

Zorranow

COMMUNITY EVENTS & SERVICES MAGAZINE

Fall 2023

**Thamesford Trojans
are Division Champs!**
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Thamesford Trojans are Division Champs!
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Message from the Mayor

Zorra has revised its Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan sets broad priorities and long term goals for Council and Staff based on the communities' needs and wants. We heard from you during

the election and public consultation, and Council has incorporated that into the plan. Please check the website to see the newest plan.

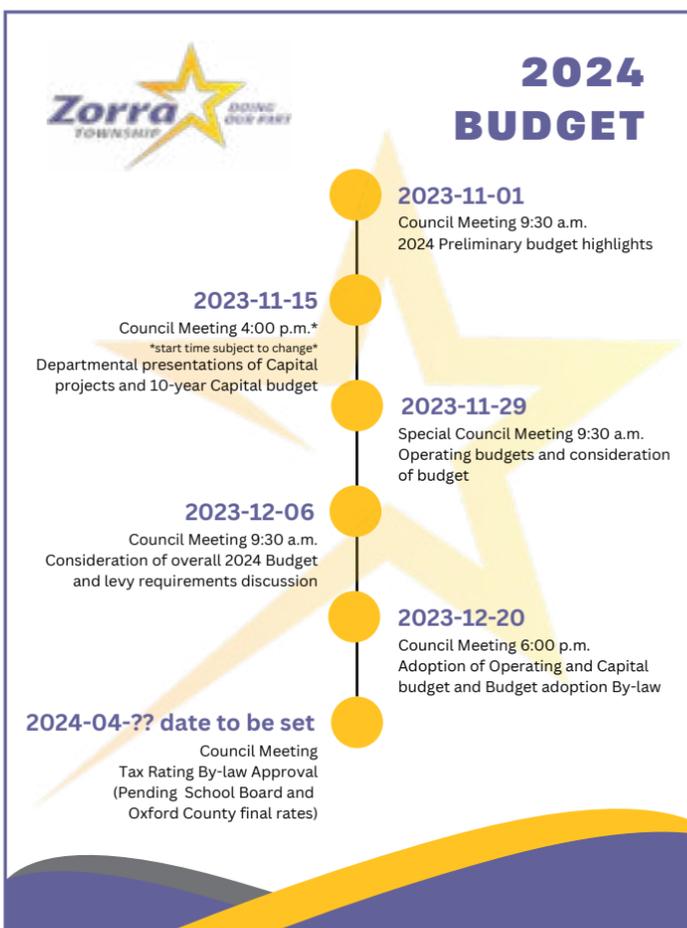
Council will begin the 2024 budget process soon.

Please watch and follow along on social media and with your Councillor or me. The budget will determine which issues in the Strategic Plan we prioritize and how fast we move on them. It will also detail which infrastructure projects like recreation and roads are planned for 2024 and beyond.

Check in on the website, follow the Township on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, phone or email Staff or Council: we want to hear from you.

Join us and add to your community by doing your part!

Marcus Ryan
Mayor - Zorra Township, Warden - Oxford County



"Zorra Now" Magazine is published quarterly by the Township of Zorra. Circulation is 4000 and is delivered to the residents and businesses of Zorra Township. If you have any questions or comments or would like to advertise in the magazine, please contact:

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Ph. 519-485-2490 ext. 7228 Toll Free 1-888-699-3868
kmartin@zorra.ca www.zorra.ca



WHAT IS THE EZCC PAVILION ?

The EZCC Pavilion Project Steering Committee is fundraising to build a permanent, outdoor, low-maintenance pavilion that can be enjoyed by the community year-round!

Located on the grounds of the Embro Zorra Community Centre (EZCC), the pavilion will be equipped with hydro and water and will provide shelter from the elements so outdoor events and activities are more enjoyable for all participants.



40' x 80' Pavilion
Bright with High Ceilings
Low-maintenance

SUITABLE FOR LARGE SCALE
COMMUNITY EVENTS

VOLUNTEER COMMUNITY GROUPS:



WHY IS A PAVILION NEEDED ?

In 2022, the Embro Highland Games and Embro Fair together attracted over 4,500 visitors. Embro Minor Soccer has seen an increase in the number of registrations, with over 250 children participating in the sport last year.

Adding a pavilion to the EZCC grounds will enhance these events and encourage other community groups to host outdoor activities on the site. It will also be available for the community to book for weddings, family reunions or other social gatherings. Having an outdoor, covered space for activities like pickle ball and basketball promotes a healthy community.

MAKE YOUR PAVILION PLEDGE

We have 60% of the project funded so we need YOUR PLEDGES to raise the final 40%. Construction is set to begin Fall 2023!

★ ★ ★
GOLD
\$5000+

★ ★
SILVER
\$2500+

★
BRONZE
\$1000+

THIS EXCITING COMMUNITY PROJECT NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

Anyone who makes a pledge will be contacted in the Fall 2023 with updates! The fundraising committee continues to write grants so the final amount needed from community pledges may change. Pledges that convert into donations will be issued a tax receipt by the Township of Zorra. Donor recognition will be part of the final project plans.

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 Works
519-485-2490 ext. 7227 or
soliver@zorra.ca

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, 274620 27th Line, RR 3, Ingersoll, ON N5C 3J6 – phone 519-485-2490 ext. 7221
- Thamesford Community Centre, 85 Middleton Street, Thamesford, ON NOM 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 3,193 lbs of batteries to Raw Materials Company for Recycling.

R.R. #3 Embro, Ontario N0J 1J0
Bus: (519) 475-4471
Fax: (519) 475-4155
thebakers@happyhills.com
www.happyhills.com

Elaine & John Baker

HAPPY HILLS RESORT

Highland Park Mobile Homes
Travel Trailers ~ Park Models ~ Sun Rooms

Brock & Visser

FUNERAL HOME
Thamesford Chapel Ltd.

*"Every life is worth remembering,
every family deserves our very best"*

Pamela Gerber
Please feel free to contact us 24 hours a day.

