

Zorranow

COMMUNITY EVENTS & SERVICES MAGAZINE

Spring 2026



What's In A Name? | Page **20**

Cover photo submitted by Jess & Alan Thirkettle as part of our 2023 Photo Contest



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Message from the Mayor

As I wrote in the Winter Zorra Now, you may have recently noticed much more work going on at the former Cold Springs site in Thamesford. As I write this, concrete pipes have

arrived on site to begin underground (water and wastewater and storm sewer) servicing. Some of the first parts of the development to begin are things that all Zorra residents can use: the new school with extra large recreation facilities that can be booked through Zorra, and a connecting trail all along the property from St. Patrick Street to the Wildcat loop. This development will eventually bring new services and tax base to benefit the entire Township.

There is a municipal election this fall. Are you on the voters list? Make sure at: <https://www.registertovoteon.ca/>

As we head into the 2026 municipal election, think about what you want for Zorra and Oxford. Our community has achieved great things:

- Pedestrian safety and traffic calming in villages
- Stopping high speed rail
- Stopping a dump
- Thamesford and Embro splash pads
- Managing through COVID
- Reduced farm tax ratio

- Unprecedented Oxford planning policy to protect farmland and green spaces through intensification targets
- 100% renewable Zorra Maintenance Facility
- New Zorra Municipal Centre with a childcare
- The Maple Leaf / Kingwood redevelopment in Thamesford - 1000 units mixed, trail, sprawl reduction, economic development, no tax impact
- New Thamesford public school

And over that same time there were three years (2019, 20, 21) where Council(s) delivered a reduction in tax rate, and two more where the increase was less than inflation.

None of this can be accomplished without residents engaging with Council on what they want for the future of Zorra and Oxford.

For the remainder of the term, Council will continue to do our part towards a vibrant, prosperous, engaged, and environmentally conscious community for the future.

#doingourpart #growingstrongertogether

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

Alycia Wettlaufer, Deputy Clerk/Legislative Coordinator
Township of Zorra
163 Brock Street, PO Box 189
Thamesford, ON N0M 2M0
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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:



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Print Online.



140 Dundas St., Thamesford

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DISCOVER YOUR OXFORD COUNTY LIBRARY



Oxford Reads
Get ready to vote! The 2026 Oxford Reads Shortlist is available at www.oxfordreads.ca. Explore the nominated titles and help choose Oxford County's next great read.



Ox on the Run
Did you know that Ox on the Run stops in Kintore every other Friday? Pick up your holds, browse our collection, or ask us for tech help.

May 1, 10:00-11:30	July 10, 10:00-11:30
May 15, 10:00-11:30	July 24, 10:00-11:30
May 29, 10:00-11:30	August 7, 10:00-11:30
June 12, 10:00-11:30	August 21, 10:00-11:30

Harrington Branch

Wednesday, June 3 – 7:00 p.m. in Harrington Hall
Seniors in Food Crisis organizer Jayna Hendren will be coming to speak at the Harrington branch about her organization and how the community can partner with to assist seniors in need.

Thamesford Branch

STEAM Club for ages 7+
Visit the library to play with robots, build with Lego and complete STEAM-based crafts and activities.
Superhero Science - Tuesday, May 5, 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.
Crafty Codebreaking - Tuesday, May 19, 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Don't forget our Summer Reading Club starts in June. All OCL 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 ocl.net.



Oxford County Library

connect. discover. share. become.

Public Works Department

Downed Trees

High winds can often mean downed trees. If you come across a tree blocking the road during business hours (M-F 8am-5pm), please call the Township office to report at 519-485-2490. Outside office hours, call the OPP to report at the non-emergency line 1-888-310-1122 *OPP. If it is an emergency, please call 911.

Street Sweeping:

Street sweeping will begin late April, due to the long, snowy winter and heavy winter sand presence. Sweeping will take longer than usual, however, all streets should be cleaned up by the end of May, weather permitting.

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.

Fresh Gravel and Dust Suppressant Application:

Dust suppressant application will begin May 4. All gravel roads will be graded several times prior to application of dust suppressant. Zorra Township has approximately 350 kilometers of gravel roads. Weather permitting, dust suppressant application operations should be complete by June 30.

The north end of the Township is scheduled for fresh gravel application starting May 19. All gravel roads north of, and including, Road 88 will be receiving fresh gravel. Weather permitting, all scheduled roads receiving fresh gravel will be completed by June 12th.

Any roads questions should be addressed to

Steve Oliver, Director of Public Services 519-485-2490 ext. 7227 or soliver@zorra.ca

Building Department

Building Permit Applications

For instructions on how to apply for a building or septic permit, please visit the Building & Drainage section on the Township website. All applications should be submitted through Cloudpermit at www.cloudpermit.com. First time users will be required to register an account. For questions related to Cloudpermit, please contact the Building Department.

Decks and Shed Building Permits

- Decks that are 24 inches (2ft) in height or higher require a building permit and must be equipped with appropriate guardrails.
- Sheds larger than 15 m.sq. (161 sq. ft.) require a building permit and must comply with applicable zoning by-laws including setbacks, height restrictions, and lot coverage.
- Sheds smaller than 15 m.sq. (161 sq.ft.) do not require a building permit (unless they are going to contain plumbing). Even though a building permit may not be required, the structure must still comply with applicable zoning by-laws including setbacks, height restrictions, and lot coverage.

Pool Permits

If you are planning to install a pool, a building permit is required. A site plan, grading plan and information on fencing and locks will be required with your application. Additionally, ensure that your pool project complies with Section 9.0 of the Township of Zorra Fencing By-Law 45-22.

Standard Details for Residential Construction

The Ontario Building Officials Association and the Large Municipalities Chief Building Officials group has created a helpful document illustrating some examples of minimum Ontario Building Code requirements which apply to different types of residential construction in Ontario. The document includes sample drawings for basement alterations, carports, decks, fireplaces, garages, plumbing systems, and wall sections. The document can be accessed under the Information and Resources section on the Zorra website.

Building Safety Month – May 2026

May marks Building Safety Month, a time to recognize the vital role building safety professionals play in protecting our homes, workplaces, and communities.



Drainage

As Spring field operations commence, please remain vigilant for any damaged municipal drain tiles. If you identify any issues that may require repair, please reach out to Drainage Superintendent Mike Hughes to review the matter and discuss next steps. Early reporting helps ensure timely fixes and smooth operations throughout the season.

Any building or drainage questions should be addressed to

Mike Hughes, Chief Building Official/Drainage Superintendent
519-485-2490 ext 7224 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 materials 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 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.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact
Shane Casquette firechief@zorra.ca

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.

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,

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>.

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

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?

