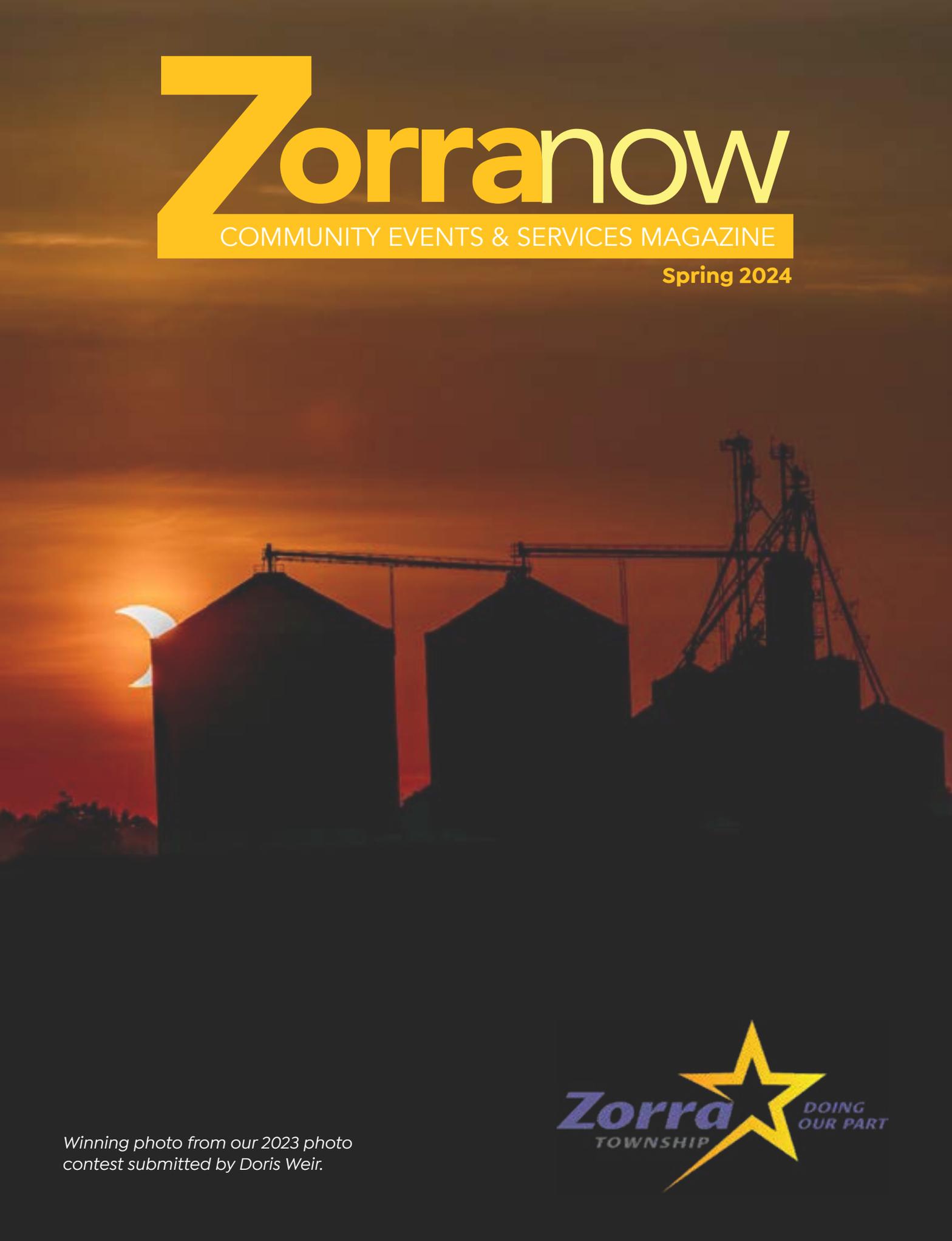


Zorranow

COMMUNITY EVENTS & SERVICES MAGAZINE

Spring 2024



Winning photo from our 2023 photo contest submitted by Doris Weir.



In this issue...

- 2 Message from the Mayor
- 4 Township Department Information
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Message from the Mayor

The new Zorra Municipal Centre is opening this spring!

The new office will accommodate staff, comply with accessibility laws, reduce energy consumption and costs, and provide an 88 space licensed childcare to support local families and businesses. Please watch for an open house and drop in and say hi!

There are also some big changes to the staff leadership at Zorra Township.

While sad to see long time Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Don MacLeod retire later in 2024 (more on that as the day approaches...), I am very happy to announce that the current Director of Finance, Diane Larder, has been selected as the Township's new CAO. Given the chance to go through a recruitment process or promote Diane, in the end, it was clear that Diane was the best decision for Zorra. Since joining Zorra Township in 2021, Diane has shown commitment and a strong focus on inspiring service excellence, innovation, collaboration, and workplace cultural development.

Additionally, there is an organizational restructuring. The Township of Zorra will see

the number of municipal departments reduced from six to two. This is a proactive step to prepare Zorra for the challenges facing municipal government as fiscal pressures mount on local governments. We are continuing to deliver services while finding efficiencies and opportunities in how we manage new roles and responsibilities. We're respecting the hard-earned dollars of our residents by streamlining operations and setting ourselves up to foster a collaborative and positive open-for-business approach. Under the organizational restructuring, Public Works and Recreation will now fall under the Public Services Department. The Corporate and Protective Services Department will encompass Building/Drainage/By-law Enforcement, Fire & Emergency Services, Finance and Legislative Services. And there are many new faces in the organization from Fire, to Recreation, to Public Works. There is an exciting new team developing to deliver the services Zorra residents depend on. See the website for the full press release.

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

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

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 Services/Clerk*
Township of Zorra
274620 27th Line, P.O. Box 306
Ingersoll, ON N5C 3K5
Ph. 519-485-2490 ext. 7228 Toll Free 1-888-699-3868
kmartin@zorra.ca www.zorra.ca

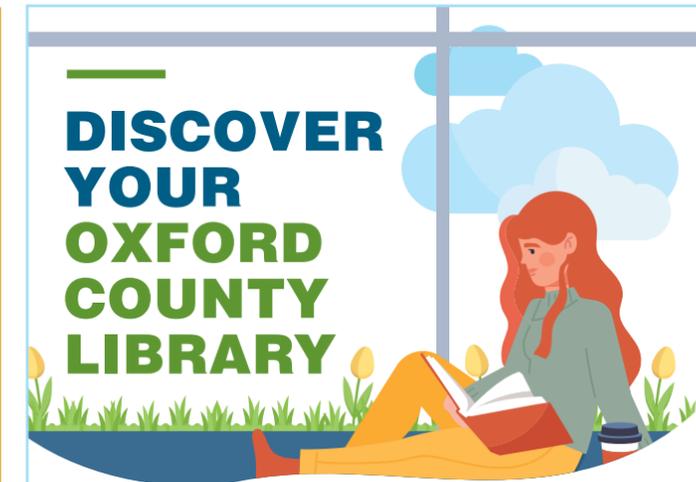
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If you would like to receive future issues of Zorra Now by email, send an email to admin@zorra.ca to get added to our list!

