

Winter 2010

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Leamington on the Grow

Municipality of Leamington

Mark Your Calendar!

March 23 . Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities-free workshop. Colasanti's.

March 29. Permit to Take Water Workshop. Pelee Island Winery. 10:00 am. 877-424-1300.

April 13 & 14 .Beyond the City Lights Rural Tourism Conference. Chatham-Kent.

April 28. Chamber AGM. 8:00 Breakfast meeting with guest speaker Ron Garudet, CEO Windsor Essex Economic Development Corporation. Call 326-2721 to register.

May 1-16. Festival of the Birds. Friends of Point Pelee, Point Pelee National Park.

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Beyond the City Lights Rural Tourism Conference

Leamington is pleased to be one of the sponsors of this year's Beyond the City Lights Rural Tourism Conference being held April 13-14 in Chatham-Kent. The opening reception will be held at Parks Blueberries in Bothwell and the conference program will take place at Smith and Wilson Winery in Blenheim.

Keynote speaker, Mr. Eddie Friel will discuss his experiences in turning around the tourism industry in Scotland by focusing on culture, art and heritage. He is an engaging speaker and one worth hearing.

The full conference is only \$50 and promises to be an enjoyable event. To register contact Chatham-Kent Tourism at 1-800-561-6125.

Nature Fresh Expands Again



For the fourth time in a decade, Nature Fresh Farms is excited to announce the opening of a new phase of operations. Completed in January 2010, Nature Fresh's Phase 4 adds another 31 growing acres to its 67 acre greenhouse operation. Combining for a total of 98

growing acres, Phase 4 becomes the second phase of Nature Fresh's greenhouses to be constructed out of glass. The original two phases are constructed out of plastic. Already the largest producer of Greenhouse Bell Peppers in North America, this new acreage of greenhouses focuses exclusively on producing T.O.V. Cluster Tomatoes.

Owner and President Peter Quiring says, "the demand for top quality, locally grown produce made the decision to expand easy." Of the 3 million boxes of produce Quiring expects to ship in 2010, the 1.5 million boxes of tomatoes will match the 1.5 million boxes of peppers destined to leave the farm.

Nature Fresh Farms, and its sister company South Essex Fabricating, continue to lead the way in innovation, technology, and distribution. Phase 4 features a brand new, state-of-the-art Air Circulation system, one of the first of its kind to be used in North America. John Ketler, Senior Grower in charge of Phase 4 likes that the climate control "provides a stable growing environment to better control the plant." Ketler notes that the "the system's biggest advantage is energy savings".

Nature Fresh Farms was established by Quiring in 2000, and is located on 150 acres of farmland at the corner of Hwy 77 and Concession 7 in Leamington.



Hike Metal Building Vessels for MNR

Andy Stanton, owner of Wheatley-based Hike Metal, revealed that the company's latest project is the construction of two vessels for the Ministry of Natural Resources. The contract, valued at \$4.35 million calls for two 20 metre vessels which will be constructed using 40 tons of steel with Caterpillar diesel 340-horsepower engines. It will take roughly 15,000 man hours for Hike's employees and subcontractors to complete the project.

The boats will be constructed to MNR standards and are designed to allow the Ministry to handle fisheries assessment and ecosystem monitoring on Lake Huron and Lake Ontario. These vessels will carry a crew of six who will conduct fisheries work including gill netting, trawling and nighttime hydro-acoustic work. Assessments are conducted on specific species, such as salmon, lake trout, walleye and whitefish for ecosystem monitoring and commercial and sport fishing management.

John Cooper of the Great Lakes Branch of MNR, says monitoring changes within the ecosystem is important since commercial fishing is valued at \$200 million a year and sport fishing at \$450 million a year. The vessels should be completed this summer when sea trials will take place. Once this is completed the vessels will be ready for use on the lakes in 2011.



Hike Metal, Wheatley

Essex County Agricultural at a Glance

Agribusiness is big business in Essex County. In 2008 agricultural Farm Cash receipts totaled \$659.5 million. The Leamington/Kingsville Greenhouse vegetable industry accounted for \$361.3 million of this. Over 5.494 million square metres of greenhouses exist in Leamington/Kingsville.

Prime Commercial Property For Sale

Leamington's Municipal building is up for sale as the Corporation starts construction of a new building up the street from the current site. For details on the property contact Douglas Morrish, Director of Development Services dmorrish@leamington.ca or visit our web site to download an information package.



Congratulations to Mastronardi Produce Ltd.

