

For Immediate Release  
Friday, October 1, 2021

## Tecumseh Seeking Snow and Leaf Angels

The Town of Tecumseh is seeking volunteers for the 2021-2022 Snow and Leaf Angels Program, which starts October 31 and ends March 31.

"Our volunteers are the backbone of many of our programs in Tecumseh," said Mayor Gary McNamara. "The Snow and Leaf Angels are truly angels to many residents in the community, and we are so grateful for their time and effort through some of the worst weather, helping those in need."

Snow and Leaf Angels are matched with seniors and persons with physical disabilities living in the Town. The angels clear snow and leaves from Town sidewalks and driveway entrances for those in need of assistance.

Last year, 42 volunteers in the program cleared snow and leaves for over 40 residents in need of help. Angels are provided with toques and shovels, if necessary, and are matched with the residents they support. The program is a great way for families to volunteer together and for high school students to complete their 40 hours of community service.

As part of the ongoing restrictions related to COVID-19, volunteers and residents do not interact with each other and volunteers are required to bring their own equipment. The Town also reminds volunteers and residents to maintain social distance while working.

To learn more about the program and complete a volunteer application, visit the [Snow and Leaf Angels page](#) on the Town's website or contact Tecumseh Town Hall at 519-735-2184, Ext. 143. Seniors (those 65 years or older) and persons with physical disabilities can apply for assistance by contacting the Town by phone or completing the online form on the Snow and Leaf Angels page on the website.



Find more information about this and other Tecumseh news and events on the Town's website, Facebook page and Twitter feed.

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For Immediate Release  
Tuesday, October 12, 2021

## **Council Connect: Highlights from the Oct. 12, 2021 meetings of Council**

Tecumseh Town Council met electronically this evening and here are the highlights:

### **Public Council Meetings**

**McLean-Hergott Drain:** Council held a meeting to hear from landowners who will be affected by proposed construction on the McLean-Hergott Drain, which is located on the south side of County Road 46 east of Concession 10 (County Road 17). The plan is to construct a fire hydrant access over the drain. This will involve installing a culvert.

### **Regular Meeting of Council**

**Firefighters Recognized:** Wade Bondy, Director of Fire Services and Fire Chief, recognized the contributions of five Tecumseh Fire Fighters: Ryan MacEachern, Sean McNamara, Tyson Brohman, Dan Redmond and Conner Tazzman.

**Tecumseh Pickleball Association:** Malinda Hebert and JoAnne Neilson appeared as a delegation from the Tecumseh Pickleball Association to provide support for the staff report addressing the lease agreement between the Association and the Town for the use of the new pickleball courts and the staff report addressing naming rights for the new courts. The reports were brought forward and considered as follows:

**Lacasse Pickleball Courts Leased:** The Tecumseh Pickleball Association will lease the new courts at Lacasse Park 35 hours a week for an annual fee of \$4,000 plus HST, under an agreement approved by Council. The five-year renewable agreement goes into effect Jan. 1, 2022. As part of the arrangement, the Tecumseh Pickleball Association will hold a minimum of three public open houses to promote the sport.

**Zekelmans Pay for Naming Rights:** The soon-to-be constructed pickleball courts at Lacasse Park now also have a name: Zekelman Pickleball Complex. The Barry and Stephanie Zekelman Foundation has agreed to pay the Town \$100,000 for the naming rights. The money will go toward the cost of building the courts. Additionally, the Zekelmans will also pay for signage for the complex.

**Stray Cat Program Renewed:** The Town is renewing an agreement under which the Windsor/Essex County Humane Society will take stray cats and charge the town \$25 for each animal. The humane society ensures the cats are healthy and puts some up for adoption. Those that appear to be community cats are spayed or neutered, vaccinated, micro-chipped and then returned to the location where they were captured.



**Report Projects a Year-end Surplus:** A mid-year estimate shows Tecumseh could end 2021 with a \$236,411 surplus, says a report by Tom Kitsos, Director of Financial Services and Chief Financial Officer. Of that, \$97,321 is tax supported and \$139,090 is supported by water and wastewater charges. The report cautions that the continued effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and unforeseen weather events could change the outlook.

