



Winter 2011

Municipality of Leamington: Notable News

## Message Mayor John Paterson

It's hard to believe that another year has come and gone. We have much to reflect back upon, and much to look forward to.

One thing I'm very excited about is the future adoption of the Community Improvement Plan for the Uptown Commercial Core. The intent of the plan is to promote investment in the uptown area through various programs and incentives. Why focus on the Uptown? It has been proven in other communities that an investment in the commercial core is an investment in the entire town. The uptown is the heart of the community...it's what gives Leamington its character; preserves its history; and through prosperous growth and development, points to a promising future. The analogy is simple, a vibrant uptown indicates a healthy heart, and a healthy heart means the rest of the body is healthy too.

Council has agreed to allocate funding for the CIP programs in the 2012 budget. This amount will be determined as budget deliberations role out.

Although the final plan has not been approved, the consultant is recommending a mix of simple-to-administer programs which include rebates for façade improvements and property upgrades. Eligibility requirements will also be included in the final plan and the ability to access programs will hinge on conforming to certain design standards. Part of the plan includes a municipal program to create gateways into the uptown commercial core, improve landscaping and signage, and upgrade parking facilities and public spaces. As a council we are anxious to see the success of this program and look forward to positive results.



## Message from the Chief Administrative Officer

The Municipality of Leamington uses the strategic planning process to discuss the future direction of the Corporation.

We all use strategic planning in our daily lives. For example, when we purchase a home, we look to see the number of bedrooms, washroom facilities, its location to schools, resale value and how much it is going to cost for mortgage payments and upkeep. The reasons you think strategically in your day to day life, are the same reasons Leamington has to think strategically in its operations.

In 2011, Council adopted a strategic plan for 2011 to 2014. It outlines a number of goals that will be incorporated into work plans and budgets to achieve the direction established by Council. Further, the plan also establishes how we will achieve the objectives, implementation and ongoing monitoring.

### Our Mission:

**"The Municipality of Leamington strives to provide quality services in a sustainable environment. Accessible, accountable and dedicated to the people we serve; we build on the past as we prepare for future prosperity. "**

Council and staff will be focusing on the following seven priorities which support our mission statement.

1. Complete a long term financial model.
2. Pursue senior levels of government to encourage ongoing flexible funding programs for the Municipality.
3. Continue with a program for sewer separation.
4. Implement the Community Improvement Plan (CIP) for the uptown core.
5. Develop a succession plan to attract and retain quality employees.
6. Lobby senior governments for shoreline stabilization assistance.
7. Identify mechanisms to raise the profile of Leamington.



An implementation plan has also been adopted which will identify activities required; who should be involved; timeframes; actions and resources and how we will measure success.

## Notable News

### Community Improvement Plan Update

Over the summer a Planning Consultant has done some public consultation.

Two discussion papers have been prepared and are on our website for review and comments.

The Draft Community Improvement Plan and Urban Design Guidelines will be presented by the end of the year for public discussion.

## Development Services

### Building Information

Owners and contractors are responsible to ensure a building permit is obtained prior to any new construction, addition, demolition, renovation or alteration.

Arrangements can be made for pre-consultation with Development staff to review your proposal and advise of any restrictions.

Sheds with floor area 10m<sup>2</sup> (108 sqft) or more need to comply with the Accessory

Structure Zoning by-law.

Building permit, official plan and zoning (including interactive mapping) information can be found on our web site.

### Private Sewage Systems

Every property owner is responsible to ensure that their private system is maintained so raw sewage is not discharged onto the ground or into a water course. If you have issues with your system contact the municipality.

### Backflow Prevention

If you are connected to municipal water and have an automotive lawn watering system or non-potable water connection you are required to install a backflow prevention device to prevent contamination. By-Law 281-01 regulates the installation and testing of all backflow devices located in existing building and every owner shall ensure that the device is tested annually and a copy of the test report is sent to the municipality.

## Leamington Municipal Marina-Bigger and Better!

### Accessibility Standards for Customer Service

The Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act became law in 2005. The standards apply to every designated public sector organization and to every other person or organization that provides goods and services to members of the public. It also applies to public and private organizations that provide goods and services either directly to the public or to other organizations in Ontario and have one or more employees.

Customer Service for Public Sector compliance came into effect January 1, 2010. The compliance deadline for private sector organizations is Jan. 1, 2012. Every provider of goods and services must establish policies, practices, and procedures that administer the provisions of its good/services to persons with disabilities. For more information visit: [www.accesson.ca/compliance](http://www.accesson.ca/compliance)



Check out our exciting new look!