Hard copies will also be available at our local libraries and arenas.



Rural Engagement Survey: Help shape the future of Oxford County Library's rural branches by completing our Rural Community Engagement Survey! Your answers will help us understand how well the library is doing and what we can do to make it even better for you. By taking part, you'll have a chance to win one of five \$40 gift cards to a local shop or restaurant of your choice!

This survey is for users of our rural library branches only including Brownsville, Burgessville, Embro, Harrington, Innerkip, Mount Elgin, Norwich, Otterville, Plattsville, Princeton, Tavistock and Thamesford. To complete the survey, scan the QR code or visit www.speakup.oxfordcounty.ca/rural-branches.



Oxford Reads: Our 2024 Shortlist titles will soon be announced! Stay tuned to www.oxfordreads.ca for this year's shortlist and details on how you can vote for our 2024 Oxford Read.

New multi-language picture book collection: We have added over 60 Arabic and Ukrainian language picture books to our collection. You can find all of these titles in our online catalogue and place a hold to pick up at your local branch. This collection was funded by the Peg Caffyn Estate.

Summer Reading Club: Don't forget our Summer Reading Club starts in June. All library branches will feature special performers, crafts, and other activities all summer long.

Kitchen Library: Need a speciality kitchen item to try a new meal? From small appliances to handheld kitchen gadgets, to any kind of cookie cutter you can imagine! Find it in our Kitchen Library collection on our website.

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



connect. discover. share. become.

Public Works Department

Reduced Load Season

A reminder to all drivers of heavy trucks and equipment that the reduced load season takes effect from February 15 to April 30 inclusive each year. In accordance with By-law 21-03, signs will be posted on applicable Township roadways.

Half Load Season Rationale

- Minimize long term damage to infrastructure
- Problems caused when roads are soft and often require major repairs
- Prevent additional damage to culverts and bridges
- Heavy loads do damage to road sub-base that is difficult to detect
- Changes in the size of agricultural equipment i.e. large liquid manure trailers
- Multiple aggregate producers in Township
- Infrastructure repair costs borne directly or indirectly by residents
- All of the above lead to safety issues during Half Load Season.

Any roads questions should be addressed to

Steve Oliver, Director of Public Services 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 four 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 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 3,236 lbs of batteries to Raw Materials Company for Recycling.

Service Awards

Staff got together in Embro this month to celebrate Service Awards for staff achieving 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, and 35 years of service in Zorra! Thanks to Jan-ice's Fine Country Catering for a delicious meal and congratulations to all those who were recognized.



Building Department

Permits

For instructions on how to apply for a building or septic permit, please visit the Building and Drainage section on the Township of Zorra website. Applications should be submitted through www.cloudpermit.com. If you are a first-time user, you will be required to register an account. Please contact Nicole at 519-485-2490 ext. 7231 for any questions related to Cloudpermit.

Did You Know?

Building and septic inspections help ensure that construction meets the requirements of the Building Code, which serves to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public.

Mandatory building inspections are legislatively mandated by the Ontario Building Code, Division C, Subsection 1.3.5.1.

After a building permit or septic permit has been issued and construction has started, Building Officials must inspect the work at various stages during construction. A building or septic permit will clearly outline the required inspections.

- The applicant, owner or authorized agent is responsible to inform the Township when mandatory stages of construction are ready for inspection.
- Failure to complete inspections may result in being ordered to stop work or uncover construction so the inspection(s) can be performed.
- The cost for mandatory inspections is included in the building permit fee.
- Additional inspections can be arranged (an additional fee may apply).
- If construction plans change, revisions are required, or there are deficiencies noted for correction by a Building Official, an inspection must be rebooked and approval must be granted to continue to the next stage of construction.

Closing Permits

Once construction is complete, a final inspection must be completed. This ensures that the permit is closed. Not closing your permit may result in an additional fee.

Booking Inspections

All inspection requests can be booked on Cloudpermit. You will receive a Cloudpermit message confirming the date and approximate time. Alternatively, you can email inspections@zorra.ca or call the office at 519-485-2490 ext. 7231. Please allow at least 24 hours notice.

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. Please contact Mike Hughes, Chief Building Official at ext. 7224.

Drainage

Reminder

Municipal Drains: A municipal drain is a system that moves water from your property and roads.

Municipal storm drains can become clogged with fallen leaves, mulch, grass clippings and other debris. If you notice debris on a storm basin lid, you can clear it off with a rake or contact the Drainage Superintendent at ext. 7224.



Any building or drainage questions should be addressed to

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



Spring and Summer Fire Safety

Road Trip Season



Preventing Car Emergencies

It is a good idea to dress for the weather when travelling by vehicle, even if you do not plan to be outside. Warm or waterproof clothing stored where you cannot reach may not help you when you need them!

Other reminders:

- Service your vehicle regularly
- Never transport liquids or gasses that burn in the passenger compartment
- Plants or grass that touch the under side of a hot vehicle can catch fire. Vehicle fires can spread quickly to nearby plants or objects



Fire Safety on the Road

Do you know what to do if your vehicle is on fire? It can happen unexpectedly.

1. Use your turn signal to show your intention to pull over to a safe place, then get the vehicle to the side of the road if it can be done QUICKLY.
2. Turn the engine off.
3. Get everyone out of the car and stay at least 30 metres (100 feet away). There is no safe place near a burning vehicle.
4. Get away from traffic and CALL 911.

Please contact the Manager of Emergency Services/Fire Chief, Joshua Doyle at 519-485-2490 ext. 7240 or at jdoyle@zorra.ca if you have any questions.



