

Zorra NOW

community events and services

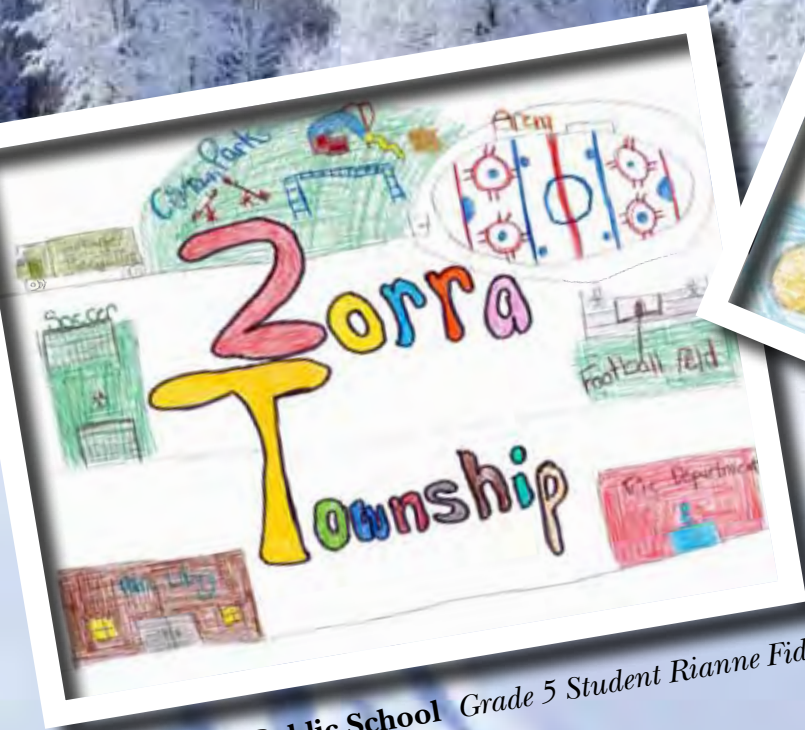


Winter 2015

Local

Government

Week



Thamesford Public School Grade 5 Student Rianne Fidler



AJ Baker Grade 5 Student Alison Gates

see page 8 for more
information

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Message from the Mayor

As I listed the events I want to include in this edition I was surprised at the number. I will try to include as many as I can.

Congratulations to Tony Kelly and his wife, Pat, on the Open House held for them recognizing their many contributions to Thamesford and area during the 40 plus years they lived there. Council was pleased to present to them with a Distinguished Volunteer Service Award and I know the community wishes them many years of happy retirement in London.

Work continues on our Strategic Plan. As a Council we started with a plan to develop a list of Aims and Goals for this term of Council but it has now become a full Strategic Plan. Turnout at the public meetings was disappointing as to numbers but excellent ideas were proposed. When finalized the plan with be a definite guideline as we make decisions on projects, etc. we will undertake and/or support in Zorra. Responses to agenda items will be decided based on guidelines derived from the Strategic Plan.

Some of you may have heard that a natural gas pipeline is to be installed next year along the 41st line north of the Hickson side road. It would seem that a natural benefit would be access to the gas by neighbouring residents. We are working to see if we can find a way to persuade Union Gas to provide this—perhaps as a pilot project—as it would seem they have not done this previously in other projects and have reservations about doing it now. However the need by many farmers is very real and Council is committed to trying to find a way to make this work.

One very pleasant event early this fall was our Volunteer Breakfast. A full buffet meal was served to nearly 50 people. We hope next year to combine it with an invitation especially for seniors and entertain both groups as a thank you for their contributions to Zorra over the years.

People have asked if I am happy with the results of the Federal Election. It really doesn't matter if the party elected was or was not of your choice. Once the decision is made we all have to get behind the decision and help to make the government work for the benefit of all. This was one of the first lessons I learned in municipal politics. The same thing goes for decisions made at Council meetings. Once the decision is made it is up to all of Council to support the path chosen.

County Council participated in a very interesting activity in October called "Virtual Dementia Training". In groups we were outfitted with apparatus to limit our sight and/or hearing, heavy gloves and uncomfortable inserts in our shoes and then tried to follow directions to perform simple tasks. We learned something of the frustration that must be experienced by people with dementia as they go about daily living. Hopefully lessons learned will assist us as we make decisions re accessibility issues.

In late October members of Staff and Council planted 700 red and white tulip bulbs in the area surrounding the monument on the grounds of the Township Office. We received these bulbs free of charge through a project of the Vessey company. They donated similar numbers to 140 organizations across Canada (approximately 100,000 bulbs in total) recognizing the original donation by the Dutch Government to Canada 70 years ago. Next spring these Dutch-Canadian Friendship gardens will be formally recognized. You will get information of the particulars and we hope community members will join us for a celebration.

The new Waste Management collection programme started mid-September. There were a few "bumps" in the beginning but things seem to be working smoothly now. Many residents report larger recycling amounts now that it is picked up weekly and the collection of plastic film has been well received.

We took "Council on the Road" to A.J. Baker and Thamesford schools with excellent receptions by the students. In both cases they used the meeting as an opportunity to make presentations to Council which led to excellent discussions. Clerk Karen Martin and I returned to each school two days later for "debriefing" when the young people had an opportunity to question us on what had happened during each meeting. This was a very worthwhile exercise for Council and for the students studying local government. Preparation at the schools was very impressive.

As this is the last Zorra News of the year I want to wish all of you a wonderful Christmas season. Whether you celebrate or not I hope you take the opportunity to spend time with family and friends and that we all join together in praying for, and working towards, peace throughout our world. Best wishes from all of us who work on your behalf for the Township of Zorra.

