OPINION & COMMENT
The opinions expressed on these pages are those of their original authors and do not necessarily represent the opinion of the Essex Free Press, its Editor or Publisher.

LETTER POLICY
The Essex Free Press welcomes letters to the editor on topics of interest to our readers. Letters should be typed, submitted by email and present the issues as clearly as possible in 300 words or less. We reserve the right to deny, edit for length, grammar, and legal considerations. All letters must contain the name, address, and daytime phone number of the writer for verification purposes. Anonymous letters will not be considered for publication. If you have a legitimate concern and cannot sign your name to a letter, please contact the editor to discuss alternative means of handling the issue.

ADVERTISING
Advertising is accepted on the condition that, in the event of an error, the portion of the ad occupied by the error, will not be charged for, but the balance will be paid at the usual rate. It is the responsibility of the advertiser to check an ad on first publication, and the publisher accepts no responsibility for errors in multiple insertions. The Essex Free Press reserves the right to reject or edit any advertisement likely to offend community standards.
Display Advertising Deadline: Friday at 1:00 pm

COPYRIGHT
The entire contents of The Essex Free Press and its website, including but not limited to layout composition, artwork, news copy, editorial copy and photographs, are protected by copyright. No portion there of is to be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means without the specific permission of the publisher.

ocna Member CCNA

Funded by the Government of Canada
Financé par le gouvernement du Canada | Canada

The Essex Free Press
Office: 16 Centre St. Essex, Ontario
Mail to: P.O. Box 115 Essex, Ontario N8M 2Y1
Phone: 519.776.4268
email: contact@essexfreepress.com
www.essexfreepress.com

Howling at the Moon

••• Comment by Sylene Argent •••

A time for thanks



I always find it intriguing that Remembrance Day happens shortly after Thanksgiving. I think there are a lot of similarities between the two days.

Typically, we use Thanksgiving to obviously take a moment and think about all the things we are grateful for in our lives. On Remembrance Day, we do the same, but specifically think about the freedoms we have because so many gave so much.

It's a period of time in a year that's about a month-long that really puts everything else into perspective.

For me, and I have written this several times over the years in this column, it is not lost that men and women sacrificed so much so the rest of us could live with the freedoms we enjoy today. To me, that includes Freedom of Expression and Freedom of the Press, obviously because of the role that I hold here at the paper.

I do think about how the world could be different if we didn't have those two Rights, and I am grateful for them always. It is something I think about periodically throughout the year, especially when challenging situations come up. Sometimes those moments make me reflect on what if we couldn't speak up about this or that. It really drives home the importance of being able to do so.

I think Remembrance Day is probably the most important day of the year, because without the sacrifices the men and women in uniform who fought for this country made, there is a possibility that we wouldn't be able to celebrate the religious holidays we do or lead the lifestyles we may have. Of course, perhaps it was their religious convictions that led them to want to serve their country in the first place. It is definitely a chicken-and-egg scenario, but however you want to look at it, it is significant.

This year's Remembrance Day ceremony in Essex Center was extra special. I'm always moved to see so many people come out and spend time at the cenotaph to pay their respects to those who served. It makes me so proud. This year's event had two concert bands onsite to play live music, in addition to Air Cadets, two of whom stood visual at the cenotaph for the duration of the ceremony. That was not an easy thing to do, and I told them both they did an amazing job.

What was another special touch was that there were students from Essex Public School who painted rocks in Remembrance Day themes and placed them into the hands of Veterans onsite. It was so moving to see, and such a great way to show them the faces of those who have served.

Often, when we learn of things in school – as important as that is – we sometimes don't get that personal touch because we're learning out of a textbook. So, to be able to go and shake the hand of a Veteran, and look them in the eye, it really brings home that these are people who put their own life on hold at one point to go serve, sometimes giving up life or limb.

We always want our next generation to remember and to hold those stories as dearly as the generation before them, so they are not forgotten. And the best way we can do that is to give the kids a way to be involved that really shows them just how important that service was and continues to be.

In a town that has a memorial plane, an honour wall, a cenotaph, and a mural depicting the liberation of the Netherlands, I just wasn't surprised that there were individuals who took the time to find some way to give these kids an extremely important role this year. Kudos to you guys for coming up with those ideas and implementing them. I do not doubt that it will be an impact that will last a lifetime and will be passed on to their kids one day.

Letter to the Editor

Honouring those who fought to give us a voice, and our responsibility to use it

In light of Remembrance Day, I find myself reflecting on a profoundly sad comment I saw made recently by a young adult during our municipal election. Deeply disillusioned with the political process, he chose not to vote.

As we honour the valiant soldiers who gave their lives defending the freedoms we enjoy today, it is troubling that someone so young has already concluded that participating in democracy is not worth his time.

Among those freedoms are the right to choose our representatives, question our government, respectfully disagree, and have a voice in shaping our communities. With those freedoms comes a responsibility to foster trust in democracy among the next generation. We cannot expect young people to value a process in which they feel they have no meaningful place.

A 2023 study by Matthew Polacko, a University of Toronto postdoctoral researcher, prepared for Elections Canada, examined satisfaction with democracy across ten federal elections. It found declining satisfaction between 2015 and 2021, particularly among younger Canadians.

More recent research released by Environics this year offers an interesting qualification: younger Canadians are not necessarily less trusting of political institutions or less interested in politics than older generations. However, they are less emphatic in believing democracy is the best form of government.

The report warns that when political systems fail to respond to younger voters' interests, they risk losing faith in democracy and becoming more receptive to anti-democratic leaders. That is seriously problematic.

The concern, then, is not simply whether young people vote, but whether they believe their participation matters.

Perhaps we have also become conditioned to expect immediate results. We live with instant communication, access and gratification, yet meaningful public policy rarely works that way.

Addressing housing affordability, infrastructure, public safety, taxation and environmental concerns requires consultation, competing priorities, difficult compromises, and often years of implementation.

Democracy is not an instant-service transaction.

Municipal councils have an important role in making democracy accessible and relevant to younger generations. Youth representatives on council, as we saw last term, are encouraging. But we must do more: establish youth advisory committees, involve young people in consultations, hold informal discussions in schools and community spaces, and explain not only what decisions are made, but why.

Families and neighbourhoods also have a role. We need

Continued on Page 5

This week's edition was packed with local news... See MORE photos with stories on our website:

www.essexfreepress.com

Traffic stop in Essex leads to impaired charges

submitted to EFP

A driver has been charged following a traffic stop in Essex.

At approximately 11:48pm on November 11, 2026, members of the Essex County Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), conducted a traffic stop on Victoria Ave. in the Town of Essex.

After investigation, a 39-year-old of Kingsville was arrested and charged with the following Criminal Code offences:

- Operation while impaired - alcohol and drugs
- Operation while impaired - blood alcohol concentration (80 plus)
- Dangerous operation

The accused is scheduled to appear in the Ontario Court of Justice - Windsor on January 8, 2026, to answer to the charges.

A 90-day Administrative Driver's License Suspension (ADLS) and a seven-day vehicle impoundment was initiated as per statute.

The safety of our community is paramount, and we will continue to enforce impaired driving laws to keep our roads safe. "Traffic Safety is Everyone's Responsibility."

If you have an urgent traffic complaint or if you suspect someone is driving while their ability to operate a motor vehicle is impaired by drugs or alcohol, please call 9-1-1 immediately.

If you have a non-emergency traffic complaint, call the Ontario Provincial Police at 1-888-310-1122.

Letter to the Editor

Continued from Page 4

to bring civic conversations back to the dinner table, discuss local issues, listen to differing opinions and encourage young people to ask questions.

Invite them to council meetings, encourage volunteering, and help them understand how decisions affect their daily lives.

Most importantly, we must listen without dismissing their frustrations. Acknowledge where institutions fall short and demonstrate that constructive disagreement is part of democracy, not a reason to abandon it.

Democracy is not sustained by politicians alone. It depends on citizens who take an interest, ask difficult questions, hold representatives accountable, and remain engaged – even when progress is slow.

As we move forward from this Remembrance Day, while honouring those who gave so much, perhaps we should also reflect on what we are doing with the freedoms they helped preserve for generations to come.

Sincerely,
Jana Manolakos
Harrow

Festive Ride Campaign launched in Essex County

submitted to EFP

The Essex County Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) is kicking off its 2026 Festive RIDE (Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere) campaign throughout the county.

Festive RIDE is an annual police enforcement and education initiative aimed at taking impaired drivers off Ontario roads during the holiday season. This year's Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police Festive RIDE Campaign runs from November 19, 2026, to January 1, 2027.

Throughout the holiday season, community members can expect to see an increased police presence on Essex County roadways, as officers conduct more roadside spot checks across the county.

The Essex County OPP remains committed to protecting Essex County roads from alcohol- and drug-impaired drivers. Essex County community members are encouraged to do their part this season – never drive after drinking or using drugs, and step in if someone else is about to get behind the wheel while impaired.

If you suspect an impaired driver, call 9-1-1. It could save a life.

For more information regarding the RIDE Program and the penalties and consequences of impaired driving, please visit: www.opp.ca or on social media.

$$ 8 DAYS BUYING $$
CASH PAID
GOLD SILVER
JEWELLERY + ALL COINS
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
NOV. 18 & DEC. 9 ROMA CLUB 19 SEACLIFF DR. E. LEAMINGTON
NOV. 20 & DEC. 5 K OF C HALL 190 RICHMOND, AMHERSTBURG
NOV. 27 & DEC. 2 RAILWAY STATION 87 STATION ST. ESSEX
NOV. 28 & NOV. 29 HERITAGE VILLAGE IN THE PAVILION 6155 ARNER, ESSEX
FREE ESTIMATES
Cash Paid for ALL GOLD JEWELLERY & ALL STERLING FLATWARE, any Gold (even teeth), Old Coins, Canada, USA, World, War Medals, Wind-up Watches, ROLEX WATCHES working or not, Stamp Collections, Mint Sets. HOUSE CALLS AVAILABLE FOR LARGER AMOUNTS. ALWAYS PAYING MORE THAN THE FLYERS IN THE MAIL FROM QUEBEC! BEST TO DEAL LOCAL!
Dan W. Jones B.A.B.Ed.
519-818-1805
62 Years of Satisfied Customers

Pet Of The Week: Smoke

Smoke is a girl who knows what she likes and isn't afraid to let you know! She can be a little temperamental and prefers to have things on her own terms. She's looking for an understanding home that will respect her boundaries, give her space to let her build trust at her own pace. If you appreciate a cat with a little extra personality and understand that relationships are built on mutual respect, Smoke might be right for you!

The Windsor-Essex County Humane Society shelter is at 1375 Provincial Rd., Windsor. Ph: 519-966-5751. To start the adoption process online, please go to: windsorhumane.org/adoptable-animals

AFCN ADVANCED FOOT CARE NURSE AND WELLNESS CENTRE
COMPASSIONATE FOOT CARE YOU CAN TRUST
OUR CARING TEAM OF RN & RPN NURSES
Advanced Foot Care Nurse & Wellness Centre
3 CLINICS: Windsor • Emeryville • Kingsville
Home visits throughout Windsor and Essex County
★ SERVING CLIENTS FOR 15 YEARS ★
Medical foot care • Corns • Calluses
Warts • Ingrown nails • Thick and fungal nails
NEW-CLIENT CLINIC OFFER $55 Regular $63 | SAVE $8 Our ongoing clinic rate
HOME VISITS $68 Care in your own home
CALL TO BOOK 226-363-0476 | or book online at www.advancedfootnurse.com

ESSEX FEED WAREHOUSE
"Professionals in Animal Care"
OPEN TO SERVE YOU!
M-F 8-5
Sat. 9-5
Sun. Closed
Offering A Full Line of Pet Supplies & Food
48 Wilson Ave. Essex 519-776-9200

Essex Automotive Directory
SALES • SERVICE • LEASING
Ford Ken Knapp Blue Oval Certified
390 Talbot St. N.
Essex, Ontario, N8M 2W4
SALES & LEASING
PHONE: 519-776-6447
www.kenknappford.com
ESSEX Countryside
EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE
Chrysler Dodge Jeep RAM
458 TALBOT RD. N., ESSEX, ON
519-776-5287 www.countrysidechrysler.com
JEFF SMITH'S COUNTY CHEVROLET
ESSEX, ON
224 Talbot St. N., Essex
519-776-4222
www.countychevroletessex.com

'Exciting new chapter' for the 2026-2030 Term of Essex Council begins...

Continued from Page 3

and Investment Strategy was created, and the Essex Center Streetscape was completed.

