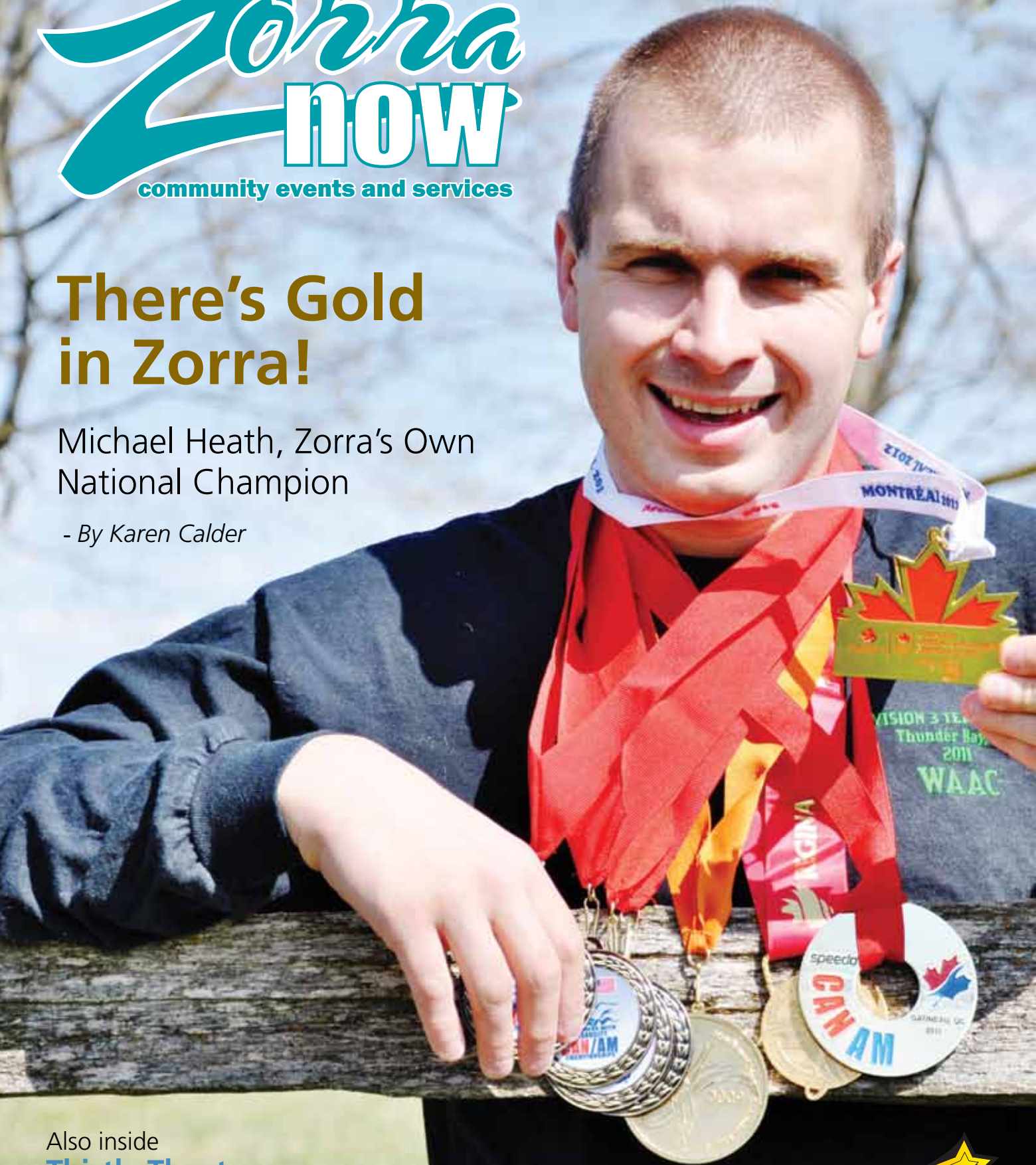


There's Gold in Zorra!

Michael Heath, Zorra's Own
National Champion

- By Karen Calder



Also inside
Thistle Theatre
heading somewhere over the
rainbow this year - By Geoff Dale

SPRING 2012



on the cover

12 Michael Heath, Zorra's Own National Champion



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Message from the Mayor - Margaret Lupton



Do you realize that the average resident in Oxford County pays \$4.50 to dispose of one bag of garbage? At least that is my conclusion on a very interesting announcement made at a recent meeting dealing with Waste Management. We were told the very surprising results of a recent waste audit done on a sampling of bags delivered to our Salford landfill. The average bag of trash consists of 1/3 actual

garbage, 1/3 recyclable materials and 1/3 materials that could be composted. That means that to get rid of a bag of trash that would cost \$1.50 for a bag tag, the average homeowner spreads the waste over three bags and fills each bag with materials that should not be included and pays a total of \$4.50. I was astonished. At first I thought this couldn't include Zorra residents but was quickly told the figures included all Oxford municipalities delivering to our landfill.

This is something we all need to think about. Recycling boxes are available at the Township Office and we can make arrangements to get them to you if necessary. I find it easier to have three boxes—one for paper, one for cardboard and boxboard and one for containers. Sorting takes about a minute rather than putting the material into your garbage bag. Composting can take a little more time. Many have a composter—also available at the Office or can be delivered. You simply place them in a fairly sunny location convenient to your house. Instructions are included in the kit or go on a website. Many of us simply throw the peelings etc. in with the barn manure or toss it on the garden and bury it with a shovel full of dirt. Many people manage a composting pile in a corner of a garden-- very simple but results in excellent material for your gardens.

My message is that we can, by very simple actions, keep our garbage bag and bag tags for garbage only and could conceivably cut material going into our landfill to 1/3 of what goes there now and extend the lifetime of the location by many years. I cannot understand why people seem to be willing to use bag tags on material that is being picked up free of charge.

I also have been disappointed by response to our opportunity to get rid of farm plastic responsibly. Many are now collecting the material in the free bags supplied but there are others who continue to burn the material greatly harming the air we breathe. Please think of how easy it would be to do the right thing. Call me for information.

Zorra has been approached to be a host location for a landfill site. Council has many concerns so it is opposing the proposal in principle. There is so much to learn. I have been visiting landfill sites and find they are much different than what I had thought – really large industrial sites. I am very disappointed that so many in opposition to the proposal refuse to take the opportunity of a free bus trip to see a modern site. I don't expect it would change anyone's mind but I believe it is important to know exactly what you are fighting against. Zorra's Council has visited one site and plans are underway to see another three or four. We are preparing by gathering as much pertinent information as possible. It will be up to the proponent during the process to convince us that the project can happen in an environmentally safe manner. I would appreciate hearing from you and encourage you to attend the many public meetings planned over the next few years.

The broadband high speed internet service system is up and running. If it is not working for you, please let the Oxford County IT department know, as Execulink is committed to providing the service to customers requesting it. If they don't know you have a problem they can't fix it.

