

For Immediate Release
Tuesday, January 4, 2022

Arena and Recreation Complex Temporarily Closed

The Tecumseh Arena and Recreation Complex will be closed to the public starting Wednesday, January 5, 2022, for at least 21 days to comply with new provincial restrictions aimed at slowing the spread of the Omicron variant.

The Town of Tecumseh has already implemented a "circuit breaker" closure of its other facilities to the public until at least January 17 as a safety measure in response to the spread of the highly transmissible COVID-19 variant.

"Taking this additional step to temporarily close our indoor recreation facilities will help limit exposures, which is what we need to do to protect our residents and staff," said Mayor Gary McNamara. "I know this is a disappointing news for many arena and recreation complex users, but our priority is to prevent this virus from overwhelming the health system."

The Tecumseh Arena and Recreation Complex will remain closed until at least January 27. Anyone requiring service can contact office staff by email at recreation@tecumseh.ca or phone at 519-735-4756. Virtual meetings can be arranged if necessary.

The Town's outdoor recreational amenities remain open to the public, but users must comply with restrictions limiting groups to no more than 10 people. Physical distancing and wearing masks when near others are encouraged.

As announced on December 23, the Town is continuing with plans to implement a "circuit breaker" until January 17. This includes the closure of Town Hall to the public while local case counts and provincial guidelines are monitored. Services are still being offered remotely and staff are still available by email or phone. Residents can submit payments or documents via the drop box at Town Hall.

The closure also affects halls and clubs and satellite Town facilities associated with public works, parks and fire stations. Details on when regular service will resume will be provided once they are confirmed.

The "circuit breaker" does not affect essential public services like winter control, garbage collection, and water and wastewater services.

Full details of the new provincial restrictions announced January 3 can be found on the [Province of Ontario 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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Truth and Reconciliation Public Art Commission Project Request for Proposals

The Town of Tecumseh acknowledges the tremendous work of the Truth & Reconciliation Commission and the resulting 94 calls to action. As the Town explores ways to address the calls to action, it wishes to strengthen relations with the Indigenous community while respecting their right to heal. This journey begins as the Town celebrates its 100th anniversary this year by seeking Windsor-Essex County Indigenous Artists, (a solo artist or a team of artists) to submit proposals for the creation of original artwork that reflects the spirit of cross-cultural relationship-building and seeks to increase the level of inclusion of Indigenous people in the community.

"In honour of our 100th Anniversary and our commitment for Truth and Reconciliation, we are looking to engage local Indigenous artists to create an original piece of artwork that will symbolize reflection, education, hope and healing," said Gary McNamara, Mayor of Tecumseh. "The commissioned artwork is planned to be on permanent display within Town Hall."

The Town will be celebrating its 100th Anniversary with community events scheduled July 2 – 4, 2022, and the commissioned artwork will be unveiled during the anniversary celebration. The commissioned artwork may consist of an original painting or sculpture, and may be wall mounted or freestanding.

The detailed Call to Indigenous Artists Request for Proposal is available on the Town's website (www.Tecumseh.ca/Tecumseh100). Proposals may be submitted via email to krice@tecumseh.ca and must be received by Monday, February 28, 2022.

Information on this and all Town of Tecumseh news and events is available at www.tecumseh.ca, Twitter (@TownofTecumseh), and Facebook (Town of Tecumseh).

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For Immediate Release
Monday, January 10, 2022

GO-VAXX Bus Making a Tecumseh Stop

A provincial mobile vaccine clinic team will be in Tecumseh on Tuesday, January 11, 2022, to put needles in the arms of those who book ahead.

The GO-VAXX bus will be in the parking lot of the Tecumseh Arena and Recreation Complex with trained staff administering COVID-19 vaccinations from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Anyone eligible for a first, second or booster shot can book an appointment as of 8 a.m. Monday, January 10, on the provincial booking site (<https://covid-19.ontario.ca/book-vaccine>) or by calling the Provincial Vaccine Booking Line at 1-833-943-3900. GO-VAXX appointments cannot be booked locally through WEVax.ca.

The vaccine administered will be Pfizer or Moderna, depending on availability and provincial guidelines. Appointments for approximately 300 individuals are available.

"We are happy to welcome the GO-VAXX bus to Tecumseh," said Mayor Gary McNamara. "We hope this will make getting vaccinated more convenient for some residents and encourage anyone who needs a shot to book a spot."