Mastronardi Produce Ltd. was recently named one of Canada's 50 Best Managed companies. Judges picked Mastronardi because of its innovation, corporate culture and industry leading initiatives, which include a project to make its operations as environmentally friendly as possible. As part of its Green Grass Project Mastronardi uses biodegradable coconut husks as a growing medium, recycled water, packaging from recycled materials and energy efficient lighting in its warehouses. Mastronardi employs more than 500 corporately plus an additional 200 seasonal workers. To learn more about Mastronardi Produce visit www.sunsetproduce.com.

New General Manager for ERCA Announced

The Essex Region Conservation Authority has named Richard Wyma as its new GM. Over his career, Mr. Wyma has focused on parks and conservation, land use and environmental planning and sustainable development. Most recently he has served as the Manager of Parks and Conservation Areas for the Government of Nunavut.

The Certified General Accountants of Ontario has released a new publication which details how businesses can prepare for HST implementation, the application of HST, the transitional rules, and general background on the HST by province. To obtain a copy visit www.cga-ontario.org/Publications/.

Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act-Free Workshop

Two free workshops are being offered locally to help business owners/operators understand what it means to be in compliance with the "Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act". All business owners will have to be compliant by Jan, 2012 or face potential fines. Guest speaker Elaine Austin from Business Takes Action will provide easy and helpful information in these free sessions to be held **Tuesday, March 23**.

A Complimentary Breakfast Session:

7:30 am at Rizzo's Crossing, 23 Victoria Ave. Essex. To register contact the Essex BIA at 519-776-9811 or email marlene@essexbia.com

A Complimentary Lunch Session:

Noon at Colasanti's Tropical Gardens, 1550 Rd. 3 E. To register contact the Leamington and District Chamber of Commerce at 519-326-2721 or email wendyp@leamingtonchamber.com

The Many Faces of Employees

A pilot project will soon be underway which will develop the entrepreneurial skills of young workers with intellectual disabilities. The idea came about after Eric Fantin, an intellectually challenged young man decided to start his own lawn care business. Eric hopes to hire more people with disabilities, and with the help of a job coach teach them the skills they need to become successful, independent entrepreneurs. A job coach is someone who works along side the employee to help them develop the skills they need to successfully complete the tasks required to perform the job. Job coaches do not interfere with the operation of a business, they are there to teach and support the worker and the employer in accomplishing the job at hand. In Eric's case his sister Anne Marie will be acting as his coach.

For many persons with intellectual challenges the prospects of employment or owning their own business are limited. Up until 18 years of age our social system does a great job of supporting people with intellectual disabilities. After age 18 however, the opportunities are limited. The pilot project involves getting a few local employers to work with some candidates to clean up a small part of Leamington. This could be a park, flower beds, a yard or parking lot. The employer can be either a private sector business or a not for profit/volunteer organization. Every person can, with the proper guidance and opportunity, become a great employee. If you would like to learn more or to participate in some way, contact Anne Marie Fantin or Eric Fantin at 519-791-5137.



Pictures from Around the Municipality



Shoeless Joes nearing completion



New instant lube



New EMS Station on Wilkinson



Fresh greenhouse produce and it's still March!

Building Permit Summary—2009 (\$Millions)

| Residential | Commercial | Industrial | Institutional | Agricultural | Total |
|-------------|------------|------------|---------------|--------------|--------|
| \$8.9 | \$10.3 | \$31.9 | \$2.1 | \$9.6 | \$62.9 |

Note: Total construction value in 2008 was \$44.2 million.



Municipality of Leamington

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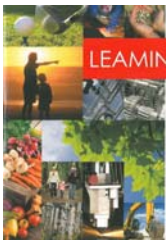
Leamington: "Building on the past...Preparing for future prosperity."

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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 assistance for residential and business purposes*

Leamington's New DVD Wins Marketing Award



Leamington's creative promotional DVD was awarded top honors at the Economic Developers Council of Ontario's marketing awards competition. The award was announced at the Council's annual conference recently held in Toronto. The video was initiated by Leamington's economic development committee.

"This year, over 130 entries were judged" stated 2009 EDCO President Lauren Millier. "The competition allows local communities to see just how they stack up against other municipalities when it comes to promoting location, investment & tourism opportunities".



Expert judges reviewed all of the entries that covered everything from promotional brochures to infrastructure development projects. There are judges from specialized areas of expertise assigned to judge specific categories.

EDCO is the country's largest provincial economic development association that offers this program as well as professional development opportunities throughout the year. Membership is close to 600 that come from the private and public sector.

Birds of a Feather

Located at the crossroads of major migration routes, Point Pelee National Park is a meeting place for birds and birders alike. The diversity of habitats protected by Point Pelee provide crucial resting and refueling stations for a wide variety of migrants. Celebrate the miracle of spring migration at Point Pelee's Festival of the Birds through May and witness the return of the songbirds first hand. Visit www.friendsofpointpelee.com for a complete listing of birding activities.