Spring and Summer Fire Safety

Road Trip Season

Safety in Rentals and Hotels

When looking for rentals or hotels for your summer vacation, remember the following:

- Find a place to stay that is protected by smoke alarms AND carbon monoxide (CO) alarms. Many rentals say if they have alarms on their website.
- The safest rentals have working sprinkler systems
- Some fire alarms flash and make noise. If you cannot hear an alarm, ask the rental if the fire alarm has flashing lights.
- Find an escape plan. If you don't see one, ask for it.
- Read the escape plan. It will show you the best way out and if the elevator is safe during a fire. Count the doors between you and the stairs or exit.
- Keep the room key with you. You may have to go back to your room to get away from a fire that blocks the exit.
- If you are stuck in your room, put a wet towel under the door and use a flashlight or wave to signal at the window. If the sleeping room does not have a window or second exit, it is not a safe place to stay.



Looking for a Burn Permit for an Open Air Burn?
Visit zorra.ca for the application form.

Zorra Fire & Emergency Services

Township of Zorra Fire Chief Josh Doyle
519-485 2490 ext. 7240



Spring and Summer Fire Safety

Wildfire Season

Wildfire season doesn't watch the calendar. Yellowknife had a wildfire in the winter and under the snow. Each of us need to do our part to prevent wildfire by staying fire safe indoors and outdoors all the time. Wildfires spread through wooded lands and other plant life. In a rural community like Zorra, these large open areas cause fire to spread FAST.

Check the fire department or google Zorra Fire if you don't know the rules before starting any outdoor fire. Zorra Fire and Emergency Services bans fires when the chance of fire spread is high, and wildfire is predicted to spread so fast that the fire department can't keep up. When conditions are right, wildfires can travel almost as fast as cars on the highway. Even when it is calm, wildfires spread out in all directions quickly, meaning that the fire department must fight them over a very large area, beyond where our trucks and hoses can go.

ALL FIRES START SMALL - please be fire safe.

When fires are permitted:

- closely supervise all fires
- make sure the fire is out before leaving the area
- keep kids and pets away from the fire
- burn only treated dry wood

Check the area around your house for things that will burn, including types of plants that may spread fire quickly. Your property is the last line of defense between your home and a fire.

Zorra Fire & Emergency Services

Township of Zorra Fire Chief Josh Doyle
519-485 2490 ext. 7240



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Zorra Municipal and Child Care Centre

The new Zorra Municipal and Child Care Centre is set to open in late May and will be home to an 88 space child care centre and the administrative offices for Zorra Township. The 19,250 ft² building has a total price tag of \$6,721,441 with an additional \$308,475 for equipment and furniture and \$200,000 has been set aside for future solar panel installation. The project received a \$750,000 grant from the Government of Canada and \$500,000 from the County of Oxford. The Township was able to make a profit of \$3,100,000 on the purchase and sale of the former Maple Leaf Foods property in Thamesford and all the profits have been set aside for the ZMC project. Profits from the sale of the former Thamesford Fire Station (\$350,000) and the Municipal Office (\$1,180,000) have been applied to the project. The remaining balance owing on the project will be self-funded and no outside debt will be required. In keeping with Council's carbon neutral policy, fossil fuels will not heat the building and once the solar component has been installed, it is anticipated the building will generate surplus electricity.



COMING THIS FALL!

OPEN HOUSE

ZORRA MUNICIPAL CENTRE
163 Brock Street
Thamesford

Zorra Township




WE'RE MOVING!!!

Township of Zorra
163 Brock St, PO Box 189
Thamesford, Ontario
NOM 2M0

In May 2024 Township Office Staff will be moving into our new building!

519-485-2490 | www.zorra.ca

Monitor our website and social media pages for updates!



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.

Rules about dogs:

The weather is now changing and dogs are outside for extended periods of time, please be aware of the Animal Control By-law 43-15. The By-law prohibits dogs from running at large. The result of which may be a fine of \$200.00 plus fees. Dogs require a leash at all times when walked. They shall not wander (Running at Large) on public or other private properties. In addition, all excrement shall be picked-up and properly discarded in a garbage bin as outlined in the By-law. Failure to do so could result in a fine of \$125.00.

If you wish to view By-laws they can be found on the website <http://www.zorra.ca/Home/Our-Township/By-Laws-Policies>.

Fireworks

Residents may set off consumer fireworks on their private property 2 days prior to and 2 days following Canada Day, Labour Day, Victoria Day and Diwali as long as they are set off before 11PM, by persons 18 years of age or older. Consumer fireworks are prohibited from being discharged inside of any building, structure, or vehicle. Written approval by the Chief Fire Official is required for discharging fireworks from municipal property including streets, lanes,

squares, parks, etc. Reminder for residents to let their neighbours know when they plan to set off fireworks.

Fireworks may be sold in the Township, 7 days prior to Canada Day, Labour Day, Victoria Day and Diwali, to persons 18 years of age or older, as long as the retailer receives an approved permit from the Township.

Dave Robertson, By-law Enforcement Officer
226-374-6795

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.





Living in a beautiful rural community like Zorra means living in close proximity with wildlife. That's usually something we enjoy, but from time-to-time wildlife can pose concerns.

We've been getting a lot of calls into the office about raccoons lately. Here are a few things to remember:

- If you see a raccoon behaving strangely, do not approach it. Give it ample space, and make sure to keep children and pets well away. The raccoon will most likely move along on its own, given time.
- If you have a raccoon that is hanging around and not moving on from your property, you will need to contact a pest control company to have it removed. The municipality does not remove raccoons (or skunks, etc.) from private property.
- The Humane Society will pick up injured wildlife from private properties and there is no fee for this service.

To help keep your kids and pets safe:

- Don't encourage raccoons to visit your yard. Don't leave any food out, and keep your recycling and waste containers secure until your collection day.
- Talk to your children and tell them not to approach wild animals.
- Walk your dog on a leash, and make sure to check for raccoons before you let your pets outside in your yard.
- As raccoons may carry distemper, make sure that your pets have been vaccinated against the disease.

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.

WILDCAT TRAIL

Work is underway on the Wildcat Trail!

This area is located on the unopened road allowance of Road 66 that runs from 15th Line (Banner Road) east behind Linda Lane. This trail will meet up with the end of Middleton Street in Thamesford and will provide a great area for residents to walk!

This is a joint project between the Recreation and Public Works Departments.

Special thanks to Matt Langford from GreenTec North America for helping us with this great project!




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

Tax Department

The 2nd Instalment of your 2024 Taxes is due May 31, 2024. Final 2024 Tax Bills will be issued and mailed in late June/early July with due dates of August 30 and October 31, 2024.

Payments are not reflected on your account until the funds are received by the municipality so please make your payment early. Penalty/Interest is charged on your account if payment is not received by the municipality by the due date.

