

Zorranow

COMMUNITY EVENTS & SERVICES MAGAZINE

Spring 2025

Zorra farm equipment
company is well-respected
across Ontario

Page
20

Zorra
TOWNSHIP





In this issue...

- 4

Township Department Information
- 20

Zorra farm equipment company is well-respected across Ontario
- 22

Township Contacts
- 23

Community Contacts
- 24

Township Community Information
- 25

Lions Club
- 26

Oxford 4-H Club
- 27

Hometown Hockey in Thamesford
- 28

Beachville Museum
- 29

Heritage Committee
- 30

Thistle Theatre



Message from the Mayor

So much has changed since I last wrote for the Winter Zorra Now.

A provincial election, a federal election next week, and a US Presidential election, we are entering a period of change. While international relations, trade, tariffs, and the economy may face challenges, Zorra’s strong financial management over the past years has positioned our municipality well to navigate these times. The Township will also be impacted directly or indirectly by tariffs and costs will go up. We are committed to minimizing future impact on residents and will work diligently to manage costs effectively.

Our proactive approach ensures that we can adapt and continue to provide essential services to our community. Together, we will weather these changes and emerge even stronger. At times like this a small community(s) like Zorra can be a strength. We need to pull together, shop local, support each other. Buy from your neighbour, and look out for them.

For Zorra Council, like you, the challenges have changed; so we will change to meet them, but the goal is the same: let’s prioritize a vibrant, prosperous, engaged, and environmentally conscious community.

#Canada
#elbowsup

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 & Protective Services*
Township of Zorra
163 Brock Street, PO Box 189
Thamesford, ON N0M 2M0
Ph. 519-425-2305 Toll Free 1-888-699-3868
kmartin@zorra.ca www.zorra.ca

Freshen Up Your Branding.





Print Online.





Since 1980

140 Dundas St., Thamesford

jcgraphics.ca • 519-285-3249

DISCOVER YOUR OXFORD COUNTY LIBRARY





Oxford Reads: Our 2025 Shortlist titles have been announced! This year's nominees are:

• *Adrift* by Lisa Brideau

• *At a Loss for Words: Conversations in an Age of Rage* by Carol Off (Community Pick)

• *Life in Two Worlds: A Coach's Journey from the Reserve to the NHL and Back* by Ted Nolan

• *The Spoon Stealer* by Lesley Crewe (Community Pick)

• *We Spread* by Iain Reid

Visit www.oxfordreads.ca to cast your vote.



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.

1000 Books Before Kindergarten: Reading and sharing books with your child from the moment they are born helps them to develop pre-reader skills for kindergarten, form a positive attitude towards reading, and encourages bonding. Any child from birth to five years can participate for free. Visit www.ocl.net/programs-events/1000-books-before-kindergarten for more information.



Ox on the Run, Mobile Library Unit: Did you know that Ox on the Run stops in Kintore every other week? Pick up your holds, browse collections, or ask for tech help.

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

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



connect. discover. share. become.

2

Zorra Now | Spring 2025

Zorra Now | Spring 2025

3

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 519-425-2302 or soliver@zorra.ca

Building Department

New 2024 Ontario Building Code

The 2024 Ontario Building Code came into effect on January 1, 2025. These significant updates impact building designs, safety standards and construction. For more information on the updates, please visit the following resources:

- Ministry of Municipal Housing and Affairs
(<https://www.ontario.ca/page/building-code-updates>)
- Township of Zorra Building Webpage
(<https://www.zorra.ca/our-services/building-and-drainage/information-and-resources/>)
- Ontario Building Officials Association (OBOA)
(<https://www.oboa.on.ca/ontariobuildingcode>)

New Building and Drainage Department Webpage

The Zorra Building Department has launched a new webpage (<https://www.zorra.ca/our-services/building-and-drainage/>) making it easier for the building community to find information about building project requirements, the application process, associated fees and additional helpful information and resources. You can apply for a building permit and book a building inspection right from the webpage.

Building and Drainage

The Building and Drainage Department is responsible for the administration and enforcement of various Provincial legislation and policies. This includes the Ontario Building Code Act, Drainage Act and Planning Act as they apply to buildings, structures and their occupancy and drainage issues as well as numerous Municipal By-Laws such as the Building Control By-Law, Zoning By-Law, Nutrient Management By-Law and Fencing By-Law.

The main role of the Building and Drainage Department is to ensure that the building environment in which we live and work is safe and healthy. This is accomplished through the issuance of building and demolition permits, septic permits, approval of nutrient management plans and by conducting inspections.

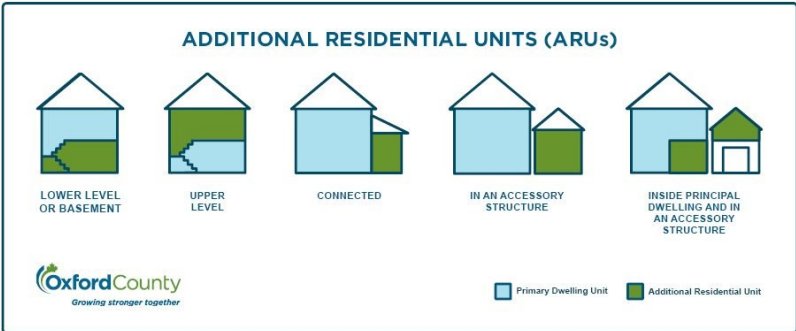
Apply for a Building Permit	Inspections	Building Fees and Payment	Development Charges
Information & Resources	Drainage	Urban Storm Water Operations	Contact the Building Department

Closing Building Permits

It is the responsibility of the applicant or property owner to book a final or occupancy inspection when your building project is complete. Mandatory building inspections are legislatively mandated by the Ontario Building Code, Division C, Subsection 1.3.5.1. Failure to closing your building permit in a timely manor may result in forfeiting your building deposit or an additional fee.

Additional Dwelling Units

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.



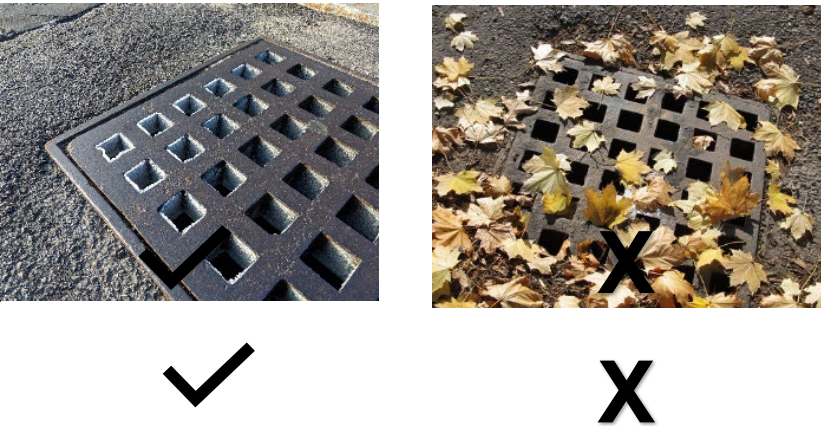
- You can find more information about ARUs on the Township of Zorra and Oxford County websites.
- <https://www.zorra.ca/our-services/building-and-drainage/information-and-resources/>
 - [oxfordcounty.ca/en/services-for-you/additional-residential-units.aspx](https://www.oxfordcounty.ca/en/services-for-you/additional-residential-units.aspx)

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 the Building and Drainage Department at ext. 7224.

