

June 21, 2023 Blog

At the end of May Zorra hosted Camp Molly. Through a free four-day camp, 30 young women got the chance to learn about a career in fire services. Zorra's Fire Chief Deanna Kirwin explains the camp best: "My passion to support and empower young women became even stronger working in a male-dominated field. If we can provide mentoring opportunities and show women being supported by men and women, I think it's important and helps break down those barriers. Is it my wish for all of these young women to become firefighters? That would be neat but truly I hope they leave here knowing that they can accomplish anything they set their mind to."

The Thamesford Lions hosted the first ever "Welcome to Thamesford" event. This event hosted a space for community groups and agencies from Thamesford, Zorra, and Oxford that are available to residents for help and to volunteer with. I cannot applaud them enough for taking a constructive approach to their community's growth. Our communities are what we make of them. Thanks to the Lions for #doingtheirpart

At the April 19 meeting, Zorra Council decided to "provide notice of intent to declare a block of land from the Embro-Zorra Community Centre property to be surplus to be made available for a potential affordable housing partnership with Oxford County. At the May 17 meeting, Zorra Council decided to defer that decision to June 21 to explore other possible locations and get more information. On June 21, Council deferred the decision again to September 6th to get a more detailed report comparing pros and cons, and financial considerations of three options: originally proposed rec centre property, current Embro Public Works property, and the possibility of a location closer to the centre of Embro.

On June 17, Oxford County Pride hosted Family Day in Woodstock. In my role as Warden, I challenged elected officials in Oxford to attend and make it clear that in Oxford everyone is included to do their part and help us grow stronger together. I'm happy to report that over twenty did attend, including special political guest London Deputy Mayor Shawn Lewis. What a great collection of truly progressive politicians sticking their necks out and attempting to match the leadership of Oxford Pride.

The Provincial government has announced it is expanding strong mayor powers to other municipalities (not yet Zorra or Oxford). I am restating my previous position for clarity: A Mayor should be "strong" because they understand their community, have good ideas, advocate, and execute, not because they have a veto. This proposal goes against the fundamental democratic principles of how councillors do their work and how councils function. In the long run it will discourage good people from running for council. This is the opposite of what is needed.

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