



## **Essex County Library Board Regular Meeting Minutes**

(also available at [www.essexcountylibrary.ca](http://www.essexcountylibrary.ca) under **About the Library**)

**Wednesday, February 26, 2025**

**Council Chambers, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
360 Fairview Avenue West  
Essex, Ontario N8M 1Y6**

### **Mission**

Essex County Library welcomes you to a world of discovery, creativity and lifelong learning through accessible resources, programs, and innovative services.

### **Vision**

ECL strives to welcome a diverse community to a warm and inviting space where:

- Knowledgeable staff are sensitive to the needs and aspirations of the community
- Innovative ideas and cutting-edge technology are embraced
- Engaging programs and current comprehensive collections are created
- Creative partnerships encourage social interaction and cultural vitality

### **Members:**

Joe Bachetti, Chair  
Tracey Bailey  
Sherry Bondy, Vice Chair  
Terry Burns  
Chris Gibb  
Heather Latam  
Lauren Segedin

### **Administration:**

Bianca Batto, Human Resources  
Adam Craig, Chief Librarian/C.E.O.  
Manuela Denes, Manager, Community Services

Natalie Hatch, Manager, Support Services

## 6:00 PM Regular Meeting

### 1. Land Acknowledgement

We begin by acknowledging that the land on which the County of Essex is located is the traditional territory of the Three Fires Confederacy of First Nations, comprised of the Ojibway, Odawa, and Potawatomie Peoples.

We specifically recognize Caldwell First Nation and other First Nations which have provided historical and contemporary contributions to this region.

We also value the contributions of all Original Peoples of Turtle Island, who have been living and working on this land from time immemorial.

### 2. Recording of Attendance

Members of the Essex County Library Board attended the meeting in Council Chambers. Ms. Latam attended the meeting virtually. Ms. Segedin was not in attendance.

### 3. Approval of the Agenda

**25/01**

Moved by Mr. Gibb

Seconded by Ms. Bailey

**That** the Agenda be accepted as distributed.

**Carried**

### 4. Adoption of Regular Meeting Minutes

**25/02**

Moved by Ms. Bondy

Seconded by Mr. Burns

**That** the minutes of the November 27, 2024 Regular Meeting of Essex County Library Board be adopted as presented.

**Carried**

## **5. Delegations and Presentations**

### **A) Essex County Library Mobile Application Demonstration**

#### **Presented by Natalie Hatch, Manager, Support Services**

ECL is introducing a fully functioning mobile application ("app"). The mobile app will be available in Apple and Google App Stores on February 27.

Features include:

- Biometric Login.
- Access to a digital library card.
- Status of account.
- Book Lists.
- Basic search of the entire catalogue with filters.
- Access to all electronic resources directly through the app, including e-books, audiobooks, etc.
- List of all ECL databases with accessible hyperlinks.
- A map of all ECL locations.
- List of all events for each branch.
- Ability to place holds and renew resources directly through the app.
- The app can be downloaded in 6 different languages: English, French, Polish, Chinese, Spanish, and Ukrainian.

## **6. Chief Executive Officer's Report**

The Stoney Point library was reopened this month. All parties involved, such as ECL, the Town of Lakeshore, and the County of Essex are comfortable with the circumstances. More environmental testing will take place as summer approaches.

ECL launched a series of programs, with Connecting Windsor Essex, aimed at providing patrons with a crash course in cyber-security. These programs have been developed under the Telus Wise Initiative. Attendance has been slow but the response from the public has been positive.

At the November meeting, to-date statistics were shared with the Board. This report accounts for all statistics for the 2024 calendar year. Highlights include:

- 62% increase in overall program attendance.
- 75% increase in outreach for seniors.
- 99% increase in adult programming.
- 117% increase in adult community programs.
- 3% increase in circulation.
- 15% increase in electronic usage.

**25/03**

Moved by Mr. Gibb  
Seconded by Ms. Bailey

**That** the Board receive the consent items: CEO report for information.

**Carried**

**7. Reports**

**A) 2025 Health and Safety Policy Review Report**

The Health and Safety policy, the Workplace Violence Policy, and the Workplace Harassment policy were presented to the Board for annual approval.

The Workplace Violence and Workplace Harassment policies were recently updated and now include their appropriate procedures within the policy.

**25/04**

Moved by Mr. Gibb  
Seconded by Mr. Burns

**That** the Board receive the 2025 Health and Safety Policy Review Report for information; and, approve the Health and Safety Policy, the Workplace Violence Policy, and the Workplace Harassment policy.

**Carried**

**B) Branch Report – LaSalle, Leamington, Tecumseh**

This report provides a review of operations in 2024 for the LaSalle, Leamington, and Tecumseh branches.

Highlights for LaSalle include:

LEGO Mosaic

In collaboration with the Town of LaSalle, the branch hosted a community project that tied into “Sean Kenney’s Animal Super Powers Made with LEGO” exhibit. Patrons had the opportunity to visit the branch and add a LEGO square to the mural.

Green Bench Program

Schlegel Villages presented ECL with their own green bench to continue the Elder Wisdom program.

Highlights for Leamington include:

Anonymous Donation

ECL received a \$2,000 donation from an anonymous donor. This donation was used to fund the purchase of board games, craft activities, and a Nintendo Switch console for the Leamington branch.

LEGO Mosaic

2024 marked the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary for the Municipality of Leamington. In celebration, artist Jim Wiebe was commissioned by the Leamington District Chamber of Commerce to create a LEGO mural for the town. Patrons had the opportunity to visit the branch and add a LEGO square to the mural.

Highlights for Tecumseh include:

Renovated Space

The Tecumseh branch underwent over \$1 million dollars in renovations to modernize the space, including new furnishings, better lighting, and accessibility.

#### Open Doors for Art

The Town of Tecumseh and ECL partnered to present Open Doors for Art at Town Hall and the Tecumseh branch. The community was invited to visit both locations to view the Town's extensive local art collection.

Demographic statistics were shared with the Board.

**25/05**

Moved by Ms. Latam

Seconded by Ms. Bondy

**That** the Board receive the Branch Report for information with the amendment of additional names to the report.

**Carried**

### **8. New Business**

#### **A) Motion**

There were no motions.

#### **B) Notice of Motion**

There was no notice of motion.

### **9. Date and Location of Next Meeting**

Date: Wednesday, March 26, 2025

Location: Council Chambers, County of Essex Administration Building

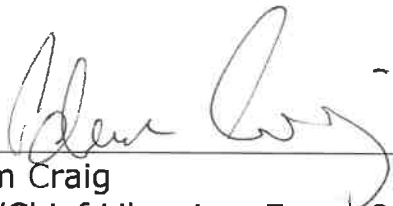
### **10. Adjournment**

Upon motion of Mr. Burns and Ms. Bondy, the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 6:39 PM.



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Joe Bachetti  
Chair – Essex County Library Board



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Adam Craig  
CEO/Chief Librarian, Essex County Library  
Secretary and Treasurer to the Board