



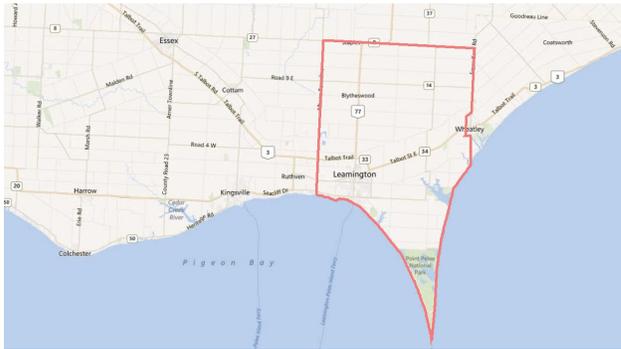
# MUNICIPALITY OF THE MONTH



## July, 2012 The Municipality of Leamington

### **Where is it?**

Leamington, and its diverse population of 29,000, is nestled along the north shore of Lake Erie approximately 45 minutes from Windsor, in the southernmost part of Essex County. Conveniently located close to Hwy 401 we enjoy easy access to the United States and to major markets in Ontario.



**Heinz Plant – Leamington**

### **What are the biggest attractions?**

Leamington enjoys the longest growing season in all of Ontario and as such we have become famous for our agricultural bounty. The area grows everything from apples to zucchini, all available at the abundant fruit stands that dot our roadways. Our greenhouse sector has become the largest in North America providing healthy, fresh produce nearly year round. Known for our “Big Tomato” tourist booth and the H.J Heinz factory, Leamington is dubbed the “Tomato Capital of Canada”. Attractions include one of the best marinas on the Great Lakes, the family-oriented Seaclyff Park with its meandering paved pathways, sandy beach and tomato themed splash pad and of course world renowned birding destination Point Pelee National Park.

### **What makes the municipality unique?**

The area is ecologically significant with plants and animals not found elsewhere in Canada. The region forms part of the last remaining stands of Carolinian Forests with a microclimate similar to that of Northern California. The region is a significant flyway for annual bird and butterfly migrations and Lake Erie supports the largest fresh water commercial fishing industry in the world. Farming has been the backbone of the local economy with field crops playing a major role in the local canning industry. The growing greenhouse industry represents an emerging economic powerhouse and will play a substantial role in the continued prosperity of the community.

### **What are the most common issues faced by the Committee of Adjustment?**

As the greenhouse industry quickly evolves, so do the challenges brought forward to accommodate this type of agricultural development. Greenhouses can consist of small 1 acre ranges to large 50 acre operations which include worker housing, packing facilities and on-site offices. The expansion of the industry has resulted in many lot line adjustments and surplus dwelling applications as owners acquire and consolidate property with adjacent farms. In 2009, the Municipality adopted a new Zoning By-law which established new setback provisions for greenhouse operations in the various agricultural zones. The new provisions were intended to offer an appropriate setback between abutting land uses, including residential lots, existing uses and more traditional agricultural operations. Due to the high value often associated with greenhouse lands, owners seek to maximize the area available for construction. The Committee of Adjustment, composed of two Council members and three lay appointees, must often consider applications to allow reductions of the required yard setback provisions for greenhouses while acknowledging the built form and development patterns of abutting properties.

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***OACA would like to thank Danielle Truax, Manager of Planning Services for the Municipality of Leamington, for submitting this information to “Municipality of the Month”. More information can be found on the Township’s website at [www.leamington.ca](http://www.leamington.ca).***

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