PAYMENT OPTIONS:

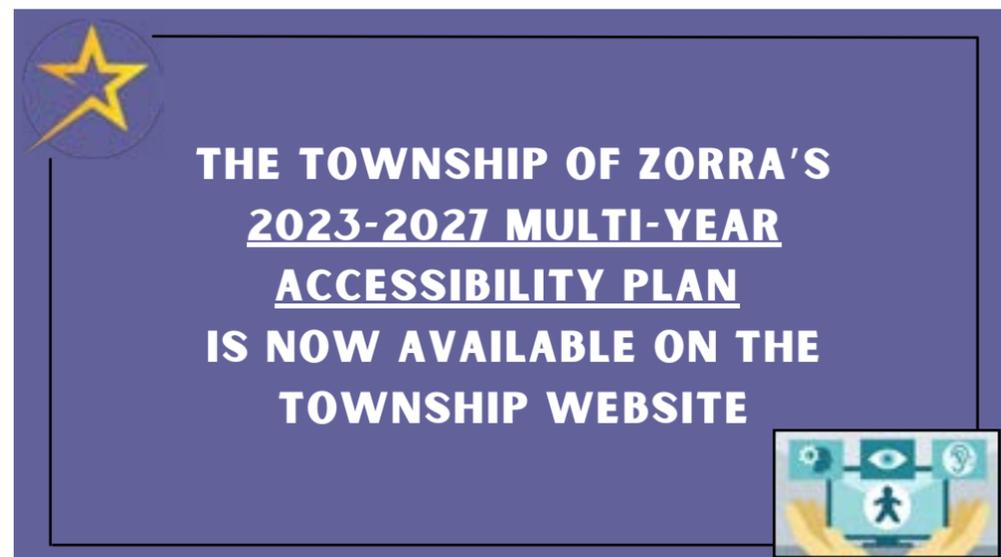
- Cash, Cheque or Debit are all accepted at the office
- By mail - Please allow sufficient time for payment to be delivered to the office. Late delivery will result in penalty/interest being added to the account.
- Online or Telephone banking - to setup your property taxes as a bill payment, go to 'add a bill' and search for "Zorra". Select Zorra Township Tax and enter the Roll Number from your tax bill as your account number.
- Monthly Pre-Authorized Payment Plan, either 10 or 12 month term
- Pre-Authorized Payment Plan on the instalment dates (4 times per year)
- While e-Transfer is available, it is not recommended for tax payments as often roll and/or address information is missing and payments then don't get applied to your account. If you pay using e-Transfer, please make sure to include your Tax Roll No. in the message field for payments. E-transfers are to be sent to accountsreceivable@zorra.ca

Use your 15-digit roll number on your tax bill. For example, if your property roll number was 011- 090-25600-0000, you would enter as 01109025600. If an error occurs, please try again and add the extra four zeros at the end of the number. Please ensure that you allow at least 3 business days before the due date to make sure that the payment reaches our office on time. Receipt of payment after the due date will result in penalty/interest charges being added to the account.

E-billing is available to have your tax bills emailed to you directly, sign up for e-billing from our website at www.zorra.ca/home/our-services/forms under the Finance Department – Property Tax e-billing Sign up.

Please keep your Final 2024 Property Tax Bill for 2024 personal income tax preparation purposes. The Final Tax Bill includes all the information necessary for inclusion on your 2024 personal income tax return. There is a \$10 fee for the provision of a copy of your property tax bill, paper or electronic. There is a \$10 fee for the provision of a Statement of Account.

Kim Grogan, Tax Collector/Deputy Treasurer
519-485-2490 x 7222 kgrogan@zorra.ca



**THE TOWNSHIP OF ZORRA'S
2023-2027 MULTI-YEAR
ACCESSIBILITY PLAN
IS NOW AVAILABLE ON THE
TOWNSHIP WEBSITE**

Zorra Multi-Use Courts Committee



The Zorra Multi-Use Courts Committee is hard at work fundraising the remaining funds needed prior to beginning the construction of the multi-use courts! Read all about their upcoming fundraiser, the Community Pickleball Battle, below!

Zorra Multi Use Courts is hosting a **Community Pickleball Battle on June 1st** at Thamesford District Recreation Centre. At this event, teams representing local businesses, community groups, and our firefighters will get the chance to battle against each other for pickleball glory, all while working together to raise funds (and fun!). Watch for further details on registration and event specifics on the Zorra Multi Use Courts Committee Facebook page.

WANT TO DONATE?
Follow one of the steps below:



1.
Scan the
QR code

2.
Click [HERE](https://app.amilia.com/store/en/zorra/shop/fundraising/1391390)
[https://app.amilia.com/
store/en/zorra/shop/fun
draising/1391390](https://app.amilia.com/store/en/zorra/shop/fundraising/1391390)

3.
Grab a donation
form from one of
the committee
members or
Township Staff.

Recreation Department

July & August

Before care 7:30am-8:30am
Camper drop-off 8:30am-9am
Camp fun 9am-4pm
Camper pick-up 4:00pm-4:30pm
After care 4:30pm-5:30pm

Weekly Rate **\$164**
Daily Rate **\$40**



Thamesford District Recreation Centre



ZORRA Summer CAMP

2 Field Trips!

July 18th **Clovermead**
August 15th **Storybook Gardens**

Swimming Monday, Wednesday & Friday
Pizza Friday



www.zorra.ca
519-485-2490 x 7242
zorracamp@zorrapool.ca

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
 PICKLEBALL SUMMER DROP-IN SCHEDULE \$3/PERSON	9:00AM-12:00PM EZCC	8:00AM-11:00AM TDRC	9:00AM-12:00PM EZCC	8:00AM-11:00AM TDRC
			6:00PM-9:00PM TDRC	6:00PM-9:00PM EZCC

THAMESFORD AREA SWIMMING POOL

204 George St. Thamesford
519-485-2490 x 7285
thamesfordpool@zorrapool.ca

SWIM LESSON REGISTRATION OPENS MAY 1, 2024
WWW.ZORRA.CA

POOL RENTAL AVAILABLE

LESSONS

DAYTIME LESSONS

Monday-Thursday 9:00am-1:00pm
Friday 9:00am-12:00pm
Monday-Friday for 2 weeks
Session 1 - July 1-12
Session 2 - July 15-26
Session 3 - July 29-August 9
Session 4 - August 12-23

EVENING LESSONS

Tuesday or Thursday nights 5:00pm-7:00pm
July 2-August 22

PRIVATE LESSONS

Monday, Wednesday & Friday 5:00pm-6:30pm
Saturday 9:00am-12:00pm
July 1-August 23