Drainage

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
519-425-2306 or mhughes@zorra.ca

Fire & Emergency Services Department

Zorra Fire Rescue wishes to remind all residents and visitors to Zorra Township that there is an increased risk of brush fires between when the snow melts and when lush living ground cover returns. Last year's leaves, grass, and other highly flammable plant debris has spent the winter drying, and fires that start in these material will spread quickly, and may spread to larger fuel sources, like wooded areas, vehicles, and homes. The following are some examples of how you can prepare for the drier summer months.



- Cut your grass early, grass under 8 inches high pose significantly lower fire spread threats than longer unmanaged lawn.
- Any grain fields near buildings and near your property's perimeter should be worked up as soon as practical. Grazing livestock in these fields can help between tilling.
- Unmanicured fence lines and ditches are a fast way for fire to travel. Check corral lines, perimeter fencing, and ditches to ensure they do not become overgrown.
- Maintain access to water sources on your property for firefighting purposes.

FireSmartCanada.ca has resources, tips, and tricks to keep your homes and businesses safe from these fast-moving fires. Questions about FireSmartCanada.ca can be sent to fire@zorra.ca.

Zorra Emergency Management

Zorra Emergency Management (ZEM) was a successful applicant for the Government of Ontario's Emergency Preparedness Grant. As part of this application ZEM will receive funding to purchase a trailer and supplies to open a reception centre for displaced residents and visitors to Zorra Township. This reception centre will require skilled workers to run. ZEM wishes to create start collecting data around emergencies, including available resources and stakeholder engagement.

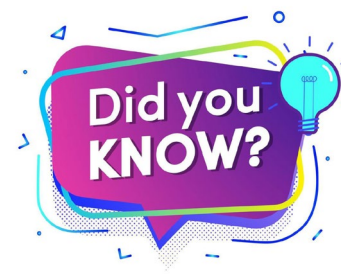


Do you want to keep your family and your community safe?

ZEM is looking for community members and businesses to self-identify interest in discussing the future of the organization, and of what resources may be available during an emergency.

- Volunteer administrative staff
- Volunteer medical professionals
- Volunteers offering storage solutions
- Volunteer translators
- Volunteer skilled labour
- Volunteer stakeholders
- Volunteer liaison officers from established organizations
- Volunteer communications and information technology professionals

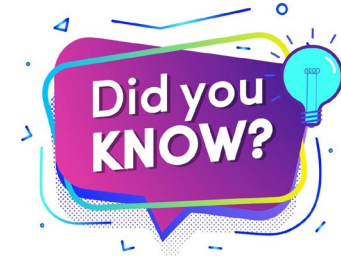
Please email emergency@zorra.ca to express your interest and to start the conversation. No email? No problem. Call 519-485-2490



Zorra Fire Rescue has two skilled fire inspectors who can assist you in fire safety.

Is fire safety outside your skillsets? Are you missing a fire safety plan in your workplace? We can help!

Email fire@zorra.ca to request a fire and life safety inspection or a consultation to answer any questions you may have.



The humidity and corrosive gases produced by animals and their products can damage permanent electrical systems, even without direct contact with the livestock. There are specific requirements for the installation of electrical equipment in these areas, and they require more regular inspection and maintenance schedules than many other types of electrical installations.

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

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

Tax Department

Council approved the 2025 Budget at the December 18, 2024 meeting and reports are available on our website for your information. Township Tax Rates are being presented to Council for approval on May 7, 2025 now that the County of Oxford has finalized 2025 tax ratios. Some key points include:

- The Capital Budget requires \$3,759,136 collected from taxes to fund 2025 capital projects
- The Operating Budget requires \$8,472,709 collected from taxes to fund 2025 operations
- Total taxes to be collected for 2025 is \$12,231,845 and represents an increase of 5.26% over 2024
- The Township saw a 1.33% increase in assessment growth
- The anticipated increase in the Township tax rate is 3.61%.
- The average annual historical tax rate increase for the past 8 years is 2.83%.

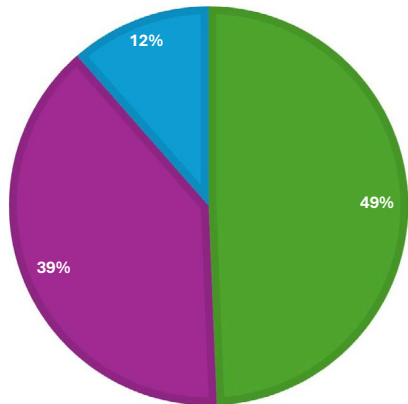


Property Tax Comparison
Residential Property with Assessment of \$281,000

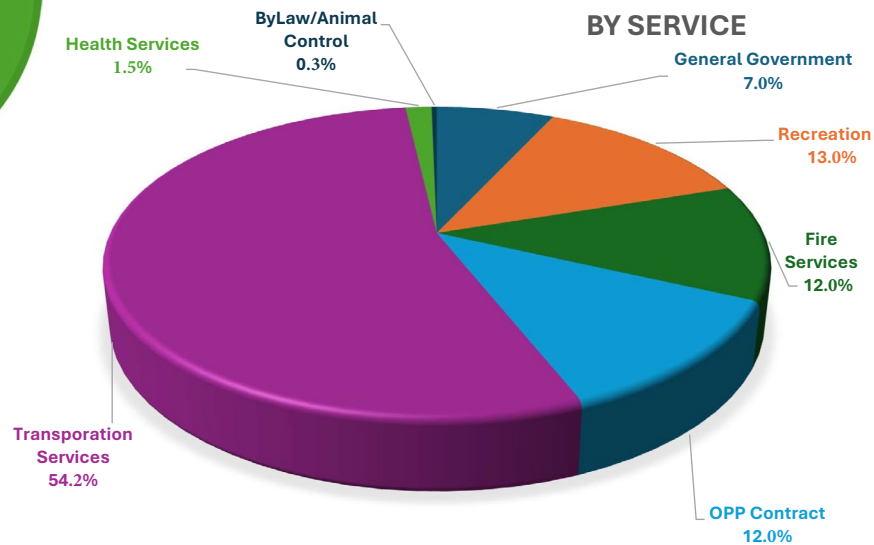
	2025 Estimated Taxes	2024 Actual Taxes	Increase
Zorra Taxes	\$ 1,851.23	\$ 1,786.77	\$ 64.46
County Taxes	\$ 1,469.82	\$ 1,376.89	\$ 92.92
School Board Taxes	\$ 429.93	\$ 429.93	\$ -
TOTAL TAXES	\$ 3,750.97	\$ 3,593.59	\$ 157.38

RESIDENTIAL TAX BILL - SPLIT AMONGST LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT

Zorra County Education - Provincial



ZORRA PORTION OF TAX BILL - BY SERVICE



Kim Grogan, Manager of Financial Services
519-425-2329 kgrogan@zorra.ca

Zorra Multi Use Courts Committee

FUNDRAISING COMPLETED!

