

Zorra Municipal
Centre

Zorranow

COMMUNITY EVENTS & SERVICES MAGAZINE

Fall 2024



*A New Home for the
North Oxford Cenotaph*



In this issue...

- 2** Message from the Mayor
- 4** Township Department Information
- 9** Long Time CAO Retires
- 20** A New Home for the North Oxford Cenotaph
- 22** Township Contacts
- 23** Community Contacts
- 24** Township Community Information



Message from the Mayor

Summer recreation is changing to fall and arenas are getting ready. Long time Mayor (and former school teacher) Margaret Lupton said the first Council meeting in September always felt like the beginning of a new year.

School is back and harvest is on, so please watch for school buses and tractors. These are our neighbours learning and feeding us!

Marcus Ryan
 Mayor, Zorra Township (and Warden, Oxford County)
 email: mryan@zorra.ca
 Phone: 1.519.425.2338

With that new year, your Council will continue to work on our commitments in the Strategic Plan to “A vibrant, prosperous, engaged and environmentally conscious community”. This fall we will begin a review of progress on that plan, and then begin the 2025 budget process.

I’m also expecting that Council will accelerate its work on revitalizing our village cores and reducing sprawl with some reports coming back from staff on how we can provide more homes and affordability and protect agricultural lands and green spaces.

Recreation staff have been busy delivering for you! Several new recreation features have been added including the Wildcat Trail in Thamesford, the new Embro Pavilion, and the disc golf course in Thamesford. Hopefully in 2025 we can add the multi-use courts project to that list!

2025 BUDGET

- 2024-11-06**
 Council Meeting 9:30 a.m.
 2025 Preliminary budget highlights and ten-year capital plan
- 2024-11-20**
 Council Meeting 4:00 p.m.*
 *Special start time
 Departmental presentations
- 2024-11-27***
 *Special day
 Special Meeting 6:00 p.m.
 Consideration of budget
- 2024-12-04**
 Council Meeting 9:30 a.m.
 Consideration of overall 2025 budget and levy requirements discussion
- 2024-12-18**
 Council Meeting 6:00 p.m.
 Adoption of operating and capital budget and budget adoption By-law

Zorra Now Magazine is published electronically and paper copies are available at all Township Facilities. If you have any questions or comments or would like to advertise in the magazine, please contact:



Karen Martin, *Director of Corporate & Protective Services*
 Township of Zorra
 163 Brock Street, PO Box 189
 Thamesford, ON N0M 2M0
 Ph. 519-485-2490 ext. 7228 Toll Free 1-888-699-3868
 kmartin@zorra.ca www.zorra.ca

ACCESS YOUR HEALTH RECORDS TODAY!

FROM PARTICIPATING HOSPITALS IN SOUTHWESTERN ONTARIO

To learn more and register today, visit info.ConnectMyHealth.ca or scan:

Connect MyHealth is made possible through a collaboration between Hamilton Health Sciences, Ontario Health, and your local Ontario Health Team.

Hansford Tree Removal Service

complete

**Trimming • Chipping
Stump Removal • Firewood**

RR#2, Ingersoll, Ontario N5C 3J5

**P: 519-485-6481
C: 519-852-4099**

Agricultural plastics RECYCLING PILOT PROGRAM

RECYCLE ME

Local farmers can dispose of agricultural plastics like bale wrap, fertilizer bags, and bunker covers at the Waste Management Facility for only \$50/tonne.

Learn more about the agricultural plastics pilot program at www.wasteline.ca.

Growing stronger together working towards zero waste

Public Works Department

Share the Road

Farm operations are always extremely active in the fall with harvest season. Please pay special attention to the large equipment moving about on Zorra roads. Especially during this busy time of the year, we like everyone to share the road equally, be aware, and be courteous. We know farmers are extremely busy during harvest time and it is important to take that extra care regardless of which vehicle they are using.

Brush, Leaf and Yard Waste Depot

Zorra has a Depot for brush, leaf, and yard waste. Located across the road from the Kintore Public Works Shop at 783045 Road 78, just east of Highway 19.

- **Acceptable materials include:** fruits and vegetables, garden hedge and tree trimmings, grass, leaves, Halloween pumpkins, house and garden plants, brush (no longer than 6ft). and Christmas trees.
- **Unacceptable materials include:** garbage, old fencing, plastic bags, hazardous waste, top soil, rocks, and stumps.

This depot is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. There is no charge for this service.

Construction Zone Sign Classification

In a Construction Zone, "Local Traffic Only" means you are accessing a property inside the section of road that is closed. It does NOT mean that you live in the area adjacent to the construction and the closed road is the shortest distance to your destination. It is a Highway Traffic Act Offence to misuse this privilege.

Steve Oliver,
Director of Public Services
519-425-2302 or
soliver@zorra.ca

Building Department

Building Permits

A building permit is the written authorization which grants legal permission to begin demolition or construction of any structure, addition, or renovation. It is reviewed and issued when a complete application has been submitted and the plans comply with the Ontario Building Code, the Township of Zorra Zoning By-Law and other applicable laws and regulations.

What Happens if I do NOT get a Building Permit?

Constructing or altering a structure without a building permit may result in numerous problems, including:

- Not conforming with the Ontario Building Code, Zorra Zoning By-Laws, or other applicable laws
- Putting yourself and others at risk
- Putting yourself at liability should an injury occur to someone while visiting your property as a result of a structure not conforming to the Ontario Building Code
- Extra costs to reconstruct, replace or remove the structure
- Increased permit fees and possible fines
- Insurance protection nullification
- Difficulty selling the property
- Complaints from neighbours

Unsure if you require a building permit for your project? Visit the Building section on the Township website for examples or contact the Building Department.

REMINDERS

- Decks and/or pool decks that are 12 inches or more in height require a building permit. If you have had a deck built over the spring and summer months that is 12 inches in height or greater, please notify the Building Department as soon as possible. You will be required to apply for a permit and arrange an inspection.
- If your project is complete, please book a final inspection on Cloudpermit or by phoning the office. It is important that permits are closed when complete. You may be subject to a fee if you do not close your permit.

Building Permit Applications

For instructions on how to apply for a building or septic permit, please visit the Building & Drainage section on the Township website. All applications should be submitted through Cloudpermit at www.cloudpermit.com. First time users will be required to register an account. For questions related to Cloudpermit, please contact Nicole V. at 519-485-2490 ext. 7231 or nvanbreda@zorra.ca.

Payment

Payment must be completed prior to permit issuance and construction. We accept the following payment methods for building permits:

- E-Transfers to accountsreceivable@zorra.ca (please include the permit number in the description)
- Cheque
- Debit
- Cash



Example on where you can locate your permit number on your invoice

911 Addressing

As per the Township of Zorra's Sign By-Law 72-19, it is the responsibility of property owners to maintain 911 signs. Property owners are required to have 911 signs visible so they can be easily identified by emergency responders. Need a 911 Sign? Signs can be ordered through the Building Department.

Fill out the 911 Sign request form online found on the Township's website: forms.zorra.ca/911-Sign-Request-Form

Type	Cost
First 911 Sign / Post / Installation	No Charge
Replacement Sign / Post / Installation	Property owners will be charged a replacement fee. Refer to the Township's Fee By-Law for current pricing

For more information about 911 and civic address visibility, please read Zorra By-Law 72-19 or phone the office.