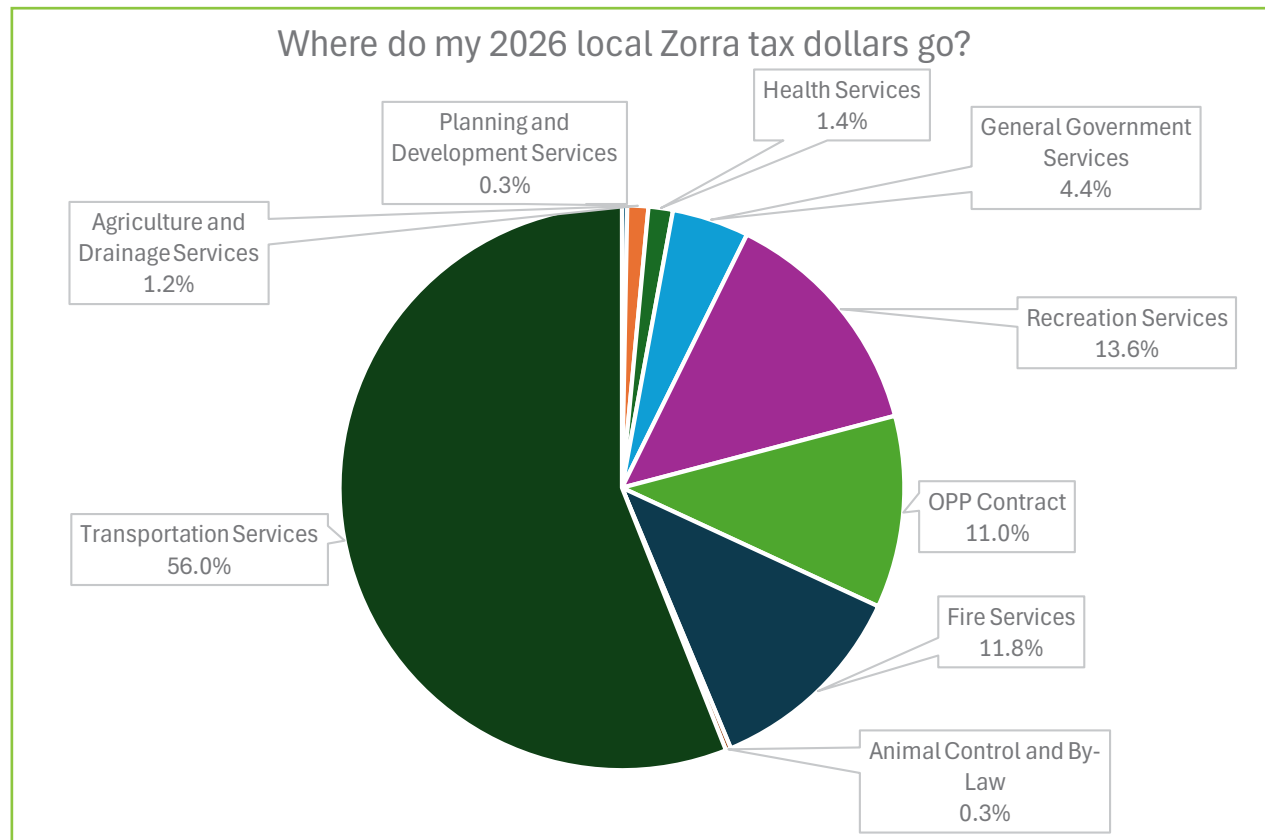
Please contact our Animal Services provider, the Stratford Perth Humane Society, ASAP and file a lost/ found report. Also check out the stray pets in care page to see if your pet is currently at the shelter (pets will show for the first five days from intake, so please always call). Call 519-273-6600



Tax Department

Council approved the 2026 Budget at the December 3, 2025, meeting and reports are available on our website for your information. Township Tax Rates are being presented to Council for approval on May 6, 2026, now that the County of Oxford has finalized 2026 tax ratios. Some key points include:

- The Capital Budget total \$8,532,761 and is funded from reserves, grants and donations
- The Operating Budget requires \$12,829,962 collected from taxes to fund 2026 operations and transfers to reserves
- Total taxes to be collected for 2026 is \$12,829,962 and represents an increase of 3.09% over 2025
- The Township saw a less than 1% increase in assessment growth
- The anticipated increase in the Township tax rate is 3.59%



Residential Single Family Home	Total Taxes	Taxes per Level of Government		
		Zorra	County	Education - Provincial
Assessment Value (based on January 1, 2016 as per the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation)	\$275,000			
2025 Taxes	\$ 3,670.88	\$ 1,811.70	\$ 1,438.43	\$ 420.75
2026 Taxes	\$ 3,802.51	\$ 1,867.63	\$ 1,514.13	\$ 420.75
Tax Change	\$ 131.63	\$ 55.93	\$ 75.70	\$ -
2026 Tax % Increase over 2025	3.59%	3.09%	5.26%	0.00%

Recreation Department

SWIM LESSON REGISTRATION OPENS MAY 1, 2026

www.zorra.ca

THAMESFORD AREA SWIMMING POOL

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

LESSONS

DAYTIME LESSONS

Monday-Friday for 2 weeks 9:00am-12:00pm
 Session 1 - June 29 to July 10
 Session 2 - July 13 to July 24
 Session 3 - July 27 to August 7
 Session 4 - August 10 to August 21

Saturday Mornings 9:00am-12:00pm
 July 4 to August 22 (8 weeks)

EVENING LESSONS

Tuesday or Thursday nights 5:00pm-7:00pm
 June 30 to August 20 (8 weeks)

PRIVATE LESSONS

Monday 5:30pm-6:30pm
Tuesday & Thursday 4:00pm-5:00pm
Wednesday & Friday 4:00pm-6:30pm
Saturday 9:45am-12:00pm
 June 29-August 22

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	AQUAFIT
Monday	7:30-8:15am	8:15-9:00am
Tuesday	7:45-8:30pm	7:00-7:45pm
Wednesday	7:30-8:15am	8:15-9:00am
Thursday	7:45-8:30pm	7:00-7:45pm
Friday	7:30-8:15am	8:15-9:00am
Saturday	9:00-9:45am	

Rates

Youth (4-17) & Senior (60+) individual	\$3.50
Adult (18-59) individual	\$5.00
Family 3 and under	free
10-Swim Punch Card Youth & Senior	\$28.25
10-Swim Punch Card Adult	\$40.50
Single season pass Youth & Senior	\$71.00
Single season pass Adult	\$101.50
Family season pass	\$203.25

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)	\$71.00/30 min / \$85.25/45 min
Evening/weekend (8 classes)	\$58.25/30 min / \$70.00/45 min
Private (30 min)	\$25.25
Bronze Star	\$81.25
Bronze Medallion	\$152.50
Bronze cross	\$152.50
Swim team	\$86.25
Pool rental (1 hour)	\$127.00