177 Dundas St. W., P. O. Box 152 THAMESFORD, ON N0M 2M0
Phone: (519) 285-2427 Fax: (519) 295-0103

Building & Drainage Department

The Building and Drainage Department is responsible for the administration and enforcement of various Provincial legislation, polices and municipal by-laws including:

- The Ontario Building Code Act
- Drainage Act
- Planning Act
- Building Control By-law
- Zoning By-law
- Nutrient Management By-law
- Fencing By-law

The use of building permits allows for municipalities to regulate the types of construction in the community and ensure that proper building standards are met. The enforcement of the Building Code Act serves to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public.

For more information on projects that require a building permit, please visit The Township of Zorra's Building webpage at zorra.ca/building-and-drainage.aspx.

Applying for a Building Permit

To complete a building permit application, please register an account at www.cloudpermit.com. You will complete the application online and be required to upload a site plan, drawings, and designer information to the application. For more information on how to submit an application or if you are unsure if your project requires a building permit, please visit the Building Department webpage or contact us at ext. 7231.

Failure to obtain a Building Permit may result in a penalty of double the permit fee, as per the Township of Zorra's Building By-Law No. 18-19.

Additional Residential Units (ARUs)

ARUs are smaller, self-contained dwelling units (i.e., with their own kitchen, bathroom and sleeping areas) that are inside, attached to, or in a detached accessory building on the same property as a single detached house, semi-detached house or street fronting townhouse. ARUs can take many forms, such as basement apartments, attached suites, tiny homes and coach houses, but they must be smaller than the primary residential unit, within a permanent building (i.e., not a mobile home or recreational vehicle), and connected to municipal water and sewage services, where available.



You can find more information about ARUs on the Township of Zorra and Oxford County websites.

- zorra.ca/en/our-services/building.aspx
- oxfordcounty.ca/en/services-for-you/additional-residential-units.aspx

If you are thinking about building an ARU, early consultation with the Building Department is recommended to help ensure that your project meets all the provisions and requirements.

Sanitary Sewage Systems

The Township Building Department oversees the private sanitary sewage system approvals for Zorra. If you have any questions or concerns regarding these approvals, please contact the Building Department.

Any building or drainage questions should be addressed to

Mike Hughes
Chief Building Official/Drainage Superintendent
519-485-2490 ext. 7224 mhughes@zorra.ca

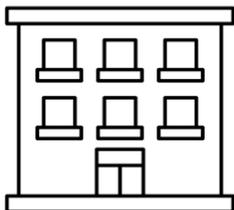


EVERY HOME IN ONTARIO IS REQUIRED BY LAW TO HAVE WORKING SMOKE ALARMS ON EVERY STOREY AND OUTSIDE ALL SLEEPING AREAS. FOR ADDED PROTECTION, INSTALL WORKING SMOKE ALARMS IN EVERY BEDROOM.



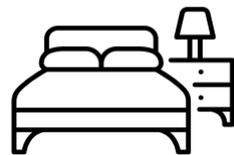
HOMEOWNERS

Homeowners must install and maintain smoke alarms on every storey of their homes and outside all sleeping areas. For added protection, install working smoke alarms in every bedroom.



BUILDING OWNERS

Building owners are responsible for installing and maintaining working smoke alarms in their rental properties. Building owners are required to test smoke alarms in rental units annually and when the battery is replaced, changes are made to the electric circuit, or a change of tenancy occurs.



TENANTS

Tenants are required by law to notify the building owner if the smoke alarm in the rental unit is disconnected, not operating, or the operation is impaired. It is against the law for tenants to remove the batteries or tamper with the alarm.

Zorra Fire & Emergency Services

Township of Zorra Fire Chief Deanna Kirwin
519-485 2490 ext. 7240



SAVED BY THE BEEP



INSTALLING, TESTING, AND MAINTAINING SMOKE ALARMS

- There are many types of smoke alarms. Smoke alarms can be hard wired, battery operated, or both. When replacing a smoke alarm, you must replace it with the same type that was there.
- Because smoke rises, ceilings are the best location to mount your smoke alarms. Avoid placing alarms near bathrooms, heating appliances, windows and ceiling fans. Always follow manufacturer's instructions when installing smoke alarms.
- Test smoke alarms at least every month by pressing the test button and listening for the three-beep alarm.
- Replace smoke alarm batteries at least once a year, and whenever the low-battery warning chirps.
- Smoke alarms don't last forever. Replace smoke alarms according to manufacturer's instructions, usually every 10 years.
- When replacing interconnected smoke alarms, it is advisable to replace all units in the system at the same time. If you need to replace a single malfunctioning alarm, make sure the new alarm is compatible with the existing units. You cannot replace a hard-wired smoke alarm with a battery operated smoke alarm.

MANAGING NUISANCE ALARMS

- If a smoke alarm frequently activates due to cooking or using the shower, do not remove the battery.
- Try moving the smoke alarm, buying a smoke alarm with a hush feature, or replacing alarms located near kitchens with photoelectric types.

WHAT TO DO IN CASE THE SMOKE ALARM SOUNDS

- If your smoke alarm detects smoke, it will sound a loud, three-beep alarm pattern.
- In the event of a fire, you may have less than 60 seconds to safely escape danger. It's important to talk with all family members and guests about a home fire escape plan and practice the plan twice a year.
- If a fire occurs in your home, follow your family's home fire escape plan. Remember to **GET OUT, STAY OUT** and **CALL 911**. Never go back inside a burning home for anything or anyone.

Zorra Fire & Emergency Services

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519-485 2490 ext. 7240



Cooking safety starts with YOU.

Pay attention to fire prevention.™



fpw.org

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FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

OCTOBER 8 - 14, 2023

Cooking fires are the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries. Unattended cooking is the leading cause of cooking fires and deaths. These numbers highlight the importance of this year's Fire Prevention Week theme, "Cooking safety starts with YOU! Pay attention to fire prevention™", which works to better educate the public on how to help prevent fires and burns while cooking.

Turn pot handles towards the back of the stove. Always keep a lid nearby when cooking.



Watch what you heat. Set a timer to remind you that you are cooking.



Have a "kid-free zone" of at least 3 feet (1 meter) around the stove, oven, and other things that can get hot.



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519-485 2490 ext. 7240



Firefighter Recruitment

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING A FIREFIGHTER WITH ZORRA FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES?