Watch this summer for the new LED streetlights being installed in Zorra. Zorra is the first municipality to join EARTH Corporation in this energy saving plan.

Thank you to all who have taken the time to contact me with Zorra issues. You are my eyes and ears around our Township and your assistance is very much appreciated.

Margaret Lupton

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Our Township Our Services Our Community Information

WEBSITE

On our Zorra Website you can find:

- Award Nomination Application Forms – “There are so many residents worthy of recognition in our Township” – Mayor Lupton
- Sports in Zorra
- Animal Control and By-law Enforcement Information
- Planning Application Information and Forms

Tax Department *Zorra*

The 2nd Installment of your 2012 Taxes are Due May 31, 2012. Final 2012 Taxes will be issued and mailed the first week of August, and their due dates are August 31 and October 31, 2012.

Pre-Authorized Payment Plan for Property Taxes

There is still time for you to sign up for our Pre-Authorized Payment Plan offered by Zorra Township. Online or telephone banking is also available for making monthly, arrears, or regular installments. All banks accept the Township of Zorra as a client and the account number required is your ROLL NUMBER from your tax bill.

Any tax questions or inquiries, please direct them to Kelly Hall at 485-2490 ext. 222 or khall@zorra.on.ca




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Introducing.... Trevor Sanderson, Recreation and Facilities Manager

Hello to the community of Zorra. In an effort to get to know you all better, I feel it's only fair that you have the chance to know me first. Below is a brief summary of my work experience and personal life.

I have been highly involved in the Recreation and Sport Facility Management for several years now and will continue to do so as long as I can. My career in recreation started off in 1997, as I enrolled in the Sport Facilities & Recreation administration at Lambton College in Sarnia, Ontario. During the second year of my schooling at Lambton College I began my search for part-time work within the industry, as I knew it would be difficult as soon as I graduated to find full-time employment. After a short period of time of I found employment at the Sarnia Sports Entertainment Centre (SSEC) which happened to be located next to the College I was attending. Upon graduation I was offered a full-time job at the SSEC as the Facility Supervisor/Operator. I learned a great deal about the challenges in sport and recreation facilities and the constant changes in which you must adapt to. After a short time I was offered and accepted the Facility Supervisor/Operator position at the newly constructed Western Fair Sports Centre (WFSC) in London, Ontario. Over the next several years I worked in many different areas within the Western

Fair, ranging from the Agriplex, Special Events and Annual Fair. I was also contracted out to the City of London to do ice painting for fall ice installations. Within a two week period I had painted 22 pads of ice, not including the three pads at the Western fair that year.

In 2009 I was offered the position of Facility Operations Manager back at the rink where I had started my career in Sarnia. Although now it had been renamed the RBC Centre, I of course accepted the great opportunity to expand my knowledge and experience within the industry. While working in Sarnia I felt I could do more than just work as the Facility Operations Manager so I decided to run for the Western Regional Director for the Ontario Recreation Facilities Association (ORFA). I was appointed, and now for the past two years, I have been playing an active role on the Board of Directors.

My wife (Sherilyn) and I have been married for 3 short wonderful years and have a beautiful 17 month old daughter (Lily). For the past 2 years we have lived in Strathroy, Ontario enjoying the small town atmosphere and convenience.

I look forward to getting to know as many people as possible within the Township of Zorra.

Thank you for this opportunity to share my experiences and knowledge of Recreation and Facility Management.

WOW!

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Memorial Forest Program Expands

Creating forests as a living memorial of our loved ones

Memorial Forests are a natural, lasting tribute to loved ones. For 20 years, the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority has been partnering with local funeral homes and municipalities, creating five Memorial Forests and planting over 11,000 native trees.

New to the Memorial Forest program – anyone may contact the UTRCA directly to have a tree planted in the Memorial Forest of their choice.

Trees range in price from \$20 to \$50, depending on where the tree is planted and the tree species. The family of the deceased receives an "In Memoriam" card notifying them that a tree is being planted in memory of their loved one. A dedication service is held each fall at the London, St. Marys and Woodstock Memorial Forests.

The UTRCA welcomes other organizations and individuals who wish to join us in the Memorial Forest program. Please contact Karen Pugh at pughk@thamesriver.on.ca or (519) 451-2800 ext. 252 or @UTRCAMarketing (Twitter) for more information.



TOWNSHIP OF ZORRA MEMORIAL TREES

The Township of Zorra Memorial Tree Program was established in 1995 by the Zorra Cemetery Committee and Council in cooperation with the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (U.T.R.C.A) and various funeral directors in the immediate area. Memorial trees are planted in various public locations throughout the Township. Planting takes place annually at a pre-selected and approved site made in consultation with the U.T.R.C.A. A donation may be arranged through the Township of Zorra or one of the participating funeral directors. The name of the deceased will be published in the "Memorial Tree Dedication Record."

The current cost of having a memorial tree planted is \$40.00. (An income tax receipt will be issued by the U.T.R.C.A).

Contact Karen Graham at kgraham@zorra.on.ca or (519) 485-2490 ext. 228 for further information.

The UTRCA's Memorial Forest partners are:

- London: Logan Funeral Home and Evans Funeral Home Limited and the City of London
- St. Marys & Area: St. Marys Ministerial Association and local funeral homes
- Thames Centre: Municipality of Thames Centre and local funeral homes
- Zorra Township: Township of Zorra and local funeral homes
- Woodstock: City of Woodstock and Brock & Visser Funeral Home Burial and Cremation Services Ltd.

Zorra's LED Streetlights

The Township of Zorra is a leader in converting streetlights from High Pressure Sodium to LED Lights. There are currently over 500 streetlights in the Township. The LED lights use less than 50% of the energy required for traditional lighting. The payback for the municipality is 9-10 years. The Township is a shareholder in ERTH Corp/Erie Thames Power and the work is being coordinated with them. Zorra is the first shareholder in ERTH Corp to authorize this work. The work began during the week of April 9, 2012 and is expected to take two months to complete.

In addition to the hydro savings, LED lights provide better lighting. Each LED light has 40 bulbs and can maintain functionality with a 25% reduction in bulbs. The traditional lights had one bulb and when that bulb burned out, there was no lighting in the area.

This is a positive environmental milestone for Zorra and should benefit generations to come.

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Please check the following website for additional information: www.switchenergycorp.com or contact Switch Energy Corp. at 519-482-7561.

Waste Diversion Calendars 2012/2013

The County of Oxford mailed the 2012/2013 Waste Diversion Calendars to all households in Oxford County during the month of March. If you did not receive a calendar, please contact our office and we will have one mailed to you. This publication contains all pertinent information on garbage, recycling and special waste programs scheduled from April 2012 to March 2013.

Oxford County Landfill Site

Location: 384060 Salford Road (County Road 46), Salford
Landfill Hours: Monday to Friday 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Saturday 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Closed statutory holidays.
Tipping Fees will be applied to each load (some exceptions apply).