**Borrowing for Sanitary Sewer Payments Approved:** Council has approved borrowing an additional \$616,000 to assist property owners paying off the cost of a sanitary sewer it installed in the North Talbot Road area. Nine property owners have requested five-year debentures totalling \$537,500 and one has requested a debenture of \$78,500 over 10 years. The Town is issuing the debentures to the Ontario Infrastructure and Lands Corporation and charging property owners an additional 0.75 per cent interest for the five-year debentures and 1.25 per cent for 10-year debentures. The interest the Town collects is used to cover legal and administrative costs.

**Funding to Pay for LED Signs:** A portion of an Ontario Municipal Modernization Fund grant that Tecumseh received in 2019 is going to pay for two additional community LED message signs. The new signs for Lakewood Park and McAuliffe Park will cost \$45,000 more than what was anticipated. To cover the price, Council cancelled a plan to use some of the provincial funding to pay for an electric vehicle charging station near Town Hall. Town administrators will work with Essex Power to seek other grants for installing electric vehicle charging stations.

**Apartment Buildings Boost Construction Value:** The value of construction projects for which permits were issued in the first six months of 2021 is up 581 per cent over last year. The jump is due to two multi-storey apartment buildings worth a combined total of \$28 million and an industrial office building with a value of \$5.6 million, says a report by Brian Hillman, Director of Planning and Building Services.

**Next Regular Meeting:** The next regular meeting of Council is October 26, 2021. The meeting is scheduled to be held electronically. The agenda and livestream will be available on the Town's website. Follow the Town of Tecumseh on Facebook and Twitter for news and the latest information.

For Immediate Release  
Tuesday, October 19, 2021

## Phase 2 of the 2021 Cat Spay and Neuter Voucher Program Launching

The Town of Tecumseh, in partnership with local veterinary hospitals and clinics, is pleased to announce Phase 2 of the 2021 Cat Spay and Neuter Voucher Program. Phase 2 of the program will begin Wednesday, October 20, 2021, and is available to residents of Tecumseh only.

To reduce the number of feral cats in Tecumseh, vouchers (valued at \$50 each) that were not redeemed during Phase 1 of the 2021 program will be carried over to Phase 2.

A limited number of vouchers are available. For feral cat caregivers, a maximum of five (5) vouchers will be issued with no income restrictions.

Applications for Phase 2 of the 2021 program are to be completed and submitted online via the Town's website. Vouchers will be issued electronically via email. Please note that vouchers are issued on a first come, first served basis and will expire on December 1, 2021.

Further program details and application forms can be found on the [voucher program page on the Town of Tecumseh website](#) or by calling 519-735-2184, Ext. 143 or Ext. 101.

Find more information about this and other Tecumseh news and events on the Town's website, Facebook page and Twitter feed.

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For Immediate Release

Wednesday, October 20, 2021

## **Tecumseh Prizes Up for Grabs in WEVax To Win Contest**

Tecumseh residents who are fully vaccinated are encouraged to enter the WEVax To Win contest prior to this Friday's (October 22, 2021) draw.

The Town has donated prizes worth \$3,600 that are available only to residents who have received all their COVID-19 vaccinations and entered the contest.

Here are the prizes that can be won by Tecumseh residents in Friday morning's draw:

- A Tecumseh Transit Services bus pass worth \$300 (student) to \$400 (adult).
- Two marriage licences with civil services worth \$380 each.
- Lifetime tags for one dog worth \$200 to \$300.
- A home safety package from Tecumseh Fire and Rescue Service worth \$250.
- A Tecumseh fire station tour and fire truck ride for a family of up to five people worth \$150.
- A backwater valve and installation worth \$1,600.
- A \$200 gift card that can be used for any Tecumseh recreation program or rental, including ice.

WEVax To Win was launched on September 1 to boost the Windsor-Essex region's COVID-19 vaccination rate while supporting the local economy. It offers fully vaccinated residents the chance to win over \$200,000 in prizes. The first three draws have taken place. Draws will continue weekly until the grand prize draw for two 2021 Chrysler Pacificas on November 5.



“This is a fantastic initiative to reward those who have received their COVID-19 shots. We wanted to give Tecumseh residents an extra incentive by offering prizes they can use in our community,” said Mayor Gary McNamara.

Contest information and the online entry form are on the [WEVax To Win website](#).

Find more information about this and other Tecumseh news and events on the Town’s website, Facebook page and Twitter feed.