Margaret Lupton

THE LORI GOLDHAWK Team

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www.thelorigoldhawkteam.ca



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The Lori Goldhawk Team



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All of Mike's work is done on the premises

WINTER ROADWAY MAINTENANCE ON TOWNSHIP OF ZORRA ROADS

The winter level of service to be delivered is prescribed in the Minimum Maintenance Standards – Ontario Regulation 239/02 regarding snow and ice control. The Minimum Maintenance Standards are a regulation of the Municipal Act, 2001. Service will be delivered during the following hours:
Monday to Friday - 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. with additional hours as determined by weather conditions
Saturday, Sunday, holidays - as determined by weather conditions.

Aden Corcoran, C.E.T. -Director of Public Works

REDUCED LOAD SEASON

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

HALF LOAD SEASON RATIONALE

- Minimize Long Term Damage to Infrastructure
- Problems caused when Roads are soft 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.



Volunteer Breakfast 2015

Thanks to all of our local volunteers who came out to Embro on October 2, 2015 to celebrate volunteerism in Zorra Township. A delicious breakfast catered by Eat Your Heart Out Catering was enjoyed by many local volunteers. Beautiful mums were purchased at TSC Embro and apples from Turner's Farm Market were provided to our volunteers.

Gorgeous signage provided by 31st Line Strategic Communications. #ShopLocal. Thanks to Mayor Lupton and Councillors Keasey, Ryan, and Matheson for serving the food. What a great morning in @ZorraTwp!

WHY NOT PAY YOUR TAXES MONTHLY?

Sign up now for the 10 or 12 month Pre-Authorized Payment Plan for 2016.

If you are interested in enrolling in this payment plan for 2016, you can find an authorization form on our website at www.zorra.on.ca or call Kelly at 519-485-2490 ext 222. Applications need to be submitted as soon as possible to ensure enrolment for 2016.

If you are currently enrolled in the pre-authorized payment plan, you DO NOT have to re-apply each year, only if there is a change with the account.

WHY NOT TRY PAYING YOUR TAXES ON-LINE?

Online or telephone banking is available for making monthly, arrears, or regular instalments. All banks accept Zorra as a client and the account number required is your ROLL NUMBER from your tax bill, starting after 3227.

COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY OWNERS ONLY!!!!!!!

VACANCY REBATE PROGRAM

If your commercial or industrial property was vacant for a period of up to three months for 2015 you are eligible for a vacancy rebate. Applications can be found on our website or picked up at the Township Office. The deadline for filing is February 29, 2016

MUNICIPAL PROPERTY ASSESSMENT CORPORATION (MPAC)

MPAC is a not-for-profit corporation funded by all Ontario municipalities. MPAC's roll is to accurately value and classify all properties in Ontario in compliance with the Assessment Act and related regulations set by the Government of Ontario.

YOUR PROPERTY. MPAC'S ASSESSMENT. KNOW MORE ABOUT IT.

Learn how & why your property was assessed the way it was with AboutMyProperty. You can also compare your property assessment with others in your neighbourhood and community, all free of charge. Look for your Roll number and Access key on your Property Assessment Notice and visit www.aboutmyproperty.ca

Also filing a Request for Reconsideration (RfR) is a pre-condition to filing an Assessment Review Board (ARB) appeal for properties in the residential, farm or managed forests property class. The deadline to file an RfR is March 31, 2015.

WHEN WILL MY 2016 TAX BILL BE MAILED?

They will be mailed the 1st week of February, with due dates of Feb 29 and May 31, 2016. Unfortunately, legislation states that the municipality is only allowed to bill half of the previous year's taxes, therefore an increase/decrease in taxes for ratepayers will not be until the Final 2016 Tax Bill which are processed in August 2016.

Season Greetings and Merry Christmas from the Tax Department and all the best for the New Year.

Kelly Hall, Tax Collector/Deputy Treasurer 519-485-2490 x 222 khall@zorrra.on.ca



Township of Zorra Fire Department

Ride To School in the Fire Truck!

Zorra Fire and Emergency Services provided a "Ride to School" in the Fire Truck for the Campbell Family who purchased the ride during the Fun Fair Auction last summer.

The ride was Monday, October 5, 2015 to kick off Fire Prevention Week.

The Uniondale District Fire Chief, Paul Mitchell picked up the two children just before 9 AM outfitted them with fire helmet, coat and a pager before heading to AJ Baker Public School for just after announcements. The entire school was waiting at the front of the school as the fire truck pulled up to drop them off for the day.



Keep Fire Safety in Mind as Temperatures Drop!

Zorra Fire & Emergency Services is urging everyone to keep fire safety in mind as the temperatures turn colder.

Unfortunately, we often see more home fires during the winter months due to heating equipment and appliances. People need to pay close attention to potential fire hazards such as fireplaces, furnaces, chimneys and vents, and space heaters.

There are some simple things people can do to stay fire safe during the colder months:

- Have all fuel-burning appliances inspected annually by a registered fuel contractor. Go to COSafety.ca to find a contractor near you.
- Keep chimneys and intake/exhaust vents for furnaces and heating appliances free of debris, ice and snow accumulations to reduce the risk of carbon monoxide (CO) build-up from inefficient combustion.
- Burn dry, well-seasoned wood in fireplaces and woodstoves to reduce the risk of excessive creosote build-up in chimneys.
- Allow ashes from your fireplace or woodstove to cool before emptying them into a metal container with a tight-fitting lid. Keep the container outside.
- Keep space heaters at least one metre (3 feet) away from anything that can burn, including curtains, upholstery and clothing.

- Replace worn or damaged electrical wires and connections on vehicles and extension cords and use the proper gauge extension cord for vehicle block heaters.
- Consider using approved timers for vehicle block heaters rather than leaving heaters on all night.
- Ensure that vehicles are not left running inside any garage or building.
- Ensure there is a working smoke alarm on every storey and outside all sleeping areas of your home.
- Install CO alarms to alert you to the presence of this deadly gas.