The GO-VAXX mobile clinics are a partnership between the Ontario government and Metrolinx. The fully accessible buses travel to malls, festivals, community hubs and events across Southern Ontario and beyond. More details are available on the [Government of Ontario 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
Tuesday, January 11, 2022

Council Connect: Highlights from the January 11, 2022, meetings of Council

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

Regular Meeting of Council

Two Lots on Chene Street Rezoned: Council approved the rezoning of a property at 165 Chene Street that has been severed to create two residential lots. Situated north of Dillon Drive, the property currently has one lot that contains a single-unit residence and a building that until 2020 legally operated as an autobody repair shop. The amendment approved by Council allows for the construction of a single unit residence covering no more than 40 per cent of the other lot. The amendment also removes an autobody repair shop from the commercial uses allowed on both lots. It permits up to 46.4 square metres (500 square feet) of the 230.6-square-metre (2,485-square-foot) building that once was an autobody repair shop to be used for a limited range of commercial uses, including general/professional offices, a pet groomer, a baker/chef/caterer or a yoga studio.

Engineer Appointed for Drainage Application: Engineer Mark Hernandez, of Dillon Consulting Ltd., has been appointed to complete a report in response to a petition by the owner of 3425 County Road 43 to convert part of a drainage system owned by the County of Essex to a municipal drain. The change under the Drainage Act is required by the County because the property owner is severing the land, and the County does not permit private landowners to access its drainage infrastructure. For the severance to be approved, the enclosed drain must be connected to the Town's St. Louis Drain system that runs along nearby County Road 42.

Special Meeting of Council

Digital Strategy Plan Presented: Council received an update on the development of the Town's new digital strategy by representatives of Perry Group Consulting Ltd., which has been hired to assist. Project manager Susan Chase and senior consultant Andy Will gave Council an overview of why a digital strategy is important and what other municipalities are doing to provide services digitally. The main points included: demand for digital services is increasing; municipal peers are pushing new services online; the uptake of digital services trends around 80 per cent; paper systems require more staff time; and the shift to working digitally requires culture change and leadership.

The public is invited to provide input to the digital strategy by going to the topic page on the Town's PlaceSpeak platform. The page includes a survey, informational video and an opportunity to register for a Virtual Public Workshop being held on Thursday, January 27, at 6:30 p.m. The consultations with Council, the public and staff will assist in developing TecOnline – A Digital Strategy.

Next Regular Meeting: The next regular meeting of Council is January 25, 2022, with a special meeting to be held on January 26, 2022. These meetings are scheduled to be held electronically. The agendas 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
Friday, January 14, 2022

Closure of Town Facilities Extended to January 26

The Town of Tecumseh is extending its "circuit breaker" closure of indoor facilities to January 26, 2022, as a safety measure in response to the spread of the highly transmissible Omicron variant of COVID-19.

This will permit the Town to:

- Continue to provide services to citizens remotely;
- Maintain low levels of staff congregation in Town facilities to avoid work-related transmission; and
- Keep up practices that are consistent with the modified Step 2 provincial restrictions.

The Town initiated the circuit breaker at the beginning of the new year and, prior to January 26, will decide whether to extend it further based on conditions and provincial directives.

"It is imperative that we take all possible measures to reduce the spread of this variant as we continue to monitor case counts in the province and our region," said Mayor Gary McNamara.

Staff are working from Town Hall or remotely to offer services over the phone, by email and virtually. The arena remains closed while other services – such as garbage and recycling pickup, public works, water services and parks – are unaffected by the circuit breaker.

The Town's outdoor recreational amenities remain open to the public, but users must comply with restrictions limiting groups to no more than 10 people. Physical distancing and wearing masks are encouraged. Full details of the new provincial restrictions announced January 3 can be found on the [Province of Ontario website](#).

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

Call for Award Nominations

The Town of Tecumseh is accepting nominations for the following Awards:

Dr. Henri Breault Community Excellence Award
Donald "Donny" Massender Memorial Volunteer Award
Senior of the Year Award
Youth of the Year Award

Nominees for these Awards must be a resident of the Town of Tecumseh. No person shall receive an Award posthumously.

Nominations must be submitted on the prescribed form, together with supporting materials, no later than **Monday, February 28, 2022**.

Nomination Forms are to be completed and submitted **online** via the Town's website. To learn more about the nomination and selection process for these Awards, visit www.tecumseh.ca/awards or contact 519-735-2184 Ext 143 or 117.

For Immediate Release

Monday, January 24, 2022

100th Anniversary Logo Contest Winner to be Announced

The media and the public are invited to join Tecumseh Mayor Gary McNamara and members of the Mayor's 100th Anniversary Task Force on Tuesday, January 25, 2022, for the announcement of the winner of the 100th Anniversary Logo Contest.