Any building or drainage questions should be addressed to
Mike Hughes, Chief Building Official/Drainage Superintendent
519-425-2306 or mhughes@zorra.ca

Drainage

Legal Outlets

With the pressure of too much work and not enough time, there may be a temptation to take shortcuts. This is a reminder that the following are NOT legal outlets:

- **Roadside Ditches:** You can only use roadside ditches as an outlet if permission is granted by the road authority. If permission is granted, we recommend that you secure the permission in WRITING.
- **Private Ditches:** Private ditches are private infrastructure and unless permission is given, another property owner has no right to connect a newly installed tile drainage system to a private ditch that flows across a neighbouring property. Similar to using a roadside ditch as an outlet, if permission is given, make sure it is in WRITING. If work needs to be done on the neighbouring property, make sure all parties are clear on cost-sharing and that all parties are clear on the extent of work and the potential disruption of land.
- **Municipal Drains:** Municipal drains have a defined watershed; the lands within that watershed have paid for the construction and management of that drain and only these lands have the right to connect to the municipal drain. If you are installing tile drainage on a property, it is possible that only a portion of that property has the legal right to connect into that drain. If you are not sure, check with the local drainage superintendent before undertaking the work. If there is a section of land that is outside the limits of the watershed, you must ask for permission to connect those lands to the drain.
- **Wetland or low area:** Sometimes it's tempting to outlet a tile drainage system into a wetland area, particularly if the wetland is located on your client's property. However, before doing so, you should examine the area to determine if the outletting of the tile drainage system could be any impact on other property owners. If there could be, don't do it without first acquiring permission.

If a property owner is unable to secure an outlet, that owner has the right to petition their municipality under the Drainage Act for an outlet. Although it takes longer to get the outlet using the Drainage Act, when it is done, you can have confidence that the tile drainage work you perform will not result in legal action. If you still decide to take shortcuts on legal outlets, remember that the courts consider the tile drainage contractor to be an expert. You may want to check out the liability risk of you and your business.

Fire & Emergency Services Department

CARBON MONOXIDE IS A SILENT KILLER.

You cannot smell it or taste it. Being slightly heavier than air, it collects in low areas and does not dissipate without ventilation. This gas is light enough that the movement from opening a door or walking through a room can mix carbon monoxide with the air.

Carbon monoxide links itself to the part of your blood that stores oxygen and holds on tight so the oxygen cannot attach. Your body can scrub the carbon monoxide from your blood, but it takes a while. If you are exposed to carbon monoxide faster than your body can remove it from your blood, it can cause headaches, nausea, or even death!

Carbon monoxide is created by incomplete combustion. Keeping all fuel-burning appliances well maintained and ventilated to the outside is your first line of defence. Your second is an alarm.

The way that carbon monoxide interacts with air and with your blood makes it very dangerous to your family if it is created or released in your home. Many smoke alarms are available as smoke and carbon monoxide combined units, and some units plug into any outlet.



PREVENTING HAY FIRES

It's that time of year again! Hay is being baled and stored away for the season. Remembering the dangers of improper storage and how to prevent hay fires is important.

Hay fires commonly occur within 6 weeks of baling, so this is an important time to be vigilant. Remember though, fires can start in loose, baled, or stacked hay.

Hay with a high moisture content can cause a chemical reaction as it decomposes. This breaking down of the hay produces flammable gasses and particulates as well as heat. This mix is a recipe for a hay fire!



Prevention

Do your part by storing and baling your hay as dry as you can. If you see or smell smoke, call 911. Do not move any of the hay to avoid introducing more oxygen.

Use a probe to check the temperature of the hay if you suspect it is heating	Do not bale in the early morning if the moisture content in the air has increased due to humidity	Cure the hay to the proper moisture level before storing it away
Check hay moisture levels regularly	Use specialized equipment that increases crop drying rates	

Please contact the Manager of Emergency Services/Fire Chief, Joshua Doyle at 519-425-2301 or at jdoyle@zorra.ca if you have any questions.

SMOKE ALARMS

The kids are going back to school. Some parents love this time of year, and some dread the daily deadlines. Getting everyone to school, attending practice, getting homework done, and getting everyone to bed. This shift is a significant change from some people's summers. Times of change take us out of our routines, and this is a time when mistakes can happen. Zorra Fire and Emergency Services wants to help you keep your family safe this school year. One easy way to protect yourself against the hazards of getting distracted by the hustle and bustle of daily life is to take a moment to check on the health of your smoke alarms.



Statistics Canada says only 1 in 3 smoke alarms were confirmed to work at fires between 2020 and 2022. At that same time, 7 in 10 structure fires occurred in homes. Seventy-five percent of fatalities happened in residences, and smoke alarms can easily help prevent these deaths! Let us continue to do our part to keep our residents safe.



Install

Smoke alarms are required in every bedroom, outside every sleeping area, and on every floor of your home.

Test

Test your smoke alarms once a month to ensure they are working properly!

Replace

Replace all smoke alarms after 10 years or When they start to beep!

BATTERY RECYCLING



The Township of Zorra has a free program for the recycling of household batteries through Raw Materials Company Inc. (RMC). The program is being offered at three locations throughout the Township:

- Township of Zorra Municipal Office - 163 Brock Street, PO Box 189, Thamesford, ON N0M 2M0 – phone 519-485-2490 ext. 7221
- Thamesford Community Centre, 85 Middleton Street, Thamesford, ON N0M 2M0 – phone 519-485-2490 ext. 7245
- Embro Zorra Community Centre, 355644 35th Line, Embro, ON N0J 1J0 – phone 519-485-2490 ext. 7251

Please feel free to drop off your batteries at any of the above locations.

Since the start of this program in September 2012, the Township of Zorra has collected and returned 3,424 lbs of batteries to Raw Materials Company for Recycling.



Join us for a Township-wide open house! All the facilities listed below will be open to the public. See the spaces, meet the staff, and take part in fun activities!

Saturday, September 28, 2024 | 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Thamesford District Recreation Centre | Embro-Zorra Community Centre
Zorra Maintenance Facility | Zorra Municipal Centre | Thamesford Fire Hall
Embro Fire Hall (1: 00 - 3:00 p.m. only) | Uniondale Fire Hall (1: 00 - 3:00 p.m. only)



Pick up a Zorra Passport at one of the facilities listed above and collect a sticker at each facility you visit during Doors Open Zorra. Collect at least 5 stickers and leave your passport with Township Staff to be entered into a draw for an awesome prize!

Zorra's Longtime CAO Retires

Long-time Zorra Chief Administrative Officer Don MacLeod will retire this fall after more than 28 years serving the people of Zorra Township.



Don started his career in Municipal Government in Harwich Township in 1991, then moved to Bayham Township in 1994. He joined Zorra as the Clerk in 1996, and became CAO in 2011.

Don has a reputation for being fair and resourceful while always having fun. Don has an extensive knowledge of aggregate resources and planning matters, which will serve him well as he takes on a part-time position as Executive Director of the Top Aggregate Producing Municipalities of Ontario (TAPMO) Association. Don's knowledge and expertise will be missed by the Zorra team.

Don's legacy will be the brand new Zorra Municipal and Child Care Centre that opened in 2024. Don spent months visiting other municipal offices and working with architects and designers to come up with a plan for a building that would serve the people of Zorra for many decades. The new building is fully accessible with plenty of room for all staff and room for future growth. The new Council Chamber comfortably houses the desks from the old office that were custom built for us by a local cabinet maker as well as a state-of-the-art system that allows us to live-stream our Council meetings making them more accessible to the public. The Margaret Lupton Boardroom is a beautiful meeting room that will be used by many groups that will help to better the lives of people living in Zorra. The 88-space child care centre is a much-needed addition to the community.

Staff and Council wish Don all the best in his retirement. Members of the public are invited to join us in celebrating Don's retirement with an Open House on Wednesday, October 23, 2024 from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Cobble Hills Golf Club.

Zorra's New CAO



When Don MacLeod announced his retirement earlier this year, Council discussed various options for his replacement. Council appointed Diane Larder to replace Don as Zorra's CAO. Diane is our current Director of Finance, making the move from South-West Oxford to Zorra in 2021. Diane is a great fit for this role and it will be an easy transition for staff and members of the public. Congratulations Diane!