Zorra Fire & Emergency Services reminds everyone that the Ontario Fire Code requires smoke alarms to be installed on every storey of your home and outside all sleeping areas. Carbon monoxide alarms are required outside all sleeping areas if the home has a fuel-burning appliance, a fireplace or an attached garage.

Protect yourself and your loved ones, install and maintain your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms. For more information about smoke and carbon monoxide alarms, or fire safety, contact Fire Chief John McFarlan at 519-485-2490, Ext 240.



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Local Government Week

Local Government Week was developed to celebrate the key role that Ontario local governments play in helping to define the character, priorities, amenities and physical make-up of communities. The goal of Local Government Week is to put a face to local government staff and elected officials, engage youth and create an interest in community leadership. Local Government Week was held on October 18-24, 2015. On October 20, 2015 Township Council and Staff held the Council meeting at AJ Baker Public School and on November 3, 2015 the Council meeting was held at Thamesford Public School. Both meetings were a great success and saw students from grades 4-6 presenting various delegations to Council requesting anything from soccer netting to a small café for special breakfast and dinner meals. Mayor Lupton and Karen Martin, Clerk visited both schools after the Council meeting to have a short “de-brief” after the meeting and answer any questions the students had.

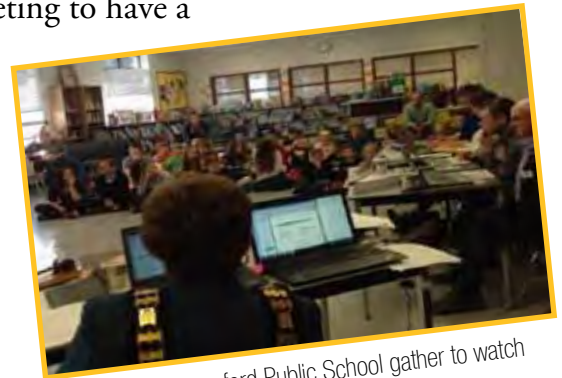
Thamesford Public School and AJ Baker Public School also partook in a poster contest where students designed a poster of what the Township of Zorra represents to them.



Students of Thamesford Public School present their delegation to Council at the November 3, 2015 Council meeting.



Students of Thamesford Public School



Students of Thamesford Public School gather to watch the November 3, 2015 Council Meeting



NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

Tuesday, December 15, 2015 – 7:30 p.m.
274620 27th Line, Ingersoll, Ontario

The purpose of the application is to amend two sections of the General Provisions Section of the Township of Zorra Zoning By-law 35-99, being:

To amend Table 5.1.1.3 Regulations for Accessory Uses - to permit a maximum lot coverage of accessory buildings and structures of 10% of lot area of 170 m² (1,830 ft²) within RR and RE zones; and

To amend Section 5.19 – Parking Provisions – to introduce new accessibility parking standards in order to be consistent with the requirements of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005.

Phone: 519-485-2490

Fax: 519-485-2520

admin@zorra.on.ca

By-Law Enforcement

RECREATIONAL VEHICLES (RV's):

If you are an owner of a recreational vehicle (including trailers and boats) and you reside in a Residential Zone, please keep in mind that the Zoning By-law regulates both the size of RV/boat, location, and length of time to which it can be parked in your driveway.

'The owner or occupant of any lot in a Residential Zone may store or park not more than two recreational vehicles that do not exceed 9m (29.5 ft) in total length in the front yard of such lot for a total period of not more than 72 hours in one calendar month.'

You may park your RV at the interior side lot and or rear yard provided that it is more than 1 metre from the lot line.

WINTER PARKING

Please be advised that the winter parking restrictions will be enforced starting November 15th and remain in place until March 31, 2016. Parking is not permitted on any road or street from 1:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. 7 days a week during this period. Any vehicle owner found in violation of this by-law could be fined or have their vehicle removed/towed at owners expense. The fine for this violation is set at \$50.



SNOW REMOVAL ONTO ROADWAYS

This is a reminder to all residents that depositing snow from private property onto a public roadway is dangerous and in contravention of the Road Protection By-law 6-95. Pushing or placing any snow or ice or any other obstruction of a roadway is an offence that carries a Provincial Offences Fine of \$105.00.



MOTORIZED VEHICLES

Please note that the Motorized Vehicle By-law 18-90, prohibits motorized vehicles in public parks within Zorra Township and is subject to a Provincial Offences Charge \$105. Motorized vehicles includes but is not limited to recreational all-terrain vehicles (ATV's) and snowmobiles.

Parks prohibiting motorized vehicles are as follows: Thamesford District Recreation Centre – Entire property, Grace Patterson Park, Thamesford North Park, Bob Fisher Soccer Field, Lions (South) Park, Matheson Park, Community Centre Park, Wallace Park, Memorial Park and Harrington Park NOTE: Unless permission is obtained from property owner, ATVs and Snowmobiles are prohibited on private property. All trespassing complaints should be forwarded to the Ontario Provincial Police.

SMOKING REGULATIONS

Please note that smoking and the use of smoking products is prohibited at any Township facility, including but not limited to municipal parkland, playground equipment, sports fields and spectator seating, at all times. Regardless of whether or not there is a "No Smoking" sign posted.



THEFT OF HISTORICAL SIGNAGE

There has been a number of Historical signs stolen from locations around the Township of Zorra. The Township of Zorra intends on pursuing criminal charges to anyone caught stealing signage or is in the possession of stolen property of any Township asset. Theft is a Criminal Offence described under Section 322 of the Criminal Code of Canada. The maximum punishment is set at 6 months imprisonment and or a \$2,000 fine. If you have any information to the theft of any Township assets, please contact By-law Enforcement at 519-485-2490 Ext 230 or the Ontario Provincial Police at 1-888-310-1122.