The Town Hall Expansion was started and completed, a speed monitoring program was developed, vacancy rates in the downtown area were reduced, increased public reporting on drainage and flooding took place, and many hot topics were hosted throughout the community.

"We had our share of bad weather, and we came together to support each other and to learn how we could be more prepared going forward," Bondy added. That included having endured three major storms.

"Those experiences set the tone for the term: protecting our current residents, while working on becoming more resilient and ensuring smart building going forward."

The Town is working to get more information on flooding and to work on how to best position Essex to be as resilient as possible.

These were just some of the items Bondy listed as accomplishments from this past term.

She added that "our Council is no longer in the media for negative events or episodes. We dropped our Integrity Commissioner fees from close to $40,000 a year to around $1,000," Bondy noted.

"We didn't always agree, but our debates were civil and respectful."

Despite everything accomplished today, there is more work to be done. That includes the completion of the Official Plan and the Colchester Secondary Plan, working on master servicing, and continuing to develop the flooding roadmap.

Bondy wants to further refine the capital roads plan and ensure the Town's asset management is reflective of actual data, "so we can keep tax increases to a minimum.

"I am prepared to sharpen the pencil, to get back to work."

She will take in all the comments she has heard on the doorstep this past summer while campaigning, and is excited to work on a multi-year budget and planning.

"I cannot wait to begin working with Council and administration on our first-ever long-term strategic plan," Bondy said, noting the community deserves short-, medium-, and long-term goals that require multi-year planning and dedication.

Bondy also expressed gratitude to the community for re-electing her to her second term as Mayor, and her campaign team for their support.

She hopes residents will continue to be engaged with municipal politics throughout the term.

"It has been an honour to be your Mayor for the past four-years. It is something I never took for granted. Four-years ago, I made a pledge to work together and to bring a sense of community to Essex. I feel we have delivered that."

Giurissevich, Bondy said, has done a fantastic job leading Essex through some of its major files. She said she was grateful the CAO was here to serve Council and the community.

To the rest of administration, Bondy thanked them for their dedication. She noted each of them brings so much to the table.

"I feel like I have a set of Power Rangers behind me at Town Hall. From our managers to our crossing guards, I value your dedication to the Town of Essex."

Garon is looking forward to the next four-years and working hard with the new Council. McGuire-Blais noted the past four-years have been wonderful and looks forward to more good things happening in Ward 1 and the entire municipality.

Entering her third term on Council, Verbeek was unopposed during the 2022 election. So winning this one was just like winning that first term. She enjoyed being able to connect with the community over the campaign.

Baker said it was both an honour and a responsibility to once again serve the community at the Council table. Moving forward, a balanced approach can be achieved, one that welcomes growth and investment, while respecting the character and values that make Essex special.

Rogers was grateful for the residents who supported him, and thanked all the candidates who put their name forward. He was, however, disappointed at the voter turnout, noting only around 40% headed out to the polls. He is committed to doing his best this term and to promoting and pursuing the outcomes necessary to drive positive development and growth of the town.

Mills is excited to bring everyone's voice forward with the energy, effort, and care that this role and everyone deserves. Respectful conversations and debates can turn a concern or idea into a balanced decision.

Shepley said he was fortunate enough to be acclaimed, but didn't take that lightly. He will spend the next four-years working just as hard as he did the past four.

"One of the best parts of this job is seeing something that you have helped move forward finally get completed, whether it is a street, a corner being fixed, or the Town Hall. You can't help but beam with pride when you drive past it and see people using something you've had a hand in creating," he said.

Several individuals, including Bondy, thank the Town of Essex staff and its Elections Team for running a smooth election and being the first in the region to publish results on election night.

"You said you would be quick, and you delivered on your word," Bondy said.

The War Amps

You can empower child amputees

by providing them with the artificial limbs they need to lead independent and active lives.

See your impact at waramps.ca

COTTAM ROTARY CLUB

Christmas Tree Sales

Begin SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21st
at the Cottam Rotary Park, COTTAM, ONTARIO

Cash Only!

Balsam and Fraser Fir Trees Available

TIME:
MONDAY - FRIDAY
4 p.m. to 6 p.m.
SATURDAY
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
SUNDAY
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

SANTA WILL BE HERE ON FRIDAY, NOV. 27TH 6:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.

SANTA CLAUS ARRIVES AT 6:00 P.M. SHARP!

Accepting Donations for the Essex Area Food Bank.

Story Book Early Learning Centre

ENTRANCE OFF GOSFIELD TOWNLINE

70 Brien Avenue E., Essex, ON N8M 2N8 • Tel. 519-776-7772

Early Education & Child Care
Enriched inclusive program
For children 3 months to 6 years
Info: 519-776-7772
Open 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Latchkey Programs
Kindergarten & School Age children to 12 years.
Before & After School
Open P.D. Days, Christmas, March Break & All Summer
Info. 519-776-5044
Open 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

LEAVES ARE FALLING, AUTUMN IS CALLING



Our Commitment to our program is so strong we offer a money back guarantee.
Subsidy available. CAW Plan accepted.

www.storybookelc.ca

RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL
Licenced under O.B.C. and M.O.E.

WE'VE EXPANDED! OFFERING PLUMB/MECH for all residential commercial customers.

- Septic Service & Repair
- High Pressure Sewer Jetting • Electric Eel Service
- Digital Camera Pipe Inspections • Catch Basin Cleaning
- Bin Rentals • Plumbing Services

HERNANDEZ PIPE and DRAIN EXPERTS

P.D.E. PLUMBING and MECHANICAL Services

COUNTY DISPOSAL SERVICES

519-738-3309

1325 Gore Road West, P.O. Box 871, Harrow www.hernandezsanitation.ca

Serving Windsor & Essex County for Over 50 Years.

Ruthven United Church Christmas Tea & Craft Fair huge success for Leamington Hospice, Salvation Army







by Essex Free Press Staff

The turnout at the second annual Ruthven United Church Christmas Tea & Craft Fair was so good that no more vendors could be accommodated.

This event is hosted by the United Church Women.

On Saturday, the local church got a jump on the Christmas season by hosting its annual event that offers a social time for community members to come in, enjoy some tea and scones, and shop at the vendor market in the church hall.

Lining the event hall, nine vendors presented their homemade wares, while the middle of the hall offered tables for people to sit and enjoy some tea amongst friends and family. In addition, the United Church Women prepared jam and Christmas cookies that were available for purchase, and a couple of gift baskets loaded with donated items were also up for grabs to further support the event beneficiary.

President of the United Church Women, Brenda Lee Jones, noted proceeds would be forwarded to the Leamington Hospice and the Leamington Salvation Army, as Ruthven United Church enjoys supporting its local charities that serve the community in a meaningful way.

This will become an annual event, Jones said, which will continue to take place in November, due to its success. This year's iteration attracted around 80 people into the hall around the midway mark of the four-hour event, which overwhelmed the event organizers with the amount of community support shown.

"We hope this will be a big success," Jones commented, noting that with Saturday's turnout it certainly seemed to be headed in that direction. "We are full. We couldn't put another vendor in here."

It was nice to see individuals come in from around the community to enjoy the event, in addition to repeat customers from last year, she added.

Looking ahead, the Ruthven United Church Women will host its annual meat pie sales in February. This is hosted as a church fundraiser, which also helps support local charities. Those interested need to contact the church ahead of time to order their pie. Annually, the United Church women make 350 beef pies.





code:\BlackOut released online after premiering at WIFF

"To whoever finds this...you must destroy it. Destroy everything..."

by Sylene Argent, Local Journalism Initiative
Photos submitted by Essex filmmaker, Matthew Luppino

When Essex filmmaker Matthew Luppino had an idea about creating a short film – with a vision of it eventually becoming a full feature – that explored the duality of old and new technology and where society fits in between, he knew this was going to be different from any other project he has created.

After spending quite a bit of time writing, filming, and producing the sci-fi thriller, code:\BlackOut is now available on the Luppo Studios Productions Inc YouTube page, where it is sending the message, "there needs to be a balance with technology."

code:\BlackOut is a 13-minute short that unfolds the story of when John and Emma move into their new house. John discovers mysterious digital secrets, hidden in their garage. But who's and why?

"The real synopsis is what would happen if the internet just didn't exist in the blink of an eye," he said.

To build up to the end of this short film leaves the viewer with the concept that the internet is gone; now what?

The idea behind the concept of the film was something Luppino came up with as someone who was all about AI when it first came about.



"It has gotten so powerful," Luppino said. "There is a fine line of reality that we are living where the way I wrote the script, it is not so far off from how we are living right now. We are living in a world where everything is so digital, and I am just fascinated with the idea."

As someone who uses technology often, he has realized what a hindrance it has become, with stress responses and high cortisol levels possibly from constantly scrolling online.

The film's message is one he believes in, as he has tried to take steps away from technology and create a balance, if there is even such a thing as balance in a technological world.

code:\BlackOut premiered through the Windsor International Film Festival (WIFF) on November 3, followed by a screening at the Chatham-Kent International Film Festival.

"I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to have our world premiere at WIFF. It was my first time at WIFF, and it was wonderful showcasing so much local talent to our local community. I am so proud of our local film community, and I am excited to see all the talent blossom," Luppino noted.

He released the video that he wrote, shot, produced, and edited online on Tuesday, November, 10 – or 11/10 on YouTube – cleverly following a binary theme found within the film.

The film stars local actors Jesse Miceli, Melissa Montaleone, and Ed Hooft, and was shot locally in Windsor/Essex last year. Most of the filming took place in Luppino's 10' by 12' garage. The majority of production was done right in Essex, as well.

Luppino is known for his work as a writer, director, producer, editor, cinematographer, and actor, which typically specializes in the drama and romance genres, such as through his works "Fragments," "H.O.P.E. (Hold On Pain Ends)," "Love Drunk," and "The Blink Of An Eye."

"Making code:\BlackOut was exciting and different from anything I have made throughout my career.

"I had a lot of fun stepping out of my comfort zone to bring this story to life," Luppino said. "I challenged myself creatively to mix old technology and new technology to enhance the storytelling. But I also challenged myself to create all the visual effects ahead of the production of the film, so that every visual effect element could be used in real time while shooting this film. This allowed the film to keep a very organic and realistic tone throughout the project."

Though he had a large part in creating the film, he gave credit to his wife, Laura, and the lead actor who played John, for helping him produce the film.

"I am very excited to have the general public see it now," Luppino said, noting it has earned eight awards to

Continued on Page 9



code:\BlackOut released online after premiering at WIFF...

Continued from Page 8

date, including the Award of Distinction at the Canada Shorts Film Festival recently.

Getting recognized with awards was great, but what Luppino wanted to do with the short film was spark interest and try to build a team to work towards making the concept into a feature film.

"This whole year has been about networking for me, and I'm trying to build the right team to bring this whole feature film idea together," he said.

“With the looming progression of artificial intelligence, when technology has already taken over, crossing moral boundaries and safety, we have to ask ourselves, what happens next? When is it enough? If it can't be stopped, then we as humans have a responsibility and a moral obligation to at least try to regulate our digital existence in order to preserve our human connection for our future generations. There needs to be a balance between the online world and the real world,” he stated.

"Obviously, the internet can't go away. Obviously, we need all these things because there are so many advantages, but with AI and how it is progressing, it is very scary,” he said.

Ultimately, Luppino wants this film to be more hard-hitting in really showing what technology has done to society. He wants it to explore the good, the bad, and the ugly, and how it has impacted everyone without that even being realized.

He has a layout of how he would like that story to go as a full feature film. He would like a team of writers from different generations to really nail down the dialogue and lingo, and ensure it hits home.

Right now, the local filmmaker is just looking for support in watching the film and getting the concept out.

Though he doesn't want to use the film to scare anyone, he does want to use it as a way to make people think about what could possibly happen if technology went down. He believes a step should be taken back to create a good balance with technology.

"We can't keep doom scrolling constantly and expect our lives to progress," he said.

Currently, Luppino has several projects in different genres in the works, and has given himself some space to see where this project goes first.

"I'm very excited for the next five to six years for sure," Luppino said.

Luppino invites everyone to check out the short film at: youtu.be/-dT46QpVVBk



New online outage map available for E.L.K. Energy customers

submitted to EFP

ENWIN Utilities Ltd. is pleased to announce that the new online outage map for customers across E.L.K. Energy service territories is now live.

The new outage map provides E.L.K. Energy customers with a convenient way to access information during power interruptions and follow restoration updates as information becomes available. The tool is designed to improve transparency, strengthen customer communications, and help customers stay informed when outages occur.