By-Law Enforcement

Recreation Vehicle (RV) Parking:

Notice to all RV/boat owners. Our Zoning By-law allows front driveway storage of RVs and boats from May 1 – October 31. After October 31, front driveway storage of these vehicles shall be removed and stored elsewhere. After October 31, the vehicles may be stored on your side lot or rear lot provided that they meet the 5-foot setback from adjacent properties.

Winter Parking

Please be advised that the winter parking restrictions will be enforced starting November 15th and remain in place until March 31, 2025 in accordance with By-law 48-20. For snow removal purposes, parking is not permitted on any road or street from 1:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. 7 days a week during this period. Any vehicle owner found in violation of this by-law could be fined or have their vehicle removed/towed at owners' expense. The set fine for this violation is set at \$50. No unauthorized overnight parking is permitted at the Thamesford District Recreation Centre.

Leaves/snow removal on to Roadways

The autumn season is quickly approaching and therefore the leaves will begin to fall. As a reminder to all residents, depositing your leaves onto the roadway and sidewalk is dangerous and is a contravention of the Clearing Refuse from Land By-law No. 16-18. If you wish to drop off your yard waste, visit the County of Oxford website to view all brush, leaf, and yard waste depot locations. Pushing or placing any leaves, snow or ice on to roadway, or any other obstruction of a roadway is an offence that carries a Provincial Offences Fine of \$200.00.

Keeping Properties Clean and Clear

In the Township of Zorra, all grass and weeds must be maintained at a height less than 8 inches. This is done to promote safety in the Township, including pest-control, as well as to maintain the appearance of Zorra. Further, property owners and tenants shall keep their land free from industrial and domestic wastes, inoperable motorized vehicles (both licensed or unlicensed), vehicle parts, construction materials, and other refuse. If refuse has started to accumulate on your property, you are required to place it in appropriate containers, stored at the side or rear of your lot, and placed curbside within 14 days.

Dave Robertson, By-law Enforcement Officer
226-374-6795 drobertson@zorra.ca

Animal Control

LOW-COST PET SERVICES AT THE STRATFORD PERTH HUMANE SOCIETY

Did you know that Zorra Township pet owners can access a variety of services at the Stratford Perth Humane Society? They include:

- Weekly low-cost microchip appointments
- Monthly rabies vaccination and microchip appointments
- Low-cost spay neuter clinic for cats (no income or geography restrictions)
- TNR services for community cats/barn cats
- And more!

Check out kwsphumane.ca for more information or to register today!

LOST OR FOUND A PET?

Please contact our Animal Services provider, the Stratford Perth Humane Society, ASAP and file a lost/found report. Also check out the stray pets in care page to see if your pet is currently at the shelter (pets will show for the first five days from intake, so please always call). Call 519-273-6600.

BACKYARD CHICKENS

Zorra's Zoning By-law does not permit livestock in residentially zoned properties, and this includes backyard chickens. There are many reasons why municipalities do not permit chickens in residential areas including:

- Potential nuisances such as odor from manure and/or food scraps
- Potential source of disease including salmonella and in rare cases spread of avian influenza to humans
- Attraction of predators such as rats, coyotes, raccoons, foxes, skunks, weasels, mice, etc.
- Animal health and humane treatment if chickens are not properly cared for or stop producing
- Trespass of chickens on neighboring properties
- Conflict with neighbouring pets (dogs and cats)
- Housing and/or disposal for abandoned and/or seized chickens
- Noise complaints
- Increased staffing demands (administration & By-Law Enforcement)

Chickens are permitted on agricultural properties. We encourage residents to support local farms that offer farm-fresh eggs.

Questions about permitted uses for your property?
Contact the Township at 519-485-2490

BRING extra bags.

SCOOP every poop.

CARRY it to a trash can.

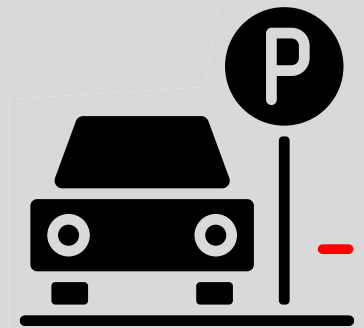
Good human.

Clean shoes.
Healthy families.
Healthy pets.

#DoYourPart

PARKING UPDATE!

Council passed a Parking By-law update to restrict parking on the west side of Middleton St, within 9m of all entrances to the Thamesford District Recreation Centre. This change will make it safer for traffic to exit the parking lot of the arena. Please keep an eye out for the new parking signage.



Keep up to date on news and events in Zorra Township

www.zorra.ca

Find us on Facebook!
Township of Zorra

Follow us on Twitter!
@ZorraTwp

Follow us on Instagram!
@ZorraTwp



2024 TAX NEWS

We've Moved!

Township of Zorra
163 Brock Street
PO Box 189
Thamesford, Ontario
N0M 2M0



Property Tax Bills can be emailed to you! Sign up for e-billing on the taxation page of our website.

Property Tax Billing

The Municipality issues two property tax bills per year that are broken into four tax instalments.

Note that tax instalment payments are due the last working day of February, May, August and October.

Property tax bills are printed in advance of the due date. If your property taxes are in arrears (unpaid/past due) penalty and/or interest is added on the 1st of each month and the amounts on your tax bill will not include these charges for the period after the bill was printed. If you have missed making payments by the due dates please call the office to make sure you are paying the current amount owing on your account.

Payment due dates:
August 30, 2024
October 31, 2024

PAYMENT OPTIONS:

Pre-Authorized Payment (PAP) Plan

We offer a PAP Plan to make it easier to pay your municipal tax bill, and to help avoid late fees. There is no cost for this service. New for 2025! If you participate in our PAP 10-month or PAP 12-month payment plan you will no longer receive an Interim Tax Bill. Instead of the Interim Tax Bill, you will receive a PAP Withdrawal Letter in January each year that details the monthly withdrawals from January to June, which equals the Interim Tax Bill. You will receive a second PAP Withdrawal Letter in July of each year that details monthly withdrawals for the remainder of the year. Final Tax Bills will be provided.

Internet Banking

You can pay by using internet banking with your financial institution. When setting up to pay your property taxes, select Zorra Taxes as the payee and use the 11-digit roll number on your property tax bill. Depending on the institution, you may need to add 4 extra zeros to the end of your roll number. If you are paying through your bank or financial institution, allow three business days for the payment to go through. All payments must be received at our office by the due date. Payments received after the due date will incur a 1.25% penalty.

Mail

If you are mailing a cheque (payable to Township of Zorra) allow sufficient time for delivery. All payments must be received at our office by the due date. Payments received after the due date will incur a 1.25% penalty.

Visit / Drop-Box at the ****NEW**** Municipal Office

Payment may be made in-person by cash, cheque, or debit at the Municipal Office during business hours (Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.). If paying in person, be sure to bring your bill with you. Payment may also be made via the drop box at the municipal office, beside the main door. Cheques only!

Sign up online for one of our Pre-authorized Payment (PAP) plans!

KEEP YOUR PROPERTY TAX BILL FOR YOUR RECORDS.
There is a **\$10.00 fee** to issue a replacement bill (paper or electronic).

For tax inquiries, contact Nicole Bowery, Tax Collector

nbowery@zorra.ca

519-485-2490 ext 7222

www.zorra.ca



2024 TAX NEWS

How is my property tax calculated?

Property tax is calculated annually based on your property's assessed value, the type of property you own (property class) and the Zorra and County council-approved property tax rates and education (Province) property tax rates. The assessed value of your property is determined by the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC), an independent body formed by the provincial government and funded by municipalities.