*Schedules subject to change

BOOK YOUR POOL RENTAL ONLINE

Keep cool this summer at the Thamesford Area Swimming Pool

\$127.00/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

TOWNSHIP DEPARTMENT INFORMATION

TOWNSHIP DEPARTMENT INFORMATION

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Zorra Now | Spring 2026

Zorra Now | Spring 2026

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Weekly Rate
\$179
Daily Rate
\$44.75

ZORRA Summer CAMP

Register TODAY!
www.zorra.ca

10 WEEKS OF FUN!
June 29th - September 4th

SHORT WEEK
SUPERHERO WEEK
WEEK 1
June 29 - July 3

MINUTE MADNESS
WEEK 2
July 6-10

MINI OLYMPICS
WEEK 3
July 13-17

TRIP WEEK
CREATIVE CAMPERS
WEEK 4
July 20-24

FAIRYTALE WEEK
WEEK 5
July 27-31

SHORT WEEK
SPACE ODYSSEY
WEEK 6
August 4-7

TRIP WEEK
UNDER THE SEA
WEEK 7
August 10-14

DISNEY WEEK
WEEK 8
August 17-21

BUILD IT WEEK
WEEK 9
August 24-28

SAFARI ADVENTURE
WEEK 10
Aug 31- Sept 4

Register for our drop-in programs and classes on PickupHub!

REGISTER TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR RECREATIONAL
PROGRAMS ONLINE AT
WWW.PICKUPHUB.NET

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



ZORRA DROP-IN PROGRAMS

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
 PICKLEBALL SPRING APRIL 27 - JUNE 25 DROP-IN SCHEDULE	9:00AM-12:00PM EZCC	8:00AM-11:00AM TDRC 6:00PM-9:00PM EZCC	9:00AM-12:00PM EZCC 6:00PM-9:00PM TDRC	8:00AM-11:00AM TDRC
	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
 PICKLEBALL SUMMER JUNE 29 - SEPTEMBER 3 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
	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

*Schedules subject to change
Register at PickupHub.net

TDRC - THAMESFORD DISTRICT RECREATION CENTRE
EZCC - EMBRO-ZORRA COMMUNITY CENTRE



KEEP SCORE ON YOUR PHONE

DOWNLOAD THE APP

- Find courses, leagues and stores
- Track stats and measure throws
- Connect with friends and more

5Disc




Township Community Partnership Projects

ZORRA MULTI-USE COURTS COMMITTEE



The location of the multi-courts site in the new Kingwood development is seeing progress with grading work nearly complete and initial servicing commencing this Spring.

The Request for Proposal will be issued this Spring, with construction to follow.

Located centrally within town, these courts will be easily walkable and surrounded by nearby amenities, including soccer fields and a community gymnasium planned as part of the new elementary school.

We thank the committee, volunteers, and donors for making this project a reality!

Visual concept only:



Recipients of 2026 Capital Grant Funding

EMBRO MINOR BASEBALL - MATHESON PARK MINI PITCH



Council approved EMBA's grant proposal to support the construction of a new mini-pitch baseball diamond behind Matheson Park in Embro. The new mini-pitch diamond will provide a dedicated, age-appropriate space for younger players to learn baseball fundamentals in a safe and fun environment. This project supports EMBA's commitment to growing minor baseball and expanding recreational opportunities for local families.

Construction is expected to take place this Spring in time for the upcoming baseball season!

EMBA is seeking sponsors for the project. Please contact embrominorbaseball@gmail.com if you are interested in supporting.



EMBRO DOG PARK COMMITTEE



Council approved a community group's grant proposal to raise funds to bring an off-leash dog park to Embro. The group is now an official Committee of Council, enabling them to raise funds and provide recommendations to Council on the scope of project and location of the dog park.

Committee members are Chair Diane Normand, Councillor Crystal Finch, Carys Wyn Hughes, Emily Moitoso, Deb Baker and Teighan Morris.

Keep an eye on the Embro Dog Park Facebook Page for upcoming fundraisers!

Looking to volunteer or donate? Contact: embrodogpark@gmail.com



STAY UPDATED!

Visit www.zorra.ca/our-township/committees or contact Sofia Caldwell, Manager of Recreation and Facilities, at scaldwell@zorrra.ca.

2026

Municipal Election



When is the 2026 municipal election? **Monday, October 26, 2026.**

For additional information, or questions on the material contained in this elections document, please contact:

- clerk@zorra.ca,
- Karen Martin, Director of Corporate & Protective Services, at 519-485-2490 ext. 7228,
- Alycia Wettlaufer, Deputy Clerk, at 519-485-2490 ext. 7250.

All elections-related materials and additional information can be found on Zorra's election website!

<https://elections.zorra.ca/>



Voter Information

Municipal elections take place every four (4) years in accordance with the Municipal Elections Act. The next regular municipal election to elect a Mayor, Councillors, and School Board Trustees will be on October 26, 2026. The current term of Council ends in November 2026.

The Township of Zorra will be utilizing INTERNET/TELEPHONE alternative method of voting for the 2026 municipal election, the same voting method used in 2022. Voters can vote in the privacy and convenience of their own home. Security and secrecy features are built into the process. In the fall, details on the voting period will be mailed to you with your Voter Information Card.

Who is eligible to vote in the Zorra municipal election?

A person is entitled to be an elector at an election held in a local municipality, if on voting day they are:

- A Canadian citizen;
- At least 18 years old;
- Residing in the local municipality or an owner or tenant there, or the spouse of such owner or tenant; and
- Not otherwise prohibited from voting.

So you want to run for Council ...

Candidate Information

Eligible candidates can run for one of the following offices:

- Mayor
- Councillor, Ward 1
- Councillor, Ward 2
- Councillor, Ward 3
- Councillor, Ward 4
- Thames Valley District School Board (English Public) Trustees
- London District Catholic School Board (English Separate) Trustee
- Conseil Scolaire Viamonde (French Public) Trustee
- Conseil Scolaire Catholique Providence (French Separate) Trustee

The above school board nominations must be filed with the City of Woodstock. The Conseil Scolaire Viamonde Trustee nomination must be filed at the Township of Zorra.

Who is eligible to run for Mayor/Councillor in Zorra?

In order to run for office, an individual must be:

- A Canadian citizen;
- At least 18 years of age;
- A resident of the Township of Zorra, or an owner or tenant of land in the Township of Zorra, or the spouse of the owner or tenant;
- Not legally prohibited from voting; and
- Not disqualified by any legislation from holding office.



- Nominations will be accepted beginning on May 1, 2026 until 2:00 p.m. on August 21, 2026. A nomination form must be filed with Township Officials.
- Pay a filing fee of \$200 for the position of Mayor and \$100 for all other offices. This fee will be refunded to all candidates who file the required financial statements by the required deadline.
- Candidates must supply proof of endorsement from 25 electors at the time of submitting their nominations to be a candidate in the election. Further information and forms are available on the Township website.

How does a candidate choose which ward to run in? Do you have to live in the ward you are running in?