Customers can use the map to see areas within the E.L.K. Energy service territory impacted by an outage. Once an estimated restoration time is confirmed, it will also be available through the map.

The launch marks another milestone in the integration between ENWIN and E.L.K. Energy and reflects a shared commitment to practical, customer-focused improvements that enhance communications and access to information.

The outage map is available through the E.L.K. Energy website https://www.enwin.com/







Essex Region Goodfellows hit the streets with 2026 Newspaper Campaign to support local food banks







by Essex Free Press Staff

To ensure every local family has a memorable Christmas, the Essex Region Goodfellows annually partners with Firefighters from Essex Fire & Rescue and several volunteers to host its Newspaper Campaign.

Last Friday and Saturday, these volunteers manned stations throughout the Town of Essex, exchanging this year's Goodfellows Newspaper edition for a donation.

Members of the Essex Region Goodfellows will tally the donations collected over those two-days and present the proceeds to support the Essex Area Food Bank, the Essex Salvation Army, and the St. Vincent de Paul Chapters of Harrow and McGregor this week.

Every year, the four local food banks depend on this funding ahead of the Christmas season, which allows them to support area families and individuals facing economic hardships over the holidays.

Thanks to the dedication of the local Firefighters and volunteers – and the generosity of the community – the Essex Region Goodfellows was able to present $15,000 to each of the four food banks last year through the annual Newspaper Campaign and the Corporate Donation Campaign.

That is significant, because according to Food Banks Canada, there were 2.35M visits to food banks in Canada in March 2026. That is the highest number on record. Food bank usage has more than doubled since March 2019 and is nearly 9% higher than it was in 2025.

"The scale of growth over the past seven years is unprecedented in Canada's food bank network. Food bank use has risen by almost 117% since 2019, including a nearly 9% increase in the past year alone. This places growing pressure on food banks' ability to provide adequate support as demand continues to outpace available resources," Food Bank Canada's website notes.

In addition, one-third of food bank clients are children.

For those looking to further support those in need this holiday season, the Holy Name Knights of Columbus (3305) will host a fish fry in support of the Essex Region Goodfellows on Friday, November 27at the church.





Reflecting on the life of Private Hilda Sim of Kingsville

by Essex Free Press Staff

Hilda Sim (nee Lane) lived a life of service, whether it was to the British Army during WWII, where she served in communications, or to the Kingsville Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion (Branch 188), where she was its first female President after moving to Canada.

Born in Silvertown, East London, England, in 1920, Sim was conscripted into the Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS) for the British Army at the age of 22.

Service to their country was known to this family, as her father, William Lane, was a World War I Veteran, who returned from the war with a crippled leg that impacted him for the remainder of his life.

Before she was conscripted, however, Hilda worked as a switchboard operator. It was at this time she met Albert Fountain, a cabinet maker, at a dance before WWII broke out.

"Mom always enjoyed dancing," her oldest daughter, Jacqui Flood, noted fondly. Flood is known around the Essex and Kingsville area in Canada, due in part to her community involvement with the Lions Club.

When WWII began in September of 1939, however, Fountain was conscripted as a signalman, which utilized his skills as a motorbike rider. That didn't stop the couple from marrying in February of 1941, when Sim was able to remain in her role as a switchboard operator due to her pregnancy.

In December of 1941, Sim gave birth to her first child. That delivery took place during a bombing of the hospital.

Flood recalled her mother telling her a story of how a bomb was dropped near their home when she was just a toddler. The force sucked her into the fireplace, which fortunately was unlit at the time, forcing the family to spend many hours in their war shelter.

"I remember sitting underneath the dining room table, and I was learning to crochet right where the fireplace was," she recalled.

In January of 1942, Sim was conscripted into the ATS, where she received training in communications. Utilizing her skill, she was posted in Ulverston, Barrow-in-Furness, and Grange-Over-Sands, where she was attached to the Royal Corps of Signals.



Flood recalled her mom working as a dispatcher, sending troops to different areas.

Flood was shipped out to the countryside at one point, where many of the kids were sent to get them away from the bombings. Flood remembers spending a lot of time there, where she didn't have her mom, because she was serving her country in her role.

Unfortunately, Fountain was tragically killed in Tunisia in 1943 at the age of 27, when Flood was just a small child.

"He was like a dispatcher, so he was on a motorcycle. He was killed on that motorcycle," Flood shared, noting she unfortunately never got to know her dad as he passed when she was just a baby.

Sim continued working for the war efforts in her communications role.

While receiving some training in Guilford, Sim met who would become her second husband, John Sim, a Canadian soldier, whom she married in England.

Flood recalled John was originally from Windsor.

Soon after, it was decided Sim and her daughter would travel to Canada via a troopship and hospital ship named RMS Aquitania. That trip took a staggering six-weeks.

This ended her service to England.

"We had to zig-zag to avoid the German U-boats. Because we were in a troopship, they would bomb us," Flood explained. "But we made it, and that is why the good Lord still has me around."

She remembers being on the boat “and looking up at the waves, because the waves were so high and the boat was so minuscule compared to the ocean itself," Flood recalled.

Arriving in Halifax in 1945, Sim and her daughter travelled by train to Windsor. Five-years later, the family – which now had five children – moved to Division Road in what is now in the Town of Kingsville.

Soon after, Sim joined the Kingsville Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion (Branch 188).

Flood said her mother was a very dedicated member to the Kingsville Legion, which she joined in the early 1950s. She held the position of President for three terms. In addition, she served a two-year term as Deputy Zone Commander for the region. That was followed by moving up the ladder to become Zone Commander for six-years, constituting three full terms.

In 1992, Sim was awarded the Commemorative Medal for the 125th Anniversary of the Confederation of Canada and recognition of the significant contribution to compatriots, the community, and Canada.

Sim passed away in 2020, three-months before she would have turned 100-years old.

"She was still living in her own apartment," Flood said.

"It is quite a life," Flood added, reflecting on her mother's life story.

Continued on Page 14

ESSEX CENTRE BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT AREA

BUSINESS PROFILE

This Business Profile ad space has been proudly sponsored by the Essex Centre BIA.

A LOCAL DEALERSHIP WITH DEEP COMMUNITY ROOTS

For more than four decades, Ken Knapp Ford has been proud to serve Essex County and the surrounding Windsor-Essex community.

Family-owned and operated since 1983, Ken Knapp Ford has built its reputation on more than just selling vehicles. With a commitment to honest service, lasting relationships and helping customers make confident decisions, the dealership continues to put people first.

From a knowledgeable sales team and dedicated service department to its on going support of local organizations and community events, Ken Knapp Ford believes being a great dealership means being a great neighbour, too.

With 27 Ford President’s Awards recognizing excellence in customer satisfaction, the team remains committed to the philosophy that has guided the business for generations:

“We don’t sell cars, we help people buy them.”



Ken Knapp Ford is proud to be part of this community and looks forward to serving it for many years to come.

— James Knapp

If you are a BIA member and would like to be considered for an upcoming feature, contact info@essexbia.com

DEALERSHIP SETS STANDARD IN WINDSOR-ESSEX COUNTY

KEN KNAPP FORD

4.8

Google Reviews ★★★★★

Ken Knapp Ford

River Lights Winter Festival rings in the holiday season in Amherstburg on the waterfront





Selling Essex for 20 years!
BUYING • SELLING • ALL YOUR REAL ESTATE NEEDS
Deerbrook REALTY INC. Brokerage
Sarah Adams - Sales Representative
Call Sarah Today!
Cell: 519.980.5006
Office: 519.972.1000
Email: sadams@deerbrookrealty.com

by Sylene Argent, Local Journalism Initiative

From the Super Santa Run, a stroll down the waterfront to see the hundreds of light displays, the official lighting of the Christmas tree, and a fireworks display, Amherstburg celebrated the kick-off of River Lights Winter Festival's 20th anniversary in style on Saturday evening.

The 20th anniversary milestone was celebrated by hosting this annual six-week festival to the Detroit River waterfront, with the new Christmas tree now located at the Amherstburg Waterfront Festival Plaza.

The evening kicked off with watching over 660 participants – dressed in the traditional St. Nick costume – descend to the downtown area to participate in the Essex Region Conservation Area's annual Super Santa Walk/Run/Wheel. Starting from the Richmond Street and Dalhousie Street intersection, at the ringing of the bells, hundreds of participants made their way through the 5km route. It stretched along the Detroit River to the finish line.

The Super Santa Walk/Run/Wheel raises funds for ERCA to support conservation projects in the Essex Region.

The Essex Region Conservation Foundation expressed gratitude to all those who participated in this fun event. In addition to all the sponsors, volunteers, and the Town of Amherstburg for its cooperation.

Then, festival-goers took the opportunity to visit the hundreds of light displays as they lit up along the waterfront as the sun set.

Over at the Amherstburg Waterfront Festival Plaza, a Town Crier gathered attention to officially open the Christmas season, with outgoing Mayor Michael Prue conducting his last duties in that role by welcoming everyone to the tree lighting and opening ceremonies.

"I have tears in my eyes to see all of you," Prue

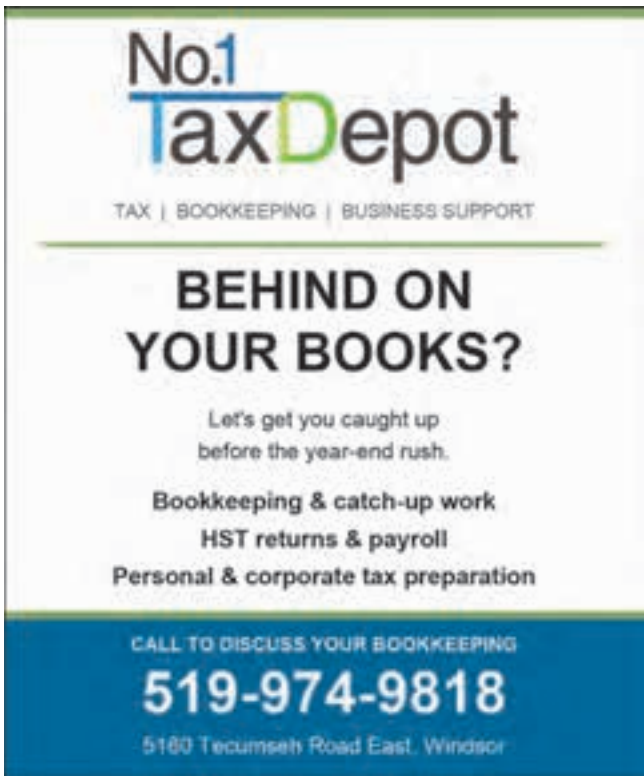
Continued on Page 13











River Lights Winter Festival rings in the holiday season in Amherstburg on the waterfront...

Continued from Page 12





said, thanking everyone for coming out to enjoy the evening.

Prue thanked the thousands in the crowd for coming out to participate "on the most magical of nights. This is a day we all look forward to, especially me."

For 20-years, Amherstburg has welcomed the Christmas season with the River Lights Winter Festival, "and it gets better every year," Prue noted, adding that those involved over the years have created something special for the community.

It was wonderful to see so many families and community members gather to enjoy the festivities, celebrating the start of another holiday season.

He also recognized the efforts of past and present Amherstburg River Lights Winter Festival Committee members for their dedication, which has resulted in an event that has become a cherished family tradition and significant economic driver for the community. He also acknowledged event sponsors, community partners, those who sponsored a light display, and Town staff for their commitment to the festivities, noting an event of this size takes an extraordinary amount of work behind the scenes.

Enbridge was thanked for the $22,000 donation it has made towards the festival's opening night. It has supported this endeavour for the past 13-years, representing more than $260,000 over the years.

"We are grateful for this long-standing partnership," Prue said.

River Lights Winter Festival will be available for six-weeks. Every night until January 3, 2027, visitors will be able to enjoy the hundreds of custom LED light displays that transform downtown Amherstburg and turn three waterfront parks into a winter wonderland, including King's Navy Yard Park and the Amherstburg Waterfront Festival Plaza.

In addition, the Gingerbread Warming House at Toddy Jones Park will be available Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, from 5:30 – 8:30pm until December 20.