CLASSES OFFERED

- PARENT & TOT 1, 2, & 3
- PRESCHOOL 1,2,3,4,5
- SWIMMER 1,2,3,4,5,6
- ROOKIE, RANGER, STAR
- BRONZE STAR, MADALLION, CROSS

FULL CLASS DESCRIPTIONS AVAILABLE ONLINE

RATES

DAYTIME LESSONS (10 CLASSES)	\$56.00/30 MIN
EVENING/WEEKEND (8 CLASSES)	\$65.00/45 MIN
PPRIVATE (30 MIN)	\$46.00/30 MIN
BRONZE STAR	\$55.00/45 MIN
BRONZE MADALLION	\$25.00
BRONZE CROSS	\$80.00
SWIM TEAM	\$150.00
POOL RENTAL (1-HOUR)	\$150.00
	\$85.00
	\$100.00

DROP-IN PROGRAMS

PUBLIC SWIM

Sunday	2:00pm-4:00pm & 6:30-8:00pm
Monday	2:00pm-4:00pm & 6:30-8:00pm
Tuesday	2:00pm-4:00pm
Wednesday	2:00pm-4:00pm & 6:30-8:00pm
Thursday	2:00pm-4:00pm
Friday	2:00pm-4:00pm & 6:30-8:00pm
Saturday	2:00pm-4:00pm

LANE SWIM

Monday	7:30-8:15am
Tuesday	7:45-8:30pm
Wednesday	7:30-8:15am
Thursday	7:45-8:30pm
Friday	7:30-8:15am

AQUAFIT

Monday	8:15-9:00am
Tuesday	7:00-7:45pm
Wednesday	8:15-9:00am
Thursday	7:00-7:45pm
Friday	8:15-9:00am

RATES

INDIVIDUAL	\$3.00
FAMILY	\$8.00
PRE-SCHOOL	FREE
10-SWIM PUNCH CARD	\$25.00
SINGLE SESASON PASS	\$60.00
FAMILY SEASON PASS	\$150.00

SWIM TEAM

Practices Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday
1:00-2:00pm



*SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

TOWNSHIP DEPARTMENT INFORMATION

TOWNSHIP DEPARTMENT INFORMATION

NEVER PAY MORE for bag tags

When purchasing bag tags, remember:

- There is no tax on bag tags
- Bag tags cost \$2/tag, subject to store policy for minimum sales for debit or credit card purchases
- Customers can purchase bag tags in any quantity; vendors cannot limit or set quantities
- Only purchase bag tags from approved vendors



To learn more, visit www.wasteline.ca/bagtags

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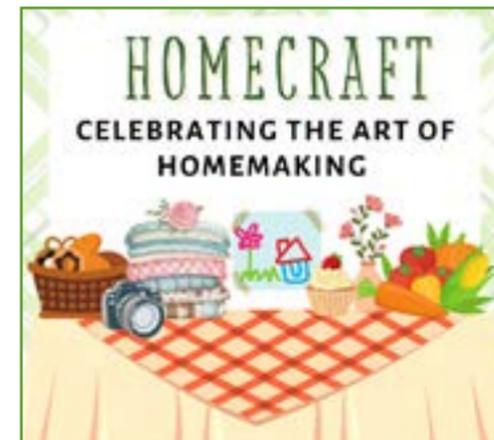
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Office: 285-5069; 663061 Road 66, Ingersoll

EMBRO & ZORRA AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

Buy your Rain Barrel Today!

The Embro and Zorra Agricultural Society is hosting a rain barrel sale. Choose from a selection of rain barrels to best suit your home, farm or business. Purchasing couldn't be easier! Just visit embrofair.com, shop the selection, then choose to either pick up your barrel or have it home delivered. Rain Barrel Pick up date will be May 4th from 9am-12pm downtown Embro. Rain barrels save you money, lessen municipal water usage and provide easy water access for gardens. Grab yours today and be ready for spring gardening!



The EZAS is committed to preserving the ever important skills of homecraft: the art of homemaking. We want to encourage everyone to learn these skills in a way that is fun and social. We plan to host workshops throughout the year that teach skills related to canning, pie making, cake decorating, knitting, quilting etc. These workshops will be casual and welcoming to beginners. Be sure to check out embrofair.com and our social media (facebook and Instagram) for more upcoming workshops.

If you are interested in being a volunteer mentor and teach at one of these workshops, or if you have a skillset that you would like to share, please email embroagsociety@gmail.com.

Join our homecraft committee for the Embro Fair!

If you are looking for a fun and creative way to be involved in a major community event, the Embro Fair, this is an opportunity for you! The homecraft committee meets 4-5 times a year and is responsible for facilitating the homecraft exhibits at the Embro Fair: the competitions of food, vegetables, kids crafts, photography, sewing, quilting and more.

Committee members are responsible for planning out their section throughout the year and being present at the fair for set up and organization of entries. You do not need to be an expert in any subject, everyone is welcome! If you are interested in being a part of this fun group, we would love to have you! Email embroagsociety@gmail.com or check out embrofair.com for more information.



Celebrate Mother's Day early or enjoy a morning out with a friend and join us for a spring sign making workshop with delicious tea and scrumptious baked goods. May 4th 10am -12pm at Knox United Church in support of the EZAS. You can purchase tickets at embrofair.com for \$22.50/person: includes all of the sign making materials along with a delicious selection of tea and baked goods.

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.

May 1, 9:30am
May 15, 6:00pm
June 5, 9:30am
June 19, 6:00pm
*July 3, 9:30am
*August 7, 9:30am
*one meeting in July & August

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 and Protective
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 - Kim Grogan
Phone: 519-485-2490 Ext. 7222
Email: kgrogan@zorra.ca

Financial Services Clerk - Jenna Gallman
Phone: 519-485-2490 Ext. 7237
Email: jgallman@zorra.ca

Public Works Department
Director of Public Services - 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 - Josh McKay
Phone: 519-485-2490 ext. 7265
Email: jmkay@zorra.ca

Protective Services
Manager of Emergency Services/Fire Chief
Josh Doyle
Phone: 519-485-2490 ext. 7240
Email: jdoyle@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
Manager of Recreation and Facilities
Sofia Caldwell
Phone: 519-485-2490 Ext. 7243
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: 519-485-2490 ext 7242
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.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

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

East Nissouri 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 Nissouri Union Church
519-349-2333

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

Like us on Facebook!
Township of Zorra

Find us on Instagram!
ZorraTwp

Follow us on Twitter!
@ZorraTwp



Coming this Summer!

Thanks to generous funding from the community and the Ontario Trillium Foundation, the committee is excited to announce that construction will begin this Spring!