The winning logo design will be revealed during the regular Council meeting, which will be livestreamed starting at 7 p.m.

The Town wanted a new logo to symbolize and market celebrations this year honouring the Town's centennial. In October 2021, the Town conducted a contest open to all Tecumseh elementary and secondary students. The students were asked to submit an original design that depicted what makes Tecumseh the wonderful community it is – past, present and future.

The winning design will be the inspiration behind the final anniversary logo, which will be used on event materials and promotions throughout the year.

To watch the livestreamed Council meeting go to: <https://video.isilive.ca/tecumseh/live.html>.

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

Media Contact:
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For Immediate Release
Tuesday, January 25, 2022

Council Connect: Highlights from the January 25, 2022 meetings of Council

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

Regular Meeting of Council

Centennial Logo Revealed: Tecumseh's 100th anniversary logo will be based on a design by 13-year-old Isabella Larking that was unveiled at the beginning of Tuesday's Council meeting. Isabella was one of 288 elementary and secondary school students who entered a contest to create a logo for the Town's centennial. The Mayor's 100th Anniversary Task Force selected the top five submissions from a short list of 17. The logo's theme is what makes Tecumseh a wonderful community – in the past, present and future. Isabella's design features a multi-coloured river and a feather circling the number 100 and maple leaves. A park scene is shown in one of the zeroes. Tecumseh turned 100 in 2021 and a celebration is planned for July 2022. Isabella's design will be the inspiration for the final digitized logo used to promote the celebration.

Participation in Organics Program Under Review: Town administration will review the Essex-Windsor Solid Waste Authority's Regional Food and Organic Waste Management strategy to proceed with a short-term contract(s) with an external service provider for source separated organics, and report back to Council before March 31, 2022, with a recommendation. The EWSWA says the best option to meet provincial targets for diverting food and organic waste from landfills in an environmentally sustainable way is to take a regional approach and proceed at this time with a five-year contract(s) for source separated organics. It is asking all municipalities in the County of Essex to indicate by March 31, 2022, whether they will participate.

Feds Asked to Help Laid Off Workers: Council is supporting Essex County's letter to federal Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland asking that the government provide support to laid off workers in the auto and casino sectors that is equivalent to the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy Program in place early in the pandemic. The letter, sent January 6, 2022, is signed by Essex County Warden Gary McNamara, who is mayor of Tecumseh.

Province Urged to Give Small Businesses a Lifeline: Council also supported a letter from the County of Essex to Premier Doug Ford asking the province to provide more funding to small businesses struggling to stay afloat due to pandemic costs and restrictions.

ERCA Transition Plan Received: The Essex Region Conservation Authority has provided the Town with its transition plan, which it had to submit to the province by the end of 2021. Recent amendments to the Conservation Authorities Act designate some services and programs as mandatory and others as non-mandatory. Conservation authorities now must reach agreements with their member municipalities to provide non-mandatory programs and services. Otherwise, they are not allowed to levy for them.



Pathway to Potential Agreement Renewed: Council endorsed the renewal of its agreement with the City of Windsor to provide the Pathway to Potential Program. The Town's Community and Recreational Services Department administers the funding from the city to assist low-income families with access to recreation programs. The Town received \$22,200 in Pathway to Potential Funding in 2021, of which \$10,243 was used to subsidize fees for recreational programs offered by the Town, as well as sports and cultural organizations. The total spent was roughly half of what was anticipated due to the COVID-19 pandemic limiting activities.

Multi-unit Housing Proposed on Lesperance: Council will hold a meeting on February 22, 2022, at 6 p.m. to hear from the public about a request to change the zoning of land on the southwest corner of Lesperance Road and Arbour Street. The rezoning from Residential Zone 2 and Zone 2-25 to site-specific Residential Zone 3 is required for the proposed construction of three 2.5-storey buildings, which will each contain six dwelling units. The parcel is owned by Deerbrook Andrew J. Smith Real Estate Inc. and 2312205 Ontario Limited, and currently consists of three separate properties. The redevelopment of the parcel, located roughly halfway between Tecumseh Road and County Road 22, would include on-site parking and landscaping.

Rural Severance Requires Rezoning: An application to rezone agricultural land at 6067 Walker Road will be the subject of a public meeting of Council on February 22, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. The Committee of Adjustment has approved the severance of a 0.51-hectare dwelling lot on the condition that the two resulting properties are rezoned. The application is to change the zoning of the severed parcel to a site-specific Agricultural Zone (A-34) and the remaining 40.4 hectares to a site-specific Agricultural Zone (A-35), which will prohibit a residence from being constructed on it.