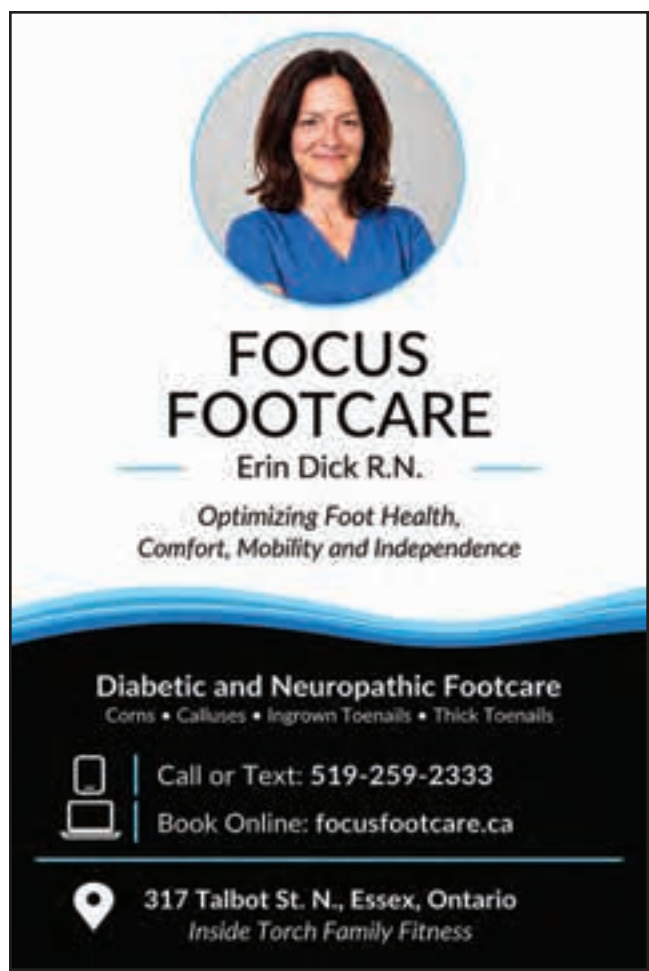
For more information, log on to: visitamherstburg.ca/events/river-lights/











Classifieds

PLACING A CLASSIFIED AD: Classified ads can be submitted in person OR email from Mon. to Thurs. 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Fri. 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. All classified and personal ads require payment, prior to print. We accept Visa | MasterCard | Debit | Cash | Cheque.

CLASSIFIED DEADLINE IS MONDAYS BY 2:00PM

Phone 519.776.4268 **www.essexfreepress.com** **Email: contact@essexfreepress.com**

CLASSIFIED RATES
Word Ads - 25 words or less ..... $6.00 + HST
Extra words ..... 20¢/word
Display Classifieds ..... Call for rates

FARMING

WANTED
Farm Land to Rent
Cash or Share Crop
Call Jeff Siefker (cell) 519-796-1240.
1-tfn*

LOOKING TO RENT/SHARECROP your farm? Call Rylan Strong at: 226-345-8357. 2-49

Sell It! Find it!
Rent It! Buy It!
in The Classifieds
519-776-4268

SERVICES

KENNETH YARDWORKS - FALL CLEAN-UP. leaves, trees, bushes, trimmed or removed. Sod, mulch, eavestrough cleaning and repairs, power washing. Loads to the dump. Fully licensed & insured. Free estimates. Call Kenneth: 519-982-0362. 1-tf

MARTY'S SMALL ENGINE REPAIRS - Tune-ups, repairs, & service on snowblowers, riding lawn mowers, chainsaws, & more! 519-733-0986, (c) 519-965-5918. 1-tf

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED: Greenhouse general labour workers needed. Duties include pruning, picking, planting, general cleaning of the greenhouse and any other work required in the greenhouse. Lifting, bending and standing is required. Must be able to work all shifts. Rural area. No public transportation available. Experience is an asset. Rate of Pay- $17.95 per hour. To apply please email Lindsay at Lindsay@policellafarms.com or mail resumes to Domric International Ltd. PO BOX # 218 Ruthven, Ontario N0P 2G0. 1-tfn

FOR SALE

FOR SALE - Electric 3-wheel Bike, Like-new $3500, Disability chair, lazy boy brand style with number of settings, NEW $5000 bust asking $3500. Call John: 519-995-4450. 34-tfn*

WANTED

CASH PAID for scrap cars and trucks. Free removal. Please phone: 519-776-1361 or 519-791-5046. 1-tfn

WANTED: LOOKING TO BUY SHOTGUNS, rifles, ammo, safes and other related items. Cash waiting. Call 519-995-9309. 11-12

CASH PAID for antiques, costume jewellery, furniture, gold, sterling, coins, tools, complete estates. We take it all! Free appraisals. Call 519-727-8894. 1-f1

REAL ESTATE

Buying or selling a farm? Do you know the right questions and answers? Farm Experienced Realtor Carl Idzinski, Keller Williams Signature Realty - Brokerage. 519-817-8891. 1-tfn

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO the Holy Spirit. Holy Spirit, You who makes me see everything and who shows me the way to reach my ideals. You who gives me the Divine Gift to forgive & forget all that is done to me, and you who are in all the instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue, want to thank you for everything, and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from you, no matter how great the material desires may be. I want to be with you and my loved ones in your perpetual glory. A person may pray this prayer three consecutive days without asking for their wish. It will be granted no matter how difficult it may be, and promise to publish this dialogue, as soon as your favor has been granted. S.W.

NOVENA PRAYER
May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved, and preserved throughout the world, now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. esus, pray for us. Say nine times a day for nine days, publish on the 8th or 9th day, prayers will be answered. Thanks for the prayers answered S.W.

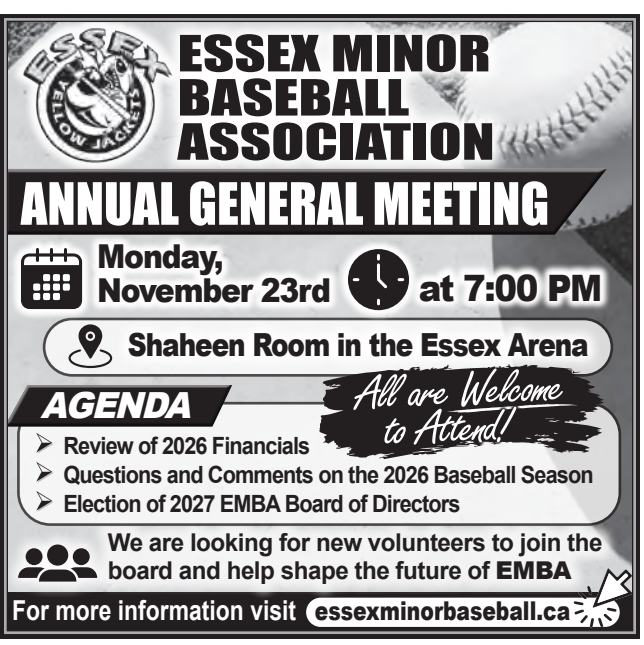
PERSONAL

PRAYER TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN
(NEVER KNOWN TO FAIL) O most beautiful flower of Mt. Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of heaven, blessed mother of the son of God, immaculate virgin, assist me in my necessity. O star of the sea, help me and show me that you are my Mother. O Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to help in my necessity (Make your request). There are none that can withstand your power. "O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to you." (Three times). "Holy Mary, I place this prayer in your hands." (Three times). Say this prayer for three consecutive days and then publish it and it will be granted to you. With grateful thanks. S.W.

NOVENA PRAYER
SAY 9 HAIL MARY'S each day for 9 days. Make 3 wishes. The first concerns your affairs, the next two are for the impossible. Publish this on the ninth day, and your wishes will be granted S.W.

PERSONAL

NOVENA TO THE
INFANT JESUS OF PRAGUE
O Jesus, Who has said, "Ask and you shall receive, seek and you shall find, knock and it shall be opened," through the intercession of Mary, Your Most Holy Mother, I knock, I seek, I ask that my prayer be granted. (Make your request)
O Jesus, Who has said, "All that you ask of the Father in My Name, He will grant you," through the intercession of Mary Your Most Holy Mother, I humbly and urgently ask your Father in your name that my prayer will be granted. (Make your request) O Jesus, Who has said, "Heaven and earth shall pass away but My word shall not pass away," through the intercession of Mary Your Most Holy Mother, I feel confident that my prayer will be granted. (Make your request) S.W.



Your $6.00 goes a LONG way!
Sell It! Find it! Rent It! Buy It!
In The Classifieds 519-776-4268
contact@essexfreepress.com



Reflecting on the life of Private Hilda Sim of Kingsville...

Continued from Page 11

"She enjoyed doing all the service work; she thoroughly enjoyed that. It kept her busy and happy. She was just really involved in the Legion. It was her whole life then."

Flood believes being involved with the Legion was so important to her mother because she understood what service meant as a former service personnel, and having lost her first husband during World War II. Those personal instances gave her an understanding of the significance of supporting Veterans.

"Through all of that, I find that I was saved from the bombing, I was saved from being killed in the fireplace – which it could have been, and I was saved in the ship going across the Atlantic," Flood said.

When it was time for Flood to start thinking about her possible future career when finishing up high school, she thought about becoming an airline hostess. Someone at that time suggested she become an RN first, because she would make more money through the airline with this education.

"I thought, yeah, that's a good idea."

Soon after, she went into nursing, and this ended up being a career she stuck to and enjoyed. Most of that time, she worked as a diabetes educator.

"I retired after 60-years of nursing, and then I think the good Lord kind of directed me, because He wanted me to teach his people to take care of themselves, and so that is kind of what my mission is," she said.

She is continuing that work through the Lions Club.

"If I can get some people to make better choices for their lives, then I am doing what the good Lord wants me to do," Flood said.

Flood believes she got her sense of community from her mom, who is a very dedicated individual to the Legion.



New TV series highlights Amherstburg's haunted history



submitted to EFP

The history of Amherstburg is filled with war, resilience, tragedy, and transformation. Now, a Canadian television series aims to bring some of those stories to audiences across the country.

"The Town Full of Ghosts" is a paranormal docu-series exploring historic locations, local legends, and reported unexplained experiences of Amherstburg. The series will combine historical research, interviews, archival materials, and paranormal investigations to explore and highlight the stories that have shaped this community.

Created and hosted by local artist, performer, and writer Rebecca S. Mickle, the series highlights the rich heritage of one of Essex County's most historically significant communities. Featured locations include historic sites whose stories connect audiences to the region's military past, early settlement, and evolving cultural landscape.

The production is produced by South Detroit Films and directed by Ken Amlin, director of "Strange Tales of the South Shore," which aired on Bell Fibe TV1 in 2025.

"I have always had a deep love and appreciation for local history and the paranormal, so I thought 'why not combine the two?'" Rebecca S. Mickle stated.

The stories stem from Mickle's upcoming book "Ghost Stories and Legends of Windsor-Essex," supported by the Ontario Arts Council, which she has been researching since 2018.

"I had collected so many fascinating stories for my book and I was struck with the notion that these stories would translate so well to television," Mickle said. Then the idea to incorporate actual paranormal investigations came to her. "I wanted to incorporate real paranormal investigations into the show because what better way to talk about these stories and explore local history than trying to communicate with the actual spirits residing in these historic buildings?"

Mickle added "These investigations are real. We aren't making things happen for the camera." The integrity of the investigation is paramount to the production.

"We're talking about real history, real lives, and real experiences. It's of the utmost importance that we treat these stories and experiences with respect."

Production began October 19, 2026 and will continue into early 2027.

As an independent production, "The Town Full of Ghosts" is seeking partnerships with local businesses who support local arts and heritage projects.

The project has partnered with local charity, The Purple Theatre Company, and is able to offer donation receipts to individuals who would like to contribute to The Town Full of Ghosts.

Zeffy donation link: www.zeffy.com/en-CA/donation-form/the-town-full-of-ghosts

Town of Essex invites residents to apply for boards and committees

submitted by the Town of Essex

The Town of Essex is inviting residents to get involved in their community by applying to serve on the Town's boards and committees for the 2026–2030 Term of Council.

Boards and committees play an important role in local government by providing community input, sharing knowledge and expertise, and making recommendations to Council on matters that affect residents and the municipality.

The Town relies on volunteers with a wide-range of backgrounds, interests, and experience to help inform decisions and support initiatives that contribute to a strong and vibrant community.

Opportunities are available across several areas, including accessibility, arts and culture, heritage, planning, community events, and more. Depending on the board or committee, members may help advise Council, support community initiatives, or participate in specific municipal responsibilities.

Residents interested in making a contribution are encouraged to explore the available opportunities and learn more about the responsibilities, composition, and meeting schedules of each board or committee.

Applications can be submitted online through the Town's website at www.essex.ca/committees. The application deadline is November 30, 2026.

For more information about the Town's boards and committees, including terms of reference and application details, visit essex.ca/committees.



ADVERTISE
LO-HO-HO-CAL
This Christmas Season

An Affordable and highly effective way to advertise for the holidays!