Do you live and/or work in Zorra Township and are:

- looking to serve your community
- willing to dedicate the time required to successfully complete a recruit training program
- committed to attending weekly training sessions and able to respond to emergencies when called upon

If you think you have what it takes and would like to contribute to the safety and quality of life in your community, **we want to meet you!**

New Recruits with Zorra Fire, without existing firefighter certification, will be required to attend training within Oxford County. This program will include topics such as medical delegation, auto extrication, hose streams, firefighter survival, plus more, and culminate with a full-scale live burn scenario. Upon completion, firefighters will participate in both practical and written provincial certification exams becoming fully certified as firefighters in addition to their current careers.

APPLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP BY ATTENDING A **ZORRA FIRE OPEN HOUSE**
DATES WILL BE ADVERTISED ON SOCIAL MEDIA



Zorra Fire & Emergency Services

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Get Prepared Back to School

BACK TO SCHOOL SAFETY AND PLANNING FOR EMERGENCIES

REVIEW YOUR PLAN AND CHECK YOUR SUPPLIES

Sit down as a family to talk about different kinds of emergencies and review your family emergency plan. Does everyone know what to do and where you will meet if you are not together when an emergency takes place? Work as a family to prepare an emergency kit if you don't already have one or use the time to check your emergency supplies to make sure you have key items on hand and that the items inside are not expired.



BE AWARE OF SCHOOL EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

Make sure you read information from the school about their plan for emergencies, emergency procedures and alternate locations should an emergency take place. Check that the school has current emergency contact information for your children. This includes work, mobile and home telephone numbers.



DO YOU HAVE AN EMERGENCY PLAN

It will take you about 20 minutes to make a family emergency plan. Work as a family to discuss the following, then record them as part of your plan:

- Safe exits from home and neighbourhood
- Meeting places to reunite with family or roommates
- Designated person to pick up children should you be unavailable
- Contact persons close-by and out-of-town
- Health and insurance information
- Places for your pet to stay
- Risks in your region
- Location of your fire extinguisher, water valve, electrical panel, gas valve and floor drain



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Emergency Checklist for Extreme Weather Events

BEFORE AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT

- Create a family emergency plan. Identify a safe meeting place, and ensure everyone knows where it is.
- Create an emergency contact list.
- Prepare a 72-hour emergency kit in case you can't leave your house. Make sure everyone knows where to find it.
- Check your 72-hour emergency kit every six months to ensure all resources are in good condition and charged.
- Fully charge all mobile phones. Make sure you have a spare battery or portable power source.
- Plug your electronics into a surge protector.

DURING AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT

- Locate your emergency kit. Ensure your flashlights are working.
- Unplug all electronics and appliances at home.
- Turn off all light switches except one (so you know when the power is restored).
- Bring outdoor items, such as patio furniture, inside.
- Check in with members of your household who are not currently home with you.
- Report a power outage to your provider using a mobile phone.
- Avoid opening the fridge and freezer so items inside stay cold.
- Stay inside and away from windows and doors.
- Check the local news for weather updates.

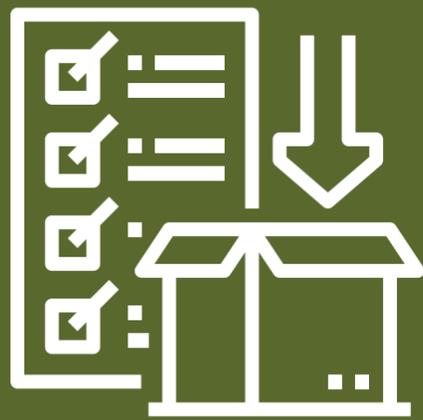
AFTER AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT

- Replenish your emergency kit.
- Inspect your property for any damage and document your findings.
- Check in on your neighbours and friends in your area.

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519-485 2490 ext. 7240





72-Hour Kit Emergency Ready

STORE YOUR KIT IN A SPOT THAT CAN BE GRABBED IN A HURRY

- Important papers-passports, copies of birth certificate, drivers license
- Copy of emergency contact list
- Copy of emergency family plan
- Mobile phone (solar charge or spare battery back)
- Extra keys and cash
- Flashlight, radio, batteries and spares
- Whistle
- Playing cards
- First aid kit
- Medications/prescriptions
- Candles and matches/lighter
- Manual can opener
- Toilet paper, hand sanitizer and personal hygiene items
- Non-perishable food (canned fruit vegetables and meat)
- Bottled water - 6L per person
- Clothing and shoes
- Blankets or sleeping bag
- Necessities for babies and pets



Zorra Fire & Emergency Services

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519-485 2490 ext. 7240



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, 2024 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.

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!

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, 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.

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.



2023 TAX NEWS

Payment due dates:

August 31
October 31

E-BILLING IS NOW AVAILABLE!

Receive your tax bill by email.
Sign up online www.zorra.ca
or email
accountsreceivable@zorrap.ca

Property Tax Billing

The Municipality issues two property tax bills per year that are broken into four tax instalments. Tax bills were mailed out in late July. If you have not received your final tax notice, please contact the office.

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

***** PLEASE KEEP YOUR PROPERTY TAX BILL FOR YOUR RECORDS.*****
There is a \$10 fee to issue a replacement bill (paper or electronic).

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. If you pay by PAP Plan, you still will receive two tax bills. These are statements for your records. You can opt to receive these bills by email or by post.

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.

Mail

If you are mailing a cheque (payable to Township of Zorra) allow sufficient time for delivery.

Visit / Drop-Box at the 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!

For tax inquiries, contact Lynda Thornton, Tax Collector/Deputy Treasurer



lthornton@zorrap.ca



519-485-2490 ext 7222



www.zorrap.ca



2023 TAX NEWS

2023 Tax Rates Approved by By-law 24-23

Tax Class		Total Tax Rate
Residential	RT	0.01167210
Multi-Residential	MT	0.021814210
Commercial Full	CT	0.028088250
Commercial Excess Unit	CU	0.022301770
Commercial Vacant Land	CX	0.022301770
Industrial Full	IT	0.035473730
Industrial Excess Unit	IU	0.026137930
Industrial Vacant Land	IX	0.026137930
Large Industrial	LT	0.035473730
Pipeline	PT	0.021571950
Farmlands	FT	0.002590430
Managed Forest	TT	0.002918020
Commercial - Full PIL	CFN	0.028088250
Commercial - Full PIL	CHN	0.028088250
Industrial PIL	IHN	0.035473730
Industrial PIL	IZN	0.026137930
Residential PIL	RHEP	0.01167210

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 council-approved property tax rate. 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 2023 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.

