

July 15, 2022

New traffic calming measures have now been implemented in Uniondale and north of Thamesford, and additional measures in Embro. Each of these is based on nationwide, evidence based best practices. Each is also a one-year trial that will be measured: if it works it will be left there, if it doesn't it will be removed, changed, or added to. This now means that over the last four years new traffic calming measures have been implemented entering every Zorra community. The next step is to monitor for effectiveness and look for opportunities to further improve.

Restoration work is now complete on the Matheson Park Cairn in Embro. The monument has two plaques: The first recognizes 100 years of service by the Embro & Zorra Agricultural Society from 1856-1956. The second commemorates Matheson Park as the former grounds of Embro's "Crystal Palace" which was the arena and home to the Highland Games and Fall Fair from 1885-1982. Combined with the new ball diamond lights, and the soon to be completed Splash Pad across the road, this will be quite a make-over for parks in the village.

New floors are now complete in both the Thamesford District Recreation Centre (TDRC) and the Embro-Zorra Community Centre (EZCC) large hall. The TDRC floor got a good test with the Zorra Multi-use Court Committee (ZMCC) fundraiser and the EZCC large hall got a great test with the (record breaking?!) Embro Highland Games.

The ZMCC had an amazing turnout to a pickleball tournament to begin fund-raising for the planned outdoor multi-use courts at the TDRC.

And it was an absolutely glorious return of the Embro Highland Games after two years. An immense crowd, great weather, fantastic (and new) organization, dancing, cabers, bands, and French fries and warm ketchup! Thanks Caledonians for a great Canada Day!

The Caledonians should also be commended for including not only a land acknowledgement, but indigenous peoples, in the formal opening ceremonies. Please let's not forget that for some people, including Zorra residents, Canada Day isn't simple. It can be hard. If Canada is the greatest country in the world, and I think it is, then it has to be not because we rest on our laurels, but because we always try to do better. Thanks again to the Caledonians for doing better.

Speaking of which...When it comes to the 2SLGBTQIA+ community we have not done enough. At the July 13 Oxford County Council meeting Oxford Pride made a delegation about some of the terrible things that have happened in Oxford over Pride month. These were my comments about their delegation:

I thank Oxford Pride for their delegation.
I also want to thank the flag stealers.
They have shown us that we HAVE to make a choice.
They demand that we choose between hate and love.
I am guilty of being too patient on this issue.



I thought that with time and conversations there would be learning and understanding and inclusion.

The people who have chosen hate have shown us that there are some who are not interested in learning and inclusion.

Quite the opposite.

So I choose love.

Silence always favours the oppressor.

Those of us who are elected have a unique opportunity AND responsibility and I encourage all of us to use our platforms to make our support clear.

What we as a community have experienced lately is not new, it is only new to us who are not involved with the 2SLGBTQIA+ community.

If you haven't heard from someone in the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, it's because they have been systemically taught to be quiet.

These are children in our community who are scared to be who they are.

We need to do more.

We need to choose love.

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

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