A candidate can run for office in the ward of their choice. You do not have to live in the same ward you are running in. However, you do have to vote from the address at which you reside. For example, if you live in Ward 2, but are running in Ward 1, you have to vote in Ward 2.

THINKING ABOUT RUNNING FOR COUNCIL?



Visit our Elections website for links and resources to help you decide if becoming a member of Municipal Council is right for you!

<https://elections.zorra.ca/>

Third Party Advertiser Information

What is a Third Party Advertisement?

A third party advertisement is a paid advertisement in any medium (billboard, newspaper, radio, electronic, etc.) that supports or opposes a candidate. Third party advertising does not include issues-based advertising so groups that do public outreach can continue their issued-based advocacy work throughout the municipal election period. Advertising that does not cost money to post or broadcast, such as comments made on social media, will not be considered to be third party advertising.

Who is a Third Party Advertiser?

A third party is any individual, corporation, or trade union that is not a political party, candidate or constituency association, and that engages in political advertising. Third parties include corporations, partnerships, unincorporated businesses and associations, and many other groups.

Who can register as a Third Party Advertiser?

Individuals, corporations and unions can register as third party advertisers and can also make contributions to third party advertisers. Third party advertisers will need to register with the municipality where they want to advertise. Registration allows a third party advertiser to promote or oppose any candidate that the electors in the municipality can vote for (local council, school board trustee positions and regional or county council offices). Third party advertising must be done independently of candidates, who are not able to direct a third party advertiser. Candidates are not able to register as third party advertisers.

ARE YOU ON THE VOTERS' LIST?

[HAVE YOUR SAY. LOG ON TODAY.](#)

Zorra Township residents can find out whether they're on the list to vote for the upcoming municipal and school board elections at www.registertovoteon.ca. This is an online service used to collect and confirm info that will be used in the preparation of the final Voters' Lists across Ontario. You can also add names to your property address.

To confirm your information is accurately recorded for the upcoming elections, log on to <https://vreg.registertovoteon.ca/en/home> using your property address or assessment roll number and your full name and date of birth. Updating this information will help to ensure that municipal Voters' Lists are accurate and up-to-date in preparation for municipal and school board elections occurring this October.



Please ensure you are on the Municipal Voters' List, if your name is on the Provincial Voters' List it does not mean that your name will automatically be on the Municipal Voters' List.

If you need support, or you need to remove a name, please call 1-866-242-3025.

Update your school support designation by June 1, 2026, through the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) for the October 2026 municipal and school board elections. MPAC is legislatively required to collect school support information.

<https://www.mpac.ca/en/MakingChangesUpdates/SchoolSupportDesignation>

Township of Zorra STAFF UPDATES



Shane Caskanette

Shared Fire Chief (joint with South-West Oxford)

The Township of Zorra is pleased to continue working with Shane Caskanette, as our Shared Fire Chief with South-West Oxford Township. Shane's leadership and dedication strengthens fire services across both communities. We are grateful for his ongoing commitment to public safety.

Finance Department

The Township of Zorra is pleased to announce that Aleksander Lindskoog has moved into the role of Financial Analyst/Deputy Treasurer. Alex brings valuable experience and enthusiasm to the Finance team, and we look forward to the contributions he will make in this new position.

Welcome back to our former student Georgia Weber! Georgia will be responsible for payroll and other services in our Finance department.

Public Services Department

Lannie Schurman has joined our Recreation Team as a full-time Operator

Seasonal Cemetery Staff will be maintaining the grounds of the Ingersoll Rural Cemetery. Staff members taking on this role are Ryan Beckett, Ethan LaPorte, and Connor MacArthur.

Tyler Fletcher is the newest full-time member of the Public Works Roads Team.

We look forward to welcoming our Summer students across our Zorra day camp, Thamesford swimming pool and parks. There are Volunteer opportunities available at the pool and camp. Send an email to booking@zorra.ca for more information!

Help us bring a dog park to Embro



Fundraising Events

Donations Welcome

- June 6th - Embro Family Pharmacy & Thamesford Lions BBQ
- July 1st - Yard Sale at 113 Argyle Street, Embro
- July 18th - Garagefest
- Sept 26th - Sponsored Dog Walk

Follow 'Embro Dog Park' on Facebook for more details

Ingersoll Rural Cemetery Update



The Ingersoll Rural Cemetery is jointly operated by the Township of Zorra and the Town of Ingersoll. Under the current service agreement, the Town is responsible for administrative and licensing functions, while the Township is responsible for physical operations and maintenance of the grounds and buildings.

For information on fees, internments or mausoleum visits contact:
clerks@ingersoll.ca or call 519-485-0120 ext. 6260

For questions related to maintenance service contact: facilities@zorra.ca or call 519-485-2490 ext. 7244.

What's in a name?

By Deputy Mayor Katie Grigg

That which we call a rose, ...or a road, by any other name would smell as sweet?

While a road name may not change the nature of the driving/cycling/jogging landscape, I would argue that it can very much be sweeter when it evokes stories that are ours. The names on our roads, parks, and facilities function as just that, ways to identify them and differentiate from each other. However, we know that often we have names that hold special meaning, and those names serve to remind us of who we are, where we come from, and what makes this place we call home so wonderful. So, I would suggest there is a lot in a name.

You likely have travelled Zorra township roads that are named with prominent local family names. You also likely have read signs that have names that may be less known. As our communities grow and new roads, parks, and facilities are added, new names become part of our inventory and give opportunity to hold as much or little meaning as we like. In the past, there was no set way on how these were decided.

In February of 2021, Zorra Council brought some structure to this, through the implementation of the Zorra Asset Naming Policy, mainly to provide clarity and transparency on how these decisions are made, and also to provide the opportunity for residents to contribute their own stories and observations to be considered for new assets.

The name on a sign can spark curiosity, conversations, and can be a way that helps connect us. I happen to know a few stories to bring some meaning to Darlison Drive in Thamesford. It was named for the late Albert Darlison, who was a resident of the village of Thamesford until his death in 2014, a week after his 99th birthday. He was a founding member of the Thamesford Volunteer Fire Dept, and could tell you about how it worked before pagers existed. He was one of the homes with a fire phone in it and then had a chain of contacts to get the word out. He held many roles in the community, including helping with the May long weekend celebration of Calithumpian, and was part of the 2009 festivities when the Olympic torch passed through Thamesford, closing down Dundas and bringing us all out of our homes

in the cold to be together and witness the magic. There may still be photos from this up at the Thamesford RBC. These are likely to be the formal reasons for the naming honour, however like any human, there is always much more.

He had a golden retriever named Buddy who ate too many treats and would run along the yard to greet passers by. Buddy loved kids, and kids loved Buddy.

Albert had a pair of Adirondack chairs on his wrap around porch that I'm pretty sure he made in his woodworking shop. He often would be found napping in his favourite chair, or sipping a cold drink while visiting with a friend who would sit in the second chair, or leaning against the porch post in the shade of the massive tree that is no longer there. A tree that he planted...or so the story goes.