For Immediate Release  
Monday, October 25, 2021

## Residents Respond to 2022 Budget Survey

Tecumseh residents who responded to the Town's 2022 Budget Survey have provided Town Council with feedback about everything from stormwater management to rat control.

The 59 responses (20 fewer than to the 2021 Budget Survey) have been provided to Council and senior administration to consider during the 2022 budget deliberations. The survey was available on the Town's website and at Town Hall from September 16 to October 6, and was also promoted online.

Stormwater management, which includes sewers, pumping stations and ponds, was the service the largest number of respondents wanted to see enhanced, with 85 per cent saying it should be improved. Next were the sanitary sewer system (63 per cent), trails (49 per cent), road maintenance (48 per cent) and rural municipal drainage (43 per cent).

Transit was the service most wanted to cut, with 22 per cent saying it should be reduced and just less than 14 per cent saying it should be enhanced.

The survey didn't ask specifically about rodent control, but 27 respondents (46 per cent) complained about rats in the comment sections and said the Town needs to pay for rodent control.

Other survey responses revealed:

- 42 per cent feel they receive fair value for the tax dollars they pay to the Town, while 38 per cent said they receive good value, 14 per cent poor value and seven per cent excellent value.



- 49 per cent got their budget information from the Town's website, 27 per cent from social media and 10 per cent from local media. More than eight per cent said they didn't see any information, while just over three per cent received it from their local councillor and less than two per cent got it from public council meetings.
- 42 per cent of those who completed the survey live in two-person households and 24 per cent in four-person households.
- 78 per cent of those who completed survey are 40 to 69 years old.

Find more information about this and other Tecumseh news and events on the Town's website, Facebook page and Twitter feed.

For Immediate Release

Tuesday, October 26, 2021

## **Council Connect: Highlights from the October 26, 2021 meetings of Council**

Tecumseh Town Council met electronically this evening and here are the highlights:

### **Personnel Committee**

**Full Vaccination Required at Town Facilities:** Customers and clients attending Town Hall are required to be fully vaccinated only if they are meeting in person with Town staff. This will include those attending Council meetings once they are being held in person again. Customers and clients attending Town Hall receiving a service - such as paying a bill or processing a permit - that can be provided with the use of an impermeable barrier do not require full vaccination. Council has endorsed the practice outlined in a report to the Personnel Committee by Michelle Bonnici, Director People and Culture. The Town will make every effort to accommodate those who are not vaccinated by providing virtual options. On September 8, 2021, Council passed a mandatory vaccination policy that applies to all Town employees, contractors, students, volunteers, elected and appointed members of Town Council, and Council appointed boards and committees.

### **Public Council Meeting**

**Rezoning Proposed for 165 Chene Street:** Council held a meeting to hear public comment on a zoning amendment application by the owner of 165 Chene Street, who attended as a delegate. The Committee of Adjustment has approved a severance that will create two residential lots. A condition of the severance is that the zoning of both lots be amended. The property, situated north of Dillon Drive, currently has a single-unit residence and a building that until 2020 legally operated as an autobody repair shop. The proposed zoning amendment would remove an autobody repair shop from the commercial uses allowed. The Essex Region Conservation Authority notes in a letter that the land is within the regulated area of Lake St. Clair, requiring the owner to



obtain a permit or clearance from the authority prior to any construction. One neighbour submitted an email stating that any construction should not result in flooding on his property. Two other neighbours submitted letters saying any commercial use of the property that once contained autobody shop is no longer appropriate.

### **Regular Meeting of Council**

**Community Safety and Well-Being Plan Nearing Completion:** Project manager Leonardo Gil presented Council with the highlights of the Windsor-Essex Regional Community Safety and Well-Being Plan, which has been developed over the past two years, with interruption due to the pandemic. Over 1,900 residents and representatives of stakeholder organizations provided input at meetings and by completing surveys. The top issues cited by Tecumseh residents were housing and neighbourhoods, education, and financial security and employment. The plan is to go to Windsor city council and Essex County council in November for approval. Tecumseh Council voted to delegate its approval of the plan to county council, as recommended in a report by Chief Administrative Officer Margaret Misk-Evans.