The Township would like to extend a big congratulations and thank you to all past and present committee members. Since 2019, the ZMCC has worked tirelessly to raise funds for the multi-use courts project. Thank you to the Chair, Andrew Goodwin, Deputy Mayor Katie Grigg, and committee members Brenda Carnahan, Julie Riley, Kate Lockhart, Libby Wilkinson and Rebecca Ruddy.

Where will the courts be built?

The courts will be constructed on parkland that has been donated to the Township by Kingwood Development. The parkland will be off Brock St and the George St extension. This central location offers an exciting opportunity to become part of a vibrant community and recreational hub, complete with ample parking and sports fields at the future adjacent elementary school.

When will the courts be constructed?

There is important infrastructure and grading that must be completed in this large development before this project can begin construction. The Request for Proposal will be issued in 2026 once this work is complete.

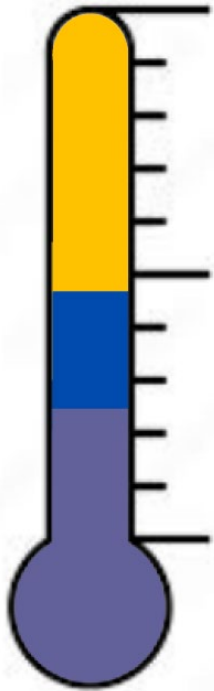
How can we keep updated on this project?

The Township will keep the public informed on project updates through the Zorra website: <https://www.zorra.ca/our-township/committees/>

We want to extend a big, heartfelt thank you to our many donors who have made this possible!

\$300,000 Goal

Fundraising Update as of April 7, 2025



- ✓ The Township has committed \$79,950 to the project*
- ✓ The Thamesford Lions Club has donated \$50,000
- ✓ The community has donated \$175,922.92

\$305,872.92
TOTAL RAISED

*Once the remaining funds have been raised



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.

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

\$176

Daily Rate

\$44



Thamesford District Recreation Centre



2 Field Trips!

July 24th Clovermead

August 14th London Children's Museum



Swimming Monday, Wednesday & Friday





www.zorra.ca

519-485-2490 x 7242

zorracamp@zorra.ca







KEEP SCORE ON YOUR PHONE

DOWNLOAD THE APP

Find courses, leagues and stores

Track stats and measure throws

Connect with friends and more







SWIM LESSON
REGISTRATION
OPENS MAY 1, 2025

www.zorra.ca

LESSONS

DAYTIME LESSONS

Monday-Friday for 2 weeks 9:00am-12:00pm

Session 1 - June 30 to July 11

Session 2 - July 14 to July 25

Session 3 - July 28 to August 8

Session 4 - August 11 to August 22

Saturday Mornings 9:00am-12:00pm

July 5 to August 23 (8 weeks)

EVENING LESSONS

Tuesday or Thursday nights 5:00pm-7:00pm

July 2 to August 21 (8 weeks)

PRIVATE LESSONS

Monday 5:30pm-6:30pm

Tuesday & Thursday 4:00pm-5:00pm

Wednesday & Friday 4:00pm-6:30pm

Saturday 9:00am-12:00pm

June 30-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, Medallion, Cross

Full class descriptions available online

RATES

Daytime lessons (10 classes) \$70.00/30 min

Evening/weekend (8 classes) \$84.00/45 min

Private (30 min) \$57.50/30 min

Bronze Star \$69.00/45 min

Bronze Medallion \$25.00

Bronze cross \$80.00

Swim team \$150.00

Pool rental (1 hour) \$150.00

\$85.00

\$125.00

*Schedules subject to change

THAMESFORD AREA
SWIMMING POOL

204 George St. Thamesford

519-485-2490 x 7285

thamesfordpool@zorra.ca

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

Youth (4-17) & Senior (60+) individual \$3.50

Adult (18-59) individual \$5.00

Family \$10.00

3 and under free

10-Swim Punch Card Youth & Senior \$28.00

10-Swim Punch Card Adult \$40.00

Single season pass Youth & Senior \$70.00

Single season pass Adult \$100.00

Family season pass \$200.00

BOOK YOUR POOL RENTAL ONLINE

Keep cool this summer at the Thamesford Area Swimming Pool!

\$125.00/hour

up to 50 people

includes 2 lifeguards

Saturdays and Sundays available

THAMESFORD
Tiger Shark

SWIM TEAM

Practices Tuesday & Thursday

12:00pm-2:00pm and

Saturday 1:00-2:00pm

ZORRA DROP-IN PROGRAMS

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
 PICKLEBALL SPRING MAY 1 - JUNE 26 DROP-IN SCHEDULE	9:00AM-12:00PM EZCC	8:00AM-11:00AM TDRC	9:00AM-12:00PM EZCC 6:00PM-9:00PM TDRC	8:00AM-11:00AM TDRC 6:00PM-9:00PM EZCC
	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
 PICKLEBALL SUMMER JULY 1 - AUGUST 29 DROP-IN SCHEDULE	9:00AM-12:00PM EZCC	8:00AM-11:00AM TDRC	9:00AM-12:00PM EZCC 6:00PM-9:00PM TDRC	8:00AM-11:00AM TDRC
	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	
 YOGA SPRING MARCH 31 - JUNE 25 DROP-IN SCHEDULE	FLOW YOGA 7:00PM-8:00PM EZCC	FLOW YOGA 7:00PM-8:00PM BEATY RM	FLOW YOGA 9:30AM-10:30AM BEATY RM	

*SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

TDRC - THAMESFORD DISTRICT RECREATION CENTRE

EZCC - EMBRO-ZORRA COMMUNITY CENTRE

BEATY RM - AT THE THAMESFORD LIBRARY

Drop-in programs and classes are moving to PickupHub!

REGISTER TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS ONLINE AT

WWW.PICKUPHUB.NET/ZORRA

PickupHub



STEP 1. CREATE YOUR ACCOUNT

STEP 2. SIGN UP FOR A PROGRAM

STEP 3. PLAY!

FIND DROP-IN PROGRAMS IN ZORRA AND OXFORD COUNTY!

QUESTIONS? EMAIL BOOKING@ZORRA.CA

ALL PROGRAM SCHEDULES AND DETAILS CAN BE FOUND AT WWW.ZORRA.CA



How Zorra Came To Be

From the East Nissouri History Book

In the late 1960's, the Ontario Municipal Affairs Minister, Darcy McGeough, promoted the concept of government making it clear that municipal boundaries were not unchangeable. He stated that a population of over 150,000 was needed for a municipality to be considered viable. As Oxford County's population did not meet this target, there was fear that its towns and townships would be grabbed by bigger neighbours. As a result, in 1970 a study committee was formed to draft out a revised municipal boundary plan for Oxford County. Representatives from all of the municipalities across Oxford took part as well as the communities of Ingersoll and Woodstock. In what was termed a bottom up process, all municipal functions including roads, planning, building inspector, sewer and water were discussed. On the public side, citizens were asked where they shopped for food, for appliances, for pharmaceuticals, where they went to church, where they went to school, and where they went for recreational purposes. This input created a map of how Oxford residents actually lived, regardless of political boundaries. In 1974 a proposal from the county was ready and used by the Province of Ontario in drafting Bill 95, "An Act to Restructure Oxford County". On January 1st, 1975, Bill 95 came into effect.