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 half of your tax bill (49% in 2022) goes to services in the township. The rest of your bill is taxes and fees that we collect on behalf of the County of Oxford and the local school boards.

E-BILLING IS NOW AVAILABLE!

Receive your tax bill by email.
Sign up online www.zorrap.ca
or email
accountsreceivable@zorrap.ca

For tax inquiries, contact Lynda Thornton, Tax Collector/Deputy Treasurer



lthornton@zorrap.ca



519-485-2490 ext 7222



www.zorrap.ca

For tax inquiries, contact Lynda Thornton, Tax Collector/Deputy Treasurer



lthornton@zorrap.ca



519-485-2490 ext 7222



www.zorrap.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.

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:

Lynda Thornton, Tax Collector
519-485-2490 Ext. 7222
lthornton@zorra.ca

ZORRA MUNICIPAL AND CHILDCARE CENTRE

Construction is well underway for the new Zorra Municipal and Childcare Centre located at 163 Brock Street in Thamesford. When complete, this new facility will house all of the administrative staff from the current office located at County Road 119 & 27th Line. The centre will also include an 88-space childcare facility that will be operated by the YMCA. The building is expected to be completed in Spring 2024.



WE'VE MOVED!

Zorra Public Works Staff have moved into the brand new Zorra Maintenance Facility! All staff from Embro and Kintore Shops have relocated to this new state-of-the-art facility located on the same grounds as the existing Kintore Shop at 783036 Road 78. The Township plans to hold an open house at the new facility this fall. Monitor our social media accounts for details!



ZORRA MULTI-USE COURTS COMMITTEE



May 20, 2023 Beach volleyball tournament at the Thamesford District Recreation Centre

The Zorra Multi-Use Committee (ZMCC) has been continuing their work towards bringing multi-use courts to Thamesford! The courts will be used to play basketball, ball hockey, pickleball, and tennis, and will also serve as a new community hub for all Township of Zorra residents to enjoy.

Committee members Andrew Goodwin, Brenda Carnahan, Kate Lockhart, Julie Riley, Rebecca Ruddy, Libby Wilkinson, and Deputy Mayor Katie Grigg are proud to share that they just recently surpassed the halfway mark in their fundraising efforts! Through a series of fundraising events, community member donations, a generous donation from the Thamesford Lions Club of \$50,000, and a commitment from the Township, once the remaining funds have been raised, of almost \$80,000, the committee is well on their way to meeting their goal and getting the courts underway!

While the Committee continues to focus their efforts on raising the remaining funds they need to complete the project, they just recently began the site selection process. The two potential areas under review are the South Lions Park and the field space behind the Thamesford District Recreation Centre. Their preferred location will be determined in the next couple of months.

If you are interested in doing your part to help bring these courts to Zorra, think about trying one of the following:



Participate

Participating in the committee's fundraisers is an excellent opportunity to show your support for the project. Take part in ZMCC initiatives such as the upcoming Family Pickleball Day and other fundraising events.

Connect

Do you know a business that might like to donate? Do you know of available grants or other funding opportunities that may be able to support ZMCC? Let the committee members know!

Donate

Community donations go a long way in helping the Committee reach their goal. If you are able to donate, the form to do so can be emailed or delivered to you from any of the committee members or from the Zorra Township Office

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

Pickleball popularity continues to rise in Zorra! Drop-in & learn what it's all about!

Pickleball

All abilities and experience welcome!
Equipment is available to use!

THAMESFORD DISTRICT RECREATION CENTRE
 WEDNESDAYS 6:30 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.
 TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS 8:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

EMBRO-ZORRA COMMUNITY CENTRE *New!*
 MONDAYS & WEDNESDAYS 9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

September 5, 2023 - June 27, 2024 (excluding statutory holidays)
 \$3.00 per person (includes equipment and instruction)
 *Dates/times subject to change. Visit our website for schedule.

CARPET BOWLING

A variation of lawn bowling, this activity occurs indoors during the winter months. It is low impact and can be played by everyone, regardless of their mobility.

Wednesdays
9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
 \$3.00/player
 October 11, 2023 to May 29, 2024

BOOK WITH US! reception halls

Located at the Thamesford District Recreation Centre or the Embro Zorra Community Centre, our large halls can hold up to 300 people and are the ideal locations for your wedding reception, stag and doe or family reunion! Equipped with a full size commercial kitchen, tables, chairs, a PA system and a generous amount of tableware are just a few of the many amenities that we offer.

For smaller events, the Beaty Room in Thamesford and the Small Hall in the Embro Zorra Community Centre are ideal locations for a variety of events, such as business meetings and bridal showers! With a capacity of



PICKLEBALL
NOW IN EMBRO!

Mondays & Wednesdays (excl. stat holidays)
 9:00 a.m. to Noon in the Large Hall at
 Embro-Zorra Community Centre

\$3.00/person Equipment and instruction provided.

www.zorra.ca

up to 80 people, these halls also include tables, chairs, and access to a well stocked and inspected kitchen.

Consider renting at some of Zorra's historical locations for your special event. The Embro Town Hall or the Harrington Community Centre facilities boast a rich heritage and a unique setting for your event. With capacities between 50 – 100 and many of the amenities you can enjoy at our other facilities, these beautiful spaces will provide an experience you can't find anywhere else!

For more info & to book these rooms & all other recreation spaces, please email us at booking@zorra.ca or call 519-485-2490 ext. 7223

Rental room rates can also be found online at www.zorra.ca

2023-2024 Winter Skating Calendar

Embro-Zorra Community Centre	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Shinny 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.			Adult Skate 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.				
Public Skating 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.			Parent & Tot 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.				

Thamesford District Recreation Centre	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Public Skating 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.				Shinny 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.	Adult Skate 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.		
					Parent & Tot 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.		

October 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024, excluding statutory holidays

SENIOR OF THE YEAR - TONY REDIX



Council was honoured to present Tony Redix with the 2023 Senior of the Year Award! Tony gives back to his community on a daily basis. You probably recognize him from the Lions Catch the Ace fundraiser where he energizes and excites the community with his fun videos each week. Tony has been a member of the Thamesford Lions Club since 2006, and is a Past President of the Club. Along with the Lions, Tony has also been the President of the Thamesford Trojans Hockey Club for many years. In this role, his valuable leadership and experience has contributed to great success for the Club. Tony is an extremely valuable member of the community!



VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR - JOHN TURVEY

Congratulations to the 2023 Volunteer of the Year Award Winner John Turvey. For a number of years, John has been volunteering with both the Dinner Theatre and Thistle Theatre groups in Embro. He is currently the Thistle Theatre Board President, where he is involved in all the print media announcements and reports, among many other things! Along with the theatre groups, John is also heavily involved with Embro Soccer and is also the Thistle liaison for the new pavilion group. John, thank you for doing your part and making the community a better place!



MULTI-YEAR ACCESSIBILITY PLAN CONSULTATION !

The Township of Zorra's 2023-2027 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan outlines the policies, achievements and actions that the Township of Zorra has put in place to remove barriers and improve opportunities for persons with disabilities. The Plan details the Township's approach to building an inclusive organization for all who live, work, and visit the Township of Zorra. Township staff have completed a draft of the plan, and are now beginning their consultation efforts. The drafted 2023-2027 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan has been posted to the Township website for the public to view, along with a survey where you can submit your suggestions, comments, or concerns.

Please visit the Township's website to view the drafted plan and provide your feedback using the survey.



It's a Girl!

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALCYIA WETTLAUFER AND HANI RHAYEL ON THE SAFE ARRIVAL OF

Leila Michele

APRIL 1, 2023

We look forward to welcoming Alycia back to the Corporate Services Department after her maternity leave.



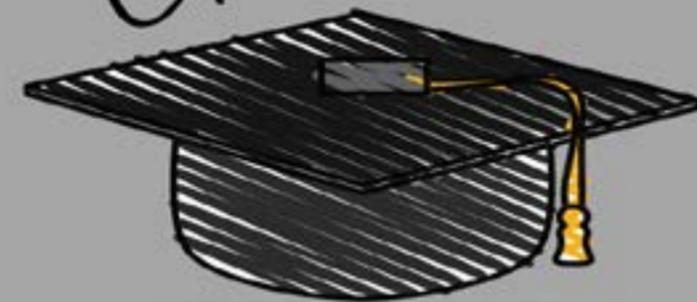
STAY IN THE KNOW WITH ZORRA NOW!

Send us your email address so that we can circulate our electronic publication of the Zorra Now to you to keep you up to date on all that is Zorra!

Email: admin@zorra.ca

Website: www.zorra.ca

Congratulations Graduate!



Congratulations to our Legislative Coordinator/Deputy Clerk Maggie McLaughlin on her recent graduation from the University of Western Ontario.

Maggie has successfully completed the Bachelor of Management and Organizational Studies program with top marks in her class!

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.

Sept 6 at 9:30am
Sept 20 at 6:00pm
Oct 4 at 9:30am
Oct 18 at 6:00pm
Nov 1 at 9:30am
Nov 15 at 6:00pm
Dec 6 at 9:30am
Dec 20 at 6:00pm

Employees

Building/Drainage Department

Chief Building Official/ Drainage Superintendent - Mike Hughes
Phone: 519-485-2490 Ext. 7224
Email: mhughes@zorra.ca

Deputy Chief Building Official/ Building Inspector - Mathew Paul
Phone: 519-485-2490 ext 7230
Email: mpaul@zorra.ca

Building Services Coordinator
Nicole van Breda
Phone: 519-485-2490 ext 7231
Email: nvanbreda@zorra.ca

Corporate Services
Chief Administrative Officer - Don MacLeod
Phone: 519-485-2490 Ext. 7226
Email: dmacleod@zorra.ca

Director of Corporate Services/Clerk
Karen Martin
Phone: 519-485-2490 ext. 7228
Email: kmartin@zorra.ca

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

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

Records Management Coordinator/ Executive Assistant - Lisa Teeple
Phone: 519-485-2490 Ext. 7229
Email: lteeple@zorra.ca

Legislative Coordinator/Deputy Clerk
Maggie McLaughlin
Email: mmclaughlin@zorra.ca
Phone: 519-485-2490 ext. 7250

Finance Department

Director of Finance - Diane Larder
Phone: 519-485-2490 Ext. 7225
Email: dlarder@zorra.ca

Tax Collector/Deputy Treasurer - Lynda Thornton
Phone: 519-485-2490 Ext. 7222
Email: lthornton@zorra.ca

Financial Services Clerk - Pauline Todd
Phone: 519-485-2490 Ext. 7237
Email: ptodd@zorra.ca

Public Works Department

Director of Public Works - Steve Oliver
Phone: 519-485-2490 Ext. 7227
Email: soliver@zorra.ca

Zorra Maintenance Facility - Foreman - Derek Collins
Phone: 519-485-2490 Ext. 7260
Email: dcollins@zorra.ca

Foreman - Scott Simmons
Phone: 519-485-2490 Ext. 7265
Email: ssimmons@zorra.ca

Protective Services

Fire Chief/CEMC - Deanna Kirwin
Phone: 519-485-2490 ext. 7240
Email: dkirwin@zorra.ca

Fire Prevention Officer - Geoff Hayman
Phone: 519-536-5428
Email: ghayman@ezt.ca

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

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

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

Recreation Department

Director of Recreation and Facilities
Vacant Position

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

Recreation and Facilities Program Coordinator
Vacant Position

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: tdrc@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.pjhl.hockeytech.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

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

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

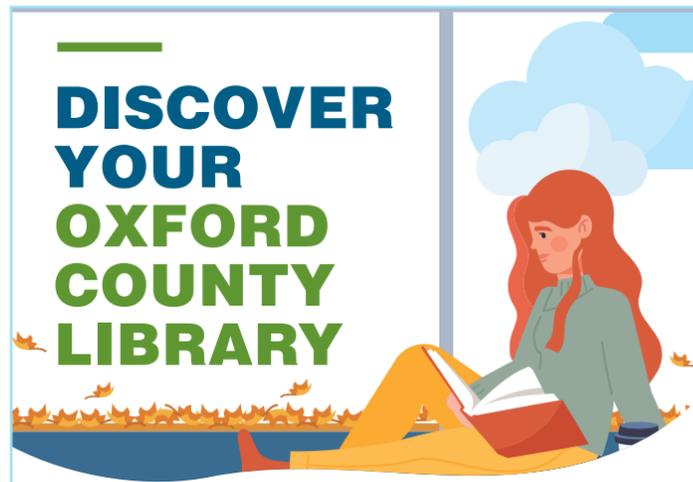
Keep up to date on news and events in Zorra Township www.zorra.ca