His woodworking shop in his garage was where he built dozens of "Martha Washington Sewing Cabinets" after his

retirement, with a template that he still had from his days as a student of Beal High School. Many of these were given as special gifts and included his signature and identifying number in the drawer of each cabinet he completed. If you

see one of these around town, the owner may have a Darlison story for you as well. When he passed, he had just completed his final cabinet, ready to go out to its new home. I don't know what number it was. At one point in his early ownership of the home on the north side of town, he had horses and used to ride them where there are now rows of houses on Washington, Byron and McCarty



Drawing of porch with 2 chairs and tree

St. It's hard to even imagine the village from that time, especially if you have only recently moved here.

Albert had a lot of stories, so much so that it was hard to believe it all to be true. The parts of his story we know will depend on when we knew him, and

from what context. I knew him as a neighbour and friend in the final years of his life. Others for decades, or other contexts. He was the unofficial teacher of local history to those who stopped by, and helped many of us fall in love with this place, who were not necessarily from here. When the moon was high in the sky, he would often chuckle and say "the biggest farce the American government ever pulled"...with total disbelief that humans could ever have landed on the moon. Clearly this was said before he passed in 2014, ahead of so much yet to come.

In beautiful synchronicity, as I recall this story of Albert, my entire news and socials content is dominated by the Artemis II mission. The added excitement for us in a local context is watching history-making Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute graduate Jeremy Hansen, who is the first non-American to travel beyond low Earth orbit, and is now among the humans who have traveled the farthest from Earth, breaking the distance record alongside the rest of the Artemis II crew...and who happened to attend high school with some of our neighbours. As incredible images are captured and shared back to earth, probably the most powerful story of our shared humanity from this mission happens to be about, you guessed it, a name. "Her name was Carroll. The spouse of Reid. The mother of Katie and Ellie". If you have not watched the video of or read about this, stop reading this now and go find it. I'm not looking to debate Albert, moon landing conspiracy theories, or trust in the American government, but to think about the discovery of a bright spot on the moon, and the question, what is in a name?



Albert and horse. North side of Thamesford. Unknown year.

In recent history we face caution around assigning names, as over time we sometimes learn more, or society shifts, and the honour is no longer what is reflected. This can be really challenging to navigate, and some feel that is reason to not bother at all. While that can be a potential concern, the benefit of telling who we are, today, is something that we are not willing to lose. We choose names, we find meaning, we invite conversations. We see ourselves in these stories.

And look at all the conversations we are having now, because of a bright spot on the moon named Carroll. And a Drive in Thamesford named Darlison.

Important other considerations for contributing YOUR important local stories:

If you have a submission for the Asset Naming Policy, including learning about the criteria, visit www.zorra.ca

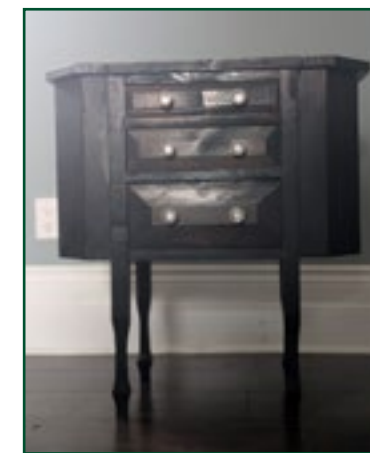
Also, check out the HISTORY section on our website to learn about various other historical resources.

We are served with a shared museum with our neighbours in SWOX in the Beachville District Museum: www.beachvilledistrictmuseum.com

Including the efforts and projects of the Zorra Historical Society

We are served with archival services through the County of Oxford: www.archives/oxfordcounty.ca

Our Thamesford branch library also has some incredible binders of local history. Pop in and chat with staff about these!



Martha Washington sewing cabinet #35 completed June 20 2012

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 6, 9:30am
May 20, 6:00pm
June 3, 9:30am
June 17, 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
Phone: 519-425-2308
Email: nicole@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: 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: 519-425-2314
Email: lteeple@zorra.ca

*Corporate and Strategic
Strategic Initiatives & Government
Relations Officer*
Jacob Sookraj
Phone: 519-425-2340
Email: jsookraj@zorra.ca

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

Legislative Coordinator/Deputy Clerk
Alycia Wettlaufer
Phone: 519-425-2313
Email: awettlaufer@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
Aleksander Lindskoog
Phone: 519-425-2245
Email: alindskoog@zorra.ca

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

Financial Services Clerk
Georgina Weber
Phone: 519-485-0784
Email: gweber@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: jmckay@zorra.ca

Protective Services
Manager of Emergency Services/Fire Chief
Shane Caskanette
Email: firechief@swox.org

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Community Contact Listing

Minor Sports

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

Embroid Minor Soccer Association www.embrosoccer.ca
Kintore Optimist Soccer League
www.leaguelineup.com/kintoresoccer
Thamesford Area Minor Hockey Association
www.tamha.net

Zorra Skating Club (Thamesford)
www.zorraskatingclub.ca
Thamesford Minor Baseball Association
www.thamesfordminorbaseball.ca

Thamesford Minor Soccer
www.leaguelineup.com/thamesfordsoccer
West Oxford Girls Hockey Assoc. www.wogha.ca

Other Organizations

Thamesford Jr. PJHL Hockey Club
www.thamesfordtrojans.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
Box 242, Thamesford, ON N0M 2M0
Sheldon Wade, President 519-859-4348
thamesfordlions@gmail.com

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@explornet.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

ingburg@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

Khanna, Arpan MP 519-421-7124
North Embroid Cemetery

Darwin Cooper 519-475-4530
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
Rural Oxford Economic Development 519-619-6895

ronda@ruraloxford.ca ruraloxford.ca
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 226-785-3353

infothistletheatre@gmail.com
Tiny Paws Dog Rescue - Linda Collier www.tpdr.ca

VON Oxford 519-539-1231
VON Sakura House 519-537-8515

Welcome Wagon 519-485-2990
Wienerfest - Linda Collier 519-285-5123

Women's Canadian Club 519-471-8924

Places of Worship

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

East Missouri Union Church
519-349-2333

It's time to...
**DISCOVER
 RURAL
 OXFORD**



Rural Oxford
 Economic Development
RURALOXFORD.CA



Update

Oxford Road 2 (Dundas Street) corridor improvements, Thamesford

Thank you to residents who attended the July 23, 2025, public meeting and provided feedback as we plan for upcoming improvements to the Oxford Road 2 (Dundas Street) corridor in Thamesford.

This project was initiated to:

- Manage increasing traffic volumes;
- Prepare the corridor for future growth in a staged and responsible manner; and,
- Improve safety for all road users.

Please stay tuned for details on an upcoming second public meeting to share updates and information.