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2012 Thamesford Banners Now Available!

If you would like to support the village of Thamesford and specifically the Thamesford Business Association (TBA) in their annual beautification of our town... you now have the opportunity to contribute.

The TBA annually decorates the main street with flowers and banners (and at Christmas with lights). In 2011 the TBA developed two more garden areas (corner of George St. & Dundas St. and in front of the RBC).

For \$100 per year your name will appear on one of the banners that hang throughout the village.

Please contact Linda Schwientek, Thamesford Business Assoc. Co-Chair at 519-285-3249 for further information.



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Safety Tips for Backyard Trampolines



First, make sure the equipment is safe. While Canada does not regulate trampolines, you should look for one that meets ASTM requirements. Set it up away from structures, trees or other play areas. Give it a quick inspection every time the kids use it. Make sure the shock absorbing pads cover the springs, hooks and frame, the springs and leg braces are secure, and the bed and frame are not damaged in any way.

The Canada Safety Council recommends that children should be six years old before they are allowed to use a trampoline. Do not use a ladder or any other device that would provide access by small children.

Then, set three non-negotiable rules for the kids when they use the trampoline:

- One person at a time.
- No flips or somersaults.
- Don't jump onto or off of the trampoline.

Finally, make sure an adult is always around to supervise.

Source: Canada Safety Council
www.safety-council.org



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Thamesford Events

Calithumpian Weekend

Friday, May 18, 2012 – Monday, May 21, 2012
Contact Andrea Wright at
andrea_wright41@sympatico.ca or 519-285-5129
www.thamesford.org

Thamesford Lions Club Trout Brunch

Thamesford District Recreation Centre
Sunday, May 20, 2012 11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Adults - \$12.00 Children (12 & under) - \$5.00
Contact Tony Redix at 519-285-3618

Thamesford Trojans Fish Fry

Thamesford District Recreation Centre
Friday, June 15, 2012
Dinner – 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Dance – 9:00 p.m. – 1:00 a.m.
Tickets - \$125.00 (includes dinner and dance for 2
& chance to win 9 door prize draws)
Contact Connie Henderson at 519-285-3510

12th Annual Wienerfest and Home County Craft Festival

Any dog is welcome!
Embroid West-Zorra Community Centre,
Highland Games Field
June 23, 2012
Contact Linda Collier at 519-285-5123 or
lindacollier2003@yahoo.com or visit
www.wienerfest.ca

Thamesford Area Swimming Pool

Pool opens – July 2, 2012
Pool closes – August 26, 2012
Contact: 519-285-3063

Embroid Events

Embroid Highland Games

Embroid West Zorra Community Centre
Sunday, July 1, 2012
Contact Warren McKay at (519) 475-4148
www.embroidhighlandgames.ca

Embroid Truck & Tractor Pull

Corner of County Roads 6 & 33
Friday, August 3, 2012 & Saturday, August, 4 2012
Contact Frans Knoops at (519) 475-4381

Embroid Fair

Embroid West Zorra Community Centre
September 14-16th, 2012

A Note from Wienerfest:

DO YOU HAVE A PASSION FOR DOGS???

Then you will want to join us on Saturday June 23rd, 2012!!! As we celebrate the family pet. Come join us and find out about dog rescue.

We have exciting news!! WIENERFEST IS ON THE MOVE!!

Due to circumstances beyond our control, Wienerfest will be moving this year. We are very excited about the change as we will now be located at the Embroid West Zorra Community Centre. It is located in Embroid, Ontario, Canada at 355644 on the 35th Line.

Come out and gain new information and insight on the lovable family pet. We will have lots of vendors there that will have great items to accessorize your family pet. Talk to professionals on how to keep your pet safe and healthy.

We will be also hosting a Microchip Clinic, please call for details.

This year we are excited to have as part of our festival a HOME COUNTRY CRAFT DIVISION. Come see our local talent at its best!!

The new venue is located 10 minutes North East of our past location. If you have any questions please email Linda Collier at lindacollier2003@yahoo.com.

We look forward seeing you this summer.

VISIT: www.wienerfest.ca for more information.



Thamesford Pool Mural Project 2012

CALLING ALL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS:

Do you want to be part of an exciting volunteer project this spring and summer? Do you have some artistic talent that you would like to share with your community in Thamesford? Well, the Outdoor Pool Mural Project is looking for you! Artists are needed to assist in the painting of this outdoor mural, with Community Involvement Hours available in May and June. If you are interested, please contact Wendi Jackson at 519-283-6028 or email tjackson@execulink.com for additional details.

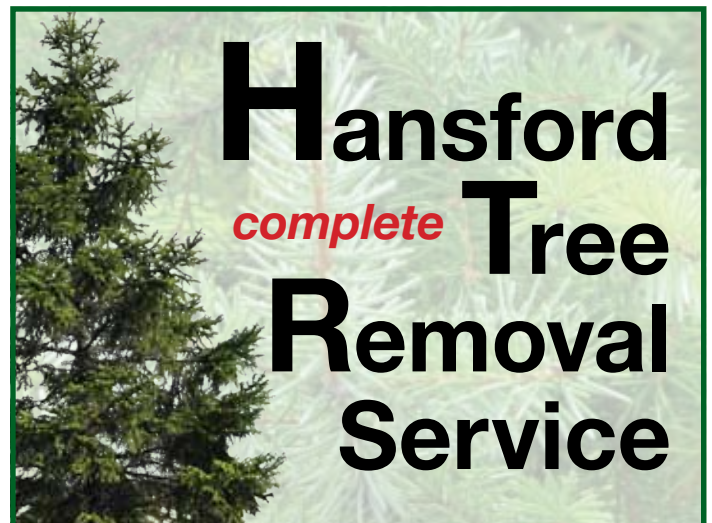
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Picture Source: Wendi Jackson



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There's Gold in Zorra!

Michael Heath, Zorra's Own National Champion

- By Karen Calder

As the buzzer sounds, Michael Heath dives into the pool at Montreal's Olympic Park. The water surrounds him and he quickly begins making strong rhythmic strokes. Each stroke powers him through the water, further from his past trials and accomplishments and on towards his ultimate dream, to represent Canada at the 2012 Paralympic Games, August 29 thru September 10 in London England.

Michael Heath's Paralympic dream started years earlier at a much smaller venue; the Thamesford Area Swimming Pool (TASP). Michael was less a year old when his mother, Kelly Heath, took he and his sister Brooke swimming. Kelly remembers it fondly by saying, "He hated it."

It was during a family vacation in Florida that they found out why. The hotel they were staying in had stairs leading in to the pool and he knew exactly what to do with them. Michael didn't want to be held; he wanted to enter the water on his own terms, one step at a time.