Tax Arrears Below Historical Norm: Tecumseh's tax receivables (outstanding property tax payments) in 2021 were 4.4 per cent of the total levy, a slight increase over 2020 but still below the historical norm. The Town's property tax arrears have historically been in the six-to-seven-per-cent range.

Meeting Hours Reported: Council held 21 regular meetings, 19 in-camera meetings, 16 public meetings and eight special meetings in 2021. The number of in-camera meetings was higher than the average for this term of Council and the previous one. The most common reasons for meetings to be called in-camera during 2021 were to consider the acquisition and disposition of land, and labour relations. The number of meetings and meeting hours fluctuate year to year.

Public Works Projects Pre-approved: Council gave advance approval to 39 Public Works and Engineering Services capital projects for 2022 that are expected to cost a total of \$27.4 million. Most are ongoing and approximately 10 are new projects. The new projects generally relate to water, road, sanitary and bridge repairs or improvements that are required to maintain existing infrastructure, support proposed developments and/or satisfy funding agreements. Among the projects are: the finalization of the Shoreline Management Plan, Stormwater Rates Study, Oldcastle Stormwater Master Plan and Sanitary Sewer Model Update; construction of the Riverside Drive multi-use pathway between Manning Road and the Tecumseh-Windsor border; construction of the Tecumseh Road Storm and Road Improvements Project; construction of the Lesperance Road/VIA Crossing Improvements Project; and watermain and sanitary sewer improvements related to the County of Essex County Road 42 improvements project.

Signs to Deter Speeding Damaged: Six temporary in-road traffic calming signs the Town put up in the spring of 2021 to encourage speeding drivers to slow down were damaged beyond repair or went missing. The signs, which are installed in the centre of the road and flex on impact, are among the tools the Town is using to respond to speeding complaints. The in-road signs were put up on North Talbot Road near Weston Park and Riverside Drive at Lakeview Montessori School. At both locations, radar surveys found the average speed was 10 km/h over the speed limit. The signs reduced the average speeds, which were still above the speed limits. Public Works and Engineering Services is continuing to conduct radar speed surveys in response to speeding complaints, use the flexible in-road signs to slow traffic and provide data to the OPP.

Cost Recovery Report for Sewer Extension Presented: Council received a report on the proposed by-law setting out cost recovery charges for the Sylvestre Drive sanitary sewer extension. Administration will communicate the estimated charges to the property owners within the sanitary sewer extension study area and hold a public information centre to gather feedback before reporting back to Council. The sewer extension services approximately 15 business properties near Sylvestre Drive and County Road 19.

Next Regular Meeting: Council is holding a special meeting on January 26, 2022. The next regular meeting of Council is February 8, 2022. Both meetings are 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

Wednesday, January 26, 2022

Tecumseh's 100th Anniversary Logo Contest Winner Announced

At last night's live-streamed Regular Council Meeting, the Town of Tecumseh revealed the winner of the 100th Anniversary Logo Contest.

In honour of the Town's 100th Anniversary, the Town wanted a new logo to symbolize and market the upcoming celebrations that will be honouring the Town's centennial anniversary. In October, the Town conducted a contest for all Tecumseh elementary and secondary students to submit an original design that depicted what makes Tecumseh the wonderful community it is – past, present and future.

A total of 288 submissions were received.

"The creativity and talent among Tecumseh's elementary and secondary students for this competition was extraordinary," said Gary McNamara, Mayor of Tecumseh. "The artistic interpretation of 100 years of the Tecumseh community is so eloquently captured in this design and will symbolize the year long celebrations we have in store."

The winning design was created by Isabella Larking, age 13. Isabella's design will be used as the inspiration for the final digitized logo that will be included on promotional materials used for the Anniversary celebrations including banners and signs, website, programs, and give-away items. The logo will not replace the Town's official logo but will be used to symbolize and market the upcoming celebrations that will be honouring the Town's centennial anniversary.

"For this logo, I decided to focus on diversity in our community," said Isabella Larking. "I drew little maple leaves in a bunch of different colours to represent Canada and the variety of remarkable people that live in this town. My advice to aspiring artists is to just go for it! Grab those coloured pencils and draw! You won't get anywhere if you don't try. Happy 100th birthday Tecumseh!"

Isabella will be invited to attend the Anniversary celebrations opening ceremonies on July 2, 2022 as the Mayor's guest of honour. The celebrations takes place July 2 – 4, 2022 and includes a variety of family-friendly activities. Anniversary celebration details are available at www.Tecumseh.ca/Tecumseh100.