Thank you for your co-operation.

For more information contact

Mathew Paul, By-law Enforcement Officer 485-2490 ext. 230

Township of Zorra Hunting Regulations

Sunday Gun Hunting in the Township of Zorra is prohibited. For further information visit the Ministry of Natural Resources website: www.mnr.gov.on.ca

In accordance with Township By-law #43-09, Municipal licenses are not required for hunting rabbit and pheasant in the Township of Zorra.



Embro West Zorra History Books

**Buy 3 get 1 free until the
end of December**

Offer only available by contacting on of the following:

**The Township Office at 519-485-2490, JC Graphics at
519-285-3249, Margaret Lupton at 519-475-4443 or
Helen Brenneman at 519-475-4874**



Township of Zorra

2016-2018 Dog Tag Campaign

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Save Time,
Apply Online!
www.zorra.on.ca

***** NEW *** Representatives from the Township will no longer be going door-to-door to sell dog tags.** The onus is on the dog owner to have their dog registered by **December 31, 2015**. We hope that you will find this new initiative more convenient. The price for a dog tag remains unchanged at \$15.00 per dog per year and we have **raised the maximum number of dogs from 2 to 3 on all Zorra properties**. Online forms are available www.zorra.on.ca or you can contact the office by email admin@zorrra.on.ca or by phone 519-485-2490 Ext 221 for your new tag. Payment methods include cash, cheque, debit, or charge to taxes.
Failure to obtain a dog tag may result in a fine of \$125.00.

Visit the Township office or mail the completed application form (on back) with your payment to Township of Zorra 274620 27th Line, PO Box 306, Ingersoll, ON N5C 3K5.

*** New Animal Care and Control By-law 43-15 ***

- Requires all dogs over **3 months** of age to be licensed with the Township.
- Dog owners are required to obtain a dog tag by **December 31, 2015**.
- **Failure to register your dog may result in a fine of \$125.**
- A valid tag will assist animal control staff in returning your dog should it ever become separated from you.
- A maximum of **3 dogs** are permitted in each dwelling.
- Prohibits or regulates the running at large of dogs within the Township of Zorra. All dogs in Zorra must be kept on a leash when not on the owner's property. If a dog strays it can be impounded and its owners can be fined for "permitting a dog to run at large." The dog that is impounded is not being punished but rather protected.
- To protect individuals and other pets from disease, Zorra requires that any person who owns, harbours or possesses a dog shall immediately remove and sanitarily dispose of any feces (droppings) of the dog. Failure to do so may result in the owner being fined.
- Canine Service Animals, Livestock Guardian Dogs, Police Working Dogs, and Dangerous Dogs shall only be licensed at the Township Administration Office.
- Kennel licenses can be issued to Canadian Kennel Club (CKC) members only and proof of valid CKC membership is required. Kennel licenses will now also require an approved Site Plan, must adhere to minimum standards, and will be subject to an annual inspection. Kennel licenses are issued at the Township office only.
- All dog owners must adhere to the minimum health and general well-being standards.
- **PROVINCIAL LEGISLATION REQUIRES THAT ALL DOGS HAVE CURRENT RABIES VACCINATIONS.**
- All animal bites should be immediately reported to The Oxford County Board of Health at 519-539-9800.
- By-Law 69-12 Noise By-law. Barking dogs are an annoyance and a nuisance. Barking falls under the Noise By-Law which is enforced by the Zorra By-Law Enforcement Officer.

Pay with debit
at the office!



Who do I contact for Canine Control?
(Dogs running at large, found dogs)

Kismutt Small Dog Rescue
Kimberly Thomas
519-283-6585
kismutt@sympatico.ca
www.kismutt.com

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Township of Zorra

2016-2018 Dog Tag Campaign

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Name of Owner: _____

Full Address, including 911 number and mailing address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Email Address: _____

- If you no longer have a dog, please notify the Township Office at 519-485-2490 ext 221 or by email: admin@zorra.on.ca

Name of Dog 1: _____

Colour: _____ Age: _____

Breed: _____

Gender: Male / Female (circle one)

Tag Fee: \$15.00 per dog

Twp Only: Tag # Assigned: _____

Name of Dog 2: _____

Colour: _____ Age: _____

Breed: _____

Gender: Male / Female (circle one)

Tag Fee: \$15.00 per dog

Twp Only: Tag # Assigned: _____

Name of Dog 3: _____

Colour: _____ Age: _____

Breed: _____

Gender: Male / Female (circle one)

Tag Fee: \$15.00 per dog

Twp Only: Tag # Assigned: _____

(office use only)

Payment Received: \$ _____

Cash cheque Debit Taxes

Roll No: _____

- Owner certifies that rabies vaccination is up-to-date for all dogs listed.
- Owner certifies that dog(s) has not been declared a Dangerous Dog.
- Owner gives consent to release name & phone number if dog is found.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Personal information contained on this form is collected pursuant to *The Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, and will be used for the purpose of Dog Licensing and Canine Control. Questions about this collection should be directed to The Corporation of the Township of Zorra, 274620 27th Line, PO Box 306, Ingersoll, ON N5C 3J6. Phone 519-485-2490 Ext 228.

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We would love to hear from YOU!!!

If you have a story, pictures or ANYTHING that you would like to share about your community please contact Ashley Sage at asage@zorranow.ca or 519-485-2490 ext. 228 to have it appear in an upcoming Zorra Now Edition.

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Add your contact information to the growing list of businesses in Rural Oxford

In Rural Oxford, we are building strong, vibrant, caring communities where people and business thrive. Our enviable location provides outstanding access to major routes and markets and contributes to making us the most prosperous rural community in Ontario.

To help us stay connected, and to foster the opportunity for business-to-business networking, the ROEDC is spearheading a project to compile a directory of companies, large and small, who call Rural Oxford their home.