At the age of six years, Michael began his competitive swimming career in Thamesford. "When Mike was little, Brooke swam; so I put him in.", recalls Kelly Heath. Mike loved to compete; this love was supported by the Thamesford Pool staff members who coached him. Michael remembers the staff fondly. Little did Craig Adkins, Suni Ball, Andrea Budden, Stephanie Betzner, Sherri Cocchetto, Lori Ryan, Cathy Sholdice, Kelly Smith and Mike Wiseman know, but they would help ignite and fuel a young man's dream of representing his country at the international level.

Michael took these happy summertime memories with him as he, Kelly and Brooke moved to Ingersoll, later that year.

At the age of eight, Michael's happy childhood took a sharp and disappointing turn. He was misdiagnosed as having Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD); the treatment, drugs. In

March of 1999 Michael would lose his beloved father, Michael Sr. to Lou Gehrig's disease. Then, to make this time even harder, Michael found himself the victim of bullies. Further challenges presented themselves in grade six when Michael wrote the EQAO (Education Quality and Assessment Office) Testing; Kelly Heath says, "There was an issue there." And, even though she pleaded for help, these issues would not be addressed due to lack of funding. The family would face the unknown issues on their own.

Misdiagnosed, heartbroken, victimized and now facing unknown issues, Michael started to withdraw and became introverted. His family enrolled him in karate lessons; the mind over matter philosophy of karate truly helped, he remembers, "I excelled in karate".

Brooke Heath was swimming competitively during this time. Even though Michael wasn't swimming, he went to the pool to watch Brooke. Karate was great, but the pool is where Michael's true desire and talent were, so "We put him back in the pool." says Kelly. Michael now excelled at two sports, but time and money made a decision necessary. Kelly recalls, "We just couldn't do both; it was time to get out of karate and concentrate on swimming."

Swimming was Michael's haven. When he was in the pool he forgot all problems. He was able to apply the mind over matter philosophy he learned in karate. It was him, the water, the clock and the competition.

In 2004, at the age of thirteen, Michael earned his place to compete in the Canadian Junior Nationals in Halifax, Nova Scotia. He would compete in the Para-athletic S14 category (for athletes with an intellectual disability).

2004 was the year of White Juan; the winter-storm that lasted eight hours and broke snowfall and wind records. Halifax was completely shut down. The competition's schedule had to be completely reworked from a four-day schedule to a three day-schedule. All athletes have a mental process they go through to prepare before competition and this schedule change was not easy to adapt to. A new challenge now presented itself to Michael and the other competitors. Mind over matter, the karate training was not only helpful, but a necessity. Michael would not only win the 200m freestyle event, he would shave thirty-three seconds off his personal best.

Michael would continue to work hard both in the pool and at school. In 2008, he graduated from College Ave Secondary School in Woodstock. No small feat given that he lived with that misdiagnosis until he was eighteen years old; the age when he was properly assessed. Michael did not have ADHD; Kelly states, "The official medical term is mildly retarded." For almost six full years, Michael had been taking drugs for a condition he did not have and somehow was still able to graduate from high school and successfully compete in a demanding sport.



Heath-Hill Family
LtoR: Brooke, Kelly, Jim and Michael



Competing at the national level is one thing, but Michael Heath had his sights set on the international level. There was one major problem; the S14 category no longer existed at the international level. In 2000, at the Sydney Paralympics, it was discovered that a team had used forged documents causing the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) to discontinue the category. I asked Michael how this affected him; he said, “It was hard to be motivated in the pool.”

For Michael Heath it was yet another setback and challenge. Though sometimes it was hard to be motivated, Michael remained diligent and focused on his training. His discipline was rewarded in November 2009, when the long awaited and welcome announcement was made that the S14 category would be reinstated at the international level. Michael Heath and others like him could now solidly set their sights on the 2012 Paralympics.

I asked Michael how you get to the Paralympics; his reply was quick and easy, “You start by going to swim meets.” Sounds easy enough, but it is a statement of hard work and sacrifice.

Michael is a member of the Wilmot Aquatic Aces. Joni Maertens became Mike’s coach in June 2010. She has known Mike since 2005 and knows, first hand, about Mike’s work ethic and the sacrifices he has made. “Mike has had a terrific year. He has worked very hard in the pool and missed very few workouts; even when he wasn’t feeling well. He has shown that if you dream big, work hard, then anything is possible.”

Anything is possible and Michael’s attitude and philosophy is supported by those around him. His mother Kelly has been by his side through it all; both Kelly and Michael have been supported by Kelly’s husband, Jim Hill and Michael’s older sister and role model, Brooke.

Jim Hill is a proud stepfather, he says it well. “I am so very proud of all Mike’s accomplishments. I have had the pleasure of being part of his life since he was just five years old; through the devastating loss of Michael and Brooke’s father from A.L.S. in 1999, to seeing what can be accomplished with sheer determination is simply remarkable. Michael’s sister Brooke has played a large part of his success in the pool, and will always be one of his biggest supporters.”

Brooke certainly is, she states, “I’m glad I could be a positive role model for him and help inspire him to follow his dream of being an Olympian. Michael has had such a strong group of supporters behind him from the start and we can’t wait to see him makes waves in London. The tables have turned now; he is my role model; he inspires me to follow through on my dreams. I’m so thankful to have him as a brother. “

The support for Michael is heralded by his employer, Dana Hospitality Inc., the company which runs the cafeterias in all

Canadian Toyota Plants. Michael works in the cafeteria at the Woodstock plant. His supervisor, Coby Versteeg says, “Mike is a really nice boy. He does a really good job here and we are glad he is doing what he’s doing.” Dana Hospitality shows their support by contributing financially to Michael’s swim team, the Wilmot Aquatic Aces, and by giving him the required time-off to train and attend meets.

Zorra Council has recognized Michael for his accomplishments. In her July 6 blog, Zorra Mayor, Margaret Lupton, posted, “I read in the paper about Zorra’s newest Olympian—Mike Heath. He recently competed in the Special Olympics in Greece and won, not one, but two, gold medals in swimming. Council has honoured him for previous achievements but we certainly want to recognize this wonderful achievement.”

After hearing these high accolades for Michael, I had to ask that motivates him. His response was quick and sure, “The thrill of the sport; I’m this close to achieving the goal.”

At the Paralympic trials, Michael would come closer to this goal, when he finished first in the 100 metre Breaststroke and earned the title National Champion. Michael placed second in the 100 metre Backstroke and fourth in the 200 metre Freestyle. Kelly says,

“Mike’s Olympic trial experience was a very emotional time for many swimmers and parents too. Mike did have a good week. At the end of each race, each swimmer who was nominated for the Olympic team, was asked to sign the big double decker bus, as part of the journey to England. Now we wait for the official announcement.”

The official announcement will be made June 1, 2012, when Swimming Canada announces the 2012 Paralympic Swim Team. We now join in the wait with Michael Heath, Zorra’s very own National Champion.



Michael in Montreal with Coach Joni Maertens

Leisure Activities for your Community Zorra Township giving back to the Community!