Located on the EZCC grounds, this pavilion will provide space for our community to gather, celebrate and be active.

Thank you to our Volunteer Community Groups for their dedication to this project:



Additional funds are needed to furnish the pavilion and equip it with hydro and water. Be part of this exciting project and receive donor recognition!

★★★★★
GOLD
 \$5000+

★★★
SILVER
 \$2500+

★
BRONZE
 \$1000+

Contact scaldwell@zorra.ca to donate.



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@zorra.ca or 519-485-2490 ext. 7228 to have it appear in an upcoming Zorra Now Edition.



It's been a busy season at the Beachville District Museum. At the start of 2024, the Zorra Heritage Committee enjoyed a Behind-The-Scenes tour with Curator Sidney Williams. The committee received a guided tour of exhibits and learned about collections management initiatives, reference library resources, conservation projects, and upcoming events.

In late January, we launched our new digital exhibition, *Bedrock of Beachville: The History of Our Limestone Quarries*. This project was developed with the support of the Digital Museums Canada investment program. The Digital Museums Canada investment program helps build digital capacity in Canadian museums and heritage organizations and gives Canadians unique access to diverse stories and experiences. *Bedrock of Beachville* traces

Upcoming Events

Vendor Market (Oxford District Women's Institute)
 May 4 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Mother's Day Tea
Afternoon Tea: May 8 at 2:30pm
Mom & Me Tea: May 11 at 11:00am and 2:30pm
 Join the Zorra Heritage Committee at the Beachville District Museum for a series of 3 Mother's Day Tea events. A selection of 3 teas and sweet treats will be served. Attendees will receive a complimentary photo in the museum's Parlour Room from Doris Weir Photography. Advance ticket sales only as space is limited. Tickets: \$25/adult \$10/child (under 12). Tickets available at beachvilledistrictmuseum.com.

W.H. Gregory, East Nissouri: Pioneer, Politician, Prisoner with Jim Verwer
 Tuesday, May 14 at 7pm
 Join us at the museum for a presentation by Jim Verwer, who on "W.H. Gregory, East Nissouri: Pioneer, Politician, Prisoner." Noteworthy for his role as one of the inaugural councillors for East Nissouri Township, Gregory was one of the earliest settlers in the northern part of the township.

The talk will take place in the museum's Program Room at 7 p.m., followed by a question period and light refreshments generously provided by the Historical Society. Admission to this event is free of charge, although donations in support of our programming initiatives are gratefully accepted. No registration is required.

quarry history in Ontario's "Lime Capital." Also in January, we hosted our first-ever PA Day camp, "Beachville Bookworms," in partnership with Oxford County Library's mobile library unit Ox on the Run.

The Historical Society's Speaker Series events have been very well-attended and featured interesting guests including Jean Phelps (Dunelg House), Doug Ferguson (The Bob Hayward Journey), and Elaine Becker (Young Men Farmers).

As the weather warms, we look forward to many upcoming programs and events on the grounds. Visit us at an event or stop by for a tour during regular hours Tuesday-Saturday from 10am-4pm.

May Community Car Show
 May 26 from 12-4 p.m.

It's back! We're kicking off our season of Community Car Shows! The Beachville Legion will be preparing a BBQ lunch; ice cream will be available, and local vendors will be onsite. Come by to take it all in, grab a snack, tour the museum, participate in the 50/50 draw, and bring the kids for a children's hula hoop competition! No pre-registration is required; drivers can register at the main table when they arrive. There is no cost to attend (donations to the Beachville District Museum are welcome.)

Mt. Elgin Community Night
 Mt. Elgin Community Centre - 333204 Plank Line, Mount Elgin
 May 31 from 5-7pm
 Stop by our table to see a selection of models from the Wray Prouse Collection and learn about all of the upcoming activities and events taking place at the museum.

June Community Car Show
 June 23 from 12-4 p.m.
 The Beachville Legion will be preparing a BBQ lunch; ice cream will be available, and local vendors will be onsite. Come by to take it all in, grab a snack, tour the museum, participate in the 50/50 draw, and bring the kids for a children's hula hoop competition! No pre-registration is required; drivers can register at the main table when they arrive. There is no cost to attend (donations to the Beachville District Museum are welcome.)



ISE International Student Exchanges

Zorra teens between 13 and 17 are invited by Oxford County to receive \$1200 in support toward an international exchange with ISE. While in Italy, Spain, Switzerland, Germany or France for 9 weeks of the school year, you will live and observe ideas which you will be anxious to bring home with you (along with a souvenir or two) and see the awe on the faces of those you talk to about your experience. There are a total of 8 bursaries in the 2024 year. Why not follow the example of the pioneers of Zorra, the first students to participate in this bursary program.



ISE carefully matches teens here with partners of the same age and interests, then arranges for them to spend time together in your homes here and their European homes. It's a life-changing experience, with immediate wonderful times and future gains in careers and life. Students and their families should check www.iseontario.on.ca for more information and to begin an application form. Local ISE representative, Bryan Smith, is available to help and to answer questions at bryasmit@oxford.net too.

Summer exchanges are also available. Dublin, Ireland is an added destination for these 3-week reciprocal experiences. Bon voyage!

Signs of spring are in the air in Oxford County. Make the most of the season:

Embrace fresh with farm markets as they open. Explore online at OxfordFresh.ca

Return to the fairways and get back to your golf game, cycle Oxford's peaceful country roads, and spy flowers on our forest trails. Start at tourismoxford.ca/things_to_do/outdoors

Families can get active with a side of learning at museums and farm attractions. Find fun at tourismoxford.ca/trip_ideas/family_fun

Friends and couples can recharge their batteries visiting cheesemakers, restaurants, museums and artisans along the Oxford County Cheese Trail. Plan your route at OxfordCountyCheeseTrail.ca

You don't have to travel far to escape. Find trip ideas at TourismOxford.ca and Embrace our Rural Routes.



Celebrate Harrington Community Auction 2024
hosted by
**Harrington's Knox Presbyterian Church
Harrington & Area Community Assoc.**

ONLINE AUCTION:
OPENS: Wed. May 8th, 2024 at 8am
CLOSES: Tues. May 14th, 2024 at 8pm
(with extended bidding)

www.32auctions.com/Harrington2024

DONATIONS of new, or gently used items, including antiques and collectibles, will be gratefully received at Harrington Hall, 539 Victoria St., Harrington on **Thurs. May 2nd: 5pm to 7pm, and Saturday, May 4th: 10am to Noon.** Please note: we are unable to accept ALL items, due to health concerns &/or lack of interest from buyers

HANGING BASKET SALE: Fri. May 17th and Saturday May 18th at Harrington Hall. Further details to follow.
Plants from Sebringville Garden Centre

Funds raised will be shared between the Church's Missions, and HACA's projects that benefit the Harrington & Area Community

For more information:
Sharon: 519-475-6069 sharons@execulink.com
Philip: 519-475-0484 philipdkerr@gmail.com

Doing some Spring Cleaning?