5 Ways to 'Fall' in Love with Zorra this Season

- Take advantage of bounty of the season by exploring Oxford Fresh farms, food and local fare. http://tourismoxford.ca/things_to_do/culinary_and_farms/farm_fresh.aspx/
- Take in the Fall colours on bike or at Wildwood http://tourismoxford.ca/things_to_do/outdoors.aspx/
- Discover local theatre at the Thistle Theatre and other Oxford County Theatres some Kintore Coffee http://tourismoxford.ca/plan_your_trip/arts_and_culture/live_entertainment.aspx/
- Cozy up with at the café or pick up some beans and other local goodies to make part of your fall routine.
- Check out local pumpkin patches, haunts and spooktacular events for Fall http://tourismoxford.ca/events_and_experiences/festivals_and_events.aspx/



DISCOVER YOUR OXFORD COUNTY LIBRARY



Oxford Reads: This year's book is *The Maid* by Nita Prose. The author will join us for our in-person Oxford Reads Gala at Theatre Woodstock on Friday, November 3.

Stay tuned to www.oxfordreads.ca for gala details as well as a full list of programs including an Oxford Reads Paint Night at the Harrington Branch on Wednesday, October 18 at 6:30 p.m. Adult program and space is limited. Please register.



Brainfuse is an online homework help resource for students in grades K-12. Offering help with math, reading, science, social studies, history, geography and language arts, the resource uses professional tutors who communicate with students using an interactive whiteboard

to write, draw, and copy/paste text or images relating to homework problems. Access this resource with your library card number and PIN.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Say it with Flowers

Make a decorative item using a flower pounding technique

When: Thursday, September 21 at 6:30 p.m.

Where: Harrington Branch

Adult program and space is limited. Please register.

Cooking demonstration with Chef Jed Lau

When: Tuesday, October 3 at 6:00 p.m.

Where: Thamesford Branch

Adult program and space is limited. Please register.

Do you need a library card? Send an email with your name, address (including postal code), phone number, and birth date to myaccount@ocl.net.

For up-to-date library information and hours, call your local branch or visit www.ocl.net.



The Township's Cultural Mapping Taskforce (CMTF) has been hard at work!

This Taskforce was set up by Council to create an interactive map of all Zorra's cultural assets. Once completed, residents and visitors will be able to reference it and get the location and information behind Zorra's cultural and historical resources, sites, and assets in the Township.

The Taskforce is currently in the process of collecting and compiling the information that will be used to create the interactive map. Their current focus is on churches, festivals, and events. Let them know if you come across any information that could be useful!

If you have an idea, suggestion, or would like to help with information gathering for the project, please contact the Township or attend an upcoming Taskforce meeting. Keep an eye on the Township website for more information on when and where the next meeting will be!

Additionally, any arts and culture providers or creators who would like to be included in the inventory are also encouraged to contact the Township. For all inquiries or suggestions, please contact the Deputy Clerk, Maggie McLaughlin at mmclaughlin@zorra.ca or call 519-485-2490 ext. 7250.



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WWW.QUADRO.NET



Oxford Historical Society Events

Saturday, September 23, 2023

Oxford Historical Society's 125th Anniversary Celebration!

The Oxford Historical Society is hosting a dinner to celebrate the 125th Anniversary of our founding in 1897!

Saturday, September 23, 2023

Salvation Army Family Church

769 Juliana Dr. Woodstock ON N4V 1E9
5:30 Reception; 6:00 Dinner; Program to follow

Tickets: \$30 per person with choice of beef or chicken dinner

Tickets must be purchased in advanced and will go on sale on Monday, August 21, 2023. They can be purchased online by e-transfer purchases@oxhs.ca, or by PayPal, or by cash at the Woodstock Museum NHS. To purchase online complete this form: OxHS 125th Anniversary Dinner!

Last Day to Purchase Tickets:

Saturday, September 16, 2023

For more information please email us at info@oxhs.ca or leave a message at (226) 242-4774.

Feel free to post/share this 125th Anniversary Poster!

Wednesday, October 25, 2023:

Presentation from the Canadian Warplane Museum

Information about this event will be posted as it becomes available.

Saturday, November 25, 2023

Spirit of Christmas Tour of Homes

Information about this event will be posted as it becomes available.

Wednesday, November 29, 2023

Museum and OxHS Thank You Event!

Information about this event will be posted as it becomes available.

All of the Society's events are free and open to the public, Society membership is not required. Our website is www.oxhs.ca; we can be reached by email at info@oxhs.ca or by phone at 226-242-4774.

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519 535 8254

AAATaxiCabServices@gmail.com

Mark Pollard

15 Thames St. S, Ingersoll, N5C 2S8

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Zorra

now

COMMUNITY EVENTS & SERVICES MAGAZINE

ADVERTISING RATES

	Size	Rate (HST included)	
Business Card	3.5 x 2.25 inches	\$96.05	For further information and to book your space please email: zorraadvertising@rogers.com
¼ Page	3.5 x 4.75 inches	\$169.50	
½ Page Vertical	3.5 x 9.5 inches	\$282.50	
½ Page Horizontal	3.5 x 4.75 inches	\$282.50	
Full Page	6.875 x 9.5 inches	\$536.75	

Zorra

now

COMMUNITY EVENTS & SERVICES MAGAZINE



Thamesford Lions Club

Thamesford Lions Community Events

Fall Edition!

"Catch The Ace" Progressive Raffle

Weekly Prize Draws, 8PM Tuesday nights
streamed LIVE on "THAMESFORD LIONS" Facebook

Tickets (\$5) can be purchased in Thamesford from:
Dewy's Auto, Village Catering & Deli, Brunny's Sport Bar & Grill, JC Graphics, Mc Farlan Rowlands Insurance, Shell Gas Station

Tickets (\$5) can be purchased in Embro from:
Highland Restaurant
Contact: Lion Tony, 519-285-3618

Canada Outdoor Farm Show - Food Booth

Tuesday Sept 12 to Thursday Sept 14, 2023
Woodstock

Christmas Caroling Showcase

Saturday Dec 2, 2023, 6:30PM
Thamesford Recreation Centre
Contact: Lion Jim email: jrkeron5461@rogers.com

Thamesford Arena Canteen

Serving during all Thamesford Trojan Home Games

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



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519-679-5440 • 1-888-734-8888
www.mcfarlanrowlands.com

RETIREMENT

Let the fun begin!