Information on this and all Town of Tecumseh news and events is available at www.tecumseh.ca, Twitter (@TownofTecumseh), and Facebook (Town of Tecumseh).

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Media Contact
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For Immediate Release
Wednesday, January 26, 2022

Council Connect: Highlights from the January 26, 2022 meeting of Council

Tecumseh Town Council met electronically this evening to consider two reports funded by the province through the Municipal Modernization Program. Here are the highlights:

Special Meeting of Council

Implementation Plan Next Step in Strategy for Commercial Areas: A shared economic development strategy for Tecumseh's commercial areas, including one that is shared with Lakeshore, is ready to be put into action. Council endorsed the plan after a presentation by consultant Nancy Johnston, of McSweeney & Associates, about the Shared Commercial Economic Development Strategy – a joint effort by the Town, Tecumseh Business Improvement Area and Municipality of Lakeshore. It encompasses the commercial areas surrounding: Manning Road and its intersections with Tecumseh Road and Amy Croft Drive; Tecumseh Road at and west of Lesperance Road; and Lesperance Road south of County Road 22. An analysis by McSweeney found retail sector employment in Tecumseh and Lakeshore increased by over 600 jobs between 2011 and 2021. The strategy report recommends that after the pandemic retailers will benefit from embracing the trend of selling in person and online, as well as transitioning stores to provide experience-focused shopping. The goals of the strategy revolve around three themes: collaborating and connecting; creating a destination; and branding, communication and marketing. Included in the latter are initiatives to improve the viability of the retail sector, which has been hit hard by the pandemic. During the development of the strategy 133 stakeholders were consulted through one-on-one interviews (27), an online survey that was open to the public (81) and a virtual business summit (25). The strategy report will be posted on the Town's website. The next step is to develop an implementation plan in collaboration with Lakeshore, which will be brought to Council by administration in the future.

Review Recommends Automated Payroll System: The Town should eliminate paper timesheets and move to an automated reporting system, says a review of Tecumseh's payroll processing system endorsed by Council. Blackline Consulting partner Ian Shelley and senior consultant Graham Pressey presented Council with the results of their review. It recommends changes to eliminate paper and streamline the payroll processing system. The recommended changes include enhancing or replacing the Town's current financial reporting software. The review also suggests adopting a bi-weekly pay period and shifting the responsibility for tracking benefits and entitlement from payroll staff to Human Resources. The Payroll Processing Review will be posted on the Town's website and administration will report back to Council with an implementation plan.

Next Regular Meeting: The next regular meeting of Council is February 8, 2022. 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

Friday, January 28, 2022

Tecumseh Town Hall and Arena Reopening to the Public

Tecumseh Town Hall

In response to the recent announcement by the Province of Ontario related to public health measures, municipal buildings in Tecumseh will reopen to the public on Monday, January 31, 2022. Tecumseh Town Hall, located at 917 Lesperance Road, will be open and accessible to the public Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The Town will continue to follow the regulations and guidelines set by the Province and local Medical Officer of Health. The safety of our employees and patrons is our priority.

Any person dropping off or picking up documents, or making a payment, can access Town Hall's front counter service. Visitors will be required to complete a screening form and show appropriate identification.

As part of our commitment to providing a safe and healthy workplace environment, any person meeting with staff at the Tecumseh Town Hall location will be required to make an appointment and complete a screening form, as well as provide proof of vaccination when entering the building.

For customers who would like to contact the Town and prefer not to do so in person, there are other options available:

- Contact us by phone at 519-735-2184;
- Visit our [website](#) to access municipal information and services;
- Send us an [email](#);

- [Report an issue online](#); or
- Use the drop box at the front door of Town Hall.

Tecumseh Arena

All regular ice rentals will resume on Monday, January 31, 2022. Please refer to the guidelines provided by the organization hosting the rental for return-to-play information.

Proof of full vaccination through the Verify Ontario app will be required at the Tecumseh Arena for anyone aged 12 years and over. Please have your enhanced COVID-19 vaccine certificate with the QR code and identification ready when entering the arena. The process of reviewing documents at the entrance may cause some wait time to get into the buildings and we thank you for your continued patience.

Community Centres, Parks and other Town Facilities

Town community centres and other facilities are open and will be available by [appointment booking](#) only. All town parks remain open, with patrons asked to always maintain a 2-metre physical distance.

For more information about COVID-19, please visit the [Windsor Essex County Health Unit website](#).

More information about this and other Tecumseh news and events can be found on the [Town's website](#), [Facebook page](#) and [Twitter feed](#).

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