If you have new, or gently used items including antiques and collectibles, please consider donating them to the

Celebrate Harrington Community Auction
(Auction runs May 8th to 14th)

DONATIONS will be gratefully received at Harrington Hall, 539 Victoria St., Harrington on **Thursday, May 2nd: 5pm to 7pm and Saturday May 4th: 10am to noon**

Please note: we are unable to accept ALL items, due to health concerns &/or lack of interest from buyers

For more information:
Sharon: 519-475-6069 sharons@execulink.com
Philip: 519-475-0484 philipdkerr@gmail.com

Hanging Basket & Planter Sale will be held on **Friday May 17th and Saturday May 18th. Further details to follow.**

Canadian Home Builders' Association



Canadian Home Builders' Association Nation Awards of Housing Excellence

On March 13, 2024, the Canadian Home Builders' Association announced the finalists for the National Awards of Housing Excellence, and Langlois Eco Homes made the cut!

Over 900 entries were submitted from across the country, making each of the 48 categories highly competitive. Entries were judged by nearly 300 volunteer industry experts. They reviewed project descriptions, images, and other supporting information such as floor plans included in the submission packages. Forty-eight awards for excellence in housing will be presented on May 10th in Saint John, New Brunswick during CHBA's Home Building Week in Canada.

Langlois Eco Homes has been nominated in the Best Attached Low - Rise Home over 1800 sq. ft. category. The other finalists are in British Columbia, Alberta, and St. Catharines. The townhomes are called "The Zorra," which is amazing to see our rural township having its name spread far and wide!

For more information visit <https://chba.awardify.io>

UPPER THAMES RIVER

CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Celebrate **Earth Day** by joining a local Thames River cleanup in your area. Visit the Thames River Cleanup website to learn how you can get involved!

Local coordinators and volunteers needed!

<https://thamesrivercleanup.ca/>



EMBRO HIGHLAND GAMES
Join us on **CANADA DAY**
Monday July 1st, 2024
as we celebrate our 85th games!

LIVE MUSIC with the Steel City Rovers & The Paddy Stones
SPECIAL 85th EVENTS
Whisky Tasting (tickets in advance)
Barrel Racing & More....

Check out events & Buy your tickets on line at www.embrohighlandgames.ca



Thamesford Lions Club Thamesford Lions Community Events

"Catch The Ace" Progressive Raffle
Weekly Prize Draws - jackpot grows each week if Ace of Spades is not found
8PM Tuesday evenings streamed LIVE on Facebook at Brunny's Bar and Grill

Tickets can be purchased in Thamesford from:
Dewy's Auto • Village Catering & Deli • JC Graphics
Mc Farlan Rowlands Insurance • Shell Gas Station
Brunny's Bar and Grill

Tickets can be purchased in Embro from:
Highland Restaurant

Contact: Lion Tony, 519-285-3618

Electronic, Metal, Batteries Recycling Day

Saturday April-20-2024
7AM-2PM Thamesford Community Centre Parking Lot
Contact: Lion Jack 519-285-2729

Calithumpian Weekend - Trout Brunch

Sunday May-19-2024
Serving: 11AM-1PM
Thamesford Community Centre
Contact: Lion Jack 519-285-2729

Retro Rides & Community Vibes

Saturday June-15-2024
12PM-4PM Thamesford Lions South Park
Fundraising event for the Zorra Multi-Use Courts Project
Contact: Lion Rebecca
email: beckiehag@gmail.com

Watch For The Latest Updates For These Events on the "Thamesford Lions" Facebook page!



You're invited.

Oxford Rural Entrepreneurs Networking Events



ruraloxford.ca/networking



The 24th Annual



100+ Vendors

Wiener Races

Free Lure Course

Nail Clipping

Entry fee by donation

Free parking

WIENERFEST
Wienerfest Festival
 Brought to you by Doggo Den Training
 Sat June 22nd and Sun June 23rd
 9:30am-4:00pm
Woodstock Fairgrounds
875 Nellis St Woodstock ON

(Rain or Shine Event)
 All Dogs Welcome

Costume Contest - Agility Course - Lure Course - Bobbing for Wieners - Yogurt-Licking Contest

Doggo Den Training will have a dog pool for dogs, come try it out.
 Follow us to stay up to date @WienerFestHomeCountyFestival

For more info you can also visit www.wienerfest.ca or email info@wienerfest.ca

We want to thank all of our sponsors for supporting dogs in need!

Major Sponsors



R.R. #3 Embro,
 Ontario NOJ 1J0
 P: (519) 475-4471
 F: (519) 475-4155
www.happyhills.com

Elaine & John Baker

Highland Park Mobile Homes

Travel Trailers • Park Models • Sun Rooms



NEW ADDRESS AS OF
MAY 23, 2024

TOWNSHIP OF ZORRA

Zorra Municipal & Child Care Centre

519-485-2490
admin@zorra.ca
www.zorra.ca
 163 Brock St, PO Box 189
 Thamesford, Ontario N0M 2M0



Oxford 4-H Club

The 4-H Pancake Fundraiser started March 9th, having it weekends in March along with Wednesday of March Break and April 6 & 7. Thank you to everyone who came out to enjoy a pancake meal served up by the 4-H youth. It was great to be able to do the 4-H Pancake Fundraiser again to give 4-H youth the learn to do by doing experience of setting up, making, serving and cleaning up for the opportunity to demonstrate 4-H leadership and community involvement. A huge thank you to Jakeman Maple Products & Jakeman Families for providing the facilities to make the 4-H pancake fundraiser a great success!!



Shonna Ward, Assistant Secretary: Kirsten Dill, Livestock Coordinator: Amy Reinhart, Association Rep: Kirsten Dill, Oxford 4-H Awards Coordinator: Shonna Ward, Dairy Classic Coordinator: Geoff Innes, Beef Royal Coordinators: Terri Muir & Sarah Pletsch, and other Directors: Deb Bailey, Dwight Hargreaves.

