

Spring 2012

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Leamington on the Grow

Municipality of Leamington

Mark Your Calendar!

Jan. 27: Breakfast with Mayor John Paterson and Mayor Nelson Santos. Colasanti's. 8:00 am.

Jan. 30: Business After 5. South Shore Virtual Golf at Leamington Golf Club. 5-7pm.

February 18: Legends of Hockey VS OPP Charity Game. Kinsmen Complex.

March 17-18: IODE Antique Show and Sale. Kinsmen Complex.

March 30-April 1: 12th Annual Home & Garden Trade Show. Kinsmen Complex.

June 23: Chamber Family BBQ. Marina.

June 30-July 1: Arts at the Marina

July 1: Canada Day Celebrations at the Waterfront.

July 9-13: MedQuest Week

July 28: General Brock's Sail Away and Gala. Marina.

It's Official! New Municipal Building Opens

Although Leamington's new municipal building was completed in April 2011, the official opening took place on December 6, 2011. The completion of a new parking lot and the finishing touches to landscaping and the adjacent urban trail were the final tasks to be completed before the time was right to cut the ribbon. Coming in at \$9.3 million the construction costs were under the estimated \$12.5 price tag. The 39, 200 sq. ft. building was constructed under the Infrastructure Stimulus Fund with the federal and provincial governments each contributing 1/3 of the cost. Designed by JP Thomson Architects with construction overseen by Oscar Construction, the impressive building will serve the Municipality well for many years into the future.

Canada

Ontario



Municipal Office-111 Erie St. N.



Mayor John Paterson installing the time capsule

Not to be Outdone...Makeover for the Old Town Hall

A foresighted investor purchased the former town hall property at 38 Erie St. N. shortly after it came on the market. Leamington-based Grossi Construction was hired to convert this 50's style building into a modern professional show piece. When completed the building will have 12,000 sq. ft. of space for lease. For leasing details contact Louie Saad, Realty House at 519-919-7223 louie@signatureteam.ca



38 Erie St. N.

Dialysis Unit Opens at Leamington District Memorial Hospital

Leamington District Memorial Hospital and Hotel-Dieu Grace Hospital recently marked the grand opening of the community's long awaited dialysis unit. Collaboratively funded by Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, the two hospitals, community donations and the Ontario Renal Network, the new clinic will have 6 dialysis treatment stations providing patients with a closer-to-home treatment option.



Leamington Welcomes Windsor Family Credit Union (WFCU)

Leamington Mayor John Paterson and municipal councillors were on hand as Windsor Family Credit Union opened its Leamington branch on December 12, 2011. This is WFCU's 6th branch location and its first in Leamington. In his remarks Martin J. (Marty) Komsa, WFCU President and Chief Executive Officer stated, "A lot of hard work has taken place to bring us all here today and we could not be happier. It is thrilling to have the opportunity to become part of Leamington. We are confident that our expansion into the Municipality will service the financial needs of the region and continue to assist in making our communities the best place to live and work."

Living up to their reputation as a leader in community giving, WFCU announced its commitment to several worthwhile initiatives including the Leamington and Area Toys 4 Tots Program; and its plans to launch the WFCU Leamington Community Investment Youth Scholarship Program. WFCU has also committed to be the Leamington and District Chamber of Commerce's overall lead corporate sponsor; and the WFCU brand will be the lead sponsor of the Leamington District Hospital Foundation Golf Tournament. These four initiatives represent an initial community investment of \$20,000.



WFCU-318 Erie St. S.

New Energy Farms to Commercialize New Miscanthus Cultivars

New Energy Farms (NEF) of Leamington has established an agreement with Performance Plants Inc. of Kingston, ON to commercialize high yielding elite clones of Miscanthus, a cultivated energy crop. NEF have been evaluating new clones of Performance Plants' Miscanthus to identify those with specific yield and quality characteristics that have commercial applications. Clones of interest are being taken to market with NEF's proprietary propagation technology.

NEF is delivering a new source of cultivars of energy crops to market from a wide range of genetics providers, delivering this rapidly with a secure means of generating royalty payment for plant breeders.

NEF supplies products and services to customers developing or operating biomass conversion facilities. These companies are typically utility or development companies who generate renewable electricity, heat, road fuels or industrial materials using plant biomass as raw material. The crops supplied by NEF are energy crops; specifically developed to produce fuel and industrial products; not food. These fuel crops are high yielding perennials that produce large volumes of clean biomass feedstock with a low energy and environmental footprint. Their production can occur on lower quality or surplus land and consequently does not impact on food production.

MGS Horticultural Inc. to Redevelop Existing Site

MGS Horticultural, a 70 year old Leamington based supplier to the horticultural sector, is set to redevelop its Hazelton Ave. site. The proposed redevelopment will include the removal of 3 existing structures, the addition of 854.7 sq. m (9200 sq. ft.) of warehouse, the addition of 445.9 sq. m. (4800 sq. ft) of office space and the relocation of outdoor storage areas and on-site parking areas. These additions will complement its current onsite warehousing facilities.

Products and services sold by MGS include integrated pest management products, plant nutrition and greenhouse vegetable seed. Customers include greenhouse and nursery growers, specialty agricultural growers, and professional turf industries.