**New** Fully serviced docks

**New** Longer docks for 50ft boats

**New** Updated 30 & 50 amp pedestals

**New** Patio & Trellis

**New** WIFI to all docks

**New** Privacy gates to all docks

Nightly patrolled security officer

Showers & washrooms open 24 hours!

Easily accessible & wide boat ramp

Fishing Charters Onsite

Free Pavilion rental for local boaters

### War of 1812 Bicentennial Events

- General Brock's Sail-away July 28th
- General Brock's Gala July 28th
- 1812 Peace Garden Showcased

### Other Marina Events

- Season opening/Boat Safety May 26
- Chamber Old Fashion BBQ June 23
- Canada Day Fireworks July 1st
- Arts at the Marina Canada Day Weekend

Monthly rates for charter fishermen. **New** \$37/ft for boats <25ft.



### Book Your Next Party!

Call us at 1-888-858-3334 or 519-326-0834 or visit us at [www.learmington.ca/marina](http://www.learmington.ca/marina) to find out more about what's happening "on the waterfront"!



Note our new mailing address: Municipality of Leamington, 111 Erie St. N., Leamington, ON N8H 2Z9.

## Winter 2011

### Kinsmen Recreation Complex

Get yourself *in motion* with our New Year Shape Up Special for only \$115 plus HST. Try out this affordable membership during the month of January. It's a proven fact that regular exercise relieves stress and gives you more energy. Reach those New Year's goals by meeting with a personal trainer, or with a personal nutrition and wellness coach.

Did you know that the Complex offers Slip and Fall Prevention Classes for adults and seniors? We have three different classes geared to help you improve balance, coordination, agility and preserve bone density.

**BOOK YOUR PARTY – RENTAL OPTIONS!** The possibilities are endless!

Ice Rental times are available for pick-up hockey groups or for recreational skates.

Work Holiday Parties - plan an activity party –either Swimming/Skating/Fitness - and finish off with a pizza party for the whole gang!

Meeting Rooms available for small or larger workshops, bridal showers, family reunions or company events.

#### UPCOMING EVENTS:

- When there's a P.A. Day at school be sure to enroll the kids for Day Camp at the Complex. Friday, Jan. 20, 2012 & Friday, Feb. 10, 2012. Enroll the kids ages 4 – 7 & 8 – 12 for the Complex Day Camp Program. They'll enjoy their day with Swimming, Skating, Crafts, & "Silly Science" & "You're the Chef (ages 8 – 12).
- NHL Legends of Hockey Game - Sat. Feb. 18, 2012 @ 6pm Heinz Arena

- Family Day – Monday, February 20, 2012 - Come join in Family Fitness Fun!
- IODE Antique Show & Sale – March 17 & 18, 2012 Complex Gymnasium
- Skate Canada –Synchronized Skating Competition – March 23 & 24, 2012 Heinz & Unico Arenas
- The 12th annual Home & Garden Tradeshow-March 30, 31 & April 1, 2012. Come check out all the Vendor Displays and talk to the professionals about everything for your Home Décor, Renovation and Landscaping Projects.

Call us at 519-322-2337 for more details.



Check out the Complex Activity Guide at

[www.learnington.ca/recreation/activityguide](http://www.learnington.ca/recreation/activityguide) to view all the programs and classes being offered.

The new Winter 2 & Spring Activity Guides will be available the beginning of January. Registration begins Jan. 23rd and Winter2 session will begin the week of February 6.



### Things to Know about Dog Control

The Animal Control Officer, Larry Wood may be contacted at (519) 796-3013 for the following situations:

- dogs running at large
- if your dog is lost
- dangerous dogs
- to live trap raccoons, skunks and possums
- remove and dispose of animals found dead on municipal roads

For animals found dead on County or Provincial roads,

please call the County of Essex, Engineering at (519) 776-6441 ext 317.

#### Dog Registration (Tags)

Residents shall purchase dog tags annually on a calendar year basis or within seven days of becoming an owner from the Municipal Office. Dog tag applications are available at the municipal offices or on our website at [http://www.learnington.ca/municipal/corp\\_animal.asp](http://www.learnington.ca/municipal/corp_animal.asp) Every dog owner shall keep up to 2 dogs per dwelling unit.

2012 Dog Tags for Male or Female dogs are now available for a fee of \$18.00 per dog tag.

A late fee of \$18.00 will be included on the cost of the dog tag as of Monday, April 2, 2012.