The Zorra Township Council and staff are looking for your input on some potential activities that could be available to you.

On Tuesdays and Thursdays of every week from 10am-2pm the following activities will be made available to you. These activities will be setup for your use in the hall of the Thamesford Community Centre and in the Embro Community Centre. If you choose to take advantage of these services, they will be provided to you at a low cost of \$2.00 per day, per person. There will be no need to pre-book, all you will have to do is stop by on the days and times as previously mentioned and enjoy.

New Activities that could be available to you:

- Indoor walking track
- Indoors floor shuffleboard
- Carpet bowling
- Ping pong
- Floor bowling
- Indoor floor curling
- Playing cards
- Chess or checkers

If you are interested in taking part please provide feedback to the Zorra Recreation Department. Also, if you have anything to donate to these activities please contact the Recreation Department.

Trevor Sanderson, Recreation & Facilities Manager

Wireless Internet Now Available



About 35,000 rural residents—roughly a third of all of Oxford County—now have access to high-speed Internet service with the completion of the Rural Oxford Connections project. In addition, 2,800 rural-based operations have also been connected, including farms, small businesses and municipal services.

The two-year, \$3-million project is part of the Government of Ontario's Rural Connections Broadband Program to bring broadband access to rural and remote areas under-served in southern Ontario. In February 2009, the Government of Ontario announced nearly \$1 million in funding for Rural Oxford Connections. In March 2010, Execulink Telecom was announced as the project's official Internet service provider.

As part of this project, a new communications tower was installed at the Township Office. This 160-foot tower will also host Township communication equipment as well as extending rural broadband service to a larger area of the Township.

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DOG TAGS

As per the Township of Zorra By-law number 4-95, all dogs over six months of age are required to be licensed with the Township of Zorra. Dog tags that were sold in 2010 are good for one more year so there is no need to get a new one this year. If your dog has lost his/her 2010 tag, please contact the Office and it will be replaced free of charge. If you received a 2010 Dog Tag, your property will automatically be billed for a Dog Tag on the Final 2012 Tax Bill. If you no longer have your dog, please notify the Office and the fee will be removed. For new dogs and puppies over 6 months of age, tags are sold at the Township Office at a cost of \$15.00 per year. This amount can be paid in cash or added to your property tax bill. Failure to register your dog can result in a fine of \$105.

RULES ABOUT DOGS

As the weather is now changing and dogs are outside for extended periods of time, please be aware of the Noise by-law, 64-87 Section 2 (c), as it relates to barking; the result of which may be a fine of \$55. Dogs require a leash at all times when walking off of your property. They shall not wander (Running at Large) on public or other private properties, the result may be a \$105 fine. In addition all excrement must be picked-up as outlined in the Stoop and Scoop By-law 54-97, failure to do so could result in a fine of \$105.

KENNEL LICENCES

A maximum of 2 dogs per household is authorized. Kennel Licences are issued at the Township Office at a cost of \$40 per year. A valid CKC Registration is required for all kennel licenses and property must be properly zoned to allow an animal kennel. Please contact Lisa Teeple at the Township Office at 519-485-2490 ext. 221 for more information.

BURNING REGULATIONS

Open Air Burning

Open-air burning within the boundaries of the Township of Zorra is prohibited unless permission has been given by the Fire Chief in the form of a Fire Permit. Please review By-law 25-08 for more information. It is also available on the Township Website.

Recreation Burning

Recreational fires may be permitted which are contained within non-combustible containers or pits specifically designed for open-air burnings. Some General Provisions are listed below, however, please see By-law 25-08

Schedule B for all General Provisions :

- Burning may be conducted between the hours of 4pm and midnight only.
- No materials other than dry seasoned wood, commercially produced charcoal and briquettes may be burned
- Open-air burnings shall be confined to non-combustible containers or to a pit no larger than two feet by two feet with flames not exceeding 2 feet in height.
- The burning pit shall be confined to a location at least 15 feet in all directions from adjacent properties and or structures.

- An extinguishing agent of sufficient size and with the capability extinguishing the fire shall be immediately available for use.
- The fire shall be attended, controlled and supervised at all times and shall be completely extinguished before the site is vacated.
- Open-air burning is prohibited when the wind speed exceeds fifteen kilometers per hour or during rainy or foggy weather conditions or when a smog alert has been declared.

LAND CLEARANCE

The main purpose of the Land Clearing By-Law is to ensure that all properties are maintained with consistency and with regards to safety and appearance. Grass and weeds must be maintained at a height less than 8 inches. Further, properties shall be free from industrial and domestic wastes, unlicensed motorized vehicles, excessive brush, heavy undergrowth and all noxious weeds.

The process for a Land Clearance inspection is as follows:

Upon inspection of a yard that does not conform to the by-law, the Owner will receive a Work Order from a By-Law Enforcement Officer in person or by mail. The order will notify the property owner of the items in need of attention, provide a reasonable deadline, and a notice that the property needs to stay within compliance for a 12 month rolling period. If, within time noted on the work order, the property still does not conform, the Township will charge an inspection fee of \$95 + HST collected the same as taxes and will arrange to have the yard remedied at the Owner's expense.

SWIMMING POOL FENCING

Please be advised that every owner of a privately owned swimming pool in Zorra Township shall erect and maintain a fence completely surrounding such pool in accordance with the provisions of By-law 23-08 known as the Pool Fencing By-law.

A privately owned swimming pool is any type of pool, when filled, contains a depth of 18 inches or more of water at any given section and is not enclosed and covered by an accessory structure but does not include fish ponds, hot tubs, spas or irrigation ponds. If the pool is an above-ground swimming pool a fence is not required if the structure is at least 4 feet in height above grade, and has no permanently attached ladder which is removed when the pool is not in use. It cannot contain any exterior foothold or handholds including a pump or accessory appurtenance or structure. Where a deck is erected at or near the rim level of an above-ground privately owned swimming pool, the deck shall be fenced and gated.

In addition, no owner shall fill a privately owned swimming pool with water or allow water to remain therein unless a fence has been erected. Once the fencing has been completed to the specifications as outlined in the by-law, the owner shall notify the Chief Building Official or the Township Building Inspector within 24 hours or by the next business day so that an inspection may be conducted.

Thank you for your cooperation! If you have any questions on any of the above matters feel free to contact Mathew Paul, By-law Enforcement Officer at 519-485-2490 ext. 230.

North Oxford History Book

After several years of gathering history, our committee has set a date of June 1st 2012 as the final day of submissions to be accepted for inclusion in the History Book. The committee has strived to create a history book of North Oxford that will be read and cherished for many generations. Our goal is to write a history book that is informative, entertaining and affordable for everyone. We feel there are still more stories out there that would be cherished as a permanent historical record of the Township of North Oxford, but time is running out.