- Follow Oxford County on social media
- Visit the project page on Speak Up, Oxford!
- Visit www.oxfordcounty.ca/construction



Hansford
complete **Tree
 Removal
 Service**

**Trimming • Chipping
 Stump Removal • Firewood**

RR#2, Ingersoll, Ontario N5C 3J5

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

Keep up to date on news and events in Zorra Township

www.zorra.ca



Find us on Facebook!
 Township of Zorra



Follow us on LinkedIn!
 Township of Zorra



Follow us on Instagram!
 @ZorraTwp



HAPPY HILLS RESORT
 SOUTHWESTERN ONTARIO FAMILY CAMPING DESTINATION

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

Thamesford Lions

Celebrating 65 Years Serving The Zorra Community

Spring is here, and the Thamesford Lions couldn't be happier! With the season comes fresh energy, new projects, and plenty to look forward to in our community.

We're excited to share that several initiatives are underway. A special addition to Lions South Park will be announced soon, along with the continuation of paving the Don Knox Trail as it winds through the park. Our Environment and Parks Committee has been hard at work helping keep our outdoor spaces beautiful, accessible, and growing for everyone to enjoy.

Keep your eyes open for a few new features around town as well. A new Lions sign will soon be installed in Lions River Park, and a beautifully handcrafted display cabinet now stands proudly in the arena hallway, just as you enter the community hall. Built by our very own Lion President's son, this cabinet is more than just furniture, it's a storytelling piece. With the support of the township, it will allow us to showcase our awards and treasured pieces of Lions history for the whole community to enjoy. This year is especially meaningful as our club celebrates 65 years of service to Zorra Township and beyond. It's a milestone that reflects decades of dedication, generosity, and community spirit, and we're proud to continue building on that legacy.

Mark your calendars for the Tropicali Long Weekend, May 16-18 — featuring Thamesford Lions events throughout the weekend. From children's races and the ever-popular trout brunch to the colourful parade and more, there's something for everyone to enjoy. For a full schedule of all weekend events, visit www.thamesfordcalithumpian.ca.

On June 6, be sure to check out a BBQ in Embro at Embro Family Pharmacy from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM in support of the Embro Dog Park fundraiser. It's a great opportunity to enjoy some delicious food while supporting a wonderful local initiative. Fetch a free BBQ bite – donate if you're feeling paws-itively generous!

Then on June 20, join us for our Lions Car Show & Father's Day Weekend BBQ. Whether you're a car enthusiast or just along for the food and festivities, it's a day designed for the whole family to enjoy. Checkout www.thamesfordlions.com closer to the date for more info!! All cars are welcome! Lions South Park will be the spot to be! (Splash pad onsite for the kids!)



Thamesford Lions Club

Thamesford Lions Community Events

"Catch The Ace" Progressive Raffle

Weekly Prize Draws - jackpot grows each week if Ace of Spades not found
8pm Tuesday nights streamed LIVE on Facebook at Brunny's Bar & Grill
*** NEW GAME Starts April 15th ***

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

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

Electronic, Metal, Batteries Recycling Day

Saturday April 18, 2026 8AM-1PM
Thamesford Community Centre Parking Lot
Contact: Lion Andrew 519-709-0971
or email: amclur2@alumni.uwo.ca

Calithumpian Weekend - Children's Races

Saturday May 16, 2026 10AM
Thamesford Community Centre - Green Space
Contact: Lion Norma woodno24@gmail.com

Calithumpian Weekend - Trout Brunch

Sunday May 17, 2026 Serving: 11AM-1PM
Thamesford Community Centre
Contact: Lion Steve 519-619-2118

Car Show - Father's Day BBQ

Saturday June 20, 2026
Thamesford Lions South Park
Contact: Lion Derek 226-268-2786

Community Celebration

Saturday August 22, 2026 11AM-2PM
Thamesford Lions South Park
Contact: Lion Francine kikover2@gmail.com

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



EMBRACE YOUR PLACE.

You don't need to travel far for adventure. This summer, try being a tourist in your own county. Explore a shop you've never visited, enjoy a new flavour from a local restaurant, or wander a trail you've always meant to check out. Little moments like these make for the best memories. Your next great day out might be just minutes away.

Visit TourismOxford.ca for ready-to-explore itineraries.

Save the Date!

Join the Thamesford Lions on August 22nd (rain date August 23rd) from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM at Lions South Park for a special community celebration. Enjoy free hot dogs and drinks, the unveiling of an exciting new project, and a meaningful moment as we present awards to our Senior Members. There will also be plenty of fun for the kids, making it a perfect day for the whole family to come together.

From park projects to community celebrations, the Thamesford Lions are proud to keep our community strong, connected, and thriving. We look forward to seeing you out this season!

7th Annual Celebrate Harrington Community Auction



Hosted by:
Harrington's Knox Presbyterian Church
Harrington & Area Community Association

ONLINE AUCTION:

OPENS: Wed. Apr. 29th, 2026 at 8am
CLOSES: Tues. May 5th, 2026 at 8pm
(with extended bidding)

www.32auctions.com/Harrington2026

DONATIONS will be gratefully received at
Harrington Hall, 539 Victoria St., Harrington on
Thurs. April 23rd 5pm to 7pm
and Saturday April 25 10am to Noon

PLANT SALE: Fri. May 8th 5pm to 7pm
& Saturday May 9th - 10am to noon at Harrington Hall.
Hanging baskets and patio pots 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



87TH EMBRO HIGHLAND GAMES!

JULY 1, 2026 * 8AM - 5PM

JOIN US AT ONTARIO'S OLDEST HIGHLAND GAMES!

FAMILY FUN WITH A SCOTTISH FLAIR

Hosted by the Zorra Caledonian Society

NEW!
INTERNATIONAL TUG-OF-WAR COMPETITION!

Embro Zorra Community Centre
Adults: \$30 (online in advance: \$27.50)
Under 18: No Charge

Free Parking!
Bring a lawn chair!

EMBROHIGHLANDGAMES.CA

Zorra Heritage Committee

The “Greats of Zorra” Project

The Beachville District Historical Society’s Zorra Heritage Committee is currently researching and compiling the stories of notable individuals connected to Zorra who achieved recognition beyond the Township’s borders. To date, more than 70 individuals have been identified as part of the committee’s Greats of Zorra project, and additional suggestions from the community are always welcome.

Each month, the committee will feature one of these stories in the Village Voice,

so be sure to follow along. We encourage your participation and contributions as we work together to share and celebrate Zorra’s rich history.

The Greats of Zorra
In order to meet the criteria for inclusion in the project, individuals must be:

- deceased;
- connected to Zorra (not necessarily born in Zorra); and
- recognized for their contribution outside of Zorra.

- | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. John Adams | 25. Mark Heather | 49. John Patterson |
| 2. Thomas Adams | 26. William Hutt | 50. Robin Phillips |
| 3. Jacob D. Allen | 27. Alice Amelia Innes | 51. John Stanley Plaskett |
| 4. Jack Bain | 28. Carol Innes | 52. Cpt. John M. Ross |
| 5. Thomas Garnet Bain | 29. Babe Karn | 53. Sullivan Ross |
| 6. William Harvey Beaty | 30. Woodburn (Woody) Lambe | 54. Washington George Rounds |
| 7. Albert Bennington | 31. Hon. Donald MacKay | 55. James (Jamie) Ross |
| 8. Dr. Edward A. Bott | 32. Prof. Donald MacKay | 56. James Ruddick |
| 9. Thomas Brush Brown | 33. George Leslie MacKay | 57. Bev Slater |
| 10. Barry Butson | 34. John S. MacKay | 58. Oswald J. Smith |
| 11. John Alexander Calder | 35. George N. Matheson | 59. John Stuart |
| 12. Ron Calhoun | 36. C.A. Mayberry | 60. Robert Stuart |
| 13. Neil Chancey | 37. Winsor McCay | 61. Abe Sutherland |
| 14. Prof. Henry John Cody | 38. William D. McIntosh | 62. Alexander M. Sutherland |
| 15. Dr. Crawford | 39. Eddie McKay | 63. William (Bill) Moffat Sutherland |
| 16. Dr. John Fraser | 40. Rev. Alexander McLeod | 64. Donald Matheson Sutherland |
| 17. Alice Gleason | 41. Dr. Elizabeth McMaster | 65. Hon. J.R. Sutherland |
| 18. Reuben Gleason | 42. Edward James McMurray | 66. Hon. James Sutherland |
| 19. Rev. Charles W. Gordon | 43. Dr. McWilliam | 67. Lamont Tilden |
| 20. W.H. Gregory | 44. Charles (Charlie) Munro | 68. Herman Whitaker |
| 21. George Hayes | 45. Dr. Gordon Murray | 69. James Wood |
| 22. John Elliott Hayes | 46. James Nelson | 70. Benjamin Franklin Youngs |
| 23. John Sullivan Hayes | 47. Thomas Oliver | 71. John L. Youngs |
| 24. Bob Hayward | 48. Grace Patterson | |

Access the list online by clicking here or scanning the QR code below.



Interested in getting involved or learning more? Community members are invited to join us at an upcoming meeting or event:

June 3, 2026 at 7pm
Committee Meeting
Beachville District Museum
584367 Beachville Rd.
Beachville, ON

July 1, 2026
Display at the Highland Games
Embroid Zorra Community Centre
355644 35th Line
Embroid, ON

Contact Information
Beachville District Museum
beachvilledistrictmuseum@gmail.com
519-423-6497



Thistle Theatre – Dramarama 2026 – Early Bird Rate Ends May 1st!

Thistle Theatre is proud to present the 30th season of DRAMARAMA! Dramarama is our summer day camp for young people ages 6 to 13 (grades 1-8).

- First Session (FULL) runs July 6-17th with two final performances on July 17th at 11am & 1pm
- Second Session (9 spots remaining!) runs July 20-July 31st with two final performances on July 31st 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 together to collectively create one play. The 45 minute(ish) play is then performed for family, friends & community members on the final day of camp.

Join us for the second session running July 20-31! Camp run daily from 9 am to 3 pm out of the Embroid Town Hall at 135 Huron St.

For all the information, including payment options, please head to www.thistle-theatre.com and click on the Dramarama page.

The Early Bird rate of \$300 per camper per session ends May 1st, 2026. After the Early Bird Deadline, the registration fee is \$375 per camper per session. Get registered early and take advantage of the early bird rate!

We’re looking for volunteers who want the ability to obtain community service hours while also participating in our programming! Apply to be a Leader-in-Training at Dramarama if you’re transitioning to high school this fall or currently in grade 9-12. Email our Artistic Director 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. We’re always looking for used-in-good condition costumes or props that you’d be willing to part with and donate to our camp, please email dramarama.thistletheatre@gmail.com to arrange for drop off or pick up.

Thank You – Mighty Men of Zorra

Thistle Theatre and the production team of Mighty Men of Zorra extend their sincere thanks to everyone who attended the show and to those who worked tirelessly behind the scenes. With a cast of sixteen actors, a dedicated crew of ten, and playwright William Butt, this new production brought the proud history of Zorra Township vividly to life.

Staging the performance in the Embroid Old Town Hall—built just one year before the final Tug of War victory—added a special sense of authenticity and connection to the story. We are also deeply grateful to our sponsors for their support, with special thanks to the Zorra Caledonians.



Western Ontario Drama League - Mini-fest 2026

Thistle Theatre is hosting the Western Ontario Drama League (WODL) Mini-fest 2026 on August 7 and 8. The play this year is "Jersey" by Brad Fortman.

Join us in Embroid for the weekend and see how very differently theatre groups can interpret this one act play. If you'd like to volunteer for this really fun weekend please contact lyndapillon281@gmail.com. We'd love to have you!

Auditions – Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat

Thistle Theatre is looking for singers, of all ages, sizes and genders. Our Fall production is "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat". Auditions are being held June 5th and 7th at the Town Hall in Embroid. Please visit our website www.thistle-theatre.com to book your audition time. Hope to see you there.



The show will be on stage this November 12 to 22, 2026. Stay tuned to www.thistle-theatre.com for more information about tickets.

Oxford 4-H Club



Oxford 4-H is growing... Oxford 4-H has three new 4-H Clubs this year—Oxford Fishing 4-H Club started April 9, Oxford Horse 4-H Club starts April 25 and Oxford Vet 4-H Club starts April 23.

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. Oxford Quilting 4-H Club did a 'Hoodie' 4-H project; Thamesford 4-H Club did a 'Breakfast' 4-H project; the Mt Elgin 4-H Club did a 'Maple Syrup' 4-H project; Brooksdale 4-H Club is doing a 'Craft' project now and starting an "Anything with an Engine" 4-H project April 25; the Community 4-H Club will be doing 'Community Engagement' project starting April 29. The Oxford Beef 4-H Club started the 'Beef' project; the Oxford Swine 4-H Club started to learn about biosecurity & recordkeeping with swine. The North Oxford Dairy 4-H Club starts April 27 and the Ingersoll Kiwanis Dairy 4-H Club starts April 27.

The two Cloverbud 4-H Clubs in Oxford for the ages of 6-8 year olds have youth learning about maple syrup, field crops, alternative livestock, fruits & vegetables, our heritage, butterflies & pollinators, alternative dance & breadventure.

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 July 31 & August 1 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: Melvin Bergsma,
Vice Chairperson: Terri Muir, Treasurer: Jack Danen, Assistant Treasurer: Christy Brekelmans, 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, Elizabeth Bruce & Michelle McCoy.

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 2026 with the George Thornton Bequest Funds. Oxford 4-H youth members will pay \$95 to join 4-H in 2026—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 2026 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.