Congratulations to John Dunlop who has announced his retirement after 43 years of service to Zorra Public Works.

John's hard work and attention to detail will be missed. We wish him all the best in his retirement!



Crystal Van Roekel
Economic Development Officer
crystal@ruraloxford.ca
519-639-0724

Rural Oxford
Economic Development



Ronda Stewart
Economic Development Director
ronda@ruraloxford.ca
519-619-6895

Supporting BUSINESS GROWTH

We Are Here To Help

Whether you are a start-up or expanding business, we have expertise to help you on your path to success. At no charge to you, we offer a broad range of services and resources to help you grow in Rural Oxford.

We understand that most businesses will only ever deal with zoning bylaws and planning once or twice in the lifetime of their business; we can be a resource and a guide through your relocation or expansion process.

We are responsive with a personal connection because you are important to us.

Economic Development Services

- Confidential site selection
- Assistance with permit and process navigation
- Liaise with all levels of government
- Business expansion support
- Marketing and promotion for your business
- Referrals to professional service providers
- Connection to community partners
- Networking opportunities

ruraloxford.ca



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



Dramarama – Updates from Camp

We had an absolute blast at Dramarama in July 2023, with a total of 43 campers joining us throughout the month to make and create their own unique plays that were presented to a full audience of family, friends and community members. Special thanks go out to Kristin McNeish, Candice Lisk, Josh Issenman and Bruce MacInnis for volunteering your time on such wonderful workshops around Costuming, Sound, Movement and Music for our campers throughout the two-week sessions. The splash pad made outside time at the park extra fun and refreshing on those hot days.

Keep an eye out for next years Camp Registration Date in March 2024!

We're always looking for things to add to the production and costume room for our campers! Clearing out old Halloween costumes? Extra fabric, beads, thingamabobs you have no use for? We'll take them off your hands! Email dramarama.thistletheatre@gmail.com.

Thanks to our artistic team this year: Becky Issenman, Katarina Baasner, Estella, Abby, Morlee and Ben. Your dedication to making camp a fun place to be is immensely appreciated. If you're curious about applying to be a camp leader, send us a message using the email listed above telling us why you'd be a great fit.

Thistle Theatre's Next Production "The Last Resort" – November 2023

Join us in Embro at the little theatre with a big heart as we bring our next production to the stage – the musical "The Last Resort"! This murder mystery by Norman Foster follows a restaurant owner on the run from the mob and all of the other guests in Saskatchewan's Last Resort. This offbeat comedy pokes fun at everything, including itself. The play will be co-directed by Doug Turvey and John Hazeleger. Our producer is Candice Lisk. The show will run between November 17 and 26, 2023. Our cast is now picked and busy practicing music. Keep an eye out in early fall for when tickets go on sale and join us in Embro at Thistle Theatre! Check our website <http://www.thistle-theatre.com/> or Facebook for more information.

Volunteer Night

Are you a creative person looking for new challenges or looking to dust off some skills you have not used in a while? Are you looking to volunteer your time and give to your community? Are you looking for a way to get back into working on shows and productions in theatre? Well... do we have great news for you! Thistle Theatre is hosting a volunteer night on September 6th at 7:30PM to help fill the volunteer positions for our upcoming performance "The Last Resort". We are currently looking for volunteers to fill multiple positions including Set, Costumes, Props, and all jobs backstage.

Come and join us at 135 Huron St, Embro (@ the Olde Embro Town Hall) to learn more and see which job may be right for you! Any questions please reach out to our producer Candice Lisk at candice.lisk@gmail.com.

Thistle Theatre's Production "Miss Supertest: The Bob Hayward Story" – March 2024

Interested in local history and stories? Plan to come and see this play in March 2024, (or better yet – join us as a participant in the production).

Bob Hayward was a chicken farmer, from south of Embro. Neighbours still talk about the noisy go-karts racing up the road. Bob, a mechanic turned race boat driver, won the coveted Harmsworth Cup as pilot of Miss Supertest III. Bob, an interesting character with a story to tell, also played in a band with connections to Guy Lombardo.

Come learn more about this local legend. The show will be held at Thistle Theatre, Embro in late March 2024.

Auditions are Oct 28, 2023.

We also need volunteers to help with staging the play. Contact Don or Sue Hilborn at 519 537 3756 or hilborndonald@gmail.com.

Stay tuned to our website <http://www.thistle-theatre.com/> or Facebook for more information.

TROJANS NEWS



Thamesford Trojans Jr. C Hockey Club

Hello out there! The Trojans are getting set for another exciting season of PJHL hockey. The team is almost assembled for the upcoming season with at least four new players. Our 2022-2023 team was very successful winning our division but unable to advance in our conference.

We are one of 62 teams that make up the PJHL. The PJHL is the Provincial Junior Hockey League and is the largest league in North America. It has 8 divisions and 4 conferences. The four conferences are North, South, East and West.

The Trojans are part of the West conference and are in the Yeck division. The Yeck division is made up of 9 teams: Exeter Hawks (1961); Lucan Irish (1968); Port Stanley Sailors (1969); Mount Brydges Bulldogs (1975); Thamesford Trojans (1976); Petrolia Flyers (1988); North Middlesex (Parkhill) Stars (1993); Aylmer Spitfires (1994); Dorchester Dolphins (2012).

The crowning victory is winning the Clarence Schmalz cup at the end of the season. This past season the Schmalz Cup tournament was held in Woodstock and was won by the Wellesley Applejacks.



Over the past seven seasons the teams within our division have proven to be very competitive. On any given night every team must bring its "A" game. This makes for exciting hockey action. Last season the fans witnessed a number of upsets; points don't always decide the game.

Judging from the increase in the number of fans in the stands I would have to say that the Trojans have GREAT FAN support. Viewing the Trojans program demonstrates to the team that they have SUPER SPONSORS. Without you, the fans and the sponsors, the Trojans would have a very difficult time competing. We thank all of you for your support.