The Essex Free Press has a controlled circulation of 11,000 papers. Delivered free of charge to homes in the Centre of Essex County.

ESSEX FREE PRESS
519.776.4268
16 Centre St., Essex | www.essexfreepress.com | contact@essexfreepress.com

MUA Marty Unholzer Auctions

Marty Unholzer Auctions
1782 Lakeshore Rd #219,
South Woodlsee, Ontario N0R 1V0
(519)723-2622

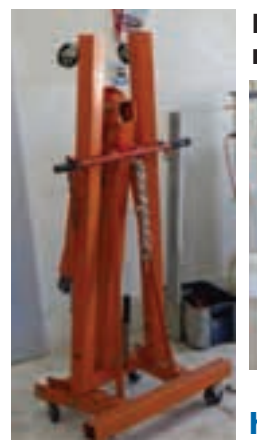
George Deschamps Estate Sale
Location: 1423 Puce Rd. Essex, Ontario N8M 2X7
ONLINE ONLY-AUCTION, NOV. 26 , 2026

******Preview times: Nov 20 & 21, 2026, 10am-5pm ONLY******
Please don't drop in other times.
Please contact Marty for a scheduled preview outside of these times 519-791-4101

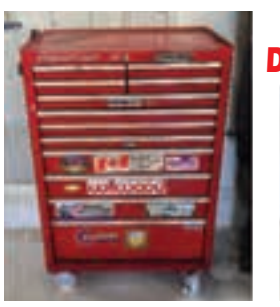
Bidding opens Nov 12, 2026 at 8AM, Bidding starts to close Nov 26, 2026 at 6PM
Pickup and Payment: Nov 27, 2026 from 9am-4pm & Nov 28, 2026 from 9am-2pm unless alternative pickup arrangements are made with Marty.
All items are sold AS-IS and where is as per our auction terms and conditions.
***NO RESERVES *** 12% Buyers Premium up to $1200.00

OVER 500 Lots!! TOOLS, TOOLS & more TOOLS!
Shop tools, Small tools, Unique items for decoration, house furniture, and Vintage/Antique items.

Crocks, Pottery jugs, Asst Vintage tools, Antique grinding wheel , Various ladders, Various car parts, Stihl FS36 Gas weed trimmer, Various garden tools, Various toolboxes, 3/4HP Drill press, Dewalt chop saw 14" on HD cart, Brunswick bowling seats. Benchmark 4650W Gas Generator,Engine lift and so much more!



MAX bids are recommended to make sure you don't miss out with so many lots to view.



REGISTER EARLY SO YOU DON'T MISS OUT ON BIDDING.



Registration is open now at
https://martyunholzerauctions.hibid.com/auctions

Check out our website or follow us on Facebook
martyunholzerauctions.com
Like us on Facebook

From The Heart

Email your photo and content to **contact@essexfreepress.com** or drop by our office at 16 Centre St., Essex. Personal notices must be received by Monday at 12:00 noon to appear in the Thursday edition.

OBITUARIES



BRUSH, Cary Thomas - It is with broken hearts that we announce the passing of Cary Thomas Brush on November 11, 2026, with his family by his side.

Much loved husband of Carrie (nee Fick). He will be greatly missed by his daughters; Rachael Humber (Jesse) and Rebecca Mazar (Chris). He adored his 4 little buddies - Liam, Harrison, Luca, and Callahan. Cary will be missed by his siblings; the late Rory (Marianne), Shari (John), Randy (Cheryl), Darryl (Cathy), Shawn (Denise), his cousin Anne Gerrish as well as his many nieces and nephews. Beloved brother in law of Michelle and Ron. Son in law of Ron (late Norma) and Barb Fick.

Cary is now reunited with his parents Randy & Hazel Brush where he was welcomed with the biggest of embraces.

A heartfelt thank you to Ron & Deb Rymal and Brady Dickson for their never-ending love and support shown to us, especially at the end.

Cary was a long time employee of Windsor Mold Group where he drove truck for many years. He was always so happy when he was on the golf course but he got the most pleasure out of spending time with those he loved.

Special thanks to Dr. Wayne Callaghan for many years of support and guidance through his kidney disease journey. Also to the wonderful team at Erie Shore Dialysis Unit and the caring staff at Erie Shore Hospice.

Donations to the Kidney Foundation would be appreciated by the family.

Cremation has taken place. Celebration of life to be held at a later date.

So Long For Now, Cary T.

Voice Of Inspiration

We can't always see the scatters and tatters of a broken heart. Kindness is due to all fellow beings — we never know the invisible hurts they're enduring.

- Terri Guillemets

IN LOVING MEMORY

Doan, Charles
Sept. 4, 1933 - Nov. 8, 2023

Doan, Patricia
Nov. 23, 1935 - Nov. 13, 2008

Mom, 18 years & Dad, 3 years have passed.

We don't ever move on. We move forward.
We never get over it. We intergrate it as part of who we become.
We don't get back to "normal."
We are forever altered by loss, as we were by love.
Until we meet again. You will forever be missed and forever be in our hearts.

~ All our precious love ~

- Sandie, Mandy, Christopher, Melanie, Brooke, Claire, Felix, & Gavin
xoxoxoxoxoxoxoxoxoxoxoxoxoxo

IN LOVING MEMORY



In Loving Memory Of

Linda Anne Lariviere

March 30, 1950 - November 20, 2020

Our hearts still ache in sadness,
and secret tears still flow.
What it meant to lose you,
No one will ever know.

~ Love; your Family

Level Up! Fair puts young students on path to skilled trades



by Greg Layson

The region's next generation of skilled trades workers might one day look back on their career and say it started in LaSalle.

Thousands of students from across Windsor-Essex and Chatham-Kent explored potential careers in dozens of fields during the two-day Level Up! skilled trades career fair at the Event Centre at LaSalle Landing on November 11 and 12.

The event featured around 40 exhibitors, many of which offered hands-on experiences, from bricklaying and carpentry to sheet metal work and heavy equipment operations, which used virtual reality simulators to showcase the skills needed.

But the goal was about more than just introducing young people to new skills and tools. It was about putting them on a pathway to a career.

"We really want to make a deep impact on their career planning and course selection, so that they can map a path forward that is the best possible route for success for them," Antonio Sergi, Stakeholder Relations Officer with Skilled Trades Ontario, said.

And that pathway can begin before students even graduate from high school.

The Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP) allows students aged 15 and older to explore skilled trades through co-op placements. Students can even become registered apprentices while still attending high school.

"The beauty of that program is that if everything goes well and they are convinced that that is the trade for them, their employer, their co-op employer likes what they see, they can actually get signed as an apprentice while they're still in high school," Nathalie Deshaies-Meloche of OYAP said.

Those hours can count toward their apprenticeship after graduation.

Students can also explore different trades during successive co-op placements before deciding which career to pursue.

"It is not necessary for them to do the college pathway or the university pathway," Deshaies-Meloche said. "They can graduate high school and go right into their apprenticeship. They will start making money as opposed to paying tuition right from the get-go."

The push comes as Ontario faces a significant skilled trades labour shortage. The province estimates it will need approximately 400,000 skilled trades workers over the next decade to support its infrastructure plans.

According to Skilled Trades Ontario, automotive service technician is the most in-demand trade at the moment. Millwrights, electricians, plumbers and heating, refrigeration, and air conditioning mechanics round out the top five.

Voice Of Inspiration

A single kind word keeps one warm for three winters.

- Chinese proverb

What's Going On...

NOV. 14 to Jan. 3 - AMHERSTBURG RIVER LIGHTS - 20th anniversary, for full schedule of events, visit: visitamherstburg.ca/riverlights

UNTIL DEC. 13 - FOOD AND TOY DRIVE - collecting donations of non-perishable food items, toiletries, toys, & kids' books at CTMHV, 6155 Arner Towln. Kingsville. ctmhv.com

NOV. 19- SALVATION ARMY CHRISTMAS-KETTLE KICK OFF & TREE LIGHTING - from 6:30 - 7:30pm at Essex Town Hall. Collecting new toys.

NOV. 21 - SNOWFLAKE BAZAAR -Trinity United Church New California, 1005 Rd 2 W. Kingsville. From 9am - 3pm. Baked goods, crafts, soup, chili, & more.

NOV. 21 - SILVER AMBASSADORS SILVER & GOLD CHRISTMAS CONCERT -at Legion Br. 188, 145 Division Rd. S., Kingsville. Begins at 2pm. For info: 519-968-3474.

NOV. 21 to Jan. 8 - KINGSVILLE FANTASY OF LIGHTS - Something for everyone! For info, visit: fantasyoflights.ca

Nov. 26 - COTTAM UNITED TURKEY DINNER - from 2:30 - 6:30pm. Take-out only. 137 County Rd. 34 W. For info & to make an order, visit cottamunitedchurch.ca

NOV. 28 & 29 - CHRISTMAS MARKET - 9am - 4pm. 50's Diner will be open. Visitors are advised to bring cash. at CTMHV, 6155 Arner Towln. Kingsville. ctmhv.com

Nov. 28 - VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS MARKET- at St. Pauls Church, 92 St Paul Street Essex from 10am -2pm. Vendors, Baked Goods, Lunch, Crafts & more, email sandralypps@hotmail.com for more details.

Nov. 28 - LEAMINGTON CHRISTMAS PARADE - at 6pm. Parade route: Georgia & Erie, north through town, Wilkinson Dr., to Fairgournds. www.leamingtonchamber.com/events

ESSEX FREE PRESS COMMUNITY
Contact us today: 519-776-4268
contact@essexfreepress.com

*All 'Community Hub' submissions should be submitted, typed, **no later** than **Mondays at 9am** for the week of publication. **Submissions** are all submitted through email, read over, and **slightly edited**. We **do not** include prices, advertising, or personal greetings in this free space. Email submissions to: **contact@essexfreepress.com** - PLEASE NOTE: In some circumstances not all submission can be printed, due to lack of free space.*

thehub: COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS
sponsorship by:
FOODLAND
Fresh food. Friendly neighbours
191 Talbot St. S., Essex
519-776-4255

Salvation Army Essex Church
submitted by Carolyn Barnett

Join us Sunday at 10.30 a.m. for our praise and worship service led by Major Wavey Kearley Birt." Bad for a Season But Not Forever" is her sermon topic based on Joshua 2.

We invite you to SA Connections Tuesday.Nov.17th.Join us for coffee and snacks at 10:30 then have fun doing a craft from 10-11,followed by a delicious lunch from 12-1. This free community program is open to all. You are welcome to join us for Bible Study from 1-2 p.m. as Major Wavey leads us through the book of Ephesians.

Canned soups and tuna are always needed at our Food Bank. Donations can be dropped off thru the wk.except for Thursdays,between 9 and 1. Call the office at 519-776-4628 for more information.

Bethel-Maidstone United Church

Our service begins at 10 am and all are welcome. Our church and hall are accessible. Please stay for coffee hour after the service.

For those that would like to help serve Communion, there is a sign-up sheet in the hall.

The Giving Tree has been placed in the Narthex and all clothing and toys will go to St. Paul's Anglican Church Clothes Closet and Essex Food Bank. Monetary donations will go to the Windsor Youth Centre.

The slips for our poinsettia program are available on the table in the Narthex. Money raised will be split between the Downtown Mission and Windsor Youth Centre. See Glen or Judy K. with your donations. We will decorate the church after the service on November 22. All help is appreciated.

We will celebrate Holy Communion on Sunday, November 29. This is also the First Sunday of Advent.

White Gift Sunday will be December 13th. Our Christmas Eve Service will begin at 7 pm. All are welcome to attend.

Please remember to check the bulletin board for listings for dinners and craft shows in our area. Our office is open Tuesdays and Thursdays 9am to 1pm. Our number is (519) 723-2284 and our email address is bethelmaidstone@gmail.com. You can find at: bethelmaidstone.com

Epworth United Church
Submitted by Nancy Barlow

Epworth United Church is located at 56 Division St. S. Kingsville. Know Christ Jesus and Make Him Known. Rev. Joshua Kang is our minister. Our church is fully accessible and live streaming begins at 10:20 a.m.This week's renewal challenge is to open your hands and pray "Lord Jesus, what have you given me to share?" Our discipleship group meets Wednesdays from 10:00-11:30 a.m. and youth and adult joint discipleship is Thursdays at 4:30.p.m. We are using The Way material. There is a men's discussion group every Tuesday morning at 7:30 a.m. There is a short video followed by a lively discussion. All men are welcome to come. We are collecting new and gently used coats in all sizes (children, youth, adults) to be distributed to those in need. Youth basketball is on Monday from 4:00 - 5:30 p.m. All are welcome. For further details of what's happening at Epworth, visit our website at epworthkingsville.com

Trinity Anglican Church
submitted by Pat Jackson

This Sunday, Nov. 22nd, we celebrate 160 years of faith and fellowship with Bishop Todd Townshend presiding.