As a result of the restructuring, East Nissouri ceased to exist as a township. East Nissouri, the Village of Embro, West Zorra, and part of North Oxford formed parts of the new Township of Zorra. An eleven member team formed the new Zorra Council using the ward system of representation. The Police Village of Thamesford was dissolved but its name remained.

From the North Oxford History Book

By 1970 talks were being held throughout Ontario, as directed by the provincial government, towards amalgamating townships into larger units. The County of Oxford in 1852 consisted of ten townships: East Nissouri, West and East Zorra, Blandford, Blenheim, North, West and East Oxford, Dereham, Norwich, and Woodstock. For some period of time the makeup of the county remained basically the same except for Ingersoll joining and then dropping out, as did Woodstock. Several other changes were made over the years, with some small urban centres growing and gaining municipal status. By the year 1973 the lower tier, eleven rural townships, were joined by five urban municipalities: Tavistock, Norwich Village, Embro, Tillsonburg, and Beachville.

Changes in Provincial guidelines permitted the Deputy Reeves to sit on county council along with the Reeve for each municipality. It depended on population of each township whether or not the municipality qualified. North Oxford finally did qualify in 1973 and James Mutterer became the first and only Deputy Reeve from North Oxford for the years 1973 and 1974. The following year, 1975, saw the amalgamations come into being. North Oxford disappeared and Zorra Township took its place. With the province wanting the approximately nine hundred municipalities in 1970 reduced to lesser numbers, much discussion took place throughout the county. Some councils were in favour of amalgamation others were not. Eventually the majority ruled, and the county, in 1975, became restructured. It was reduced to:

1. Zorra Township made up of: East Nissouri, West Zorra, Embro, the majority of North Oxford and the village of Thamesford.
2. East Zorra Tavistock made up of: East Zorra Tavistock and the tip of North Oxford.
3. Blandford Blenheim made up of: Blandford and Blenheim.
4. South West Oxford made up of: Derham, West Oxford and Beachville.
5. Norwich composed of: North and South Norwich, East Oxford and the Norwich Village.

The five new amalgamated townships were joined in the County of Oxford by Tillsonburg, Ingersoll and Woodstock. This composed the new county government. Since that time some changes have occurred as far as number of councillors in each local government.

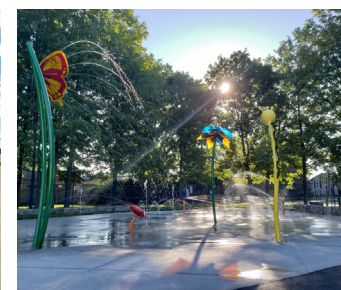
From the Embro-West Zorra History Book

In 1975, the provincial government's restructuring of rural Ontario led to the union of Embro with the townships of West Zorra, East Nissouri and North Oxford to create the Township of Zorra. It wasn't a silky smooth process, in that many of the rural municipalities in Oxford County initially opposed the idea. Eventually, 18 municipalities were reduced to eight. Oxford County Council was reduced from 30 members to 20. Robert C. Matheson, the last reeve of West Zorra became the first mayor of the new Township of Zorra. Robert Blair was councillor-at-large. The other councillors were Wallis Hammond and Harry Lovegrove (Ward 1), Harvey Beaty and Ted Nancekivell (Ward 2), William Foley (Ward 3), David Slater (Ward 4), James Gibb (Ward 5), Barry Wallace (Ward 6) and Lorne Walton (Ward 7).

Zorra 50 years!
TOWNSHIP

Strategic Initiatives 2023–2026: Accomplishments

In 2023, Council identified the following four strategic priorities for the Township: a sustainable community; a liveable, healthy community; a fiscally sustainable community; and governance & corporate excellence. Listed below are Council's strategic initiatives, both complete and in progress.



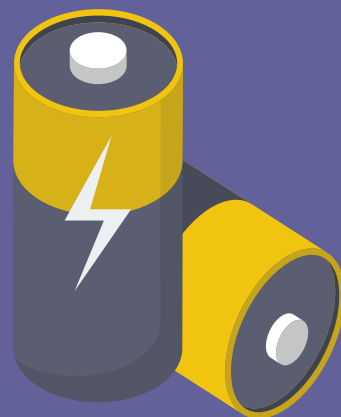
2023-2024 Completed Strategic Projects

- Maintenance Facility Cost Report
- Staffing Needs Review
- Service Group Capital Project Business Plans
- Total Life Cycle Costs Models
- Robust Asset Management Plan
- Community Partner Program: 70/30 Fund
- Community Group Collaboration
- Ward Structure/Electoral Map Review
- Fire Service Response Area Improvements
- Community Safety and Well-Being Plan
- Location Planning and Advocacy for New Schools

2025-2026 Ongoing Strategic Projects

- Improve Cell Coverage in Thamesford and Embro
- Facility Waste Management Practices Review
- Hearing Assisted Devices at All Meeting Facilities
- Corporate Investment Policy
- Staff Training and Regulatory Requirements Review
- Municipal Centre (ZMC) Cost Report
- Density Policies for Thamesford and Embro
- Harrington Community Engagement
- Recreation Service Level Study
- Embro Childcare Facility Planning
- Active Transportation Route Enhancement
- Rural Internet Service Improvements

BATTERIES



OPTIONS FOR SAFE DISPOSAL

As of April 2025, we are no longer able to offer battery collection at our Township facilities. We apologize for the inconvenience.

Alternative convenient battery disposal options still exist within Oxford County:

- [RecycleYourBatteries.ca](https://www.recycleyourbatteries.ca) shows your nearest drop off locations based on postal code. There are several locations in Ingersoll, Woodstock, Stratford, Tavistock and East London.
- Take a trip to Oxford's **Waste Management Facility** in Salford, open 6 days a week, to drop off all specialty waste including electronics, tires, batteries and much more - [Special Recycling - Oxford County](#).
- Utilize reusable cardboard cubes from Call2Recycle to store batteries until you are able to drop them off to a designated location

Battery Safety Information

- Inspect batteries for any signs of damage or defect (swollen, corroded, leaking, or burn marks).
- Always practice care when handling batteries and use protective gloves/eyewear if there are any signs of rupture.
- Put a piece of masking tape over the +/- terminals of the battery to avoid short circuit.
- Store batteries in a non-conductive container made of plastic and keep away from heat sources or metal.
- Batteries which are damaged, defective, or recalled (DDR) should be put in individual plastic bags and stored safely away from other batteries until they can be taken to a disposal location.
- Dispose of used batteries at least every 3 months to avoid corrosion.

ACCESSIBILITY

What is ACCESSIBILITY?

Accessibility refers to the design of products, devices, services, or environments for people who experience disabilities. Ontario has laws to improve accessibility for people with disabilities, including the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA), the Ontario Human Rights Code, and the Ontario Building Code.



One in seven people in Ontario has a disability. By 2036, that number of persons with disabilities will rise to one in five as the population ages. As such, persons with disabilities represent a significant growing part of Ontario's and the Township's population. Enhancing the ability of people with disabilities to live independently and participate in the community will have positive effects on future prosperity in Zorra.



