



HONOURING FALLEN COMRADES – Retired Nobleton Fire Chief Ross Kennedy, left, sings a hymn for firefighters who have lost their lives in the line of duty. Kennedy was one of hundreds of firefighters who participated in a memorial service at the Essex Cenotaph beside town hall Aug. 6 as part of the Fire Fighters' Association of Ontario convention.

July

The Stanley Cup, one of the most prestigious trophies in professional sports, came to town as part of the annual Essex Fun Fest. As the equipment manager for the 2006 Stanley Cup Champion Carolina Hurricanes, long-time Essex resident Wally Tatomir brought the cup to the area during the Essex Fun Fest.

Ed Clifford, a founding member of Habitat for Humanity Windsor-Essex, was recognized for 10 years of dedication to the organization that makes home ownership a reality for low-income families.

The Essex Fun Fest whimpered to a close as the signature closing act – the fireworks – were delayed a week due to high winds. But this unexpected development didn't detract from the overall success of the weekend that witnessed several firsts – the first mechanical bull riding competition in support of the arena project; the first Mardi Gras parade to hit the streets of Essex; and the first visit to town of the Stanley Cup.

The 2006 fundraising campaign for W.E. Care for Kids came to a close. The money raised – \$343,000 – went to pediatric care programs at area hospitals.

David Newman, the man behind the book that documented Windsor through postcards, embarked on his next project – a book of historical postcards of Essex County. Newman displayed some of his postcards at an event hosted by the Harrow Early Immigrant Research Society and asked people to provide information on any of the scenes depicted. Newman's book is expected to be published in 2007.

For the second year in a row, Ives Insurance Brokers was ranked as one of Canada's top 200 fastest growing companies by Profit Magazine.

August

The 105th Fire Fighter's Association of Ontario convention came to Essex, bringing hundreds of out-of-towners to the campground near St. Michael's Alternative High School on Talbot Street. The two-day conference featured games, competitions, a Miss Ontario Fire Fighter pageant and a memorial service for fallen comrades.

Judges for Communities in Bloom, a national gardening competition for towns and cities of all sizes, toured Essex for the second year in a row. In addition, the first ever Essex in Bloom competition generated about 25 entries from local green thumbs. Sponsored by the Essex Business Improvement Area, the gardening competition was judged according to six categories and had local residents showing off their trimmed lawns and pretty floral displays.

Kingsville's Youth and Family Resource Network broke ground at the site of Essex County's first transitional housing project at the corner of Maple and Lansdowne streets. The eight units – four affordable housing units and four transitional homes – are meant to accommodate the working poor and those in danger of becoming homeless. The initiative was based on a 2004 report commissioned by the County of Essex and City of Windsor that said Kingsville would require 139 housing units to be built within 10 years, with 82 units for families with yearly incomes less than \$50,000. The project received \$291,000 in financial support from the federal government and \$63,000 from the Town of Kingsville.

The Essex Ravens' 2006 Ontario Varsity Football League season came to an end Aug. 5, with the Guelph Bears beating the team 37-24. The Ravens, coached by Glen Mills, ended the season with a 7-1 record.

Members of the regional physician recruitment office told Essex County Council that the area is still in desperate need of more doctors. Since the office was created in 2003, more than 100 doctors have been recruited to Windsor/Essex, which was identified as the most under-served area in the province according to reports from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. Still, the influx doesn't match the need for doctors, county council was told.

A troubled bingo industry was identified as the reason for a dramatic decline in revenues for local charitable organizations. With the provincial smoking ban and slowed border crossings keeping American dollars away and a shift in bingo hall revenues having volunteers paying out of their own pockets to help, local charities such as the Essex Optimist Club, Knights of Columbus and Essex Minor Baseball were all forced to seek out other methods of fundraising.

Councillors and representatives from the Town of Essex headed to the annual Association of Municipalities of Ontario conference, looking for increased support for a number of local projects. They met with ministers from health, infrastructure and transportation to seek information and support on

several issues including the widening of Highway 3, the arena project and Harrow High School.

September

The 152nd Harrow Fair kicked off Aug. 31 and drew crowds until Sept. 3 with its country-style fun. In addition to the parade, live music and a variety of contests, 101 pies were auctioned off and raised \$7,442 for the John McGivney Children's Centre in Windsor. The centre provides rehabilitation services for children with physical or mental disabilities.

Essex County councillors voted to increase the warden's salary, bringing it up from \$42,872 in 2005 to \$44,000.

Essex County council discussed the possibility of creating a unified ambulance service system. Council wondered whether a single public or private service provider would be a more efficient model than the four groups that currently serve county residents. These groups include Sun Parlor Emergency Services, Harrow Ambulance Services, Essex Windsor EMS and a volunteer service in Amherstburg.

The Town of Essex held an open house to generate a public response about its official plan. The 20-year guideline for development was introduced to replace the official plans for the four different municipalities included in the 1999 amalgamation.

Ib Fynbo, a staple of the business and volunteering community for years, was named the 2006 Essex Citizen of the Year. The 67-year-old Danish immigrant owned and operated the Home Hardware on Wilson Street for decades before retiring last year. He was selected to receive the award by a committee made up of representatives from the Town of Essex, the Knights of Columbus, the Rotary Club of Essex and Heritage Essex.

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