



July 16, 2025 Blog

As a result of advocacy by Zorra resident Nathan Bean, and staff analysis directed by Oxford Council, an all-way stop at the intersection of Oxford Road 28 (Road 96) and Oxford Road 6 (Embro Road/37th Line) will be implemented. As directed by Council at its meeting on March 12, 2025, staff are preparing a report for Council's future consideration regarding on the implementation of the Good Roads Rural Road Safety Audit Guidelines, alongside the existing Ontario Traffic Manual (OTM) thresholds, for the review of intersections and broader rural road safety improvements. The report will also discuss the feasibility of implementing a long-term Vision Zero Plan, Automatic Speed Enforcement, and proposed advocacy topics for engagement with both provincial and federal governments. The full report is on the July 9 Oxford agenda.

School board governance in general, and the TVDSB in particular, has been too big a problem for too long. Years ago the Rural Education Task Force was killed. The decision making of Trustees was undermined by staff. I got red carded for pointing that out... I wrote to the Ministry years ago asking them to appoint a supervisor because the TVDSB was out of control. Over the years some Trustees have tried to right the ship, but a majority weren't interested. Our current Oxford Trustees have tried. Well now the province HAS appointed a supervisor. And the Province IS considering changes to school board governance at the TVDSB, and the whole province. And I'm meeting with MPPs and Ministers to make sure there's a model of governance that responsibly delivers for Zorra and Oxford residents, taxpayers, communities, and the most important members of our communities: our children. Zorra Council passed a resolution that we support "the Minister of Education in reviewing the governance of the TVDSB; and that alternate structures be considered to more effectively and efficiently serve the students and communities of Zorra Township; and, that this resolution be forwarded to all TVDSB municipalities requesting support."

Big changes are being proposed in Thamesford to improve traffic flow and safety, and there will be a drop-in Public Information Centre on Wednesday, July 23, from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. at the Beaty Room at the Thamesford Library. Consider attending to learn more and give input.

Potential short-term improvements:

- Removing on-street parking to introduce a centre two-way left-turn lane between Stanley Street North and Allen Street/St. Patrick Street
- New traffic signals at George Street and Oxford Road 119/Milton Street
- Removal of curb extensions at George Street
- Signal coordination upgrades
- Accessibility enhancements
- Improved street lighting

Potential long-term upgrades:

- widening Dundas Street to four lanes with a raised median
- Roundabout at 15th Line
- Restricting left-turns to key intersections
- Assessing closure of Church Street
- Evaluating signal warrants at Stanley Street

Please tell Zorra and Oxford Councils how would you like to see your tax dollars spent. The 2026 Budget survey is now online. The survey is your chance to have a say on how to invest your tax dollars in your community in the coming budget year. Take the survey before August 29 and learn more at www.speakup.oxfordcounty.ca

Mark your calendar and come celebrate with us as Zorra turns 50 this year! We will be hosting a community BBQ with live music by Uncle G! Hope to see lots of residents there. August 12th from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Zorra Municipal Centre (ZMC), 163 Brock Street in Thamesford.

#doingourpart #growingstrongertogether

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

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