For more information on NEF contact the Leamington office at 519-326-7293 or email sales@newenergyfarms.com. For a detailed company profile visit www.newenergyfarms.com.

Two Draft Plans of Subdivision Getting Closer to Final Approval

Two draft plans of subdivision were presented to Leamington Council in December. Staff recommendations and public comments will be summarized and presented to Council for consideration before being forwarded to the County of Essex, as the approval authority. D'Amore Subdivision will be located along Seacliff Dr. E. abutting Antonio Court and County Rd. 33. Forty-four single unit detached dwellings on a 4.9 hectare (12.15 acre) site are planned featuring a range of housing designs and prices. Santo Subdivision will be located on the north side of Robson Road. The proposal calls for 37 single detached units and 21 two unit dwellings within a 7.12 hectare (17.9 acre) site. For more information contact dtruax@leamington.ca.

Workforce WESkills Database Success

Workforce WindsorEssex, the regional workforce development board, is planning the next steps in their WESkills Database. The database is an inventory of the skills and experience of local job seekers that can be matched with the hiring needs of employers.

Currently the WESkills Database holds 900 skill profiles, highlighting the experience and knowledge of the available workforce in Windsor-Essex and leading the way for this database to become an important tool for economic development.

The database was developed to support our transitioning local economy and highlight unique opportunities for incoming industries. It also assists in developing training plans, bridging skills gaps and providing newly-trained people with opportunities for employment in the region.

On December 22, *The Windsor Star* covered a recent WESkills Database success story, the announcement that Dynamic Solutions, a Red Deer-based oil and gas manufacturing company will be opening a facility in Windsor sometime this year, creating new jobs. The database helped identify the number of available skilled workers in manufacturing, which was key in the decision to locate here. Workforce WindsorEssex is hoping more employers will use the WESkills Database to see the skills of our available workforce.

To grow the database, Workforce WindsorEssex plans to add 250 resumes of internationally trained professionals by the end of March, capturing even more of our locally-available skills.



If you're an employer having difficulty filling certain positions or if you're an employment service organization that would like to work with us in growing the WESkills Database, contact Tanya Antoniw at tantoniw@workforcewindsoressex.com

Bank Theatre and Meeting Place Getting Closer to Show Time

Sun Parlour Players has long envisioned a permanent home. This is getting close to reality as the group, along with countless volunteers, works to refurbish the historic Bank of Montreal building, transforming it into a 205 seat multi-purpose entertainment and performing arts venue.

The 3000 square foot main floor will house the theater and the basement will be used for set design and construction, costuming and makeup, and rehearsals. The theatre will become a true community asset and valuable addition to the Uptown creating a cultural centre for a variety of stage, theatric and musical groups. Opening is expected in the Fall of 2012.

Fundraising is in full swing with the group well on its way to reaching their \$800,00 goal. To learn more about the Bank Theatre project and to donate on line visit www.banktheatre.com.



Value of Building Permits 2011 (\$Million)

Total Permits Issued	Residential	Commercial	Industrial	Institutional	Agricultural	Total \$
346	\$8.6	\$3.8	\$1.7	\$.8	\$53.3	\$68.2 (\$38.8 in 2010)

Building permit values in 2011 were spurred by aggressive growth in Leamington's greenhouse sector. Growth in the sector is attributed to favorable market conditions, lender confidence and consumer demand for wholesome, healthy greenhouse produce.



Municipality of Leamington

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Leamington: "Building on the past...Preparing for future prosperity."

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This publication is presented to you by: The Municipality of Leamington, Economic Development Department. The Economic Development Department was established to "create an economic development environment in the Municipality through the promotion, cooperation and communication between the public and private sector, enabling an increased standard of living for its residents while maintaining and enriching their quality of life". Services provided by the Economic Development Office include:

- * Business development information*
- * Marketing and promotion*
- * Network development*
- * Project development and small business consulting*
- * Relocation information for residential and business purposes*

Greenhouse Growth-No Glass Ceiling Here!

Healthy eating, and a desire by consumers for more fresh produce, is creating an advantageous environment for growth for Leamington's greenhouse sector. The Leamington/Essex area is currently the centre of Ontario's greenhouse produce production with over 1600 acres. Total production in the province represents approximately \$641 million in farm gate sales, with over 10,000 full time equivalent jobs affiliated with the sector.

There is a great desire to expand in the Leamington/Essex region due to weather conditions and the logistical sense of being geographically close to the marketing companies who handle the distribution all across North America. A trend in the United States toward the increased consumption of fresh greenhouse vegetables, which are often viewed as "the freshest" alternative has seen the growth of consumption of fresh tomatoes, cucumbers and peppers. Greenhouse production dominated by Leamington growers has driven much of this.

Expansions in the past year have kicked along at an explosive rate and represent over 75% of the value of Leamington's building permits for 2011. These expansions, plus others on the books for the near future, will add over 450 new growing acres to the total; representing an additional approximate \$258 million in sales per year.

Growers are examining ways to produce year round using high efficiency lighting. In addition, there is a strong desire to work with utilities on co-generation/combined heat and power projects and off-peak solutions to energy demands. The greenhouse industry has had positive impacts on the growth of local and provincial economies and the future looks bright for continued success.



Setting posts for new greenhouses