Here's a sample of what to expect:

North Oxford Concession 1 Lot 4 – 200 acres

Philip Sovereign acquired Lot 4 in Concession 1 from the Crown on Jan. 4, 1805. It wasn't until May 27, 1841 that this land was sold to a new owner. Charles Sovereign, likely a descendent of Philip Sovereign, sold the 200 acres to James Davidson. Resulting from the settlement of the Will of James Davidson on Oct. 1, 1846, Andrew Davidson became the new owner of the property. In 1848 Andrew Davidson divested himself of the property. On Jan. 11, 1848 he sold the South Half to Neil McKay, and on June 02, 1848 he sold the North Half to William Carter.

North Half – 100 acres

April 1, 1850 - William Carter sold the 100 acre North Half to James Brown McKay. April 27, 1853 - James Brown McKay transferred his property to Donald McKay. August 01, 1857 - Between this date and Feb. 10, 1860 a pair of mortgage transactions affected this property. First Charles W. Robertson held the mortgage and then Robertson reassigned it to Walter Maynard Mills. On the tenth of February Donald McKay released his 100 acres to Walter Maynard Mills to resolve the mortgage.

March 12, 1908 - Isaac Cooper sold the North Half to Thomas Hutchison, giving Hutchison ownership of the entire Lot 4, in Concession 1.

The following information has been provided by Betty (Hutchison) Lawson.

Con 1 Lot 4 N ½ The Walter Hutchison Farm

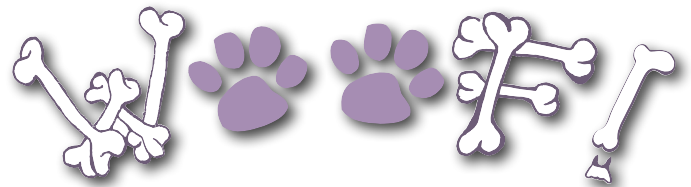
This 200 acre farm came from the Crown in 1805 and was sold to Philip Sovereign. The property changed ownership many times ... On March 12, 1908 Isaac Cooper sold the 100 acre farm (Con 1 Lot 4 N ½) to Thomas and Emma George Hutchison, who were married in 1894. Thomas had been in the poultry business where he shipped turkeys to England. He bought up turkeys from local farmers, prepared them for shipment....and the story is that on one occasion there was a shipment of turkeys at the local train station when word came that the train had been in an accident. The turkeys were packed together and had to be separated to be cooler, so they were hung on a nearby fence until the next train came through.



Thomas Hutchison Family
clockwise from top:
Thomas, Emma (née George),
Wilfred and Walter

If you wish to pre-order a North Oxford History Book call: Pauline Hanlon at 519-485-0578.

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Thistle Theatre heading somewhere over the rainbow this year

By GEOFF DALE

“Pay no attention to the man behind the curtain.”

What actor hasn't relished the opportunity to trot out that famous line from L. Frank Baum's magical classic *The Wizard of Oz* or perhaps look about in wonder and observe, “Toto, I've a feeling we're not in Kansas anymore”.

Embros' award-winning Thistle Theatre will be giving performers of any and all ages those golden opportunities and a lot more when it holds auditions Friday, June 8 at 6:30 p.m. and Sunday, June 10 at 1:30 p.m. at the Embro Town Hall. Auditions for the production, to be directed by Laura Jean McCann, with musical direction by Julie Pietrangelo, will focus on groups. Those looking for lead roles will be asked to bring a prepared solo, preferably a capella, to show their range.

“The selection process has been ongoing for two years,” explains director/past president Phoebe Campbell. “It's been exciting and, like all of our past productions, we are anxiously looking forward to the involvement of our youth. They are and always will be a vital part of Thistle Theatre. “What our director will be looking for is energy and enthusiasm. Physical movement will be necessary and the ability to read music, while an asset, is not a requirement. It's been a lot of work getting to this point but we are thrilled to be tackling this wonderful musical.”

WELL RECEIVED

Vice-president Chris Cockle echoes his colleague's enthusiasm about the late fall production, adding past musicals like *Annie*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *The Music Man*, *Camelot* and *Oliver* have provided much enjoyment for company members and audiences alike, not to

forget the impressive list of awards racked up along the way.

“Musicals are always well received,” he says. “As far as challenges go, I would say the biggest challenge for us is the small stage we use for such large projects. We end up literally using the whole auditorium. Adjudicators have come away very impressed, leaving with the feeling that it didn't seem like such a small theatre because we utilized the whole space so well.



Oliver was another crowd pleaser that showed off the talents of a number of actors, among them, from left Jacob Paquette as the Artful Dodger; Chris Cockle in the role of Fagin; Debbie Prentice as Nancy and Hank Hazelegger as Bill Sikes.

(Contributed Photo from Thistle Theatre Archives.)

“And we're not intimidated by any of the work we approach or what actors have taken on those roles before us. We try not to watch the originals, so we don't end up doing imitations of other performers. Whatever productions we take on – whether they're musicals or dramas like *Wait Until Dark* – we strive to make it our own, so there are no comparisons made to other versions.”

FAPPS

Like Chris, present treasurer and technical director Harold Arbuckle, has been associated with Thistle since day one but still loves the thrill of being part of the theatrical experience. But he readily admits, with all the other

companies in the area, there are times when it is difficult to attract enough people for both on and off stage roles.

“That said, we still do very well,” he adds. “Besides there are a lot of unique qualities associated with Thistle. For example, other theatrical companies are astonished when they hear about our famous FAPPS (Friday After Practice Parties).

“It's all about the joy of camaraderie and a great way of introducing some of our newer people to the fun that is Thistle Theatre. Sometimes we can on to three in the morning, singing, playing musical instruments and just enjoying our company.”

Phoebe also loves to point to the popular Dramarama program – a summer theatre camp for children in the Grades 2-8 range.

“It started off as one week in July back in 1996, then expanded to two weeks,” she explains. “Sometimes we attract up to 30 participants. Through workshops they learn all aspects of theatre from costuming and masks to writing and staging their own plays, which they perform in the mornings and afternoons. They do it for two weeks and then for another two weeks.

“This year the two weeks set aside are July 2-13 and July 16-27. This demonstrates just how important young people are to Thistle Theatre and our productions over the years. We'll have more information about this on our website in the coming weeks.”

BLUSTERY NIGHT

Chris says the company has attracted participants from the ages of seven up to the mid-80s.

The theatrical dream began back in 1994 when, after two years of planning, six couples – Harold and Sharon Arbuckle, Chris and Nancy

Cockle, Sue and Keith Garner, Nancy and John Hazeleger, Lawrence and Nancy MacKay and Sharry and John Vanderhorn – got together and formed the first steering committee.

The company revolved around the Embro and Zorra Agricultural Society Dinner Theatre, which started in 1988 and presented Black Comedy in '89, Harold adds.

When Thistle Theatre hit centre stage with its inaugural presentation of Dan Needles' Perils of Persephone the blustery night of November 8, 1995, the streets outside the historic Embro Town Hall were buried under two feet of snow.