TIPS and TOOLS for Small Businesses

- Establish policies, practices and procedures on providing goods or services to people with disabilities.
- Train staff, volunteers, contractors and any other people who interact with the public or other third parties on your behalf on a number of topics as outlined in the customer service standard.
- Provide notice when facilities or services that people with disabilities rely on to access or use your goods or services are temporarily disrupted.
- Establish a process for people to provide feedback on how you provide goods or services to people with disabilities and how you will respond to any feedback and take action on any complaints. Make the information about your feedback process readily available to the public.

Additional Resource

See the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 for more information.

Come celebrate Zorra's
50th Anniversary!

SAVE THE DATE

August 12, 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Zorra Municipal Centre (Township Office)



Stay tuned for more details on the
Township's social media!



Rural Oxford
Economic Development

Confidential Site Selection • Expansion Support
Advocacy • Resources • Connections



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

QUADRO

30
YEARS
1995 - 2025

ALL ACTION

**NO
INTERRUPTIONS**

**WITH
BLAZING-FAST INTERNET
UP TO 1GBPS**

WWW.QUADRO.NET | 1-800-265-4983

Zorra farm equipment company is well-respected across Ontario

Childhood fascination became a life-long career for Sunova's John Van Lierop *By Stew Slater*

As a boy growing up on a small rural property in the Netherlands, John Van Lierop had a keen ear for large farm machinery rolling into fields in the neighbourhood. He would hop on his bicycle and pedal towards the sounds of planting, spreading or harvesting.

It wasn't long before Van Lierop – having moved across the Atlantic Ocean to begin a career (or, more accurately, several careers) and a family – that youngsters were being inspired by machines that he and his wife Carmen helped bring to North America through the Zorra Township-based Sunova Implement Ltd.

Sunova's headquarters are housed inside the former Wildwood Park Public School on Oxford Road 119 between Uniondale and Medina, with other aspects of the ever-changing business occupying spaces within the school and in additional buildings that have been added to the complex since the couple purchased the property in 1998.

Interviewed recently, John notes the company began its life working out of a nearby farm that the couple – who met in 1992 and married in 1995 – had purchased close to Carmen's parents, the Pelkmans. Van Lierop remembers thinking at the time that the school's gym was huge and should suit them very well for many years as a workshop but it wasn't long before they needed to build a new workshop because the gym soon became too small for their purposes. (The gym is now a parts room.)

A new shop was built, followed by a fabric-covered building for displaying equipment. Then came an expansion to the fabric-covered building and an expansion to the workshop. And when the rapid success of one of their business lines required expanded sales and design teams, they added one and then a second portable office building to the rear of the former school.

The most recent addition to the Sunova complex was a paint booth about 10 years ago. They had been painting the Veenhuis dump trailers that they continue to assemble and market on the farm down the road. But a labour ministry inspector showed up one day and determined the farm location was unsuitable. Building the paint booth "was probably something we should have done sooner," Van Lierop admitted.

Veenhuis has been the longest-standing line of business for Sunova, having originated way back when

Van Lierop's company was building a reputation for bringing Kemper corn headers over from Europe. Other successes through the years for Sunova have been several years as the North American distributor of CleanFix engine cooling fan systems (including some manufactured on site), several years as the leading Canadian dealer of Claas self-propelled forage harvesters, and the continuing business of the home-designed and home-assembled Broadcaster remote pumping system controllers.

Van Lierop says one key to the company's success has been his regular trips to Germany's massive farm trade show, AgriTechnica, as well as other European locations to scout innovations that aren't yet here in North America but might be a good fit for North American farmers.

He recalls the early 2000s "was when people



really started to get interested in the self-propelled forage harvester. I would go to Europe and look at 20-to-30 choppers in a week, take photos, come home and get the film developed and go through this whole checklist about what I liked about this one and what I didn't like. Then I'd call the guy back in Europe and say, 'I want to buy this one, this one and this one.'"

The chopper business at Sunova began with them bringing components over from Europe – much as they continue to do with the Veenhuis dump wagons – and assembling them. That's how the Kemper chopper head business began. With Sunova's tradespeople rebuilding mainly John Deere 5000 and 6000 series forage

harvesters that became a branding what customers described as "Sunovitized forage choppers."

In the early 2000's "There was one time we had 24 (John Deere and New Holland) choppers on display in the yard," he noted. "I remember getting lifted up in the bucket of the payloader so I could take a picture."

The North American farm equipment companies weren't yet up with the trend of Kemper rotary corn heads, Van Lierop explained, and "we kind of filled the gap for a number of years."

But a family-run, single-site business serving as farm equipment distributor for an entire continent isn't a model that's favoured widely in the industry. On more than one occasion, Sunova helped introduce Canadian farmers to European innovations and followed up with highly respectable sales numbers, only to eventually have the European parent company – the OEM, or "original equipment manufacturer" as they're referred to – decide to terminate the relationship and opt for more conventional strategies.

Van Lierop is matter-of-fact about the fact Sunova no longer sells CleanFix reversible fans that once pushed the Sunova employee base to its highest level of 28 thanks to the need for on-site manufacturing and sales, or the Claas choppers that once dominated the business's roadside display spaces and interior assembly and service bays.

"Everything fell into place, I guess. It was the right timing. The demand (for self-propelled forage harvesters) was building and there was a need for a dealer in southwestern Ontario." Globally, Claas has a vertical integration strategy to set up corporate stores throughout North America. "In the end, for Sunova this Claas strategy did not line up with our core business strategy and/or beliefs," Van Lierop explained.

But he stresses that his company's loss of the contract after 16 years – several of those years leading SPFH (Self Propelled Forage Harvester) sales in Canada – is just how business is done. And because Sunova built such a strong reputation selling and servicing the light green-coloured European brand, the Wildwood shop – and Sunova employee Jack Hutton – is kept busy year-round repairing and servicing the machines.

In 2025, Veenhuis trailers and the home-grown Broadcaster pumping control systems dominate Sunova's business. Veenhuis components are brought in from Holland and meticulously welded and assembled, the paint booth is equipped with a computerized painting unit supplied by Veenhuis, and Sunova has long been recognized as the place to go in Ontario for the highly-regarded dump wagons.



"The interesting thing is that, out of all those agreements with those companies, most of them were these long contracts with a whole lot of pages. And Veenhuis was the only one that was a handshake deal. And it's still like that today."

The Broadcaster systems, meanwhile, were developed after John Van Lierop saw his father-in-law Carl Pelkmans atop a platform working to control a manure pump. Wouldn't it be great, he thought, if that operation could happen remotely? The units that he and his team subsequently created are now in use not only in manure management but also in manufacturing, the oil and gas industry, and even in Hawaii where they control dredging pumps.

Van Lierop admits, though, that he finds it challenging to make sales talks outside the agricultural realm. "I'm an ag guy. That's how I talk." Indeed, that's the circle he has moved in since first coming to Canada as a teenager in 1988, on a working visa, to a dairy farm near Thunder Bay. "It was pretty clear within a week that I wanted to stay in Canada," he recalled.