As we look forward to warmer days ahead, we're pleased to share some updates from the museum's team. Curator Stephanie Radu welcomed a new baby in January and is currently on leave. While she's away, Sidney Williams has stepped into the role of Interim Curator to support the museum through 2026. April brings the addition of Interim Assistant Curator, Keely Shaw, and the return of our groundskeeper, Jeff. Our team of dedicated volunteers and staff are preparing for an active spring and summer at the museum.

In April, we celebrate National Volunteer Week - an important opportunity to recognize and thank the many people who generously give their time and talents in support of the Beachville District Museum and the Beachville District Historical Society (BDHS). Their dedication is central to everything we do. From helping bring community events like car shows, the annual BBQ, and Light Up the Museum to life, to supporting collections care, digitization work, and ongoing community projects, their contributions are invaluable. We are grateful for their commitment, not only in April, but throughout the entire year.

On Friday, April 24 we'll celebrate Earth Day with our Colours of Nature PA Day Camp for children ages 5-11. In addition to activities centred on eco-art, upcycling, and earth sciences, Ox On the Run will join us for seed-planting and storytime. Registration is open now on our website at beachvilledistrictmuseum.com/2026-pa-day-camps.

May is Museum Month! Led by the Ontario Museums Association, this province-wide initiative highlights the important role that museums play in our communities. Follow along on our social media channels throughout May for features that highlight the impact of Ontario's museums and celebrate the work museums do to preserve and share the objects and stories that continue to shape our communities.

The BDHS Speaker Series continues this spring with talks by Todd Pearson (The Kintore Coffee Co. Story) on Tuesday, May 12 at 7pm, and Helen Dowd (The History & Legacy of the Zorra Caledonian Society) on Tuesday, June 9 at 7pm. These events will take place in the museum's program room and are free to attend. If you weren't able

to catch the January talk about Thomas Russell, with Carol Bossenberry, or the February talk about the Mighty Men of Zorra play, with Bill Butt, you can now find them on the museum's Youtube page.

The car show season is just around the corner, with the first show scheduled for Sunday, May 24. Show vehicles are welcome to arrive on the museum grounds after 9:30 a.m., with the event opening to the public at 11:00 a.m. These popular events bring together an impressive variety of vehicles, from classic cars and VW vans to motorcycles, tractors, and more. They also help raise funds for the museum and the Legion. Visitors are invited to stroll the grounds, enjoy food and music, and cast a vote for their favourite vehicle. Additional shows are scheduled on June 14, July 26, August 23, and September 27, weather permitting.

The museum is currently building its summer staff team through the Young Canada Works programs. Those who qualify for the programs and have an interest in local history or children's education are encouraged to visit our website or Indeed to view current job postings. Staff orientation and training will take place in early June.

Summer Camp begins on June 29, with registration already open for full-week sessions. Single-day registration will open April 16. This year's themes include *Junior Archaeologists*, *Water Wonders*, *Astronaut Academy*, *History of Me*, *Clue Crew*, and more. Campers can look forward to a summer filled with hands-on activities, outdoor play, creative projects, and special guest visits. Visit the museum website at beachvilledistrictmuseum.com/summercamp2026 to register.

Throughout the summer, the museum will also offer its Hands-on Heritage programs - interactive experiences in baseball-making, Victorian quilting, and butter churning - designed to connect visitors of all ages with local history. These workshops invite participants to explore traditional skills, artifacts, and community stories in an engaging way. Program dates and details are available on our website, and we encourage visitors to check back regularly as the schedule continues to grow.



Trojans Hockey

Your Thamesford Trojans are celebrating 50 years of hometown hockey as one of the few community owned teams left in the Yeck Division of the PJHL. We are proud to celebrate with our fans, sponsors, players, Alumni and the Thamesford area.

Our sponsors, volunteers & staff have once again helped us have a successful 2025-2026 season. The Trojans finished a close 2nd in the regular season league standings by 1 point. Our boys had a 4 game sweep in the first round of the playoffs versus Aylmer, then we were eliminated in a close second round against North Middlesex, that final game being a tough loss that took 3 OT periods to decide.

The end of the season also marks the end of junior hockey for our five overage players. These players made significant impacts on this team, whether they joined us this season or have been with us for 4 or 5 years. Thank you to Brett Busby (C), Ewan Meiklejohn (A), Ty Durston (A), Davin Gray (A), and Carter McDougall for giving us all they had this season. It has been an absolute pleasure watching these guys on the ice each week.

Thanks to everyone who participated in our second annual 3-on-3 Shock Hockey Tournament over March Break! This tournament saw 230 players made up



of U9, U11, and U13 boys and girls battling in a fast-paced tournament. Congratulations to tournament winners St. Marys Rock (U9), Thamesford Junior Trojans (U11), and Putnam Panthers (U13). We will be back again next year, with registration opening up around the end of December. Watch our social media accounts for details!

Save the date for our 16th Annual Golf Tournament! Saturday, August 8, 2026, 1:00 shotgun start. New for this summer, our annual golf tournament fundraiser is returning to our grassroots. 18 holes, cart and steak dinner at the newly renovated local Cobble Hills Golf Club. With teams already inquiring, and our alumni support, spots will fill up quickly. Please see our social media for registration details, or email gscotty1971@gmail.com for more information.

Have a fun, safe summer holiday. We hope to see you this fall as we celebrate 50 years of Hometown Hockey!



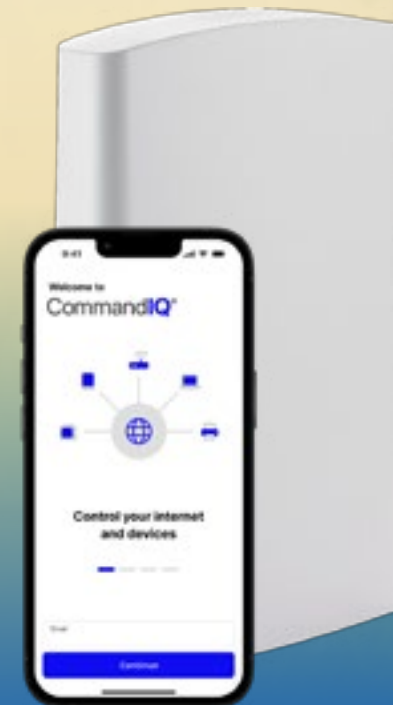
5 overagers, 2 hat tricks, and one shutout all in one week!
Graduating players (l-r) Ewan Meiklejohn, Brett Busby, Davin Gray, Ty Durston, and Carter McDougall.



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Battery Disposal



Due to safety concerns, Township facilities will no longer be able to collect household batteries. Please refer to the Oxford County website for more information on disposal.

<https://www.oxfordcounty.ca/services-for-you/garbage-and-recycling/special-recycling>

For your nearest disposal locations, follow the QR code or visit Recycleyourbatteries.ca