Your 2024 tax assessment is based on MPAC's phased-in 2016 values. MPAC was to implement a province-wide assessment update in 2020, but it has been postponed due to COVID-19. Assessment notices were issued in November 2016 advising property owners of their property's assessed market value. If you don't have yours, contact MPAC. Toll Free at 1-866-296-6722 or mpac.ca

Interested to learn how your specific property was assessed? Visit www.aboutmyproperty.ca to view your property and see how it compares to neighbours around you. To access this feature, you must register and provide the "Access Key" number located on your MPAC assessment notice.

KEEP YOUR PROPERTY TAX BILL FOR YOUR RECORDS.

There is a \$10 fee to issue a replacement bill (paper or electronic).

About your Property Taxes

Every time your street is plowed, you see a fire station responding to an emergency, or you visit a park or arena, you are witnessing your municipal tax dollars at work. Zorra Township collects taxes for these local services.

About 50% of your residential tax bill is collected for local services provided by Zorra Township and our service delivery partner the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP). Services provided by Zorra Township include, but aren't limited to: Animal Control, Accessibility, Building & Drainage (Municipal Drains & Stormwater), Clerk Services (Minutes, By-Laws, Marriage Licenses, Lottery Licenses, Records Management), Finance and Taxation, Planning & Development, Protective Services (Fire, Emergency Management and By-Law) and Public Works (Roads, Bridges, Sidewalks, Streetlights, Recreation).

Please visit the Zorra Township website for information on the 2024 budget at www.zorra.ca/en/our-services/finance.aspx

About 38% of your residential tax bill is collected on behalf of Oxford County for services that they provide. Services provided by Oxford County include, but aren't limited to: Water & Wastewater, County Roads & Bridges, Garbage & Recycling, Childcare, Social Assistance, Housing, Paramedic Services, 911, Emergency Planning, Long Term Care, Tourism, Planning & Development, Provincial Offences, Mapping and Library.

Please visit the Oxford County website for information on the Oxford County 2024 Business Plan and Budget details at www.oxfordcounty.ca/budget

The remaining 12% of your residential tax bill is collected on behalf of the local School Boards for education services that they provide.

Tax Rates for 2024 and prior years can be found on our website.

For tax inquiries, contact Nicole Bowery, Tax Collector

nbowery@zorra.ca

519-485-2490 ext 7222

www.zorra.ca



SUPPLEMENTAL TAX BILLS

A supplementary/omitted tax notice is a tax bill issued by the Township which reflects any additions or improvements that have been made to your property. For example, owners of newly constructed homes will receive a supplementary tax notice pertaining to the assessed value of their house effective from their occupancy date.

The supplementary/omitted tax notice is in addition to what may have been previously billed on the property. This tax notice does not include payments already made to your tax account or future instalments that have been previously billed and are still outstanding.

From the assessment information provided by the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC), the Township calculates the tax amounts due and issues tax notices, based on the following formula:

$$\text{Assessment Value} \times \text{Tax Rate} \times \text{Number of Days Liable}$$

Legislation allows MPAC to assess a property for the current year and up to two previous years, retroactive to the closing date. These tax notices are payable in two instalments, as indicated on the due date field of the payment stub.

If you are currently enrolled in one of the Township's Pre-Authorized Payment Plans (PAP), please note that supplementary tax bill instalment amounts must be paid by alternative method (cash, cheque, debit, etransfer, online banking) and are not part of your PAP withdrawals.

Reason for Issuing Supplementary/Omitted Bills

You should have already received a Notice of Assessment from MPAC indicating the reason for your supplementary/omitted tax notice(s). A supplementary tax notice can be issued for any of the following reasons:

New Construction - The value of your new construction was not previously billed to you.

Improvements/Additions to Property - Renovations/improvements were done to the property that has increased the assessment value and this increase in value was not previously billed to you.

Reclassification - The entire property or a portion of your property has had a change to the tax class.

If you feel that your supplementary/omitted assessment is incorrect, a Request for Reconsideration (RFR) process is available. Please refer to the Notice of Assessment sent by the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) for the deadline to file an RFR. Please contact MPAC at 1-866-296-6722 or visit <http://www.mpac.ca/> for more details.

CONTACT US: Nicole Bowery, Tax Collector
519-485-2490 Ext. 7222
nbowery@zorra.ca

ZORRA MULTI-USE COURTS COMMITTEE



June 1, 2024 Pickleball tournament at the Thamesford District Recreation Centre

The Zorra Multi-Use Committee (ZMCC) is closer to their goal than ever! However, due to increased costs, the fundraising goal for this project has increased from \$266,000 to \$300,000.

Committee members Andrew Goodwin, Brenda Carnahan, Kate Lockhart, Julie Riley, Rebecca Ruddy, Libby Wilkinson, and Deputy Mayor Katie Grigg are proud to share that the ZMCC is only \$32,000 away from reaching this new goal!

The committee has received generous donations from community members that have significantly progressed their fundraising efforts. The committee has also been working hard to bring you great community events to raise awareness and support for this project. Events include: ZMCC's Beach Volleyball tournament, two Pickleball tournaments, and a Dog Swim. Special thanks to the Thamesford Lions for hosting their Retro Rides and Community Vibes car show in support of the multi-use courts project.

We are SO close to reaching our goal. If you were thinking of supporting this project, NOW is the time. We will also be accepting in-kind donations to support the construction of this project. If you are a business or know a business please contact a committee member or email scaldwell@zorra.ca.

ZORRA MULTI-USE COURTS \$300,000 GOAL



Make sure to check out ZORRA MULTI-USE COURTS COMMITTEE on Facebook for updates on the ZMCC and their fundraising initiatives!

For all ZMCC related inquiries, please reach out to any member of the Zorra Multi-Use Courts Committee or contact the Township of Zorra Office.

Recreation Department

ZORRA DROP-IN PROGRAMS

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
 PICKLEBALL FALL DROP-IN SCHEDULE \$3/PERSON	9:00AM-12:00PM EZCC 6:00PM-9:00PM TDRCC* *AGES 18+	8:00AM-11:00AM TDRCC 6:00PM-9:00PM EZCC* *AGES 18+	9:00AM-12:00PM EZCC 6:00PM-9:00PM TDRCC	8:00AM-11:00AM TDRCC 6:00PM-9:00PM EZCC
 SKATING FALL DROP-IN SCHEDULE \$3/PERSON \$5/SHINNY	1:00PM-2:00PM SHINNY EZCC 2:00PM-3:00PM PUBLIC SKATE EZCC & TDRCC	9:30AM-10:30AM ADULT SKATE EZCC 10:30AM-11:30AM PARENT & TOT SKATE EZCC	5:00PM-6:00PM SHINNY TDRCC	9:30AM-10:30AM ADULT SKATE TDRCC 10:30AM-11:30AM PARENT & TOT SKATE TDRCC
 YOGA FALL DROP-IN SCHEDULE FREE	FLOW YOGA 7:00PM-8:00PM EZCC		FLOW YOGA 9:30AM-10:30AM BEATY RM	LIGHT FLOW YOGA 9:30AM-10:30AM EZCC



Zorra TOWNSHIP DOING OUR PART

FIND YOUR BALANCE

YOGA CLASSES

Monday 7:00 p.m. Embro-Zorra Community Centre

Wednesday 9:30 a.m. Thamesford Library Beaty Room

Thursday 9:30 a.m. Embro-Zorra Community Centre

Runs September 16 to December 2, 2024

FREE program thanks to funding from the Seniors Community Grant

PILOT DROP-IN PROGRAM

Ontario 

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 EMAIL BOOKING@ZORRA.CA





Embro has a new gathering space!

