

Mayor's Blog – September 21, 2020

There have been zero active COVID-19 cases in Zorra for months, but there has been a general increase in cases in Canada, Ontario, and a small rise in Oxford and the Southwestern Public Health region. Remember that all the controls recommended are to REDUCE, not ELIMINATE transmission. To date in SWPH, of people who contracted COVID-19 4.6% have been hospitalized, while an additional 4.3% have been in an Intensive Care Unit. That is with all the extra controls in place. If infection rates were higher there would be a risk that there would not be enough hospital beds to treat those people. I hate wearing a mask, but if that's what I have to do to keep people healthy and out of hospital I'm willing to do my part. Zorra Staff continue to consult regularly with Southwestern Public Health (SWPH) about how to safely re-open.

We all face challenges in our lives, arguably none greater than the loss of a child. On May 11, 2015, on the soccer field in Kintore Andrew Stoddart fell down and never got up. His Mom Cara & Aunt Krista had an idea to turn that personal loss into an immense win for our community, getting AEDs not only in all Zorra schools, but all schools in the TVDSB. At the first September meeting, Council thanked them for doing more than their part for their community.

At the next September meeting, Council thanked Thistle Theatre for bringing live theatre to our community for 25 years! Community theatre is a pleasure. There is magic in seeing people you know transform before your eyes into different people in a different place and tell you a story. And Dramarama: to bring the magic of theatre to a day camp for our community's children where they create their own play and then perform it in front of their parents. From the beginning Thistle Theatre identified the need to involve kids, a lesson many community groups could learn from in spreading what they have to offer, and developing the next generation of their organization. This Fall's COVID production will be "Red Plaid Shirt". I can't wait to see you all transform!

The Beachville District Museum recently announced a new display collection of war memorabilia donated by the Township of Zorra. The display consists of one medal from the South African War, also known as the Second Boer War (1899-1902), and two from the First World War.

To assist local volunteer organizations in doing their part, Zorra offers financial assistance through the annual Community Grants Program. Applications are due by October 31st each year and approved through the annual budget process. Please see the Township website or call the office to apply.

We need to hear from you! Please visit safewelloxford.ca and contribute to the new Community Safety & Well-being Plan by sharing your hopes, concerns and insights on safety, health and well-being in Zorra.

The Middlesex Connect bus service stopping in Thamesford has begun! Watch for the signage beside the Thamesford Library. Thanks to the Councils and Staff of Thames-Centre and Middlesex County for their regional perspective on transit! For all detailed info on the service see: www.middlesex.ca/ct

The Township Office now has extended hours to better serve you. Monday to Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (excluding statutory holidays).

Please be calm, be kind, be safe, and do your part. I know you can, I have seen it.

As always, please feel free to contact me on any issue:

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