

Name Change – Why?

At the first council meeting of the new term, the subject of investigating if the municipality should change its name was discussed – with the thought that a name change would help relations between Wards 3 and 4 and Wards 1 and 2. It is my opinion that a name change will not make a difference. People's attitudes will! And, until individual councillors start acting in the best interest of the whole municipality, there will always be negative attitudes to deal with.

In 1998, residents were asked to submit possible names for the soon-to-be amalgamated municipality. Few responses were received. The issue was put to a vote and the electorate chose the name Essex from among the options. In practical terms, the use of the name only comes into play when dealing with the municipality and/or its

services (e.g. police, fire, public works, building department). People still live at the same postal address as they did prior to amalgamation, but they pay their taxes to the Town of Essex.

Why waste the time and effort on this? Surely there must be more important projects that council should be tackling. The private roads along the lake-front need to be reviewed. What about more industrial, commercial and residential



commentary

*Wilber R. Brett
Former Free Press Publisher*

development, as well as tourism? What happened to the economic study done last term by respected business people in our community? Is it sitting on a shelf collecting dust? The wine industry is taking off in the county, including Harrow and Colchester South. What are we doing to promote this growth industry? Leave the name alone and get on with promoting and building a better community. Forget your egos at the council doors

and move ahead. Maybe it's time to hire a public relations expert to sell the benefits of locating in the Town of Essex.

As a former councillor who held office both before and after amalgamation, I was very disappointed that Deputy Mayor Richard Meloche was not appointed to the position without opposition. The procedure has traditionally been to vote for the individual in committee and, when it comes before open council, to make the appointment unanimous. Evidently there were sore losers and the vote was not unanimous. It would appear some councillors don't take rejection very well – what a shame!

Personally I think the fair-minded councillors made an excellent choice. Congratulations Richard!

Leave the name alone – move on.

Traveller's warning: Malaria in Jamaica

In response to numerous inquiries, Dr. G. Allen Heimann, Essex County's medical officer of health, has issued a warning for travellers to Jamaica.

Public health agencies in Canada and the U.S. have confirmed cases of malaria in residents of Jamaica.

To date, 91 cases have been confirmed in the city of Kingston, Jamaica, and

the immediate area. Malaria is not endemic to the country. Jamaican health authorities are undertaking intensive measures to control the outbreak.

The Public Health Agency of Canada recommends anti-malarial treatment and the use of personal protective measures against mosquito bites for Canadian travellers who

may stay overnight in Kingston and the corporation of St. Andrew.

Chloroquine is the recommended anti-malarial drug for Jamaica and has a long history of use and safety. It is also well tolerated by most people including children. Chloroquine is a prescription drug that can be obtained from a traveller's personal physician. Anti-

malarial drugs are not required for other travel destinations in Jamaica.

All travellers to Jamaica are recommended to take precautions against mosquito bites, including the use of mosquito repellent on

exposed surfaces when outdoors, particularly from dusk to dawn. Mosquito repellents containing 30-50 percent DEET are recommended.

Malaria is an acute illness caused by a parasite trans-

mitted to humans through the bite of an infected mosquito. Any traveller who becomes sick or feels unwell upon their return to Canada should seek medical assistance.

Community support from insurance company



COMMUNITY SUPPORT – From left: Cindy Barnett of DPM Insurance Group, Mark Young of Gore Mutual, and Doug Barnett of DPM Insurance Group hold cheques totaling \$2,100 in support of three charities – Community Living Essex County, the Harrow Health Centre and the Chatham Women's Centre. Gore Mutual and the Gore Mutual Foundation announced the donations last week. The insurance company will support over 100 charitable organizations this year.

NOTICE

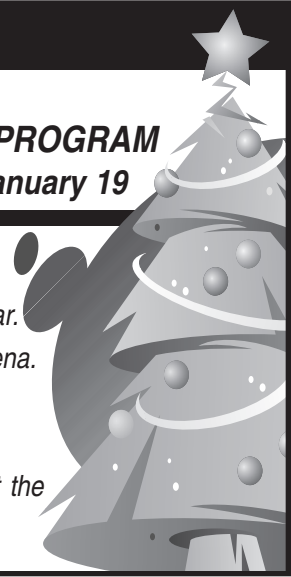
**TOWN OF ESSEX
CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING PROGRAM**
Drop Off Dates: December 26 - January 19

Ward 1

There will be no curbside pick up for Christmas Trees this year. Please drop them off at the designated area at the Essex Arena.

Ward 2

Ward 2 residents may drop off their live Christmas Trees at the Co-An Park Parking Lot, 11071 Concession 11, McGregor.



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