Farms, manufacturers, retailers, contractors, health care, and service professionals all make up the fabric of our community. At the ROEDC, we have a goal of bringing together the 5,000 businesses that are scattered throughout our community. That's right, in June of 2015, the statistics show that there were 4,945 businesses operating throughout the townships. By visiting www.roedc.ca/business-directory, you can help us grow our local economy by taking a moment to register.

Your next employee

If you're a business owner who is planning to hire a new or replacement worker this winter, we encourage you to visit www.workinoxford.ca to post your vacant positions. This FREE tool is convenient and easy to use. With more than 35,000 visits since the site was enhanced this summer, it's possible that your next employee is conducting a job search right now.

New for 2015, you can post volunteer positions as well as search for information and resources on starting your own business.

As always, the economic development office is here to assist you, the business owner. Our site www.roedc.ca, contains resources and information, and our staff are always available to meet with you to talk. Connect with us on Facebook and Twitter (@ruraloxfordEDC) to have news and information sent directly to your timeline.

Thamesford Skate Park and Splash Pad Committee

A committee has been formed to explore the possibility of building a skate park and splash pad in Thamesford!

While still in early planning stages, the enthusiasm of committee members, community supporters and Township Councillors has been very positive. Please consider supporting this project by attending a committee meeting or our upcoming presentation to Township Council—December 15th, 7 pm at Zorra Township Office. You can join our Facebook Group page, ("Thamesford Skate Park and Splash Pad Committee") email tjackson@execulink.com to receive minutes and meeting date information or contact Committee Chair Don Weir at 519-285-5558 with any questions regarding this exciting new project for Thamesford.

Waste Management and Special Collection Programs



Garbage and recycling pick-up is offered weekly in new trucks that now allow for single stream recycling – meaning all your recyclables can now go into the same blue box.

Your garbage and recycling pick-up is collected on all statutory holidays with the exception of Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Check the new Waste Management Calendar to see when your collection day is and always have your garbage and recycling set out to the curb by 7:00 a.m.

Check out Oxford County's new mobile app called Wasteline. Wasteline is available now to download personalized curbside collection calendars, check on recyclables quickly using a search bar, or sign up for automated reminders by text, email, phone or Twitter message.

Wasteline tools are for use by residents in all eight of Oxford's area municipalities and can be found:

- at www.wasteline.ca;
- in your mobile device's App Store or Google Play; and
- on your local municipality's website.

The new waste management program as approved by Council in February 2015 following two years of study and community consultation. The new program offers better service for a lower cost, with a smaller environmental footprint.

If you have any questions about the new garbage and recycling program, contact the Oxford County Waste Management department at 519-539-9800 or toll-free at 1-800-755-0394.

Look for your new Waste Management Calendar!!!



Winter Waste Collection

The holiday season is approaching and there will be NO changes to garbage collection for Zorra residents this year. Please be sure to have your items to the curb by 7am on your collection day.

Waste Diversion Calendars 2014/2015

Be sure not to throw out the current Waste Diversion Calendar as it provides information through to the end of April 2015. New calendars will be mailed out next spring. Be sure to refer to the calendar regularly for information regarding your pickup days as well as special collection events going on around the county.

Christmas Tree Disposal

For all Township residents, natural Christmas trees can be taken to any Leaf and Yard Waste Depots to be recycled.

Please remember to remove all decorations and plastic bags used for transportation.

The Leaf and Yard Waste Depot is located across from the Kintore Public Works Yards at 783036 Road 78.

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.

Please note that the Oxford County Landfill site is closed on statutory holidays.

Tipping Fees will be applied to each load (some exceptions apply).

The Oxford County landfill will be closed on Thursday December 25, 2015, Friday December 26, 2015 and Thursday January 1, 2016. Regular hours will be maintained all other days.

The **Thamesford Lions Club** will pick-up natural trees within the Village of Thamesford on Monday, January 4, 2016. Please have your trees out by 8 a.m.



BATTERY RECYCLING



Since the start of this program in September 2012, the Township of Zorra has collected and returned 963lbs. of batteries to Raw Materials Company for Recycling.

The Township of Zorra offers a free program for recycling of household batteries through Raw Materials Company Inc. (RMC). The program is being offered at four locations throughout the Township:

- Township of Zorra Municipal Office, 274620 27th Line, RR 3, Ingersoll, ON N5C 3J6 – phone 519-485-2490
- Thamesford Arena, 85 Middleton Street, Thamesford, ON N0M 2M0 – phone 519-285-2236
- Embro Arena, 355644 35th Line, Embro, ON N0J 1J0 – phone 519-475-6061
- Harrington Hall & Library, 539 Victoria Street, Harrington, ON N0J 1J0 – phone 519-475-6909

Please feel free to drop off your batteries at any of the above locations.

Greg Brenneman, Agent

237 Seldon St.,
Thamesford, Ontario N0M 2M0
gbrenneman@northblenheim.com
Home: 519-285-3563
Office: 1-800-665-6888



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WOODSTOCK, ON N4S 7A1
TEL: 519-421-7608 FAX: 519-421-9704
DAVE.MACKENZIE.C1A@PARL.GC.CA

TILLSONBURG CONSTITUENCY OFFICE
43 BROCK ST. EAST, TILLSONBURG, ON N4G 1Z7
TEL: 519-688-3620 FAX: 519-688-3622
DAVE.MACKENZIE.C2@PARL.GC.CA

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Local Heartland Agents & Brokers

- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| Mary Ellen Garner, Embro
Email: mgarner@millerskeep.com | (519) 475-4437
(877) 897-2108 |
| Henderson Yost Ins. Brokers Ltd, Kintore
Email: info@hendersonyost.com | (519) 283-6614
(877) 214-9235 |
| Ken & Tim Howard, Woodstock
Email: kenhoward1945@gmail.com | (519) 421-1058 |
| McFarlan Rowlands Insurance
Brokers Inc.
Website: www.mcfarlanrowlands.com | (888) 734-8888 |
| Matt Langford, Thorndale
Email: matt@mattlangfordinsurance.com | (519) 461-9408 |
| Tom Garner, Ingersoll
Email: tgarner@heartlandfarmmutual.com | (519) 485-0400 |
| Derek Stead, Ingersoll
Email: dstead@heartlandfarmmutual.com | (519) 485-0500 |
| Carly Collins, Thamesford
Email: ccollins@heartlandfarmmutual.com | (519) 285-3514 |
| Erica Unger
Email: eunger@heartlandfarmmutual.com | (519) 285-3514 |
| Patsy Switzer, St. Marys
Email: pswitzer@heartlandfarmmutual.com | (519) 461-0009 |
| Robert J. Morris Insurance &
Consulting Ltd., Kintore
Email: rjmorris.ins@xplornet.com | (519) 283-6608 |
| Jamieson-Hilt Insurance Brokers Ltd.
Woodstock
Email: info@jamiesonhilt.com | (519) 539-2071 |

HOME • AUTO • COMMERCIAL • FARM



Thamesford Lions Club Upcoming Events

Community Carol Sing

Sunday, Dec 6, 2015, 7pm at Thamesford Community Centre

Family Day

Monday Feb 15, 2016, 2pm at the Thamesford Community Centre Hay rides, games, silent auction and supper

Elimination Draw

Friday Apr 15, 2016, 8pm at the Thamesford Community Centre

Metal Recycle Day

Saturday April 23, 2016, 8am to 3pm, Parking lot behind Thamesford Community Centre - Bring your old electronics and scrap metal.

Trout Brunch

Sunday May 22, 2016, 11 to 1:30 at the Thamesford Community Centre



ZORRA GIRLS FUSION HOCKEY!

The Zorra Girls Hockey Association began their 2015-2016 season in early September and have been very busy and having fun ever since. The eight teams are run by dedicated volunteers and the season is going very well! It is fantastic to play home town hockey in Zorra! This opportunity would not be possible without the generous sponsorship of the following: Tim Hortons, Brock and Visser (Thamesford), Brent Reg Construction, Tremblett's Independent, KDM Erectors, Three Brydges Automotive, Lori Goldhawk, Thamesford Pizza Company, Precise Planting Services, Egan Electric, Thamesford Lions, Zorra TV and Appliances, Vipond Fire Protection, Allied Associates, Anderson Appliances, Matt Langford Insurance, Henderson Towing, Thorndale Dental, Cooksville Tire, Langford Auto Care, Banner Road Vets, Embro Legion, McFarlan Rowlands, and Little Caesars. We thank them all so very much! Our girls play out of Thamesford and Embro arenas so please come out and cheer them on!



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Embryo & Zorra Agricultural Society Updates

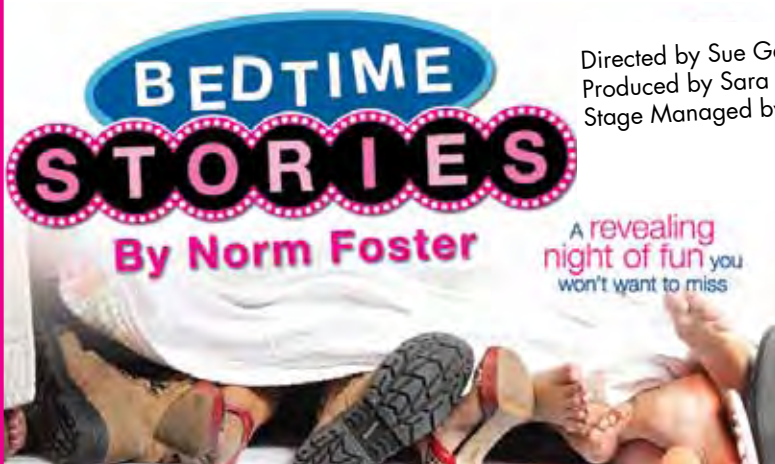


Katelyn MacKay 2015-2016 Embro & Zorra Agricultural Society Ambassador

Please welcome Katelyn MacKay as our 2015-2016 Embro & Zorra Agricultural Society Ambassador. She will be attending & promoting Embro Fair at Volunteer Appreciation & Awards Night, Fish Fry, Woodstock Christmas Parade, Annual Meeting, Dinner Theatre, OAAS Convention, District 7 events and anywhere else we can promote Embro & Zorra Agricultural Society events.



EMBRO DINNER THEATRE EMBRO & ZORRA AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY PRESENTS



Directed by Sue Garner
Produced by Sara Stephenson
Stage Managed by Norm Northmore

Show dates:

Saturday Feb. 27th
(Dinner & Show) - \$40

Sunday Feb. 28th
(Brunch & Show) - \$30

Thursday Mar. 3rd
(Show, Wine & Cheese FAPPP) - \$22

Friday Mar. 4th
(Dinner & Show) - \$40

Saturday March 5th
(Dinner & Show) - \$40

OPENING NIGHT SPECIAL * - 8 TICKETS (Feb. 27) and a bottle of wine for only \$320**

Box Office:

December 12th 8am-11am at the Embro Community Center - **EASY CHRISTMAS GIFTS!**

For more information or tickets after Box office contact Mary Ellen Garner (519-475-4437)

Bedtime Stories is staged by arrangement with Pam Winter, Gary Goddard Agency, www.garygoddardagency.com

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting will be held on Monday, January 18, 2016 at the Embro Legion starting with a dinner at 7:30 p.m. Please contact Carol for tickets 519-533-3962. *Inviting YOU to join us as a director!*

EMBRO FAIR

Mark your calendar now for EMBRO FAIR!