Failure to purchase a licence may result in a fine of up to \$500.00.

For general dog information in Leamington please contact the Clerk's Office at (519) 326-5761 or email the Clerk's Office at [clerks@learnington.ca](mailto:clerks@learnington.ca).

#### Fire Routes!

Fire Routes are located in front of buildings to provide fire departments with enough room to manoeuvre their apparatus and connect to sprinklers and standpipes. When people stop or park in these areas, they impede firefighters from performing their job and put lives and property at risk. Areas marked with a fire route sign with a no stopping symbol on it means that the traffic must remain moving through that area. You may not wait for passengers while they are in a store. Your vehicle must immediately move when they have left the vehicle to a proper parking/waiting location. Please do your part to ensure firefighters can do theirs.

#### Value of Building Permits to Date (October 11)-\$millions

Number of Permits Issued	Residential	Commercial	Industrial	Institutional	Agricultural	Total Value
310	\$8.2	\$3.5	\$1.7	\$.75	\$51.4	\$65.6

## Finance and Business Services

### New Administration Charges

#### Property Tax Services:

Effective January 1st, 2012, two new fees will be implemented within the Finance and Business Services Department.

**1. Record of Payment or Tax Reprint Notice:** All property owners receive a final tax notice which outlines the total taxes for the property. If a record of payment or a duplicate tax notice is requested a **\$10.00** fee will be charged.

**2. Refund/Payment Posting Errors:** Customers who post payments to a wrong account or make an overpayment will now be charged a **\$25.00** fee for requests to process refunds or to make payment reallocations.

#### Notice—Complete your Cheques and Forms First:

The Corporation of the Municipality of Leamington will no longer be assisting in completing cheques for any payments. Please be sure that cheques and/or forms are fully filled out before submitting them for processing.

**We appreciate your cooperation in this matter**

## Property Tax Information-We Can Help! Call 519-326-5761 ext. 1213

#### Property Assessments

Questions about your Property Assessment?

Contact Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC):

**1695 Manning Road, Unit 195**

**Tecumseh, ON N8N 2L9**

**Phone: 1.519.739.9920**

**Toll Free: 1.877.517.7408**

**www.mpac.ca**

Request for Reconsideration deadline is March 31, 2012.

#### Farmland Property

If your property is currently being farmed check your tax notice to see if it has a Farm Classification code (the Assessment category will begin with letters "FT"). If the category does not show "FT" you may contact the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs (OMAFRA). **Toll Free: 1.800.469.2285** or **www.omafra.gov.on.ca** to register your property as farmland or for questions about farm classification.

#### Dates to Remember

Commercial Vacancy Tax Rebate **Feb. 28**

2012 Tax Year OMAFRA Request for Reconsideration **April 2**

MPAC Request for Reconsideration **Dec. 31**

#### Property Tax Payment Options

1. Post-dated cheques
2. By mail or in person:

**Municipality of Leamington**

**111 Erie St. North**

**Leamington, ON N8H 2Z9**

- To assure prompt and correct application of payment to your account, send tax notice stub with your payment
  - Write your roll # or account # on the front of your cheque
  - Make cheques payable to the Municipality of Leamington
3. At most financial institutions
  4. Telephone/Internet Banking
  5. Pre-Authorized Payment Plans

For changes to your mailing address, banking or mortgage information please come in or download a form from our website. A letter from a solicitor or a copy of the registered deed are required for changes in name or ownership.

**GREEN TAX NOTICES—Do not pay—Provided for Information only** for accounts paid through Pre-Authorized Payments (PAP) or Mortgage company.

**BLUE TAX NOTICES—Pay by date shown on the notice.**

#### Pre-Authorized Plans

Our pre-authorized payment plans offer a convenient, no-hassle way to pay your taxes. Whether you choose the monthly plan or the installment plan, you can be rest assured that you won't miss another tax due date. To enroll in the Pre-authorized Payment Plan your account must be in good standing. For more information or for an application, please visit our website or contact Finance & Business Services.

#### Tax Assistance Program

A Property Tax Assistance Program is open to

Persons age 65 or older who receive the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) under the Old Age Security (OAS);

Persons receiving Ontario Disability Support (ODSP); or

Persons receiving disability support under the Family Benefits Act. Applications are available on our website or may be picked up at the Finance & Business Services counter at the Municipal office. The **deadline** to apply for this program is **September 1, 2012**.

#### 2012 Property Tax Due Dates

**Interim:** February 8 & April 11

**Final:** June 6 & September 12