Over the years, musical and dramatic entries at both the local and provincial levels – like Fiddler on the Roof (2003) and Moonlight and Valentino (2007) – ensured theatre lovers inside and outside of Zorra Township that theatrical excellence was synonymous with Thistle Theatre.

A frequent award-winner for costuming, set design and construction, in addition to acting and directing, the company's fall production has been adjudicated as part of the WODL festival since 1996.



Moonlight and Valentino featured an award-winning cast that included, from left, Chantel VanRyswyck, Sarah McGrath, Jocelyne Rioux and Nicole Langlois.

(Contributed Photo from Thistle Theatre Archives)

Chris says Zorra Township has always been a strong supporter of the theatre, most recently providing funding to help renovate the town hall basement for better props and costumes storage.

The present Thistle executive consists of: Sue Langlois (president), Chris Cockle (vice-president), Betty Manser (secretary) and Harold Arbuckle (treasurer and technical director). Directors are: Anne Parker, Emily Walton, Joan Veldman, Norm Northmore, Warren McKay, Elizabeth Williams, Sara Stevenson, Abby Cockle, Phoebe Campbell and Henriette MacArthur.

“We’re all very eager to be heading down the yellow brick road later this year,” adds Phoebe, dubbed by her colleagues as the props manager extraordinaire. “It’s going to be a lot of fun for everyone.”

The Wizard of Oz takes centre stage with a preview November 20 and will run November 22, 23, 24, 25, 28, 29, 30 and December 1 at 8 p.m., with matinees set for November 25 and December 2. Check the theatre’s website at www.thistletheatre.ca for further updates.

Dave MacKenzie

Member of Parliament for Oxford, Chair of the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights

Please contact any of my offices for assistance with federal government issues, such as employment insurance, citizenship, immigration and passports.

Celebrating a birthday? An anniversary?
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The Zorra Caledonian Society invites you to help celebrate its 75th Anniversary!

By Katherine Grieve

Embroid is the home of Ontario's oldest Highland Games, held every July 1, as one of the Zorra Caledonian's signature events. The pipes are heard from early till late on the grounds of the Community Centre, where thousands of spectators cheer the runners in the road race, gasp at the heavy events, keep time with the bands, applaud the dancers, root for the tug-of-war teams, reconnect with their clans, sample delicious local and specialty foods, shop, admire the herding skills of Border Collies and the coats and horns of Highland cattle, and maybe even try their hand at some competitions, all while celebrating the country that has become home to more than just the Scots whom they honour. We'll be glad to welcome you to the Games in 2012!



Dorothy McKay serving the Scotch Pies

President of the Zorra Caledonian Society. President Helen's tenure was given warm and deserved praise by all attending, led by Ron Totten, a long-time member of the Caledonians, and a member of the Tug-of-War Hall of Fame. Guests enjoyed Valentine-themed dinner and decor, with the lady guests of the gentlemen members treated to roses at the evening's conclusion.

Saving perhaps the best till last, we here announce the unveiling of the Zorra Caledonian Society's own tartan, especially designed by members to reflect Embroid and Zorra's unique attributes. This was just one of the features of the "Celebrities in Tartan" event held on Friday, April 13 at the Embroid and Zorra Community Centre. Stunning Scottish decorations transformed the hall where the programme featured an array of celebrities in traditional dress, commentary on Scottish superstitions and customs delivered in an authentic accent, honour to the Past Presidents, dancing and piping, a humorous skit, and tidbits from the Society's history -- with traditional beverages and specialty foods to tempt all. Ties, scarves, hats and kilts in the new tartan were worn by members and are available for purchase, along with fabric by the metre. Kilts can be custom ordered locally.

We welcome you to join the fun, honour the Scots who settled here, keep their traditions alive and celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Zorra Caledonian Society!



Brownwyn Garden-Smith, Fraser Nagle and Grace Grant dancing the Sean Triubhas

Southwestern Ontario Landfill Proposal

As you may be aware, Walker Environmental Group has advised the Township they are considering a proposal to develop landfill in a mined quarry at the site known locally as Beachville Lime near Centreville -- specifically, the Carmeuse Lime (Canada) Beachville Operations located at 374681 37th Line (Oxford County Road 6), Zorra Township.

The regulatory approvals required for a new landfill project are numerous and will take years to complete. There are specific stages in the process where affected stakeholders including directly impacted members of the public, neighbourhood groups and municipal governments, will have opportunities to reflect on and respond to proposals that Walker Environmental puts forward.

The approval process lies entirely within the jurisdiction of the provincial government except for the zone change and official plan amendment. The Township does not have the power to decide whether or not the project goes ahead but will participate fully and actively in the consultation process. The Township Council will be stating publicly throughout the process that no approval should be given unless it can be clearly demonstrated that the health, welfare and long-term best interests of the municipality and their residents are fully protected.

In specific, the Township will not be supporting the proposal unless and until it can be demonstrated that, among other things:

- Our drinking water remains safe;
- Traffic issues are minimal;
- Nuisance effects common to such facilities including odour, dust, fugitive litter and birds are minimal and not impactful on area residents; and
- the overall social and economic health of the municipalities and its' residents will continue to thrive with the facility in place

In this regard, Council will thoroughly review all studies provided by Walker and in some cases engage our own experts to review the data. Once the Township, and its experts, have a thorough understanding of the project and its potential impacts, will a decision be made on how to proceed.

Don MacLeod, Chief Administrative Officer



Council

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Upcoming Council Meetings:

May 1	9:30 a.m.
May 15	6:30 p.m.
June 5	9:30 a.m.
June 19	6:30 p.m.
July 17	9:30 a.m.
August 14	9:30 a.m.

(only one meeting in July and one in August)

Employees

Building/Drainage Department

Chief Building Official/
Drainage Superintendent -
Michael Hughes
Phone: (519) 485-2490 Ext. 224
Email: mhughes@zorra.on.ca

Building Inspector - John Nooren
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C.A.O./Clerk's Department

Chief Administrative Officer -
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Clerk - Karen Graham
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Planner - Eric Gilbert
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Tax Collector/Deputy Treasurer -
Kelly Hall
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Email: khall@zorra.on.ca

Administrative Assistant -
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Steve Oliver
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Email: embroshop@zorra.on.ca

Foreman – Kintore Works Yard -
Ron Greason
Phone: (519) 283-6335
Email: kintoreshop@zorra.on.ca

Protective Services

Acting Fire Chief - Paul Mitchell
Phone: (519) 617-5357

Embros District Chief - Bob Ross
Phone: (519) 617-2740
Email: embrofire@zorra.on.ca

Thamesford District Chief -
John McFarlan
Home Ph: (519) 617-4606
Email: thamesfordfire@zorra.on.ca

Uniondale District Chief - Paul Mitchell
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Email: tdrc@zorra.on.ca

Embros West Zorra Community Centre
519-475-6061
Email: ewzcc@zorra.on.ca

Thamesford Area Swimming Pool
519-285-3063

A Pond for all Seasons

- By Sean Breough and Philip Kerr, current owners of the Miller's house in Harrington.

