

September 17, 2024

Town of Essex
Sherry Bondy, Mayor sbondy@essex.ca
60 Fairview Ave W.
Essex, ON
N8M 1Y1

Dear Mayor Bondy,

Re: Outdoor Accessibility Fest-for-All

The first ever Outdoor Accessibility Fest-for-All is now behind us and the Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee (ECAAC) and County Administration would like to take this opportunity to thank the team at the Town of Essex for supporting this event.

When the County first proposed using Colchester Harbour Community Room for our event, so that the ECAAC could highlight the accessible amenities at that location, your team welcomed the prospect and immediately offered support. When interest quickly grew for the event, to a scale that exceeded all of our expectations, your team supported the County's decision to move the Fest-for-All into Colchester Park. The event evolved and eventually took the shape that played out on Friday, September 13, 2024, and it was GREAT!

County Administration, on behalf of the ECAAC, would like to thank the Town of Essex for being the first local host community for this important event. The goal of the ECAAC in holding this event was to highlight all the great services and amenities in the County of Essex geared toward accessibility, adaptability and inclusivity. The contingent of local municipalities, service groups, agencies, exhibitors, activity leaders and clubs that participated in the festivities reinforces the importance of making these connections and the value of continued improvements to facilities and services.

It truly takes a harmonized team to come together to execute such a successful event, and we are so very lucky to have had that!

We are grateful to you and the Town of Essex team for supporting the Fest-for-All. As with all things, we know the County can rely on its local municipal partners to step in where and when needed. These partnerships are especially important for events such as these, especially when coordination from many angles is required.

We particularly want to acknowledge the efforts of Jake Morassut, Rodney Klie and Vince Murphy, who worked closely with our County Administration in getting all of the logistics sorted out during the planning phases and on-site. This team helped us get in touch with the Town's AAC and fostered the volunteerism from the Town's committee's members. As well, they coordinated the maintenance of Colchester Park, ensuring that all the amenities were in excellent condition for the Fest-for-All. Your team has been responsive, helpful and integral to the event's success. Many in attendance had positive things to say about the beautifully maintained park, groomed beach and clean facilities at Colchester.

The County was pleased to provide the Colchester Community Garden with the raised planter that was used during the gardening demonstration. We hope that this planter complements the space, is put to good use, and offers those who enjoy gardening an opportunity to participate!

Should you require further information, please contact me by email at khebert@countyofessex.ca or by phone at extension 1353.

Regards,



Katherine Hebert
County Clerk



Crystal Sylvestre
Coordinator, Legislative and Community
Services

CC:

- Rob Shepley, Deputy Mayor, Town of Essex
- Doug Sweet, Chief Administrative Officer
- Jake Morassut, Director, Community Services
- Vince Murphy, Assistant Manager, Parks & Facilities
- Rodney Klie, Manager, Parks & Facilities
- Hilda MacDonald, Warden, County of Essex
- Sandra Zwiers, CAO, County of Essex
- Kimberly DeYong, Deputy Mayor, Town of Kingsville / County Council ECAAC Representative



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