The 4-H Ontario youth participant fee is paid online directly with 4-H Ontario. The Oxford County 4-H Association will be subsidizing the provincial youth participant fee by \$25.00 for Oxford 4-H youth members for 2024 with the George Thornton Bequest Funds. Oxford 4-H youth members will pay \$75 to join 4-H in 2024—registration is done on the 4-H Ontario website. Please contact the club volunteer or oxfordcounty4h@gmail.com to confirm the project you are interested in is running in 2024 before registering.

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.



Oxford 4-H clubs have a variety of projects happening this spring for hands-on learn to do by doing activities in-person. Thamesford 4-H Club have started a 'World of Food' 4-H project; the Mt Elgin 4-H Club did a Pizza project and is doing a 'Sporting Chance' 4-H project now; Hickson 4-H Club did a CPR-First Aid project and is starting a 'Denim Quilt' 4-H project soon; Brooksdale 4-H Club did a Potato project and is starting a 'Niche Crops' 4-H project in May; the Community 4-H Club will be doing 'Community Engagement' project. The Cloverbud 4-H Club have started this year with learning to curl at the Norwich Curling Club in January; doing various activities in February—some for the Woodstock Fair 4-H Classes; in March some of the 4-H Cloverbuds experienced the 4-H pancake fundraiser by helping one of the days. The Oxford Beef 4-H Club started the 'Beef' project; the Oxford Swine 4-H Club have started to learn about genetics with swine. The Dairy 4-H Clubs will start soon.

The Thamesford 4-H Club will be serving up strawberry shortcakes at the July 1st Embro Highland Games; and the Community & Cloverbud 4-H Clubs will be at the Embro Truck & Tractor Pull August 2 & 3 at the pizza booth and selling pop & water with the wagon. Thank you in advance for supporting these 4-H club fundraisers!!

Oxford County 4-H Association Chairperson: Christy Brekelmans, Vice Chairperson: Melvin Bergsma, Treasurer: Jack Danen, Assistant Treasurer: Sarah McIntosh, Secretary:





Thank You "Miss Supertest - The Bob Hayward Story"

The Board of Thistle Theatre would like to thank all the Patrons, the Cast and the Crew of "Miss Supertest - The Bob Hayward Story". In particular, we would like to thank the writer William Butt, director Adam Corrigan Holowitz and music director Dan VanWinden for building this story from an idea to a play, and Don Hilborn for his significant efforts as producer. In addition, the excellent support by the Hayward Family, local community and members of the speedboat fraternity was greatly appreciated. Over 1100 patrons attended the eight performances about this local legend in the historic Old Town Hall in Embro (EMBRO!). Thank you for your incredible support. It was a pleasure to put this play on for packed houses every night.

Dramarama 2024

Still looking for things for your kids to do this summer? We are happy to be celebrating our 28th annual summer camp! Dramarama Registration is open, and we still have spaces available. Did you miss our in-person registration session? Don't worry - you can register online. Information about online registration, including forms and payment is available at <http://www.thistle-theatre.com/dramarama/> Session One will run from Tuesday July 2nd - Friday July 12th. Session Two will run from Monday July 15th - Friday July 26th. Cost is \$240 per camper, per session, and we welcome campers aged 7 to 14, (i.e., born 2010-2017).

Becky Issenman will be your camp leader along with some amazing returning councillors, and a handful of wonderful workshop volunteers we are so lucky to have. Come join us for a camp full of fun theatre playmaking! If you're eager to find out about registration details; or, if you're a graduated camper, born 2009 or later and interested in being a counsellor in training; or, if you just have old Halloween costumes you'd like to pass along for our use, we'd love to hear from you! You can contact us via email dramarama.thistletheatre@gmail.com

Annual General Meeting & Membership

The 2024 Annual General Meeting for Thistle Theatre was on April 13, 2024, at the Embro Legion. Did you miss the event, but still want to be a member? Renewals and new memberships are \$10/person and can be paid by Electronic Fund Transfer, cash or cheque. It can be mailed to our PO Box, dropped off at Workshop Supply in Embro, or given to any Board Member. For more information visit thistle-theatre.com

Our Next Production - "The Ladies Foursome"

Our next show at Thistle Theatre will be Norm Foster's, "The Ladies Foursome" in November 2024. John Hazeleger and Doug Turvey will direct the play. John Turvey will be the Producer. Show dates are November 8th - 16th, 2024. The show has a cast of 4 women. Auditions will be held on June 16th, 17th, and 19th, at 7:00 pm at the Town Hall - 135 Huron Street, Embro. For more information or to get a script, contact Doug at (519) 537-9037.



TROJANS NEWS

To say a picture is worth a thousand words maybe true, but to be there and actually witness the Trojans players reaching their goal can bring out the pent-up emotions and excitement of many an attending fan. These guys (players) are athletes and are part of a team: if one excels, they all share in the victory. Just to be in the arena and to watch them share in each others triumphs has its own rewards. The fans in the stands find it hard not to jump for joy and chant **"WAY TO GO TROJANS, WAY TO GO!"**

This season the Trojans have earned the right to declare another divisional title championship. All teams in our division (Yeck) come to play and put their best foot forward; it isn't just the Trojans players that celebrate their successes with genuine excitement, but every player in the PJH and their fans. When players reach their goals there is such an outpouring of camaraderie and encouragement from fellow team mates. One must be in the stands to really appreciate their excitement.

It just keeps getting better; Home Town Hockey is alive and well. The number of fans in the stands is steadily increasing and this is a good thing for your local Jr. hockey team. The greater the number of fans in the stands the more our sponsors are willing to support the Trojans, home and away.

What can I say about this years Trojans program? The Trojans started the series with 11 straight wins being in the top 3 PJHL teams (64). We achieved recognition in our division in the form of: Top Goal Tending Tandum goals for and against in our division; Top Goal Tender; as well as Best Coaching Staff. And finishing the regular season in top place in our division.

The fans have been able to enjoy the yummy fries and hot dogs provided by the Thamesford Lions in the Canteen as well as alcoholic beverages in the stands. We may have the coldest arena in our division; we'll just call it the IGLOO, but the fans come well prepared with a blanket. It warms my heart to see our dedicated fans show up to encourage their team not only at home games but away games as well. From time to time we have a live vocalist sing the national anthem, the latest being a very young and talented Lyla Couch. Fan wear is more in vogue than ever and proudly worn. Enough being said, come out to a game, bring a friend or the whole family, you just might make it part of your social entertainment.

As always, I cannot thank our sponsors enough for their support so if you see one of our Trojans programs laying about, pick it up and leaf through it and if you have a need, please consider one of our sponsors.

This is Tony Redix signing off for Trojans news, keep your head up and stick on the ice.





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