

August 21, 2024 Blog

THANK YOU to everyone who attended the Ribbon Cutting event at the new Embro Pavilion! This is an amazing example of what community collaboration can do when everyone does their part!

Zorra is continuing its commitment to extending trails. Discover the Wildcat Trail, now on Tourism Oxford's trail listing! More work is planned to make this trail even more accessible in the future.

Are you considering an Additional Residential Unit for your property? Early consultation with our Building Department is a must. We can let you know if your property is properly zoned for an ARU and if your property meets the provisions of the Zoning By-law. More information is available on the Zorra website.

Last month I presented to the Ontario Government's Standing Committee on Heritage, Infrastructure, and Culture Policy for their review of Regional Governments. I think government services should always be delivered at the smallest, most local level that they can be, and only larger when it is a larger service, or genuinely saves money. I highlighted that in Oxford we get the benefits of small accountable local municipal governments and the economies of scale of a larger regional municipal government by dividing services accordingly.

- Zorra - recreation, fire, police, building, transit, local roads
- Oxford - water & wastewater, garbage & recycling, long term care, ambulance, land use planning, housing and human services, regional roads

And over the last few days myself, Deputy Mayor Grigg, and Councillor Finch attended the Association of Municipalities Conference in Ottawa. I had good conversations with the Solicitor General, Minister of Energy, Minister of Education, and many others about the issues we need provincial collaboration on. First and foremost being that municipal services and expectations have changed, but funding has not. Your property taxes were never intended to address social services like mental health, addiction, and homelessness. The province needs to do their part, and fund municipalities for what we're already doing. Residents of Zorra and Oxford are doing MORE than their part already.

Attention Community Groups! Apply now for your 2025 Community Grant. The deadline for submission of applications is October 1, 2024.

The Warden's Charity Golf Tournament is on Monday September 23, 2024 at the Oxford Hills. Come out and see if you can beat me in a putting contest! To sponsor or enter a team email [info@oxfordcommunityfoundation.org](mailto:info@oxfordcommunityfoundation.org)

The Zorra Municipal Centre (ZMC) open house is Saturday, September 28, 2024 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Come out and see your new municipal office!

Did you know that if you have an issue with a municipal service you can contact staff DIRECTLY for the fastest service?

Zorra: <http://www.zorra.ca/Home/Our-Services>

Oxford: <http://www.oxfordcounty.ca/Services-for-You>

Oxford County

For an emergency outside of regular hours, please call 1-800-755-0394 and listen for instructions for after-hours emergency calls.

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

Marcus Ryan

Mayor, Zorra Township (and Warden, Oxford County)

email: [mryan@zorra.ca](mailto:mryan@zorra.ca)

Phone: 1.519.425.2338