All are welcome to join us at our scent free services at 9:45 am on Sundays. We're located at 235 County Rd. 34 W, Cottam.

Frozen fruit pies, meat pies (chicken or beef), cabbage rolls and a large variety of soups are available for sale. Please call the office at 519-839-5303 or speak to Hildegard to order.

Deanery of Essex Advent Retreat- "prepare the way of the Lord and make his paths straight" - Matthew 3:3 on Saturday, Dec. 5, 9:30 am to 3:30 pm at St Stephen's Church, Oldcastle. Registration fee includes lunch. Register at stmatthewswindsor.diohuron.org.

Visit our little library, take a book, leave a book. Sit and enjoy the crisp autumn air in our gazebo.

You can find us on social media and our website at trinitycottam.ca. Treat others with kindness; you don't know what they're going through. Have a blessed week.

Essex Gospel Community Church

Our mission is to show love, share hope, and find home. All are welcome to join our Sunday morning gathering at 10:30 a.m. Livestream is available on YouTube. Nursery, children, and youth programs are available during service. Please stay and grab a free beverage at our cafe after. We run programs throughout the week for all ages, and offer free community events monthly.

Harrow United Church

Fall has definitely arrived and more activities seem to be moving indoors both for warmth and safety. At Harrow United Ignite Fitness offers classes Monday and Wednesday evenings (6:30pm) and Saturday mornings (9am) for those who want to work on their activity and fitness abilities. The instructors are trained and pay close attention to being sure you are working at the level your body can handle. You can drop in and try a class each day. The VON also offers a chair exercise class Fridays at 1pm for those who like a little more "balance" for their workouts. New comers are always welcome.

Christmas is fast approaching and the choir is beginning to learn the songs for their holiday concert. Join in singing with us! Come out on Wednesday evenings at 7pm and join the singers as they learn the joyful songs!

Sunday, November 22 Rev Jack Lovering will lead us in worship beginning at 10:30 in the sanctuary. Come join for worship and coffee hour following the service downstairs.

St Paul's Anglican Church
submitted by Sandra Lypps

Sunday services are held weekly at 11a.m. All are welcome. Thank you to all attendees at our recent dinner.

Keep an eye out for our Legacy of Heroes auction online, lots of great items up for bidding that would make great Christmas presents.

Our final Market of the year will take place on Sat., Nov 28th from 10am-2pm, A Very Merry Christmas Market, and will feature local vendors, lunch, baked goods, books, a kids craft table, and visit from Santa!

For December we're back to pasta, Friday December 4th we will host a pasta dinner and a show featuring the Essex community band. Dinner is 5:00 - 6:30, dine in or take out, 519-776-7711 for more details.

New volunteers are always welcome at our Clothing Cupboard, please call the church at the number below to enquire. We're located at 92 St. Paul Street, Essex. Learn more: stpaulsessex.ca, social media or call 519-776-7711.

Cottam United Church
submitted by Celena Meloche-Broll

Worship with us at Cottam United Church on Sunday mornings at 10:00 am. This Sunday, November 22nd, we welcome Mary Baruth! She will bring the message "Come, Let Us Worship Our King" based on Psalm 95:1-7a and Ephesians 1:15-23.

Come enjoy giving thanks and praise through song! Programs for your children in JK and older are held during the church service. Everyone is welcome!

Check out our social media for news and events.

It is the mission of Cottam United Church "to know Christ and to make Him known."

Central Essex County Catholic Family of Parishes
Serving Essex, Maidstone, McGregor & Woodslee

St. Mary's Altar Society is hosting an Advent Wreath workshop on November 23rd at St. Mary's hall. To register please contact the office. St. Mary's 180th Anniversary is on November 29th at 8:30 am with artifacts on display and coffee and cake after Mass. The Essex K of C Fish Fry is on November 27th from 4:30 to 7pm at Holy Name of Jesus parish hall. Take out available. Cash bar. Holy Name of Jesus CWL is hosting an Advent Retreat on December 4th at 6 pm at Holy Name of Jesus Church. St. John's Church is looking for helpers for Children's Church at their 4:30pm Saturday masses. Please contact Fr. Danny. Woodslee CWL is collecting winter hats, gloves, scarves and socks for Street Help during the month of November. There will be a Teen Retreat on December 12-13. Check out all the information on our website at centraleessexcatholic.dol . Please keep all the homebound, nursing home residents and the sick in your prayers.

Unitarian Universalist Church of Olinda
Submitted by Toni Janik

At our service, 10:30 AM on November 22, our Minister: Rev. Paul Langston-Daley will lead the service. The message will be "Maintaining The Social Contract. We will gather in small groups to discuss the issues in our culture that impact us and use these discussions to guide our choices in determining our next social responsibility project(s). Join us at 2953 Olinda Side Road, Ruthven, 548-324-4352. All are welcome.

Woodslee United Church

Come join us for Sunday Service and Sunday School at 10 am. Gayle and Ronnie will lead the Service. Diana will lead the music. Please say a special for your friends. Check on Woodslee United Church social media for news.

Continued on Page 18

SHOP LOCAL.
SAVE LOCAL
Support the local businesses that support your local newspaper.
ADVERTISE LOCAL
News Media Canada
Médias d'Info Canada

thehub: COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Continued from Page 17

PACK THE PEWS: Come join us on Sunday, November 29 at 10 am. Special guest musician will be Steve Morin. Come out and see old friends or make new ones. A light funchion will follow the serve. Hope to see you there.

LADIES GROUP: Birthday Cake Kits are in full swing. We are asking for Cake mixes, icing, sprinkles, birthday candles and foil pans. We are collecting them until the end of November. The Birthday Cake Kits will be donated to Lakeshore Food Band and Essex Food Bank.

WOODSLEE FRIENDSHIP CLUB: Come out and play cards. Mondays at 12:30 pm euchre and on Wednesday at 12:30 pm Pepper is played. Everyone is Weclome.

Church of The Living Word of Essex County

submitted by Pastor Christopher Bond

Please join us each Sunday at 10:30 am at Church of the Living Word for a fresh word from God. We are a loving and welcoming, Jesus Christ following congregation and would love to have you as a visitor or as a new member of our Church family! Will you please come and allow the Holy Spirit to lead you to worship? You are welcome and desired! We offer men's and ladies' Bible study on Thursday mornings, Communion every first Sunday of each month and children and youth Bible programming every Sunday during service! Also, a new youth group initiative is underway! Christmas Carol Concert featuring the Essex Vocal Express - Sunday November 29 at 6pm. Please check our website: www.livingwordwoodslee.ca and find us on social media for updates! We are located at 1697 S. Middle Rd. South Woodslee, ON. Contact us at (519) 723-2535 or livingword03@gmail.com

Essex Christian Reformed Church

submitted by Ana Mello

We warmly invite YOU to join us for our Sunday Service on November 22, at 9am. We have a nursery and kids' program. Bring your children and join us. There is something for everyone! Plan to stay a little longer to enjoy cookies and coffee with great conversation after the Service. Everyone is welcome.

Together with Mayor Sherry Bondy, we will host a Free Book Giveaway event on Saturday, Nov. 21, from 9:30 am to 1:30 pm. Everyone is welcome!

We have a discipleship group every Monday at 7 pm. Come along and join us!

Our next Free Community Dinner is happening on Friday, November 27, at 5:45 PM. Come and enjoy a warm meal, salad, bun, drinks, desserts, and great, healthy conversation for you and your family.

You are always welcome here. Let us build community together! We are located at 276 Talbot St S, Essex, ON, N8M 1B8. If you want to find out more information about us, please visit: essexcrc.ca/events

Harrow Mennonite Church

submitted by Susan Boon

Looking for connection – to God, to community? Located in a fully-accessible building just north of Harrow, Harrow Mennonite Church is a welcoming and inclusive congregation offering inspiring worship, Bible study, community connection and friendly fellowship. Join us on the path to deeper communion with the Creator every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. - 3167 Walker Road, Harrow. Check our webpage: harrowmennonite.on.ca, or contact the church by phone: 519-738-2148, or by email: office@harrowmennonite.on.ca

His House of Miracles Word of Faith Church

We invite you to worship with us every Sunday at 10am and join us every Wednesday night for prayer and Thursday evenings for our mid week service from 6-7pm at 53 Talbot St. South in Essex. Children's church will be provided at the Sunday morning service. Please join us in our welcome room for a time of fellowship and refreshments after the service. We are looking forward to being part of the community and if you are in need of prayer we would love to meet you and pray for you. For more information please check us out online at: hhomchurch.com or contact us at 226-272-0800.

Local Business Professionals

Affordable choice for advertising your services. 12 consecutive weeks at $20.00 + tx/per week.
For more information, call: 519-776-4268 OR email: contact@essexfreepress.com



TRUCKING & EXCAVATING

Jim Mullins
TRUCKING & EXCAVATING
Driveway Extension and Regrading - Stone
Stone 2-17 Tons Loads: Mini Excavator Service
Tandem Dump Truck Rental
Recycled Asphalt Stone
Small Equipment Float Moves – Bobcat Service
519-818-9087
jimmullins29@sympatico.ca

FOUNDATION REPAIR

SOULLIERE SOLUTIONS inc.
Don't you deserve the best price, service and quality?
- Water Proofing
- Slabjacking
- Wall Reinforcing
- Foundation Repairs

Free Estimates, Guaranteed Work
723-2300
www.soullieresolutions.com

HEARING LOSS

(519) 791-EARS
YOUHEAR.CA
LOCATIONS IN
AMHERSTBURG • ESSEX
LASALLE • WINDSOR
Hearing & Dizziness Clinic

PLUMBING

PLUMBING NOW
SAME DAY SERVICE!
30 YEARS IN BUSINESS
519-776-8191

COMMERCIAL PRINTING

COUNTY PRINT Plus
THE HARROW NEWS
CONTACT US FOR ALL YOUR PRINTING NEEDS
FULL SERVICE PRINTING SHOP
• Business Cards • Envelopes • Letterheads
• Invoices (1, 2, & 3 Part) • Forms (1, 2, & 3 Part)
• Flyers • Brochures • Event Tickets
• Raffle Tickets • Books
Full Colour or Black & White Available
5 King St.-Harrow 519-738-2542 printing@mdirect.net

ELECTRICAL SERVICES

AEC
Advanced Electric AND CONTROLS INC
KNOB & TUBE REMOVAL SPECIALISTS
- Service calls & repairs
- Renovation & New Construction
- House re-wires
- Service work / upgrades & panel changes
- EV charger installs
- Small & large jobs
- Commercial & Industrial
- Licensed and insured

ACP ECRA/ESA 7009014 VISA
We accept Visa & Mastercard
519-972-0232 (OAEC)
www.advanced-electric.ca

REAL ESTATE

kw KELLERWILLIAMS.
KW SIGNATURE
INDEPENDENTLY OWNED AND OPERATED
CARL IDZINSKI
SALES REPRESENTATIVE
Cell: 519.817-8891 • cski50@hotmail.com
#3 - 11886 Tecumseh Rd. E., Tecumseh, Ontario N8N 3C2

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

NORTH SHORE
PROPERTY SOLUTIONS
MAINTENANCE AND HANDYMAN SERVICES
- Preventive and Annual Maintenance
- Interior and Exterior Repairs
- Assembly of Multiple Products
- Exterior Spider and Insect Control

Let us take care of your property so you can enjoy it.
Call or text 519-965-3848
Northshorepropertysolutions@hotmail.com

PLUMBING/HEATING

WARKENTIN
• PLUMBING • HEATING
• AIR CONDITIONING
• BATHROOM RENOVATIONS
Plumbing Showroom
• Residential • Commercial
• Installations
FREE ESTIMATES
519-733-5832
www.warkentinplumbing.ca

Local Business Professionals

Affordable choice for advertising your services. 12 consecutive weeks at $20.00 + tx/per week.
For more information, call: 519-776-4268 OR email: contact@essexfreepress.com



TREE SERVICES

25+ Years of Experience
TIMBERWOOD
TREE REMOVAL
TREE TRIMMING
STUMP GRINDING
TW
CALL TODAY FOR A FREE ESTIMATE!
226-344-6789 TREE SERVICE

LOCKSMITHS

ESSEX COUNTY
locksmiths
INSTALL AND SERVICE:
- Overhead Doors and Docks
- Automatic Doors and Entry Systems
- Access Control

519.971.8777
essexcountylocksmiths.ca
ventri DOOR TECHNOLOGIES
ventri.ca

PLUMBING SERVICES

Trust A Company With Experience
30 Years Experience, Licenced & Insured
Boilers Plumbing Plus
2304 County Road 20 W. RR 4,
Harrow, ON N0R 1G0
Call Mike Heaton today!
Phone: 519-988-5906
Residential • Commercial • Industrial

GRASS CUTTING / LANDSCAPING

ACE
Lawn & Property Maintenance
- Landscaping
- Skid Steer & Dump Trailer For Hire
- Rough Cutting / Large County Lots
- Commercial & Residential Grass Cutting
- Rough & Finish Grading / Seeding & Sod
- Gravel Driveway / Parking Lot Const. & Maint.