The Harrington Mill Pond has been a focus of community life in Oxford County for over 170 years. It was established in the first half on the century before last, along with the Grist Mill and the miller's house, by the founder of the village, David Demorest. Around its beautiful banks grew a thriving commerce which, in the latter part of the nineteenth century, included two hotels, two tailors, a sawmill, as well as the flour and grist mill, a general store, a cabinet maker and upholsterer, two wagon makers, a tin shop, a cheese factory, a mason, a post office, an oatmeal mill, a harness maker, a boot maker and shoemaker. There was a community hall, two churches, a school and a village dance hall behind the miller's house, which some residents remember to this day. Time has left few remnants of this typically small yet thriving Ontario village of a bygone era.



Photo credit: Linda Bosch

What does remain is the enduring natural beauty of the pond, accented by some architectural reminders like the Grist Mill which is being lovingly restored by members of the community. Regular readers of Zorra Now might be familiar with some of the activities of The Harrington and Area Community Association. This enthusiastic group of volunteers is responsible for the ongoing restoration of the Grist Mill, the maintenance of the picnic ground adjacent to the pond, and the management of the nearby Harrington Community Hall. A vibrant centre for community activity, the hall houses the local branch of the Oxford County Library, and is also a venue for other community events including potluck suppers, country dances, and concerts by renowned musical acts from the region. The Mill Pond itself remains a centre of community life. The Tavistock Rod and Gun Club will hold its annual trout fishing derby on April 28, and the Harrington and Area Community Association will hold its ever popular Pork Barbecue on August 11 in the picnic area on the banks of the pond. Throughout the year, the Mill Pond and Conservation Area are home to abundant wildlife including Great Blue Herons, Green Herons, Kingfishers, Bald eagles, Ospreys, Swans, Canada Geese, Black Ducks, Mallards, Blue Winged Teals, Goldeneyes, Hooded Mergansers, Ring-necked Ducks, Muskrat, Beaver, Mink, different species of turtle, and a variety of songbirds unrivaled by any official bird sanctuary. Late last spring, residents of the village were treated to Harrington's own "parade of swans" as a pair of mute swans walked

their 3 young cygnets across Road 96 from Wildwood, up Victoria Street, and into Harrington Mill Pond. They remained there right through this past winter, and still drop by occasionally for a visit.

Sixty years ago, in 1952, The Upper Thames River Conservation Authority began acquiring the Mill Pond in the interest of preservation. Recently, the future of the pond has been cast in doubt by economic cutbacks and aspersions about the structural integrity of the berm adjacent to the dam. Many interested members of the community attended a meeting of Zorra Council on February 16 to view a presentation by the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority. During the rousing question and answer period which followed, it was abundantly clear that residents of the area value the Harrington Mill Pond as an important piece of history, and also as an integral part of life in Harrington and the surrounding area. Everyone is hopeful that the spirited debate which is underway in Zorra Township will result in the preservation of the pond as a centre for community activity for generations to come.



Photo credit: Philip Kerr

Now is the time for everyone to take full advantage of the wonderful resource of the Harrington Mill Pond, to celebrate its cultural and historical significance, and to make our feelings known to representatives on all levels.

Questions on the issues with respect to Harrington Mill Pond, or the Activities of the Harrington and Area Community Association can be directed to ourharringtonhome@live.ca. For tickets to events contact 519 475 4376 or ourharringtonhome@live.ca

HACA Annual Pork Barbecue and Antique Tractor Display
Harrington Conservation Area - Saturday August 11, 2012.
Adults: \$14, Children 5 - 10: \$7, under 5 FREE. Call ahead for a family rate for 2 adults and 2 children 5 to 10.

"That Rockin' 50's Show" - Friday Oct. 12, 2012 for more information visit www.billculp.ca

Harrington Community Hall rental inquiries call 519 475 0060

Congratulations
to the Thamesford Trojans
on winning the OHA Cup
Championship!!!

Congratulations
to Zorra Girls Hockey Association for
a very successful hockey season!!
Registration information and coaches
applications is available on our website at www.zgha.ca



Minor Sports

Embro:

Embro Minor Hockey Assoc.	519-475-6515
Zorra Skating Club	519-475-4646
Embro Minor Ball Association	519-475-4012
Embro Minor Soccer Association	519-475-4210

Kintore:

Kintore Minor Soccer	519-283-1120
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Thamesford:

Thamesford Minor Hockey Assoc.	519-285-3401
Thamesford Skating Club	519-461-0291
Thamesford Jr. "D" Hockey Club	519-285-3107
Thamesford Minor Ball	519-285-5521
Thamesford Minor Soccer	519-285-9936
Thamesford Rec. Men's Slow Pitch	519-268-2232
Thamesford NBC League	519-285-2164
Zorra Girls Hockey	519-461-0347

Schools (Elementary)

Embro

Zorra Highland Public School	519-475-4121
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Kintore

A.J. Baker Public School	519-283-1098
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Thamesford

Thamesford Public School	519-285-2043
Tollgate Central French Immersion	519-537-7321
St. Joseph's Catholic School	519-660-2784
John Knox Christian School	519-539-1492

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

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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

Thamesford Taking Action Group	519-285-3919
Thamesford Lion's Club	519-285-2734
Kintore Optimist Club	519-283-6321

Other

Alzheimers Society	519-421-2466
Beachville District Museum	519-423-6497
Caledonian Society	519-475-6765
Calithumpian Committee - Andrea Wright	519-285-5129
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
East Nissouri History Book	519-349-2069
Embro West Zorra History Book	519-475-4443
Embro Library	519-475-4172
Embro & Zorra Agricultural Society	519-475-4437
Fanshawe Pioneer Village	519-457-1296
Girl Guides - Thamesford	519-285-3749
Harrington & Area Community Association	
President: Sam Coghlan	519-475-4097
Harrington Public Library	519-475-6909
Hardeman, Ernie, MPP.	519-537-5222
Horticultural Society (Ingersoll)	519-485-1808
Ingersoll Creative Arts Centre	519-485-4691
Ingersoll Theatre of Performing Arts	519-485-3070
MacKenzie, Dave MP	519-485-5225
Ontario Early Years Programs	800-539-9800
OPP	800-265-7191
Oxford County Jr. Farmers	519-469-3281
Thamesford Block Parents	519-285-1126
Thamesford Business Association	519-285-3496
Thamesford Public Library	519-285-3219
Thamesford Snowmobile Club	519-285-5014
Township of Zorra	519-485-2490
Scouts - Thamesford	519-285-5835
Welcome Wagon	519-485-2990
Women's Canadian Club	519-471-8924
Zorra Girls Hockey Association	519-318-1323

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