The EZCC Pavilion Project was successfully completed in time for the Highland Games on July 1. A ribbon cutting ceremony was held on August 14, and well attended by community groups, MPP Ernie Hardeman and Mayor Ryan.



Thank you to the steering committee, contractors and donors for their dedication to this project. A special thank you to staff Mike Hughes for his deep involvement and coordination of the construction.



The 40' x 80' pavilion is an accessible space, equipped with picnic tables, hydro and water. **Looking to rent it for your next social gathering? You can book online at zorra.ca or email booking@zorra.ca for just \$75/day.**

“This is an amazing example of what community collaboration can do when everyone does their part!”
- Marcus Ryan, Mayor

This gathering space was made possible by the generosity of our donors.



WHERE DOES IT GO?

How to safely dispose of household hazardous waste



Safe disposal of hazardous waste helps to protect you, waste collectors, and the environment.

This is because hazardous materials can pose a variety of risks, from skin damage on contact to ground water and soil contamination. Flammable hazardous materials like propane tanks and batteries have also been known to cause fires when they are compressed in collection vehicles or at waste management facilities.

Know what it is

Automotive fluids, batteries, fluorescent lights, fuel, household cleaners, expired medicines and prescriptions, mercury thermostats, paints and solvents, propane tanks and syringes are all considered hazardous waste.

You can find a list of hazardous waste items and the “Where does it go” tool at www.wasteline.ca.

Tip! Check your items for these symbols.



Know where it goes

Some empty hazardous waste containers can safely be disposed of in your blue box (recycling), such as emptied aerosol cans and empty metal paint cans with the lid off (empty plastic paint cans should go in the garbage).

Other residential household hazardous waste items should be brought to one of the County’s two hazardous waste depots, free of charge:

Oxford County Waste Management Facility
384060 Salford Road, Salford

City of Woodstock EnviroDepot
944 James Street, Woodstock



Download the **Wasteline app** for reminders, how to report a problem, “What goes where” wizard and more.



App Store® is a trademark of Apple Inc. Google Play and the Google Play logo are trademarks of Google LLC.

Questions about Wasteline?

wasteline.ca
info@wasteline.ca
1-800-755-0394

A New Home for the North Oxford Cenotaph

The North Oxford Cenotaph was originally built east of Dickson's Hall by the Municipality of North Oxford to honour the men who died fighting for Canada in World War I and World War II. In 1991, the Hall was sold to the Kenny family and the cenotaph was moved to a new location at the Township of Zorra Municipal Office at the corner of Hwy 119 and 27th Line (also known as Log Cabin Road). This was the home of the cenotaph for the next 33 years.



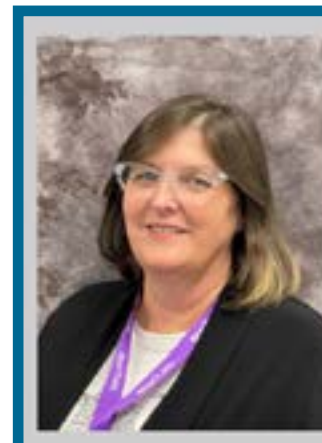
Discussions began about the potential of building a new municipal office, and Staff knew immediately that a new home would need to be found for this important piece of history. When the decision was finalized to build the new Zorra office on the former Maple Leaf/Cold Springs property in Thamesford, Staff knew this would be the perfect place to display the cenotaph. A special place at the front entrance to the new building was designated as the new home for the cenotaph on the final building plans.

Staff relocated to 163 Brock Street in Thamesford in late May 2024, but the cenotaph remained at the old office location until conditions were just right to have it relocated. After the new parking lot was completed, Zorra Staff members Mike Hughes and Steve Gordon set up the site and poured concrete for a new pad to house the cenotaph. Steve also power washed the cenotaph to make sure it was looking fresh for its new home.



In September, staff members from Ingersoll Memorials carefully moved the cenotaph from the old location on 27th Line to the new home on Brock Street. They used great care to take the pieces apart, move them, relocate and reassemble the cenotaph in its new home. It is important to note that Ingersoll Memorials completed the entire relocation free of charge! They noted that given the importance of the memorial and that they often do business with the residents of Zorra, they wanted to donate their time and work for moving the cenotaph.

We are so grateful to all the staff at Ingersoll Memorials for the time and care they used in moving and helping us preserve this important piece of Zorra's heritage. A special light has been added to further highlight the cenotaph in its new home where it can be enjoyed by future generations for many years!



New Staff

We are pleased to welcome our new Tax Collector, Nicole Bowery! Nicole joins us from the Municipality of Thames Center. Nicole is responsible for the administration and collection of property taxes. In her free time, she enjoys travelling and spending time with her family. Welcome Nicole!

You can reach Nicole at 519-485-2490 ext. 7222 or by email nbowery@zorra.ca

Township Contacts

Council



Mayor Marcus Ryan
Email: mryan@zorra.ca
Tel: 519-425-2338



Ward 1 Councillor
Kevin Stewart
Email: kstewart@zorra.ca
Tel: 519-808-7839



**Ward 2 Councillor/
Deputy Mayor**
Katie Grigg
Email: kgrigg@zorra.ca
Tel: 226-268-4495



Ward 3 Councillor
Paul Mitchell
Email: pmitchell@zorra.ca
Tel: 519-349-2271



Ward 4 Councillor
Crystal Finch
Email: cfinch@zorra.ca
Tel: 519-532-9037

Upcoming Council Meetings

Council meetings are held the first WEDNESDAY of the month at 9:30 a.m. and the third WEDNESDAY of the month at 6:00 p.m.

September 18, 6:00pm
October 2, 9:30am
October 16, 6:00pm
November 6, 9:30am
November 20, 6:00pm

Employees

Building/Drainage Department

*Chief Building Official/
Drainage Superintendent* - Mike Hughes
Phone: 519-425-2306
Email: mhughes@zorra.ca

*Deputy Chief Building Official/
Building Inspector* - Mathew Paul
Phone: 519-425-2309
Email: mpaul@zorra.ca

Building Services Coordinator
Nicole van Breda
Phone: 519-425-2308
Email: nvanbreda@zorra.ca

Corporate Services

Chief Administrative Officer - Don MacLeod
Phone: 519-425-2245
Email: dmacleod@zorra.ca

*Director of Corporate and Protective
Services/Clerk* - Karen Martin
Phone: 519-425-2305
Email: kmartin@zorra.ca

Planner - Spencer McDonald
Phone: 519-539-0015 ext. 3205
Email: jsmdonald@oxfordcounty.ca

By-law Enforcement Officer - Dave Robertson
Phone: 226-374-6795
Email: drobertson@zorra.ca

*Records Management Coordinator/
Executive Assistant* - Lisa Teeple
Phone: 519-425-2314
Email: lteeple@zorra.ca

Legislative Coordinator/Deputy Clerk
Alycia Wettlaufer
Phone: 519-425-2313
Email: awettlaufer@zorra.ca

Corporate & Strategic Initiatives Coordinator
Maggie McLaughlin
Phone: 519-485-5125
Email: mmclaughlin@zorra.ca

Customer Service Representative
Michelle McLellan
Phone: 519-425-2307
Email: mmclellan@zorra.ca

Finance Department

Director of Finance - Diane Larder
Phone: 519-425-2303
Email: dlarder@zorra.ca

Deputy Treasurer - Kim Grogan
Phone: 519-425-2329
Email: kgrogan@zorra.ca

Tax Collector
Nicole Bowery
Phone 519-425-2304
Email: nbowery@zorra.ca

Financial Services Clerk - Jenna Gallman
Phone: 519-485-0784
Email: jgallman@zorra.ca

Public Works Department

Director of Public Services - Steve Oliver
Phone: 519-425-2302
Email: soliver@zorra.ca