**County Road 42 Construction Gets Noise By-Law Exemption:** County Road 42 construction work planned for next year by the County of Essex won't have to comply with the hours in Tecumseh's Emission of Sounds By-Law. Council voted to approve the exemption from 8 p.m. to 7 a.m. for the construction between County Road 19 (Manning Road) and the City of Windsor boundary. The work is expected to take place sometime between March 1 and November 30 in 2022. The exemption, intended to minimize disruption to daytime traffic, doesn't include pile driving, coffer dam construction and crushing operations.

**Internet and Telephone Voting Approved:** Tecumseh residents will be able to vote online and by telephone during the 2022 municipal and school board elections, as they did in the 2014 and 2018 elections, as well as the 2016 by-election in Ward 2. Telephone and internet voting are convenient and accessible, as well as incentives to increase voter turnout, says a report by Laura



Moy, Director Corporate Services and Clerk. More details about how voting will be conducted will be provided to Council during the 2022 budget process.

**Review in Clerk's Department Underway:** A business process optimization assessment of the Clerk's Department is being done by WSCS Consulting Inc., which was recently awarded the contract. Council approved reallocating \$25,000 in the department's 2021 budget to pay for the business process optimization review. That's on top of \$20,000 that had been allocated previously. The review of the Clerk's Department fulfills one of 35 recommendations in an organizational review of the Town's operations presented to Council in June.

**Radios Recommended for All Firefighters:** A proposal to equip all Tecumseh firefighters with radios for communicating will be considered during the 2022 budget deliberations. Tecumseh Fire and Rescue Services currently has enough radios after buying 20 refurbished models earlier this year and activating them on a trial basis, says a report by Chief Wade Bondy, Director Community Safety. The radios provide better communications during high risk incidents, improving firefighter safety and operational efficiencies. The estimated cost of keeping the radios activated in 2022 is \$9,360 plus HST.

**Parks and Rec Plan Five-Year Review Recommendations Accepted:** Council has adopted the recommendations and implementation strategies set out in a five-year review of Tecumseh's Strategic Master Plan for Parks and Recreation. The review was presented to council on September 28, 2021, and administration will present proposals to carry out the recommendations to Council in the future.

**Town Centennial to Replace Corn Fest in 2022:** Resumption of the Tecumseh Corn Festival has been postponed until 2023 so the Town can focus on a three-day centennial celebration next year. A Mayor's Task Force is making plans for the Town's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, which will be held July 2-4, 2022. The Corn Festival was last held in 2019, after which a review of the programming was done. It hasn't been held since due to the pandemic. As well as the July 2022



celebration, the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary theme will be incorporated into all smaller Town events next year, says a report by Paul Anthony, Director Parks and Recreation Services.

**Grants Approved for Tecumseh Road Property Improvements:** Council has approved \$43,000 in grants under the Tecumseh Road Main Street Community Improvement Plan for upgrades to a commercial property at 12300 Tecumseh Road. Of that, \$3,000 is for preparing drawings and \$40,000 is for completing interior renovations to two second-floor residential units in the building on the northeast corner of Tecumseh and Lesperance roads. The grants only cover part of the cost to the owner and are for the maximum amounts available.

**Grants Approved for Lesperance Road Property Improvements:** Council has also approved \$25,000 in grants under the Tecumseh Road Main Street Community Improvement Plan for upgrades to 1222 Lesperance Road. The \$15,000 grant to enhance the building façade and \$10,000 grant to improve the parking area are the maximum amounts (50 per cent of the eligible costs) available under the plan. A total of \$321,430 in funding has now been approved by Council under the plan in 2021, according to a report by Bill Hillman, Director Planning and Building Services. That figure includes the grants approved by Council on Tuesday (October 26).

**Regional Affordable Housing Strategy Supported:** Council endorsed a resolution from the Town of LaSalle supporting the development of a regional affordable housing strategy and a review of the social housing cost sharing agreement with the City of Windsor. The County of Essex sent a letter to the city in September requesting its support to do both.

**Better Support for Long-term Care Urged:** Council has supported a resolution from the Town of LaSalle that calls on the Province of Ontario to act on recommendations to improve long-term care. The resolution also urges the federal government to increase funding to the provinces and territories to help cover the costs.

**Next Regular Meeting:** The next regular meeting of Council is November 9, 2021. The meeting is scheduled to be held electronically. The agenda and livestream will be available on the Town's website. Follow the Town of Tecumseh on Facebook and Twitter for news and the latest information.