When his visa expired he returned to the Netherlands but was soon back, this time working in tobacco near Delhi. He recalls boarding a school bus with dozens of other Dutch kids at the airport, then being picked up at the German Hall in town and driven to the farm in the bed of an open-backed pick-up truck.

He remains friends with all of the families for which he worked over the years.

Following another return to Europe, he came back to stay – first settling in a rented home in Youngsville Corners near Embro and working as a stainless steel welder during the installation of Boumatic milking parlours as well as setting up his own business custom round baling. In the very early mornings, he would wake and make calls to Europe inquiring about equipment opportunities – a practice that soon led to a deal to represent Kemper in North America.

"What I learned from that, I think, is that if you really focus on something, it doesn't take long before things start to line up," he commented.

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 7, 9:30am
May 21, 6:00pm
June 4, 9:30am
June 18, 6:00pm

Employees

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

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

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

Corporate Services
Chief Administrative Officer - Diane Larder
Phone: 519-425-2303
Email: dlarder@zorra.ca

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

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

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

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

*Corporate and Strategic
Initiatives Coordinator*
Jacob Sookraj
Phone: 519-425-2313
Email: jsookraj@zorra.ca

Legislative Coordinator/Deputy Clerk
Maggie McLaughlin
Phone: 519-485-5125
Email: mmcloughlin@zorra.ca

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

Finance Department
Manager of Finance - Kim Grogan
Phone: 519-425-2329
Email: kgrogan@zorra.ca

Financial Analyst/Deputy Treasurer
Nicole Bowery
Phone: 519-425-2245
Email: nbowery@zorra.ca

Tax Collector
Melissa De Luca
Phone 519-425-2304
Email: mdeluca@zorra.ca

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

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

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

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

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

Fire Prevention Officer - Paige Ford
Email: fireprevention@zorra.ca

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Recreation Facilities
Thamesford District Recreation Centre
Phone: 519-485-2490 Ext. 7245
Email: 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.zorraslatingclub.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.zorraslatingclub.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

Darwin Cooper 519-475-4385
Ontario Early Years Programs 800-539-9800
OPP 800-265-7191
Oxford County Jr. Farmers 519-469-3281
Oxford County Federation of Agriculture 519-852-8856
Oxford District Women's Institute
Shelia Greason 519-349-2768

South West Community Care Access Centre 519-539-1284
info-woodstock@sw.ccac-ont.ca
Thamesford Block Parents 519-285-1126
Thamesford Business Association 519-285-3249
Thamesford Public Library 519-285-3219
Thamesford Snowmobile Club
Harold Hacon (trails) 519-461-0855
David Blight (President) 519-432-2729
Thistle Theatre - Box Office 519-475-4201
infothistletheatre@gmail.com

Tiny Paws Dog Rescue - Linda Collier www.tpdrc.ca
VON Oxford 519-539-1231
VON Sakura House 519-537-8515
Welcome Wagon 519-485-2990
Wienerfest - Linda Collier 519-285-5123
Women's Canadian Club 519-471-8924

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

East Nissouri Union Church
519-349-2333

Celebrate Harrington Community Auction 2025

hosted by

Harrington's Knox Presbyterian Church
Harrington & Area Community Association

ONLINE AUCTION:

OPENS: Wed.APR.30th, 2025 at 8am

CLOSES: Tues.May 6th, 2025 at 8pm

(with extended bidding)

www.32auctions.com/Harrington2025

Pick up dates for winning bidders will be at
Harrington Hall on Friday, May 9th from 5pm to
7pm and Saturday May 10th from 10am to Noon.

HANGING BASKET SALE: Fri.May 9th 5pm to 7pm
& Saturday May 10th - 10am to noon at Harrington Hall.
Hanging baskets and patio pots from 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
Brenda: 519-275-1533 ourharringtonhome@live.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

NEW GAME Starts May 6th!

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 • Embro Family Pharmacy

Contact: Lion Tony, 519-285-3618

Calithumpian Weekend Children's Races

Saturday May 17, 2025

Serving: 10AM

Thamesford Community Centre Green Space

Contact: Lion Rob 519-285-2677

Calithumpian Weekend - Trout Brunch

Sunday May-18-2025

Serving: 11AM-1PM

Thamesford Community Centre

Contact: Lion Steve 519-619-2118

Car Show

Sunday June-15-2025

Thamesford Lions South Park

Contact: Lion Derek 226-268-2786

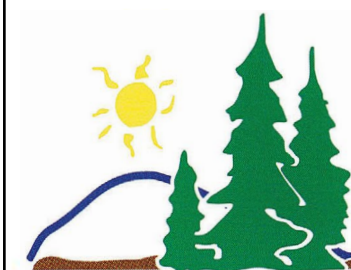
**Watch For The Latest Updates For
These Events on the "Thamesford
Lions" Facebook page!**

Hansford *complete* Tree Removal Service

**Trimming • Chipping
Stump Removal • Firewood**

RR#2, Ingersoll, Ontario N5C 3J5

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



Happy Hills Resort
The Baker Family

923590 Road 92, RR#3

Embro, Ontario N0J 1J0

519.475.4471

www.happyhills.com
thebakers@happyhills.com

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

Zorranow
COMMUNITY EVENTS & SERVICES MAGAZINE



Oxford 4-H Club

Oxford 4-H is growing...there are now two Cloverbud 4-H Clubs in Oxford with the help of the four new 4-H volunteers for the ages of 6-8 year olds. The youth have been learning about chocolate, dairy nutrition, dairy processing, alternative sports & physical activity.

Oxford 4-H clubs also have a variety of projects happening this spring for hands-on learn to do by doing activities for youth ages 9-21. Thamesford 4-H Club did a 'Cake Decorating' 4-H project; the Mt Elgin 4-H Club did a Milk Makes it Better project and is doing a 'Paint' 4-H project now; Hickson 4-H Club did a 'Trash to Treasure' project; Brooksdale 4-H Club is doing a 'Milk Makes it Better' project now; the Community 4-H Club will be doing 'Community Engagement' project starting April 23. The Oxford Beef 4-H Club started the 'Beef' project; the Oxford Swine 4-H Club started to learn about housing & barn design with swine. The North Oxford Dairy 4-H Club starts April 25 and the others 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 1 & 2 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: 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 2025 with the George Thornton Bequest Funds. Oxford 4-H youth members will pay \$85 to join 4-H in 2025—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 2025 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.



Hometown Hockey

Your Thamesford Trojans have concluded their 2024-2025 season, and are now focused on planning for the 2025-2026 season. One of the last community owned clubs in the PJHL, we are proud of the commitment from all of our volunteers, staff, and the community itself.

As a community owned club, we are always thankful to our sponsors, who go above and beyond supporting our team. Anyone looking for sponsorship opportunities, please contact any executive member or reach out on social media, we are always looking for new sponsors, fundraising ideas, and are open to any and all suggestions.

Our year end awards banquet was held March 30 in the beautifully refurbished hall at Thamesford arena. We are one of the few clubs in the area that still gets together at year end to celebrate our accomplishments, and award our hardworking players, staff, and volunteers. Special shout out to Village Catering & Deli for providing the delicious lunch.