Mark it on your calendar: Our first home game is Friday September 15th at 7:30pm. I hope to see you there.

Tony Redix, President



Beachville District Museum: Fall Fun and Summer Recap

The museum is pleased to congratulate Curator Stephanie Radu and family on the birth of their healthy baby boy this July! While she is on maternity leave, Sidney Hicks has stepped in as Curator and Monica Van Ittersum as Curatorial Assistant. Be sure to stop by the museum to greet them the next time you're in Beachville. We'd like to thank summer staff members Josie and Sarah for their wonderful work with the Summer Camp Program and museum collection, respectively. Their positions were funded in part by the Young Canada Works and Canada Summer Jobs grant programs. Groundskeeper Jeff has returned for another season and continues to work with the property committee to keep the grounds looking their best. Thanks to all for your dedication!

Renovation of the museum barns continued this summer with the laying of a new floor in Barn #2 as part of the

museum's ongoing ICIP (Investing in Canadian Infrastructure Program) grant-funded project. Concrete was provided by Stubbe's and the work completed by Crestwood Concrete Inc. Installation of 2 new accessible entries was made possible through support from the Township of Southwest Oxford. Thank you to our partners for making these projects possible!

The Beachville District Historical Society's Annual Beef BBQ took place on August 11th and had a wonderful turnout. Thanks to all of our community members, volunteers, and staff for their continued support of this event. Special thanks to our food suppliers Lansdell Meats, Miss Ingersoll, Streef Produce Ltd. and the Mt. Elgin United Church for their contributions to the delicious meal. We'll see you next year!

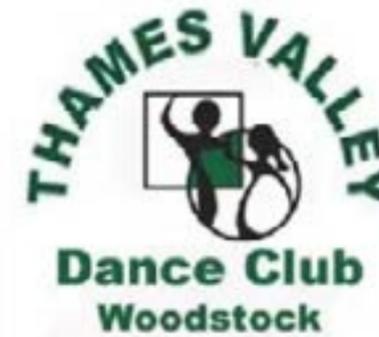
Committee, in partnership with the Oxford County Archives, at the Beachville District Museum on Saturday, October 21st from 10am-2pm for their first Digitization Day. Community members are invited to bring up to 3 items to be digitized and returned to them along with copies of the digital files. Copies of the files will also be retained by the Oxford County Archives and Beachville District Museum as reference material.

Digitization of local, historical materials will help to ensure that important pieces of our local heritage are preserved for future research and the enjoyment of the next generations. Advance registration is required by Friday, October 13th and can be completed at beachvilledistrictmuseum.com or by calling the museum at (519) 423-6497. *Some restrictions apply, please visit the museum's website to learn more.

Light Up the Museum

The annual Light Up the Museum event will take place on December 1 this year. This event is free to attend and all are welcome. Join us at the museum for a night of holiday festivities and snacks as we light up the lights on the grounds. If you're interested in being a part of this event and supporting the museum, please visit our website to learn about sponsorship opportunities or call the museum at (519) 423-6497 to learn more. Thank you for your continued support!

As the summer season winds down and we head into fall, we invite you to join us for a tour of the museum during regular hours Tuesday-Saturday 10am-4pm. We look forward to seeing you soon!



Do you want to make new friends? Do you want to try something new? Would some light exercise benefit you? Are you looking for something fun to do but you're on a budget?

If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, Modern Square Dancing is for you! We are Thames Valley Dance Club and we dance on Monday evenings at College Ave United Church, Woodstock (corner of Peel and Wilson streets), from 7:00-9:30pm. The first night of our new dance season will be Sept 11, and we would love to welcome you to our group! No experience is necessary and no partner is needed to join. Casual attire and comfortable shoes are recommended. Come and try it - the first night is free! After that, the cost is a mere \$7.50/person/night. To pre-register, call Doug at 519-537-9037 or Lois at 519-535-2884.

Looking for something FUN to do?

Square Dancing allows you to:

- Laugh
- Keep fit (easy as walking)
- Feel good
- Enjoy a great social activity
- Meet new friends
- Relieve stress

WE WANT YOU!!

Introduction to Modern Square Dancing



- NO experience required
- First evening FREE!!
- \$7.50/person/night
- Professional caller/Instructor
- Casual attire



**Monday Evenings, 7:00-9:30pm
Beginning September 11/23**

**College Avenue United Church
Corner of Peel and Wilson Streets**

To pre-register, call Doug 519-537-9037 or Lois 519-535-2884
Thames Valley Dance Club



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COMMUNITIES BUILDING
Youth Futures
OXFORD COUNTY

Are you a youth (aged 15-30) interested in creating community change for yourself and other youth in Oxford County? Do you want to be a leader in your community? If you have at least 3 hours a month you can spare, you may be just the youth innovator we're looking for!

We are seeking diverse youth from Oxford County to be volunteer Youth Innovators guiding the Communities Building Youth Futures (CBYF) initiative. Our main goals are to increase high school graduation rates and improve youth outcomes in Oxford County. We focus on areas related to mental health, youth inclusion, youth employment and futures, accessibility of information, and rural challenges.

As a youth innovator, you would attend meetings twice a month, usually during after-school hours. Your role would be to collaborate with other youth, and representatives from local organizations to identify the needs of youth in our community and create and implement projects that will address these recognized needs and gaps. You will receive a \$20 gift card for every meeting attended, as well as volunteer hours for your time. Transportation can be provided to meetings if needed.

Our vision is that all youth in Oxford County will feel a sense of belonging in our community and hope for their future. The first steps in doing so are to ensure youth are at the center of all of our efforts. If interested, please email nethnie.nandadasa@spxoxford.ca or call/text 226-503-4083.

To learn more, head to our website www.oxfordyouth.ca



Like to sing?

Why not join the Ingersoll Choral Society?

Rehearsals begin Sept. 11, 7pm at Ingersoll Christian Reformed Church.

Try us for 3 weeks with no commitment necessary.

Email holly.langohr@gmail.com for more info.

BLUE RODEO Tribute

featuring Diamond Mine

Will be at Harrington Hall, 539 Victoria Street, Harrington

Saturday October 28, 2023 at 8:00 PM

(Doors open 7:30 PM)

Cash bar Light Lunch

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