Rob Lessard
Owner/Operator
519-996-6100

ROOFING

BBB ACCREDITED BUSINESS
Est. 1995
CLEROUX & SONS
ROOFING
Family Owned & Operated Since 1995
Let Our Family Work For Yours.
FREE ESTIMATE • CERTIFIED INSTALLERS
WWW.CLEROUXROOFING.COM
519 819.4309

WINDOWS AND DOORS

Jim Ruthven
Owner
40+ YEARS EXPERIENCE
www.thewindowman.ca
thewindowmaninstalls@gmail.com
Window & Door Installation
Exterior & Interior Renovations
519-999-5918
THE WINDOWMAN
Quality products, reliable service, and fair pricing you can trust.

HEARING AIDS



STILL ASKING "WHAT?" MORE THAN YOU USED TO? FREE HEARING TEST*. NO PRESSURE, NO OBLIGATION.
*For Adults 50+
Call (519) 791-3277
www.YouHear.ca
The Hearing & Dizziness Clinic
Nicole Hammond
Hearing Instrument Specialist
35 VICTORIA AVE, ESSEX, ON

FINANCIAL

Jeff Hoskins, BSBA, FMA, FCSI®
Financial Advisor
RAYMOND JAMES®



Raymond James Ltd.
Independent Financial Services
39 Maidstone E
Essex, Ontario, Canada N8M 2J3
T: 519.776.7770 • F: 519.776.1293
jeff.hoskins@raymondjames.ca

FOUNDATION REPAIR

JoJacks
WE RAISE SUNKEN CONCRETE AND FIX LEAKY BASEMENTS
25 YEARS EXPERIENCE
FREE ESTIMATES
GUARANTEED WORK
Slab Jacking, Buckled Foundation, Cracked Foundation, Epoxy Injection, Graded Entrance Repairs, Foundation Waterproofing, Helical Piers.
1-877-JOJACKS (565-2257)
www.jojacks.com

ACCOUNTING

BDO
BDO Canada LLP
Chartered Accountants and Advisors



Erica Persichilli CPA, CA
Senior Manager, A&A
100-3630 Rhodes Drive,
Windsor ON N8W 5A4 519-944-6993

ACCOUNTING

bakertilly
BAKER TILLY TRILLIUM LLP
203 TALBOT ST. W.,
LEAMINGTON, ON N8H 1N8



RON VANDERVECHT, CPA, CA PARTNER
T 519.326.2666 F 519.326.7008
C 519.324.7832
E rvandervecht@bakertilly.ca
W www.bakertilly.ca

BLINDS • SHADES • SHUTTERS

HERITAGE HOUSE
Fine Furniture and Accessories
BLINDS
- FREE IN-HOME CONSULTATION
- FREE DELIVERY & INSTALLATION
- BEST PRICES, SELECTION & SERVICE
- NO MINIMUM ORDER REQUIREMENT
- IN BUSINESS SINCE 1994

519-733-6379
WWW.HERITAGEHOUSEKINGSVILLE.CA

ACCOUNTING

HICKS, MACPHERSON, IATONNA & DRIEDGER LLP.
Chartered Professional Accountants
Tyler Hicks
Heather MacPherson
Lindsay Iatonna
Tim Driedger
Ashley Meyer
Derrick Rogers
P.O. Box 189, 49 Erie St. N., Leamington, Ontario N8H 3W2
Phone 519-326-2681 • Fax 519-326-8044 • www.hmid.ca

LAWYER

ESTATE • WILLS/POWERS OF ATTORNEY
CORPORATE • REAL ESTATE
CALL...
JOSEPH A. BYRNE
B.A., M.A, LL.B.
HICKEY BYRNE
BARRISTERS & SOLICITORS



14 CENTRE ST., ESSEX, ONTARIO
PH.: 519-776-7349 • FAX: 519-776-8161

ACCOUNTING

B&D
Banwell & Douglas CPA
PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION
CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS
37 Wilson Ave., Essex, ON N8M 2L8 • 519.776.6407

The Old Car Detective

Bill Sherk



1949 Buick Roadmaster hardtop



1949 Buick Roadmaster Riviera hardtop.

submitted to EFP

With this photo from our friend Bill Myers in Pickering, Ontario, we are reminded of the birth of the "hardtop" body style thanks to GM with its new Cadillac, Buick, and Oldsmobile models for 1949.

The big wide whitewall tires were popular all through the 1950s and the sky blue paint job on this Buick turned it into a dream car! All three GM hardtops in 1949 paved the way for other hardtops as the demand skyrocketed. The Chevrolet Bel Air and Pontiac Chieftain hardtops arrived in 1950 and challenged Ford and Chrysler to catch up!

Ford responded with its Victoria hardtop in 1951 and Plymouth brought out its Belvedere hardtop in that same year. This popular new body style gave motorists the open air feeling of a convertible along with the snug comfort of a closed car. What a great combination!

This body style swept all the way through the 1950s and beyond but finally faded away. Restored examples can be seen at car shows today!

Always looking for stories. Email billtsherk@sympatico.ca



73's shutting out competition, extending streak to 19 consecutive wins





by Garrett Fodor

"The best offence is a good defence," and the Essex 73's is showing why it sits atop the PJHL standings.

Riding a 17-game winning streak, the Essex 73's had a chance to extend its run to 18 consecutive wins last week, but standing in their way was the Mooretown Flags, which was in town on November 10.

In the opening frame, the 73's demanded the puck and dictated the play. Just under seven-minutes into the action, the veteran line of Marcus Levesque, Cael McCabe, and Travis Rivest beat Flags' goaltender Brock Lane with a tenacious effort. Closing out the frame, Austin Guevremont doubled the 73's lead. Through the opening 20-minutes, Essex held a commanding 22-1 advantage in shots, while carrying a 2-0 lead into the intermission.

Nash Giles added the third and final goal of the night early in the second period, finding the back of the net on the power-play just 45-seconds into the frame.

The 73's continued to control the play throughout the contest, outshooting Mooretown 49-14. Essex kept the pressure on in the second period, adding another 18 shots, while limiting the Flags to just seven. Goaltender Daniel Cinelli turned aside all 14 shots he faced to earn the shutout, as the 73's kept Mooretown off the scoresheet for the full 60-minutes.

The win gave Cinelli back-to-back shutouts and brought his season total to four through seven appearances. The 17-year-old is carrying an impressive .968 save percentage and a 0.57 goals-against average.

"Playing in Essex is special. The fans are incredible, everyone comes out and watches, and it's really fun to play for them and get a win for them," Cinelli said. "Working with Jake [Vancoillie] has been great. He's a tremendous role model to me, someone who's been around the league. It's really fun, and he's helped me a lot. I'm fortunate the team has been great. There are so many guys in this locker room who have played at higher levels, and they are pushing me to be at a higher level like them."

Closing out the week, the 73's hosted a rare Friday night home contest against the Wheatley Sharks, the same team that handed Essex its lone loss of the season in the opening game of the year.

The night also marked the fifth annual Frank Matthys Alumni Night, welcoming past 73's back to the rink for an evening of memories, while cheering on the current squad. As part of the festivities, the club honoured one of its own as Jordan Brohman was named to the "Wall of Honour."

The now 35-year-old spent parts of four seasons as a 73, suiting up in 194 games in the orange, black, and white, including playoffs and Schmalz Cup appearances. In total, he registered 98 goals and 203 points. Brohman went on to win a Schmalz Cup with the club during the 2008-09 season, along with capturing three Great Lakes Junior 'C' titles.

With Brohman's addition, a total of 48 members have now been recognized on the "Wall of Honour" since the honour was established in 2022. For Brohman, being a 73 ran in the family, as his late father, Ken Brohman, also suited up for his hometown team.

During the induction ceremony,

Continued on Page 21



TOSS for HOSSpice hosts third annual cornhole tourney in Leamington to support end-of-life care



Pictured L to R: Penny Bellhouse, CEO Erie Shores Health Care/Hospice, Cathy Mastronardi, T4H, David Bickford {picture of Colleen Bickford honoree}; Lennard Bickford, Founder of TOSS for HOSSpice, Katherine Bertolin, Director of Hospice, Windsor-Essex County.

submitted to Essex Free Press

TOSS for HOSSpice hosted a cornhole tournament in support of Erie Shores Hospice on Saturday at the Leamington Portuguese Club.

This was TOSS for HOSSpice's third annual tournament, which invited Katharen Bortolin, Director of Hospice Windsor Essex County, and Penny Bellhouse, CEO of Erie Shores Health Foundation, to participate in a ceremonial bag toss.

TOSS for HOSSpice was started to honour Colleen Bickford, who passed away from cancer in 2023.

Her husband, Lennard Bickford of Kingsville, made a commitment to give back as he could in her honour, creating TOSS for HOSSpice with the help of others dedicated to the cause.

Bickford created the TOSS for HOSSpice cornhole tournament to raise funds for Erie Shores Hospice to ensure anyone who needs to utilize this critical end-of-life care gets the same experience his family did.

In the past two-years, TOSS for HOSSpice has donated $15,000 and is on track to contribute that amount in total or more this year.

Those who would like to make a donation to Hospice can do so by visiting www.thehospice.ca

73's shutting out competition, extending streak to 19 consecutive wins...

Continued from Page 20

Jordan wore his father's 73's coat from his time with the club, making the occasion even more special.

Following the ceremonies, Essex turned its attention to the ice, opening the scoring midway through the first period when Travis Rivest found the back of the net just over 13-minutes into the action, with Cael McCabe picking up the assist. The 73's carried its 1-0 lead into the second period before adding to it as Josh Lepain doubled the lead just 90-seconds into the frame. Before the period came to a close, 16-year-old rookie John Fountaine found the back of the net in the final minute to give Essex a 3-0 lead.

The 73's continued to control the play in the final frame, keeping the Sharks off the scoresheet to secure the shutout victory. Essex outshot Wheatley 28-18, while goaltender Jacob Vancoillie turned aside all 18 shots he faced. The Sharks managed just six shots in each period as the 73's kept them from generating much offensively.

The win added another two points to Essex's record as the club continued its strong start to the season, extending its winning streak to 19 games, while earning back-to-back shutout victories.

Up next, the 73's prepare to host its cross-town rival, the Lakeshore Canadiens, before hitting the road to face the Dresden Jr. Kings on November 20.

PROUDLY SERVING ESSEX
SINCE 2010
THE HEARING & DIZZINESS CLINIC
LOCAL. TRUSTED. HERE FOR YOU.
We have been part of the Essex community since 2010. Our team provides comprehensive hearing assessments, tinnitus management, vertigo testing, wax removal, and hearing aid fittings - all close to home, at a location convenient to you.
FREE HEARING TESTS FOR AGES 50+
No referral needed. No obligation. Just answers. Most appointments available within one to two weeks.


Bernice McKenzie
Owner, Audiologist
Nicole Hammond
Hearing Instrument Specialist
The Hearing & Diziness CLINIC
Call us today to book your hearing test:
(519) 791-3277
www.YouHear.ca
Amherstburg | Essex | LaSalle | Windsor

Missed opportunities leave EDHS junior football short at football championship



Essex Red Raiders running back Ryder Leach tries to slip a Villanova Wildcats tackle during the WECSSAA Junior Football semifinal at St. Thomas of Villanova Secondary School on Tuesday, Nov. 10, 2026.

by Greg Layson

A trip to the WECSSAA Junior Football Championship slipped through the fingertips of the Essex District High School (EDHS) Red Raiders last week. More than once.

A touchdown pass to Matt Pye on the opening play of the first half was called back after Essex was flagged for a penalty. And the Raiders fell two yards short of a score on the final play of the same half when Pye was tackled after another precision pass from Caleb Heath. And throughout the game, there were no fewer than three passes that hit the hands of receivers but weren't hauled in.