*Zorra Maintenance Facility -
Construction & Fleet Supervisor*
Derek Collins
Phone: 519-485-2490 Ext. 7260
Email: dcollins@zorra.ca

Operations Supervisor - Josh McKay
Phone: 519-485-2490 ext. 7265
Email: jmkcay@zorra.ca

Protective Services

Manager of Emergency Services/Fire Chief
Josh Doyle
Phone: 519-425-2301
Email: jdoyle@zorra.ca

Fire Prevention Officer

Email: fireprevention@zorra.ca

Embroid District Chief - Matthew Cockle
Email: fire@zorra.ca

Thamesford District Chief - Andy Martin
Email: fire@zorra.ca

Uniondale Deputy District Chief - Scott Matheson
Email: fire@zorra.ca

Recreation Department

Manager of Recreation and Facilities
Sofia Caldwell
Phone: 519-425-2311
Email: scaldwell@zorra.ca

Recreation and Facilities Supervisor
Jason McEachnie
Phone: 519-485-2490 Ext. 7244
Email: jmceachnie@zorra.ca

Recreation Programs & Services Coordinator
Ally Thompson
Phone: 519-425-2310
Email: athompson@zorra.ca

Facility Booking

Phone: 519-485-2490 Ext. 7223
Email: booking@zorra.ca

Recreation Facilities

Thamesford District Recreation Centre
Phone: 519-485-2490 Ext. 7245
Email: tdrcc@zorra.ca

Embroid Zorra Community Centre
Phone: 519-485-2490 Ext. 7251

Thamesford Area Swimming Pool
Phone: 519-485-2490 Ext. 7285

Community Contact Listing

Minor Sports

Embroid Minor Hockey Club www.embrohockey.com
Zorra Skating Club www.zorraskatingclub.ca
Embroid Minor Baseball Association
www.embrominorbaseball.com

Embroid Minor Soccer Association www.embrosoccer.ca
Kintore Optimist Soccer League
www.leaguelineup.com/kintoresoccer

Thamesford Area Minor Hockey Association
www.tamha.net

Zorra Skating Club (Thamesford)
www.zorraskatingclub.ca

Thamesford Minor Baseball Association
www.thamesfordminorbaseball.ca

Thamesford Minor Soccer
www.leaguelineup.com/thamesfordsoccer

West Oxford Girls Hockey Assoc. www.wogha.ca

Other Organizations

Thamesford Jr. PJHL Hockey Club
www.thamesfordtrojans.pjhlhockeytech.com

Thamesford NBC Hockey
www.tnhl.hockeyleaguestats.com

Embroid NBC Hockey www.embrobc.ca
Thamesford Men's Slo-Pitch
www.thamesfordslopitch.com

Thamesford Beach Volleyball Club
www.thamesfordvolleyball.com

Schools (Elementary)

Zorra Highland Public School 519-475-4121
A.J. Baker Public School 519-283-1098

Thamesford Public School 519-285-2043
Roch Carrier French Immersion 519-537-7321

John Knox Christian School 519-539-1492

School Boards

Thames Valley District School Board 519-452-2000
1-888-224-3354

London District Catholic School Board 519-663-2088

Service Clubs & Community Groups

Embroid & Zorra Agricultural Society
Nicole Barnett 519-533-2208

Embroid Highland Games/
Zorra Caledonian Society 519-475-4451

Thamesford Lion's Club
Sheldon Wade, President 519-859-4348

Thamesford Scouts
Jackie Van Daele 519-283-6159

Kintore Optimist Club 519-283-6321
Harrington & Area Community Association
Michael Kukhta 905-599-2151
michael.kukhta@gmail.com

Harrington Grist Mill Restoration Project
Tim Van de Kemp 519-801-5810
timbetvdk@gmail.com

Oxford County 4-H oxford4-h@xplornet.com

Other

Alzheimers Society 519-421-2466
1-877-594-2368

Beachville District Museum 519-423-6497
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Ingersoll, Tillsonburg & Area
519-485-1801 or 519-842-9000

ingtburg@bigbrothersbigsisters.ca
www.sharethefun.org

Calithumpian Committee 519-535-9198
Canadian Blood Services 888-236-6283

Canadian Cancer Society 888-939-3333
Canadian Red Cross 519-539-0265

Children's Aid Society, Oxford County 519-539-6176
Crime Stoppers 800-222-TIPS

Cuckoos Nest Folk Music 519-473-2099
Embroid Pond Association
Brian McCowan, President 519-301-4893

Embroid West Zorra History Book
Helen Brenneman 519-535-4728

Embroid Library 519-475-4172
Fanshawe Pioneer Village 519-457-1296

Girl Guides - Thamesford 519-285-1126
Harrington Public Library 519-475-6909

Hardeman, Ernie, MPP. 519-537-5222
Horticultural Society (Ingersoll) 519-485-1808

Ingersoll Choral Society 519-902-4007
Ingersoll Creative Arts Centre 519-485-4691

Ingersoll Services for Seniors 519-485-3869
Ingersoll Theatre of Performing Arts 519-485-3070

Lawn Bowling Embroid 519-475-4729
MacKenzie, Dave MP 519-421-7608

North Embroid Cemetery
Darwin Cooper 519-475-4385

Ontario Early Years Programs 800-539-9800
OPP 800-265-7191

Oxford County Jr. Farmers 519-469-3281
Oxford County Federation of Agriculture 519-852-8856

Oxford District Women's Institute
Shelia Greason 519-349-2768

South West Community Care Access Centre 519-539-1284
info-woodstock@sw.ccac-ont.ca

Thamesford Block Parents 519-285-1126
Thamesford Business Association 519-285-3249

Thamesford Public Library 519-285-3219
Thamesford Snowmobile Club
Harold Hacon (trails) 519-461-0855

David Blight (President) 519-432-2729
Thistle Theatre - Box Office 519-475-4201
infothistletheatre@gmail.com

Tiny Paws Dog Rescue - Linda Collier www.tpdrc.ca
VON Oxford 519-539-1231

VON Sakura House 519-537-8515
Welcome Wagon 519-485-2990

Wienerfest - Linda Collier 519-285-5123
Women's Canadian Club 519-471-8924

Places of Worship

St. Andrew's United Church
924044 Road 92, Brooksdale, Ontario
519-475-6011

Chalmers United Church
842993 Road 84, Kintore, Ontario
519-283-6376

Crossroads Alliance Church
194552 19th Line, R.R. 3
Ingersoll, Ontario
519-485-4440

Knox Presbyterian Church
115 St. Andrews Street
Embroid, Ontario
519-475-4816

Knox Presbyterian Church
963727 Road 96, Harrington, Ontario
519-475-4011

Knox United Church
116 Kincardine Street, Embroid, Ontario
519-475-4060

Maple Grove Christian Retreat
194936 19th Line
Thamesford, Ontario
519-285-3334

St. John's Anglican Church
220 Dundas Street
Thamesford, Ontario
519-285-3218

Truth Community Church
154978 15th Line (Banner Rd.)
Thamesford, Ontario
519-285-2112
www.truthcommunitychurch.ca

Westminster United Church
115 George Street
Thamesford, Ontario
519-285-3212
www.makingconnections.com

East Missouri Union Church
519-349-2333



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3 Ways to Embrace Fall in Zorra



Autumn is in full swing in Oxford county with fresh Fall flavors, seasonal events and changing leaves along the trails.

Eat according to the season and enjoy a grocery getaway, exploring Oxford Fresh farms in Zorra and beyond. Explore farms, food, & local fare at www.OxfordFresh.ca

Plan for fun at a fair, grab tickets to a local theatre production, learn your local history, and much more at www.TourismOxford.ca/events

Take in the changing Fall foliage along a nearby trail. Check out Harrington Conservation Area, Embro Pond Conservation Area, Hickson Trail, or the new Wildcat Trail.