September 16-18, 2016! From Farm to Fork theme. We already have many ideas & plans started for our 158th Fair.

MUNICIPAL HOLIDAY CLOSURES

The Municipal Office will be closed at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 24th, 2015 and will re-open Monday January 4th at 8:30 a.m. In case of an emergency requiring Township staff, please call 519-485-2490 and leave a message at extension 226. Messages will be monitored on a daily basis and forwarded to a contact person.

At any time during this holiday season, the Township Public Works Department will provide service if weather conditions warrant snow removal to ensure public safety.

MERRY CHRISTMAS from the Township of Zorra Staff!

ZORRA

2014-15

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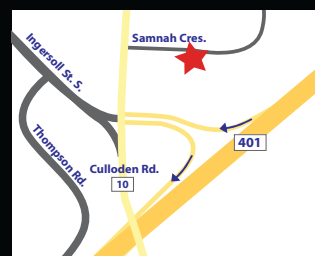
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Recreation Department - Community Events

Thamesford Events

Thamesford Santa Claus Parade

December 20, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.

Thamesford Arena

Public Skating:

Every Sunday (ends March 27)
2:00 to 3:00pm
Except Holidays

Parent/Tot Skate:

Every Tuesday (ends March 22) 9:30 to 10:30am

Adult/Senior Skate:

Every Tuesday (ends March 22) 10:30 to 11:30am

December 2015

Lions Community Carol Sing

Sunday, December 6 - 7:00 p.m.

Free Public Skating Sponsored by Tim Hortons

December 23, 2015 2:00 to 3:00 p.m.
December 27, 2015 2:00 to 3:00 p.m.
December 30, 2015 2:00 to 3:00 p.m.

January 2016

Free Public Skating Sponsored by Tim Hortons

January 3, 2016 2:00 to 3:00 p.m.

PA Day Public Skate

January 15, 2016

February 2016

Lions Family Day Event

February 15, 2016

Free skating 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Food and Silent Auction in the Hall at 5:00 p.m.

Thamesford Skating Club Carnival

February 27, 2016

March 2016

Public Skating

March 15 2:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Ice Ends March 29, 2015

(depending on the Thamesford Trojans Playoff Schedule)

April 2016

Lions Ham Hassel



Embro Events

Embro Zorra Community Centre

Public Skating:

Every Sunday (ends March 30) 2:00 to 3:00pm
Except Holidays

Parent/Tot Skate:

Every Wednesday (ends March 23) 10:00 to 11:00am
Every Friday (ends March 25) 10:00 to 11:00am

Adult Skate:

Every Wednesday (ends March 23) 11:00am to 12:00pm
Every Friday (ends March 25) 11:00am to 12:00pm

Pick-Up Hockey

Every Saturday 9:30 to 11:00pm
Contact Dave 226-228-3769

December 2015

Public Skating Sponsored by Tim Hortons

December 20, 2014 2:00-3:00pm
December 23, 2014 2:00-3:00pm
December 27, 2014 2:00-4:00pm
December 28, 2014 2:00-4:00pm
December 30, 2014 2:00-3:00pm

January 2016

Public Skating:

January 15, 2016 2:00-3:00pm

March 2015

Skating Carnival

March 13, 2016

Ice ends April 17, 2016

HOLIDAY HOURS

The Thamesford District Recreation Centre will close at 12:00 p.m. on December 24, 2015 and will open on December 27, 2015. It will also close at 12:00 p.m. on December 31, 2015 and will open on January 2nd, 2016.

The Thamesford District Recreation Centre will be closed on December 25 and 26, 2015 as well as January 1, 2016.

The Embro West Zorra Community Centre will close at 12:00 p.m. on December 24, 2015 and will open on December 27, 2015. It will also close at 12:00pm on December 31, 2015 and open on January 2, 2016.

The Embro West Zorra Community Centre will be closed on December 25 and 26, 2015, as well as January 1, 2016.



FLU SEASON

FLU VACCINES ARE HERE. PLEASE CALL OUR OFFICE FOR YOUR VACCINE!

Dr. P Diavolitsis Office

519-285-3770

Thamesford Medical Clinic, 141 Dundas St W, Thamesford ON
No appointment necessary



Zorra Addressing

In order to ensure that you are properly sending and receiving mail in the Township of Zorra please follow the below addressing layout as provided by Canada Post:

NAME: Mr. R. Smith
911 # and ROAD NAME: 231100 23rd Line
RURAL ROUTE: RR2

VILLAGE and PROVINCE and POSTAL CODE: THAMESFORD, ONTARIO N0J 1J0

Canada Post noted that mail items are often missing the 911 #, please ensure that you include this in your addressing.

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CHECK US OUT IN YOUR COMMUNITY!

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Tillsonburg

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(519) 842-9000
sharethefun.org



ADVERTISING RATES

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½ Page Horizontal	3.5 x 4.75 inches	\$282.50
Full Page	6.875 x 9.5 inches	\$536.75

For further information and to book your space please contact Jill Miles-Redman at the Township Office at 519-485-2490 ext. 231 or jmiles-redman@zorra.on.ca.

