



Blimey's
British Store & Gift Shop



Carl & Rita Hulme

What started as a part-time retirement project has blossomed into a six-day-a-week passion for Carl and Rita Hulme, owners of Blimey's British Store and Gift Shop. Together, the two have identified a niche market for things that are uniquely British. People drive from all over southern Ontario to see what their business has to offer. Their location in the middle of wine country has been ideal for attracting new customers and tourists touring the area.

Local Success

essex Retail

Industry at a glance

Centrally located in the heart of Essex County, the Town of Essex is a hub of retail activity. With two thriving retail hubs in both Essex and Harrow Centres, our municipality is a strategic location for your business. Whether you need the square footage to accommodate a big box store or are looking for a quaint location in one of our urban centres, we have the perfect space for you. Plenty of **free parking**, combined with the relaxed **pedestrian-friendly** downtown cores, The Town of Essex is a regional retail destination giving your business the best chance at success. An intensive downtown beautification strategy, financial incentives for business owners combined with the support of the Business Improvement Area and Chamber of Commerce is attracting a number of new destination retailers and property developments.

Specific opportunities exist in fashion, housewares, specialty foods, outdoor recreation, as well as entertainment and other retail that complements the destination ambience of our unique downtown centres.

Competitive advantage

The Town of Essex Community Improvement Plan (CIP) offers **financial incentives** for building owners, tenants, and businesses looking to enhance the exterior appearance of their business. Thousands of matching dollars are available for your business if you choose to locate in our downtown business area.

In addition to the services offered by the Town of Essex team, organizations including the Small Business Centre and the Business Resource Centre are available to assist with mentoring, training, connections and access to funding.

A growing population, high family incomes, and some of the most **affordable real estate** in Southwestern Ontario are just some of the reasons you should choose Essex.

If you're looking to start or grow your retail business, the Town of Essex and its partners can help. Contact us for more information about starting a business in Essex and a variety of local incentives.



Industry FACTS



The cost of living and operating a business in the Town of Essex is significantly lower than in larger metropolitan areas like Windsor.



With plenty of space & high traffic counts, our downtowns in Harrow and Essex are home to unique businesses that are able to attract customers all year round.



Lease rates for downtown storefronts range from **\$7.00 - \$13.00** per square foot based on size & condition of the property.