Find more trails, events, and trip itineraries at www.TourismOxford.ca

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ReuseapalooZAHA!

www.reuseapaloozaha.ca

Saturday, Sept.28, 8:00 'til noon

A GIANT FREE SWAP MEET

At the Embro Community Centre

Teen
volunteers
earn
community
hours.

Promoting Zero Waste and Resource Recovery in Oxford.

Bring Good Used, Reusable Goods

Clothing, Fabric, Books, Toys, Tools
Hardware, Kitchenware, Garden
goods
Upcyclable & Recoverable resources
Scrap Metals & Electronics

Not Wanted

Residential garbage
Upholstered furniture
Hazardous waste

Anything disgusting
Drop-offs after 11:00

Thanks to:

Zorra Township, Volunteers, Donors,
Friends, Transition to Less Waste,
The Clothing Closet, Cycles of Life,
Victoria's Quilts, Operation Sharing

Donors, pickers, helpers, guests ...

www.reuseapaloozaha.ca for updates and information

Next! April 26, Sweaburg

COMING SOON



Extended rural library branch hours

We asked, you answered.

Thank you to everyone who completed the 2024 Rural Community Engagement Survey earlier this year. Based on your feedback, we are extending the hours of operation at our rural village library branches to serve you better!

	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Brownsville	3:00 - 6:30pm	3:00 - 6:30pm	10:00am - 1:00pm	Closed	10:00am - 1:00pm
Burgessville	3:00 - 7:30pm	Closed	3:00 - 7:30pm	2:00 - 5:00pm	9:00am - 1:00pm
Harrington	10:00am - 2:00pm 4:00 - 7:00pm	4:00 - 7:00pm	Closed	10:00am - 1:00pm	Closed
Embro	10:00am - 1:00pm	3:00 - 6:30pm	3:00 - 6:30pm	Closed	1:30 - 4:30pm
Innerkip	3:00 - 7:00pm	10:00am - 2:00pm	3:00 - 7:00pm	Closed	10:00am - 2:00pm
Mount Elgin	3:30 - 7:00pm	11:00am - 2:00pm	3:30 - 7:00pm	Closed	11:00am - 2:00pm
Otterville	10:00am - 2:00pm	2:30 - 7:00pm	2:30 - 7:00pm	Closed	1:30 - 4:30pm
Princeton	3:00 - 7:00pm	12:00 - 4:00pm	3:00 - 7:00pm	Closed	9:00am - 1:00pm

 **New hours will take effect on September 9**
Learn more at www.ocl.net

*Note: All Oxford County Library rural village
branches are closed Mondays and Sundays*



We would love to hear from YOU!!!

If you have a story, pictures or ANYTHING that you would like to share about your community please contact Karen Martin at kmartin@zorranow.ca or 519-485-2490 ext. 7228 to have it appear in an upcoming Zorra Now Edition.



The museum takes on new energy in the summer months as area residents enjoy summer vacation and look to connect with their community at various outdoor events and recreational gatherings. One cannot help but notice how busy our grounds become at the end of each month, when the classic cars roll into Beachville and park for our community car shows. With local vendor booths, delicious ice cream and concession stands, Legion lunches, prize draws and groovy tunes playing, the museum is the place to be during these events. We have one more car show, scheduled for September 22nd, and we hope you'll join us from 11am until 4pm to stroll past the polished rows of cars and other quirky, featured vehicles. Drivers of show cars are welcome on-site starting at 9:30am. You can stay on top of the September car show updates by following the event page on Facebook.



Perhaps the greatest energy is brought to the museum by the participants of our summer camp program. We hosted 9 weeks of summer camp for campers aged 5-11 through July and August. Our amazing Summer Activity Coordinators, who were hired through the Young Canada Works program, ensured campers got to explore all of the exciting features of the museum's grounds and the nearby Limestone Valley Trail. They introduced each week's registrants to the artifacts housed in the museum and to new crafts, group games and a range of water activities. We are grateful to Ox on the Run, who toured our campers through their bookmobile in August. It was wonderful to look



through a whole collection of children's books and try some activities put together by the library. We also extend a huge thanks to the group of volunteers who helped our staff deliver the camp program. This group was made up of youth volunteers who logged volunteer hours by helping out with camp set-up and clean-up as well as experienced educators who remain passionate about community service during the summer months.

The museum staff is looking ahead to a number of outreach initiatives this fall, so you may see us out and about. You can find us at our booth at the Embro Fair on Sun., Sept 15th, or at Doors Open London on Sat. Sept. 22nd. If you are interested in taking in the fall colours on our grounds, you can plan a trip to the museum for the opening of a new Oxford Creative Connections art exhibit on September 19th or sign up for an adult craft night on October 25th, coordinated by Ox on the Run. This crafty night starts at 6pm and has participants making Cemeterariums – a perfect project for the spooky season! Our Speaker Series resumes for the fall with presentations by Dr. George Emery (Sept. 10th) and Scott Gillies (Oct. 8th). Dr. Emery is scheduled to speak about Blacks in a White Place from his recent book on Ingersoll and Canada West ca. 1850-1921. Local historian, Scott Gillies will share some Stone Secrets from the Ingersoll Rural Cemetery. Follow along with our calendar of upcoming events at www.beachvilledistrictmuseum.com/events and keep an eye out as we prepare to launch new baseball-making and butter-churning experiences on our webpage. If you have little ones that are dressing up for trick-or-treating, plan to attend "Halloween Night at the Museum" from 4pm to 8pm on Oct. 31st. There is so much to get involved in through the fall season at the museum. We can't wait to see you.

ZHC - Zorra Heritage Committee

The Zorra Heritage Committee, part of the Beachville District Historical Society was established in 2019 at the Beachville District Museum. The group is interested in identifying and preserving the history and heritage relating to Zorra Township's past and enhancing their knowledge.

We identify local historical information sources such as museums, local library collections, and input from residents now and recollections of others. We also promote public awareness of Zorra's rich past through participation in community events and other means.

UPCOMING
ACTIVITIES

Wednesday, October 2, 10:30 am
Tour with Curator- Norwich Museum

Saturday, November 2
Our second Digitation Day – check the Beachville District Museum website for more information

December
Visit to Woodstock Museum – check Museum website for date/time

You are welcome to take part, even if you do not reside in Zorra.

beachvilledistrictmuseum@gmail.com
Ph. 519-423-6497



Opportunities for Teens in Zorra to see the World!

ISE Ontario is an international exchange organization, a non-profit, which matches teens from 13 to 17 years of age in Ontario with like-minded French, German, Italian,

Spanish, Swiss and Irish partners for exhilarating times together on two continents.

ISE offers both school-year, 9-week reciprocal experiences abroad, and 3-week summer exchanges. You live with the family of your matching partner, enjoying their family life, culture and all the things you and your partner share a love for.

Imagine spending February through May on long, snowy mountain slopes in three of our destinations, or absorbing the warmth of Spain's sun and Ireland's culture.

For more information, consult www.iseontario.on.ca or bryasmit@oxford.net. You can claim that your family is "doing our part" in international friendship, enjoying culture and companionship.





Thamesford Lions Club

Thamesford Lions Community Events

"Catch The Ace" Progressive Raffle

Weekly Prize Draws
8PM Tuesday nights streamed LIVE on
"Thamesford Lions" Facebook

Tickets can be purchased in Thamesford from:

Dewy's Auto
Village Catering & Deli
JC Graphics
McFarlan Rowlands Insurance
Shell Gas Station
Brunny's Bar and Grill

Tickets can be purchased in Embro from:

Highland Restaurant
Embro Family Pharmacy

Contact: Lion Tony, 519-285-3618

Christmas Caroling Showcase

Saturday Nov 30, 2024
6:30PM - Thamesford Recreation Centre

Contact: Lion Jim jrkeron5461@rogers.com

Thamesford Arena Canteen

Serving during Thamesford Trojan & Minor
Hockey Home Games

Follow Us on our new
"THAMESFORD LIONS"
Facebook page for the
Latest News on these &
other community events
coming your way!