They were, as the saying goes, "that close." And Essex lost 22-13 to the Villanova Wildcats on the road.

"They always say it's a game of inches. And by definition, those are the inches that matter at times," Head Coach Badi Qawwas said.

Sometimes, the other inches that matter are measured in height. And there's weight, too. Villanova had both in spades in the trenches.

"They were crazy strong," Essex middle linebacker Calvin Nantau said. "I had to work my tail off to try and push them back and make sure that they [didn't] get the running back going."

After being tied at one at the half, the teams traded scores in the second half.

Villanova had the first touchdown of the half just 1:01 in.

Ben Murphy then scored on a four-yard run in the middle of the third quarter, and after recovering an onside kick, the Raiders scored on a short run from Heath. Neither point-after attempt was good, but the Raiders led 13-8.

But Villanova answered with a 60-yard score and later a short quarterback keep. Both scores came in the fourth quarter.

Despite the loss, Qawwas was proud of how far the Raiders had come after opening the season with three straight losses.

"We just didn't have a football team to start the year," he said. "But after three weeks, they evolved into a very good football team."

Nantau, meanwhile, is already looking ahead. He's a grade 10 student ready to join what will be the defending AA champions in 2027.

"I'm ready. It's going to be a great team," he said. "We can make it all the way. We just have to work hard and continue to build on this."



Collision in Essex leads to multiple charges

submitted by the Essex County OPP

One person has been charged after a collision in Essex.

On November 10, 2026, at approximately 8:06pm, members of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) investigated a single-vehicle collision on 9th Concession Road, near Ferris Road in the Town of Essex.

The driver fled, but was located shortly after by K9 unit Vinny and his handler.

As a result of the investigation, a 36-year-old of Essex was arrested and charged with the following Criminal Code offences and Highway Traffic Act offences:

- Operation while impaired - alcohol and drugs
- Fail to remain
- Resist Peace Officer

A 90-day Administrative Driver's License Suspension (ADLS) and a seven-day vehicle impoundment were initiated as per statute.

The accused was scheduled to appear in the Ontario Court of Justice - Windsor on January 8, 2026, to answer the charges.

The safety of our community is paramount, and we will continue to enforce impaired driving laws to keep our roads safe. "Traffic Safety is Everyone's Responsibility."

If you have an urgent traffic complaint or if you suspect someone is driving while their ability to operate a motor vehicle is impaired by drugs or alcohol, please call 9-1-1 immediately.

If you have a non-emergency traffic complaint, call the Ontario Provincial Police at 1-888-310-1122.



Raiders settle for silver in senior girls basketball



The Essex Red Raiders senior girls basketball team poses for a photo after its silver-medal finish in the WECSSAA AA Senior Girls Basketball Championship against the North Star Wolves at St. Anne Catholic High School on Friday, November 13, 2026.

by Greg Layson

More than just a season ended for the Essex District High School (EDHS) Red Raiders senior girls basketball team. An entire era came to a close.

Essex lost the WECSSAA AA Senior Girls Basketball Championship 50-39 to the North Star Wolves at St. Anne Catholic in Lakeshore.

The silver-medal finish marked the final chapter for a group of teammates who had, to some extent, grown up together on the basketball court. Eight of the nine Raiders were in their fourth and final season at Essex.

"When we were coming in this season, we knew that this would be our last," said Guard and Captain Ava Harrison, who poured in a team-high 16 points Friday. "This is hard for me, because I've been playing basketball since I could walk, and this is definitely hitting me hard right now."

Harrison, Payton Steinberg, Sophie Kotyk, Addie McLeod, and Olivia Tofflemire had been teammates since grade 9, with the exception of Harrison's grade 10 season, when she moved up to play senior basketball.

Fellow twelfth-grade classmates Taylor Merklinger, Elliot Moeur, and Emma O'Gorman joined the team this year. Ember Parks was the only player in Grade 11.

"We're so close, and we just have so much chemistry," Steinberg said. "There's only nine of us, and it's amazing that we got this far."

Through the first half of play, it looked like the Raiders wouldn't just make it far, but all the way to the top.

Essex matched North Star bucket-for-bucket in the first half, led by Harrison's pair of timely three-pointers and a putback as the clock expired, sending the teams into halftime tied at 26.

"I think we came out strong. We pushed the pace. We were really making them uncomfortable," Harrison said. "We were clicking on all cylinders. Our shots were going in."

But the bigger, more physical Wolves began to impose their will in the second half, particularly under the basket.

North Star outscored Essex 16-5 in the third quarter, turning a tied game into an 11-point advantage heading into the fourth.

"They throw a lot of bodies to the glass," Essex Head Coach Dave Harrison said. "They're big, physical, and talented players."

The Raiders struggled to keep North Star off the offensive boards, repeatedly surrendering second – and third – chance scoring opportunities.

"We were trying to limit them to one and done, and it was sometimes two, three, four chances," Harrison said. "You just can't give a good team that many chances."

But even as the championship began slipping away, the Raiders refused to wave the white flag.

Steinberg epitomized that determination in the fourth quarter, sprinting the length of the court to get in front of a North Star player on a fast break, attempting to draw a charge, despite Essex trailing by double digits.

"I just wanted to win," Steinberg said.

She recalled how Harrison, just the day before, had shown the team where its name would be displayed in the trophy case if it won the championship.

"It hasn't been up there for almost 10-years," she said. "It just really got to me, and I wanted to win really bad."

Just reaching the championship game represented a significant accomplishment for a team that entered the season with modest expectations.

"When the season started, I wasn't booking hotel rooms for OFSAA," Dave Harrison said. "We were hoping to be a good Tier 2 team."

Early victories, including a three-point win over the Wolves, built confidence in a close-knit group that had spent years playing together. Essex eventually finished the regular season 8-2.

"Things just started rolling," Harrison said. "We beat some good teams early, and the confidence came, and we stayed connected."

For Ava Harrison, the silver medal was bittersweet. The Raiders had fallen one victory short of a championship, but had gone further than anyone expected.

"I feel satisfied; I feel proud," she said. "We never gave up, and we just kept win after win, just knowing we can compete with anyone."

NOW IN LEAMINGTON!
LiUNA!625
PRESENTS
BATTLE OF THE BRAINS XV
ALL PROCEEDS SUPPORT
Société Alzheimer Society
WINDSOR-ESSEX COUNTY
MILLER CANFIELD · CIOCIARO CLUB · Leamington Lebanese Club · flash entertainment
FRIDAY, JANUARY 22, 2027
TICKETS: $600 (TEAM OF 8) INCLUDES BUFFET DINNER AND CASH BAR
TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE:
ALZHEIMERWINDSOR.COM

BRENTWOOD
DREAM HOPE
LOTTERY
BIG EARLY BIRD DRAW
2027 Dodge Charger
DRAW DATE: NOV. 25



PRIZE MAY NOT BE EXACTLY AS SHOWN
BRENTWOODLOTTERY.COM
LIC. #RAF1074496 | 50/50 LIC. #RAF1074831 | CHARITABLE REGISTRATION NO. 11885 0130 RR0001

Red Raider Senior Football wins first football championship in 17-years

by Greg Layson

It takes a total team effort to win a football championship. But someone needs to lead them to it.

Those champions make up the Essex District High School (EDHS) Red Raiders Senior Football Team. That leader is JR Kotyk.

Essex beat the Belle River Nobles 24-20 to win the WECSSAA AA Senior Boys Football Championship on November 12 at Acumen Stadium. It's the first title since 2009.

Kotyk did a little bit of everything — and a lot of leading — to end Essex's 17-year drought.

The fifth-year quarterback threw a touchdown pass, ran for two majors, and kicked a field goal.

But he was at his best with the championship slipping away. With the poise and calm of an emergency room surgeon, Kotyk spent 51 of the game's final 104 seconds methodically carving up the Nobles' defence, engineering the game-winning touchdown drive.

The Raiders' balanced attack throughout was in stark contrast to Belle River's battering ram of a run game. The Nobles didn't throw a pass until it heaved a Hail Mary on the game's final play. Instead, it relied on the brutality of Marcus Newman and Zach Sulik.

It took guts and gang tackles to keep Belle River at bay.



"Their running back was a beast," Aidan Derbyshire said, a defensive back and receiver.

"It's a completely contrasting style. We are … a little more finesse. We are an air attack," Essex Head Coach Badi Qawwas said. "Whereas Belle River is bully ball."

While Belle River kept pounding the ball on the ground, Kotyk took to the air, connecting with four receivers and repeatedly finding ways to move the chains when he didn't.

"We have up to six different capable ball catchers. And we rely on all of them," Qawwas said. Derbyshire, Cash McCarthy, Cooper Britenbaugh, and Jasper Mills caught passes.

For Kotyk and Britenbaugh, chemistry has been developing since they were kids playing Windsor Minor Football together.

"Just an amazing player," Britenbaugh said of his quarterback. "I've been playing with him since I was probably eight or nine."

Kotyk opened the scoring with a 17-yard field goal. Belle River took a 6-3 lead on a quarterback keeper with 1:01 remaining in the first half — more than enough for Kotyk to work his magic.

A 23-yard pass to Derbyshire and two Belle River penalties moved Essex deep into Nobles territory. Kotyk scrambled to the five-yard line on third-and-10 before eventually scoring off right tackle Jakob Brown from one yard out, with 16-seconds remaining.

After a scoreless third quarter, the teams traded blows in the fourth.

Marcus Newman scored on a short run to put Belle River ahead 13-10 with 10:27 remaining.

But Kotyk answered — again.

Facing third-and-14, he connected with Derbyshire for 30-yards to keep the drive alive. A few plays later, the two hooked up again. This time, Derbyshire made a sensational leaping 12-yard touchdown reception that put Essex ahead 17-13 with 5:57 remaining.

"JR threw the ball up," Derbyshire said. "I've never had a quarterback that good before. I mean, it was amazing. He threw a perfect ball. I just high-pointed it and caught it."

The Nobles then ground their way downfield and scored on a 12-yard option play with 1:44 remaining, reclaiming the lead 20-17.

Essex had one last drive.

Starting at his own 40-yard line, Kotyk ran for 11-yards, then found Britenbaugh for completions of 14 and 10-yards. An incomplete pass followed, then a pass interference penalty moved Essex to the Belle River 20.

And with 53-seconds remaining, Kotyk called his own number.

He found nothing but green grass ahead of him until two would-be tacklers converged near the goal line. He eluded both and scored the game-winner.

For Kotyk, the moment was as much about keeping his emotions in check as it was about making plays.

"I'm a firm believer in staying composed. You can't get too high, you can't get too low, because that's where you make your mistakes," he said. "I try to keep my whole team doing that, and it's a part of being a leader."

The Nobles promptly went three-and-out on their final possession. Essex kept Newman in check before Belle River's only pass attempt of the game fell incomplete on the final play.

Kotyk was quickly named game MVP.

Amazing dude. Great guy," Britenbaugh said. "Clearly, he can throw the ball, run the ball, kick the ball."

He certainly proved that Thursday.

THE SALVATION ARMY
The Salvation Army Essex Community & Family Services
Giving Hope Today
Help us ensure that EVERY family has a wonderful Christmas this year!
The Salvation Army has been working to meet the growing needs in the community of Essex for over 135 years. We provide assistance throughout the year with:
- Food
- Clothing
- Weekly Community Meal Programs
- Residential Summer Camp Program
- Income Tax Forms Assistance
- And Christmas Assistance

2026 Goal Letter Appeal & Kettle Campaign $100,000

This Christmas we will provide approximately 100 food and toy hampers to families in Essex County, but we can't do this without the generous support of our community. For this reason we are asking you to consider making a donation to **"The Salvation Army in Essex"**.

Kettles at: Josh's No Frills, Essex Foodland in Essex, Sobeys in Amherstburg, Sanford & Son in Harrow.
Counter Kettles at Schinkels', Stepping Out, & Fate, in Essex

(ANY DONATIONS OF CASH OR CHEQUE WILL STAY IN THE COMMUNITY.)

Donations can be mailed to:
Salvation Army, P.O. Box 432, Essex, Ontario N8M 2Y4

Thank you for helping us to help others by giving "HOPE" today!

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust Him."
Romans 15:13a NIV

NEED CHRISTMAS CASH???
WE'RE PAYING
TOP MARKET VALUE
Toyota Safety Sense
Our advanced safety features come standard.
OMVIC Ontario's Vehicle Sales Regulator
EASTWAY TOYOTA
9375 Tecumseh Rd, Windsor, ON N8R 1A1 | 833.400.1581 | www.eastwaytoyota.com