2024-2025 Award winners were:

Riley Wood - Offensive MVP, 3 Stars, Playoff MVP + 2 hat tricks
Yusuf Jomaa - Plus-Minus award
Carter Musselman - Most Points award, + a hat trick
Max Vandertuin - Rookie of the Year
Ewan Meiklejohn & Brett Busby - Sportsmanship & Leadership Award, plus a hat trick for Busby
Will Strain - Defensive MVP
Brenden Smith - 7th Man Award
Sam Pollock - Most Improved
Oliver Rebanks & Aidan Bokor both received a Shut-Out Award
Lisa Teeple Executive Member - Penny Hanford Memorial Award

Our annual Trojans Golf Tournament is in the planning stages, stay tuned to our social media for details. Watch for our team float in the Calithumpian parade on May 19th. Have a safe and fun summer, see you at our tailgate party to kick off our upcoming season.

Scott Barr
Thamesford Trojans President



Asst. Director Of Hockey Operations Wayne Ostermaier presents Defensive MVP award to Will Strain.



Team member Calvin Hanford presents Executive Member Lisa Teeple with the Penny Hanford Memorial Award, sponsored each year by the Hanford Family. Penny's son Jeremy is a Trojan Alumnus, and his son Calvin was on hand to make the presentation.

Photo credit to Doris Weir Photography.

Zorranow
COMMUNITY EVENTS & SERVICES MAGAZINE
We would love to hear from YOU!!!

If you have a story, pictures or ANYTHING that you would like to share about your community please contact Karen Martin at kmartin@zorranow.ca or 519-425-2305 to have it appear in an upcoming Zorra Now Edition.



Beachville District Museum: Upcoming Events

Easter, Education Programs & Events to Attend

In April, we celebrate National Volunteer Week and Volunteer Recognition Day. It's appropriate that we take this chance to thank the amazing volunteers that support Beachville District Museum and Beachville District Historical Society. We benefit greatly from our senior volunteers who share extensive knowledge of their communities' histories and guide museum operations as committee members and devoted directors. We also continue to be inspired by the commitments and skills of our young volunteers. We hope to see our volunteer team grow in coming years, and to remain a rewarding site for volunteer development. Thank you to all those who volunteer within Zorra for your positive impact and great generosity.

This month, we celebrate Easter alongside Beachville Parks & Recreation who will be hosting their annual Easter Egg Hunt on the museum grounds on Saturday, April 19th from 12pm until 2pm. The Easter bunny will be present, different age groups will hunt for colourful eggs at their own pace and chocolatey treats will be handed out. Don't forget to bring your basket!

To celebrate Earth Day, we offered a P.A. Day camp focused on green growing, recycling and earth sciences. P.A. Day camps are also scheduled for May 30th and June 27th. Registration is open online at <https://beachvilledistrictmuseum.com/2025-pa-day-camps> if you're looking ahead to those days off school. To support local educators and facilitate local field-trips, the museum continues to run its Gr.4 pulleys and gears program and its Gr. 7 limestone program. This spring, we're excited to announce that we've also launched a Gr. 10-12 program on farming in the 1920s. Details can be found here at <https://beachvilledistrictmuseum.com/farmingforward>.

At the start of May, the Oxford District Women's Institute will host their Spring Vendor Market on

the grounds starting at 10am. This market is a great stop for Mother's Day presents or small gifts that usher in spring spirits. The museum is also recruiting vendors for booths at its upcoming car shows. Interested vendors can call the museum at (519)423-6497 for details. The May car show is typically the largest and is scheduled, this year for Sunday, May 25th. Drivers of show cars are welcome to arrive on-site after 9:30am. The general public is invited to take part in the fun starting at 11:00am. Our car shows bring together an impressive variety of vehicles from classic cars, hippy vans, and mystery machines to motorcycles, tractors and buses. They also help raise funds for the museum and the Legion. Come for a stroll, buy a coffee, listen to some tunes, enjoy an ice cream cone in the shade or cast a vote for your favourite car in show. Each month, where mother nature cooperates, we'll have our engines running. Mark your calendars for June 22nd, July 27th, August 24th and September 28th.

The museum is now building up its summer staff team. We are hiring through the Young Canada Works and Canada Summer Jobs programs. If you qualify for these programs and have an interest in local history or children's education, be sure to find our job postings on Indeed or on our social media platforms. We'll be providing orientation and training in early June.

Summer Camp starts on June 30th. Registration is already open for full-week and single-day slots on our website. This year's themes include "Across Canada", "Science Squad", "Kid Curators", "Hay Days", "Water Works", "Junior Engineers" and more. We're very excited for a summer spent doing crafts, meeting new friends, playing outdoors, solving puzzles, exploring the museum and welcoming special guests.

Baseball by 1838 rules a Zorra Heritage Committee event

A fun family event offering the chance to try (or watch others trying) baseball as it was played 187 years ago, is slated for May 31, hosted by the Zorra Heritage Committee and the Beachville District Museum.

Called BASEBALL, BUDDIES & BURGERS, the event will be held on the Museum grounds and will include the opportunity to observe or play a reenactment of the original game with five bases, see exhibits related to baseball provided by local organizations, play baseball related activities, and enjoy a lunch provided by the Beachville Legion.

Advanced tickets for the fundraiser are required and available for \$20.00 on the Museum website (beachvilledistrictmuseum.com), or calling 519-423-6497

Beachville was the site of the first recorded baseball game in 1838.

Part of the Beachville District Historical Society, the Zorra Heritage Committee was formed to investigate, document and inform Zorra residents and others interested in Zorra Township's heritage. Information is subsequently posted on the website of the Beachville District Museum.

The Committee has documented, through visits over the past three years, Zorra information available at Museums in Woodstock, Norwich, Stratford and Archives in Woodstock, Norwich and UWO.

Local presentations have included the history of the 1893 World Tug of War Champions, the "Mighty Men of Zorra", as well as information and pictures relating to 15 early Zorra crossroad communities previously identified by the Township of Zorra. It has resulted in an ongoing exhibit in partnership with the Museum.

Other activities have included a popular Mother and Daughter Tea in 2024.

Currently, the group is gathering information on Greats of Zorra Township, individuals whose impact extended beyond Zorra. The Museum is composing a spreadsheet of these past Zorra citizens.

Any person interested in Zorra Heritage is most welcome, whether residing in Zorra or not. Meetings are the first Wednesday of each month, 7:00 pm at the Beachville District Museum (excepting July and August).

Beachville District Museum & Zorra Heritage Committee Presents

BASEBALL, BUDDIES AND BURGERS

TICKET ONLY **\$20**

SATURDAY 31 MAY, 2025

ADVANCED TICKET SALES ONLY

LEARN TO PLAY BASEBALL ACCORDING TO RULES FROM 1838

RE-ENACTMENT, BASEBALL ARTIFACTS, DEMONSTRATIONS, YOUTH ACTIVITIES

BEACHVILLE DISTRICT MUSEUM
584367 Beachville Rd, Beachville, ON
11 AM - 4 PM

LUNCH SERVED 12-2 PM

LUNCH IS INCLUDED IN THE PRICE

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO PURCHASE TICKETS:
CALL: 519-423-6497 OR WEBSITE: WWW.BEACHVILLEDISTRICTMUSEUM.COM

EACH TICKET INCLUDES A \$10 INCOME TAX RECEIPT

30th Anniversary Season

Here at Thistle Theatre, 2025 marks an amazing milestone. Its our 30th Anniversary season!! We are celebrating 30 amazing years of local community theatre, and more than 40 productions that have graced our stage at the historic Embro Town Hall.