Looking for something new to try?

Modern square dancing is a great way to learn something new, have some fun, meet new friends, and get some exercise!

At Thames Valley Dance Club, we dance on Monday nights from 7:00-9:00pm. All you need is comfortable shoes and casual clothing. No experience or partner required and all ages are welcome.

We will be starting our 2024-2025 season on Monday, Sept 9/24 at a new location: The Ingersoll Pipe Band Hall, 108 Wonham St. S. Ingersoll. First night is free, and after that \$7.50 per person each Monday. For more information, contact Doug at 519-537-9037 or Lois at 519-535-2884.

Hope to see you on Sept 9th at the Ingersoll Pipe Band Hall!

Harrington Grist Mill Open House and Family Day

The Village of Harrington was a busy place on Aug. 10 when a very successful Harrington Grist Mill Open House and family day was held. We had a steady stream of people of all ages drop in including several parties who were touring the area and became interested when they saw our sign. Some as far away as Brantford. There were 98 signatures in the Mill guest book and not all people signed the guest book.

Attractions included a tour of the Mill led by Tim Van de Kemp, a display of John Huisser's kitchen gadgets of old, a scavenger hunt through the Conservation area arranged by Coyote Nature School, beautiful flower arrangements made available from The Garden in Harrington and a BBQ lunch offering of hot dogs and hamburgers cooked to perfection by Harry Jongerdon and Michael Kukhta and ably served by Verna Lester and Brenda Krantz. The Harrington Library spearheaded by Kathy Eastman also joined in by hosting a Petting Farm from Touchstone Farm held at the Hall which included ponies, goats, ducks, chickens and rabbits.



5th Annual Harrington Holiday Market

Hosts: Harrington & Area Community Association

Sunday November 17th
11am - 4 pm

Vendors at Harrington Hall &
Harrington Grist Mill
Photos with Santa at the Mill

Everything handcrafted or
produced locally!

\$2 donation at
the door
(kids free)

Knox Presbyterian Church Tea Room
& Children's Craft (both in the library)

Watch our Facebook page where we will be featuring
the vendors who are participating!

Shop local!

Support small
businesses!



Oxford 4-H Club

The Brooksdale 4-H Club have been doing the Niche Crops 4-H project where they explored different types of crops throughout the project.

They toured the Glenridge Hazelnuts in St George. It is the largest hazelnut farm in Ontario. Hazelnuts are wind pollinated. For harvesting, unique customized harvesting equipment manufactured in Europe is used. The trees drop their nuts onto the ground and a harvesting machine is like one large vacuum to collect them, then they are sorted by another machine. Youth were able to sample hazelnuts with seasonings like espresso, maple, cinnamon & sugar. They were also given flavoured roasted hazelnuts to take home. Youth were interested to hear about all the trial and error when trying something new.



Blackcurrants was another crop youth learned about at the location in Medina. Harvesting occurs at night as the dew prevents the currants from sticking to the machinery. Blackcurrants are like a blueberry. They are made into jam, jelly, wine and other products.

The African Market Garden, Felicitas' Amazing Maize, near Ingersoll grows African produce. Youth were fascinated to learn about how other cultures use different crops and how they eat them. They seen white corn there.



The group went on a bus trip to Simcoe touring JD Micro Greens & Tobacco seeing tobacco plants, planter & harvesting equipment.

They seen greens like onion, broccoli & sprouts growing under grow lights. Another stop on the bus trip was to Meadow Lynn CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) Market Garden. Community members pay a subscription to receive a box of garden produce weekly throughout the growing season. Youth were able to help plant lettuce and



taste green onion at the stops on the bus trip. The Niche Crop achievement is a weed identification poster of weeds found in their garden entered into the Embro Fair Brooksdale 4-H Classes. Youth learned about integrated pest management (weeds, insects, fungus) at the Embro Pond Conservation Area with Senior Biologist, Andrea DeBruyn.

The 4-H program is a leadership development program for youth ages 6-21 from urban and rural areas learning about health, environment, technology, agriculture, science, food, community and communication in a hands-on learning atmosphere.

To know more about the 4-H program, please contact the Oxford 4-H Communications Coordinator, Shonna Ward, by email oxfordcounty4h@gmail.com or call/text 519-854-6919 or check out Oxford County 4-H Facebook.



Tuesday, September 24, 2024
Meeting at 6:45

Meal off the menu starting at
5:00 by reservation only

Mel's Fish & Chips
360 Dundas St. Woodstock

Presented by Brenda Boswell, Secretary, Oxford Historical Society,
who started washing dishes at Baird's Fish & Chips at age 12.

Fish & Chips wrapped in newspaper and the smell of vinegar and frying oil evokes warm memories for most people who have ever lived in Woodstock.

See the original custom art deco fryer imported from Great Britain, hear the history of fish and chips in Woodstock and view the Eric Dwyer original nautical themed paintings gracing the walls for over 50 years. Of course, there will be lots of behind-the-scenes stories about the longest running restaurant in Woodstock.

For guaranteed seating, make a reservation and come for dinner. There is a limit of 50 seats available. Ordering will be off the menu.

Walk-ins at 6:30 are welcome, depending on seating availability.
For dinner reservations starting at 5:00, contact Kathie Richards by email: Kathie@bell.net.



Membership in the OxHS is not required to attend this event

Follow us on  (Oxford Historical Society1897)

info@oxhs.ca www.oxhs.ca 226-242-4774

Dramarama 2024

Dramarama Campers and Counsellors had an absolute blast last month with a total of 43 creative campers joining us throughout the month of July to make and create their own unique plays that were presented to a full audience of family, friends and community members. Thank you to those that came to support and watch their performances.

Our second session campers spent time with Chloe Weir for a vocal workshop and Kristin McNeish for a costuming workshop. Big thanks to them for spending their time and expertise with us. Thanks to the Embro Library for including us in their programming. We were treated with a native gardening workshop by Trash Theatre for our first session and an awesome performance by Doug the Great for our second session. A very big thanks to Bruce MacInnis for the incredibly beneficial musical instruments that he donated to our Dramarama program this year.

We greatly appreciate all the donated Halloween costumes and fun props we continue to receive from parents, friends and community members, they are put to great use! Should you have anything you'd like to donate to our program, have questions about becoming a counsellor, or registration, please email dramarama.thistletheatre@gmail.com

The splash pad made outside time at the park extra fun and refreshing on those really hot days. We are so thankful it's a part of our community.

Want to join in on the fun? Keep an eye out for Camp Registration Date, EARLY in 2025 so you can join us next year!!



Thistle Theatre's Next Production "The Ladies Foursome"

Thistle Theatre's next production will be Norm Foster's "The Ladies Foursome". The day after their friend Catherine's funeral, Margot, Tate, and Connie gather for a round of golf in honor of their recently departed fourth. At the course they are joined by another woman, an old friend of Catherine's they've never met. Over eighteen holes of golf, secrets and confessions unravel as the women discuss love, sex, children, and everything in between.

The play will be co-directed by Doug Turvey and John Hazeleger. The show will run between November 8 and 16, 2024. Our cast is now picked. Interested in joining the production team? Our producer John Turvey is looking for people to join our crew in a variety of roles. He can be contacted through infothistletheatre@gmail.com.

Stay tuned for more information about this production - including ticket information - coming soon! Check our website www.thistle-theatre.com for more details.



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