



JANUARY 28, 2025

2025-02

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THAMESFORD COMMUNITY CO-BUILD IN ZORRA TOWNSHIP

NEWS

The Ontario government has announced a \$1.3 billion investment in schools and childcare spaces, including \$23.5 million for a new public elementary school in Thamesford. The proposed 479-pupil school would include an 88-space childcare facility and shared recreation spaces, including a Township-owned gymnasium and soccer field. With this investment now in place, construction of the school will be able to commence in late 2025.

Mayor Marcus Ryan was excited to hear this announcement, and remarked “The vision for this development was always to provide the services that would be needed, not only for the new redevelopment, but for the entire village as it will exist in the future. Specifically that this growth would enable the Ministry of Education and the Thames Valley District school board to deliver a much-needed school for our community. Today it has done just that.”

This opportunity of the new subdivision development in Thamesford, approved in principle by Zorra Township Council on January 15, 2025, has allowed for the securing of this investment. A central component of the proposed development is this public elementary school, which would help facilitate the immense growth in the community.

Ward 2 (Thamesford) Councillor and Deputy Mayor Katie Grigg noted that “This will address one of the biggest concerns I hear from existing and new residents about the growth in Thamesford...where will our children go to school? Rural communities are inherently resourceful and are creative in extracting best value from the resources we have. I am pleased that TVDSB board and staff, with the endorsement from the Ministry of Education, have worked together with us in Zorra to consider our collective community needs, and end up with a co-build project that achieves more for the community by working and building together.”

The collaboration between the Township of Zorra and the Thames Valley District School Board began in the Fall of 2023, when both parties signed a Memorandum of Understanding to facilitate exploration of multi-service co-builds. Mayor Marcus Ryan stated, “I want to thank and congratulate the TVDSB, and in particular Chair Beth Mai and Oxford Trustees Dave Cripps and Leeanne Hopkins, for their tireless work and enthusiastic collaboration.”

BACKGROUND

Located in the heart of southwestern Ontario, Zorra Township is a high growth community that has a population of over 9,000 people in a rural/urban setting. The Township comprises several rural clusters and two serviced villages.



MEDIA CONTACT

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