In late March, we kicked off the festivities with our production of “E-male?” by Joan Veldman. Joan Veldman, a long-time member of Thistle Theatre, passed away in June 2023. Joan was loved by so many of us that we want to celebrate her many achievements and share some stories, and what better way to do that, than to stage a play she had written.

From 1997 till 2017, Joan worked on over 20 shows and took on leadership roles backstage and on our Board of Directors. In 1997, Joan was a young widow with 2 sons and new to our community. She came out to help with makeup on Thistle’s “Annie”, because she had heard the people at Thistle Theatre were a friendly bunch. In 1998, she tried her first acting role, and was soon playing lead parts.

She directed for the first time in 2001 with “Ethan Claymore”, and in 2007 her production “Moonlight and Valentino” was selected to perform at WODL regional festival. Her final directing work with Thistle was the musical “My Fair Lady”.

Joan also decided to be a playwright! WODL chose her script “E-Male?” as the Minifest show for 2002. Her friends at Thistle were very proud to have a playwright from our group.



Joan Veldman playing the feisty, crazy and caring Mrs. Crump in “That Summer” (2011).

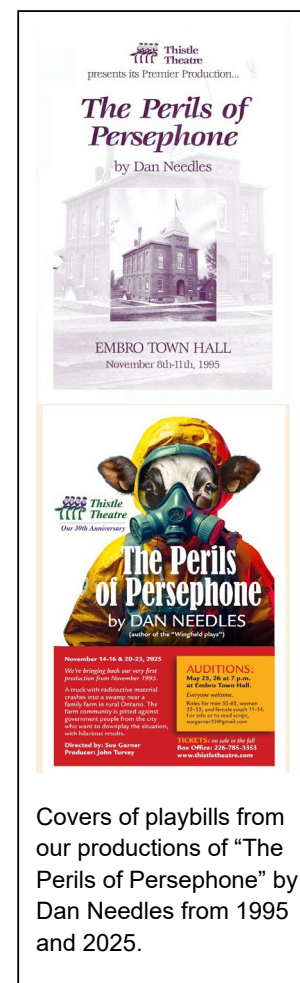


We want to congratulate the cast and crew that kicked off our 30th Anniversary season by bringing an incredibly successful production of “E-male?” to our stage. It was a great show, and you should be very proud of your accomplishments. We are sure that Joan would be proud as well.

So, what comes next as part of our amazing 30th Anniversary season?? In November 2025, we’re bringing back our very first production from November 1995, as we stage “The Perils of Persephone” by Dan Needles. Many of you will likely know Dan Needles as the author of the “Wingfield Plays”. The show will run from November 14th through to November 23rd, 2025. “The Perils of Persephone” tells the story of what happens when a truck with radioactive material crashes into a swamp near a family farm in rural Ontario. The farm community is pitted against government people from the city who want to downplay the situation, with hilarious results. The show will be directed by Sue Garner and produced by John Turvey. Tickets will go on sale in the Fall. Stay tuned to our website www.thistletheatre.com for more details.



Some of the cast of “E-male?” enjoying breakfast in the local diner (2025)



Covers of playbills from our productions of “The Perils of Persephone” by Dan Needles from 1995 and 2025.

Auditions for “Perils of Persephone”

Do you want to strut your stuff on stage? Thistle Theatre will be holding auditions for “The Perils of Persephone” by Dan Needles on May 25th and May 26th at 7 PM. Auditions will be held at the Embro Town Hall. There are roles for men between 30 to 65, women 35 to 55, and a female youth 11 to 14. For more information, or to read script, please contact our Director, Sue Garner at suegarner32@gmail.com. Don’t want to be on stage, but our interested in being a volunteer or being part of the crew for this production, please contact our Producer, John Turvey at john.a.turvey@gmail.com.

Dramarama 2025 Registration Information

Thistle Theatre presents the 29th season of DRAMARAMA! Join us at the Embro Town Hall for imagination, creativity and FUN! Dramarama is our summer day camp for young people ages 6 to 13 (born 2019-2012). First Session runs July 7-18th with two final performances on the 18th at 11am & 1pm. Second Session runs July 21-August 1st with two final performances on August 1st at 11am and 1pm. A 2-week session at Dramarama is all about developing creativity, self-expression, and self-confidence. Workshops in drama, music, dance, arts and crafts, and theatre production take place each morning, with the afternoon spent working in small groups to collectively create short plays. The plays are then performed for family and friends on the final day of the camp. Join us for one, or both sessions. Camps run daily from 9 am to 3 pm.

Our First Session has only 2 spots remaining. Our second session has 15 spots available. Do NOT miss your chance to get the kids signed up for one of the most awesome and fun camps this summer! Register now!

For all the information, including payment options, please head to www.thistle-theatre.com and click on the Dramarama page. Registration is 100% online for the summer 2025 season.

Have a camper who isn’t sure, or just can’t get enough of Dramarama? New this year, we will be offering three one-day camps on July 2, July 3, and July 4th. These one-day camps will focus on building skills and getting creative with arts & crafts. For those who have never been to Dramarama before, these day camps can offer a glimpse into what our full Dramarama sessions are like. Registration for the one-day camps is \$60 per day. Please register online through the Dramarama page. Our day camps still have spaces available. Should you have additional questions, please email dramarama.thistletheatre@gmail.com

Those born in 2011 or older and interested in applying to be Leaders in Training, are encouraged to email our Artistic Director directly at dramarama.thistletheatre@gmail.com. These are volunteer, unpaid positions with the ability to obtain community service hours, as well as learn valuable leadership skills along the way. Often our leaders in training love it so much that they become our workshop leaders in future years.

Should you have any used-in-good condition costumes or props that you’d like to donate, please email dramarama.thistletheatre@gmail.com to arrange for drop off or pick up.



Register Now! Join us for Dramarama in July 2025



AGGREGATES & RECYCLING

603150 RD. 60
INGERSOLL

WE SELL

- ✓ **SAND & GRAVEL**
- ✓ **BLENDED TOPSOILS**
- ✓ **CRUSHED STONE**
- ✓ **LANDSCAPE STONE**

WE RECYCLE

- ♻️ **CONCRETE / ASPHALT**
- ♻️ **BRUSH / WOOD**
- ♻️ **DRYWALL**
- ♻️ **SHINGLES**

DELIVERY AVAILABLE

519-659-9110

J-AAR.COM

TIRECRAFT



www.tirecraft.com



Firestone

FARM TIRES
THE LEADER IN THE FIELD

Visit us for our complete
line of Firestone farm tires.



Owned and operated by:
Al's Tire Service

R.R.#1
593771 Hwy #59 South
Burgessville, Ontario N0J 1C0

P: 519-424-9865
TF: 800-265-9294
F: 519-424-2338



**FLEMING
HOME COMFORT**

**HEATING &
AIR CONDITIONING**

Sales • Service • Installation

519-617-4205

www.fleminghomecomfort.com