

[< Home](#) [< News](#) [< Posts](#) [< County Council Highlights f...](#)

County Council Highlights for April 1, 2026

By [County of Essex](#) - Apr 02, 2026

News Notices and Announcements



Warden Praises County's Cherished Tartan Tradition

Warden Hilda MacDonald in her opening remarks to Council Wednesday night explained why the County of Essex's beloved County Tartan was on display in Chambers, and why

Councillors wore tartan pins. It's because this coming Monday is Tartan Day in Canada.

The County's version was designed by Edyth Bakes and is registered with the Canadian government as well as with the Museum of Tartans in Scotland. The County tartan's colours represent sunshine and the golden harvest (yellow); fertile fields (green); tomatoes and other crops such as apples (red); our wide-open skies and our spectacular waterways (blue); and the automotive industry (black).

"We love our tartan traditions," the Warden said.

Also, the Warden reminded anyone considering running in a local municipal election in Essex County to attend, either in person or remotely via Zoom, a Regional Pre-Election Candidate Information Session at the County Administration Building next Wednesday, April 8 from 6 to 9 p.m. [Learn more and register!](#)

Finally, the Warden bid farewell to the County's Director of Infrastructure & Planning Services, Allan Botham. He has decided to return to the Municipality of Leamington as Manager of Engineering Services, a position he held for 14 years prior to his four-year, four-month stay with the County.

"Allan has left impressive, long-standing marks within his department and on the County Road network," the Warden said.

Letters of Support sent on LaSalle, Oro Medonte, Perry Resolutions

Council voted to receive six pieces of correspondence and approved motions to send official County letters of support for three municipal resolutions: The Town of LaSalle's resolution calling on the provincial government to enact legislation known as Finlay's Law that would upgrade pediatric health care; the Township of Oro Medonte's resolution calling on the Ontario Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development for measures that would strengthen protections for road workers; and the Township of Perry's resolution that

the Government of Canada ensure continued, affordable postal access for libraries and interlibrary loan services.

Council Approves CWATS Infrastructure Responsibilities

Council voted to receive as information a report on County Wide Active Transportation System (CWATS) infrastructure, and furthermore:

- (1) Approved that the County assumes ownership of all CWATS infrastructure within the County right-of-way (ROW) following initial installation (effective March 1, 2027);
- (2) Approved that the County is responsible for the lifecycle replacement of all CWATS infrastructure located within the County ROW, with initial installation costs continuing to follow the approved CWATS cost-sharing framework;
- (3) Approved a shared maintenance model, whereby Local Municipal Partners (LMPs) are responsible for day-to-day and seasonal maintenance of CWATS facilities on County Roads that are separated from the travelled portion of the roadway, and whereby the County is responsible for day-to-day and seasonal maintenance of on-street CWATS infrastructure on County Roads;
- (4) Approved that County Administration be directed to negotiate and execute Memorandums of Understanding with each LMP to define levels of service, operational standards, and implementational timelines.

Read the [report!](#)

Council Receives Report on Specialty Crop Area Study

Council voted to receive as information a report on the scope of work for the forthcoming regional Specialty Crop Area Study, and to consider the likely budget variance required to conduct the same. The objectives of the regional specialty crop area study are outlined in the report, along with the intended implementation.

Read the [report!](#)

Council Approves Road Rationalization Study

Council voted to approve the 2026 Road Rationalization Study. It will serve as the guiding framework for jurisdictional changes to the County Road Network. In approving the Study, Council:

- approved the proposed multiyear transfer plan, including all roads, bridges and culverts identified for transfer to or from Local Municipal Partners, County Connecting Link additions and deletions;

- authorized Administration to implement the transfers in accordance with the phased Implementation Plan, ensuring that all assets are delivered in a state of good repair, or with agreed-upon settlements where appropriate;
- approved funding of any monetary settlements for assets not in a state of good repair, and the rehabilitation of incoming/outgoing County roads, through the County's annual State of Good Repair (SOGR) levy, consistent with the Financial Implications section of this report;
- and directed Administration to update all County Connecting Link agreements with Local Municipal Partners using the modernized template, ensuring consistency, transparency and alignment with the approved Study.

A total of 42.8 km of existing County and local roads are recommended for change, as follows:

ROAD	SEGMENT	COMMENT
CR 2	CR 21 to CR 19	Declassify as a Connecting Link to Tecumseh
CR 2	CR 21 to Pike Creek	Declassify as a Connecting Link to Tecumseh
CR 2	Pike Creek – CR 22 (Roundabout)	Transfer to Lakeshore
CR 2	First St. – Duck Creek	Declassify as a Connecting Link to Lakeshore
CR 2	Duck Creek – Stuart Lane/CR 2	Transfer to Lakeshore
CR 5	CR 18 – Alma St.	Declassify as a Connecting Link to Amherstburg
CR 5	CR 10 - ETR	Transfer to Amherstburg
CR 16	CR 20 – CR 5	Declassify as a Connecting Link to Amherstburg
CR 17	CR 46 – Hwy 401	Transfer to Tecumseh
CR 21	CR 42 – CN Rail (Lakeshore/Tecumseh boundary)	Transfer to Lakeshore
CR 21	CN Rail – CR 2	Declassify as a Connecting Link to Tecumseh
CR 34	CR 19 – Hwy 3	Transfer to Tecumseh

CR 39	CR 2 – Lake St. Clair	Transfer to Lakeshore
CR 48	CR 34 – Erie Street	Declassify as a Connecting Link to Leamington
Patillo Road	CR 22 – CR 42	Transfer to County
Laurier Parkway	CR 20 – CR 9	Classify as a Connecting Link to LaSalle
Sylvestre Fly-off	CR 22 – Sylvestre Dr.	Transfer to County
Westlake	Lesperance – Sylvestre Fly-off	Classify as a Connecting Link to Tecumseh

Read the [Road Rationalization Study!](#)

Read the [Recommended Implementation Timeline!](#)

Read the [report](#), which Council voted to receive as information, that serves as a consolidated summary of the Road Rationalization Study to date!

Administration Directed to Assume Oversight of Poverty Programs

Council voted to receive as information a report updating changes to the administration of the Pathway to Potential (P2P) Poverty Reduction Strategy, resulting from the City of Windsor's 2026 budget decisions, and to direct Administration to assume oversight of the Affordable Pass Program (APP) and Recreation Assistance Program (RAP), effective July 1, 2026.

Read the [report!](#)

[Subscribe](#)

[Back to News Search](#)

All Categories

[News Notices and Announcements](#)

Contact Us

County of Essex

360 Fairview Ave W, Essex ON N8M 1Y6

Telephone: **519-776-6441**

TTY: **1-877-624-4832**

Fax: **519-776-4455**

coeinfo@countyofessex.ca

Stay Informed

Subscribe to receive email notifications of our news notices and announcements.

Sign up today!



County of Essex

360 Fairview Ave W, Essex ON N8M 1Y6

Telephone: **519-776-6441**

TTY: **1-877-624-4832**

Fax: **519-776-4455**

coeinfo@countyofessex.ca

Resources

[News](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Freedom of Information](#)

[Sitemap](#)

Connect with Us



© 2026 County of Essex [Privacy Policy](#) [Sitemap](#)

Made with [Govstack](#)