Council



Mayor Margaret Lupton
417129 41st Line, R.R. 2
Embros, ON N0J 1J0
Tel: (519) 475-4443
Email: mlupton@zorra.on.ca



Ward 1 Councillor
Ron Forbes
642960 Road 64, R.R. 3
Ingersoll, ON N5C 3J6
Tel: (519) 709-4527
Email: rforbes@zorra.on.ca



Ward 2 Councillor
Marie Keasey
114 Stanley Street South
Thamesford, ON N0M 2M0
Tel: (519) 285-2542
Email: mkeasey@zorra.on.ca



Ward 3 Councillor
Marcus Ryan
237175 23rd Line, R.R.2
St. Marys, ON N4X 1C5
Tel: (519) 301-1634
Email: mryan@zorra.on.ca



Ward 4 Councillor
Doug Matheson
316342 31st Line, R.R.3
Embros, ON N0J 1J0
Tel: (519) 475-6051
Email: dmatheson@zorra.on.ca

Employees

Building/Drainage Department

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

C.A.O./Clerk's Department

Chief Administrative Officer - Don MacLeod
Phone: 519-485-2490 Ext. 226
Email: dmacleod@zorra.on.ca

Clerk - Ashley Sage
Phone: 519-485-2490 ext. 228
Email: asage@zorra.on.ca

Planner - Ron Versteegen
Phone: 519-485-2490 ext. 237
Email: rversteegen@oxfordcounty.ca

By-law Enforcement Officer - Mathew Paul
Phone: 519-485-2490 ext. 230
Email: mpaul@zorra.on.ca

Administrative Assistant - Lisa Teeple
Phone: 519-485-2490 Ext. 221
Email: lteeple@zorra.on.ca

Finance Department

Director of Finance - Maureen Simmons
Phone: 519-485-2490 Ext. 225
Email: msimmons@zorra.on.ca

Tax Collector/Deputy Treasurer - Kelly Hall
Phone: 519-485-2490 Ext. 222
Email: khall@zorra.on.ca

Administrative Assistant - Jill Miles-Redman
Phone: 519-485-2490 Ext. 231
Email: jmiles-redman@zorra.on.ca

Public Works Department

Director of Public Works - Aden Corcoran
Phone: 519-485-2490 Ext. 227
Email: acorcoran@zorra.on.ca

Foreman – Embro Works Yard - Steve Oliver
Phone: 519-475-4088
Email: embroshop@zorra.on.ca

Foreman – Kintore Works Yard - Derek Collins
Phone: 519-283-6335
Email: kintoreshop@zorra.on.ca

Protective Services

Fire Chief/CEMC - John McFarlan
Phone: 519-485-2490 ext. 240
Email: jmcfarlan@zorra.on.ca

Embro District Chief - Matthew Cockle
Phone: 519-494-3534
Email: embrofire@zorra.on.ca

Thamesford District Chief - Jim Manzer
Phone: 519-617-2540
Email: thamesfordfire@zorra.on.ca

Uniondale District Chief - Paul Mitchell
Phone: 519-617-5357
Email: uniondalefire@zorra.on.ca

Recreation Department

Recreation and Facilities Manager -
Doug Mills (Acting)
Phone: 519-285-2236

Thamesford District Recreation Centre
Phone: 519-285-2236
Email: tdrc@zorra.on.ca

Embro Zorra Community Centre
Phone: 519-475-6061
Email: ezcc@zorra.on.ca

Thamesford Area Swimming Pool
Phone: 519-285-3063

*Merry
Christmas and
Happy
New Year
from the Township
of Zorra Staff!*



Upcoming Council Meetings 2015

All meetings held at the Township Office – Council Chambers

2015		2016				
December 1	9:30 a.m.	January 12	9:30 a.m.	March 15	6:30 p.m.	*PLEASE NOTE: Only one meeting will be held in January and February
December 15	6:30 p.m.	February 9	9:30 a.m.	April 5	9:30 a.m.	
		March 1	9:30 a.m.	April 19	6:30 p.m.	

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
 Tim and Katrina DeWit 519-475-0460
 Ingersoll Minor Ball
 Doug Thomas 519-485-3218
 Kintore Minor Soccer 519-349-2120

Thamesford:
 Thamesford Minor Hockey Assoc. 519-285-3796
 Thamesford Skating Club 519-285-5556
 Thamesford Jr. "D" Hockey Club 519-285-3107
 Thamesford Minor Baseball 519-285-5567
 Thamesford Minor Soccer 519-285-5408
 Thamesford NBC 519-639-4507
 Thamesford Rec. Men's Slow Pitch 519-268-2232
 Zorra Girls Hockey 519-852-4509

Schools (Elementary)

Embro
 Zorra Highland Public School 519-475-4121
 Kintore
 A.J. Baker Public School 519-283-1098
Thamesford
 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

Embro & Zorra Agricultural Society
 Carol Hanlon 519-485-0668
 Thamesford Lion's Club
 Dan Fisher, First Vice President 519-285-2729
 Thamesford Scouts
 Jackie Van Daele 519-283-6159
 Kintore Optimist Club 519-283-6321
 Harrington & Area Community Association
 Doug Diplock 519-475-0060

Other

Alzheimers Society 519-421-2466
 Beachville District Museum 519-423-6497
 Big Brothers Big Sisters of
 Ingersoll, Tillsonburg & Area 519-485-1801
 or 519-842-9000
ingtburg@bigbrothersbigsisters.ca
www.sharethefun.org

Brooksdale Women's Institute 519-475-4502
 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
 Embro West Zorra History Book 519-475-4443
 Embro Library 519-475-4172
 EmbroArea Business Association

Karon Cowan email: embrobiz@gmail.com
 Twitter: @embrobizOR www.embro.biz
 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 519-285-2825
 Ingersoll Creative Arts Centre 519-485-4691
 Ingersoll Services for Seniors 519-485-3869
 Ingersoll Theatre of Performing Arts 519-485-3070
 Lawn Bowling Embro 519-475-4729
 Thamesford 519-285-2734

MacKenzie, Dave MP 519-421-7608
 Ontario Early Years Programs 800-539-9800
 OPP 800-265-7191
 Oxford County Jr. Farmers 519-469-3281
 Oxford County Federation of Agriculture 519-852-8856
 Oxford District Women's Institute 519-475-4502
 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 - Chris Cockle 519-475-4201
 Tiny Paws - Linda Collier www.tpdr.ca
 Township of Zorra 519-485-2490
 Scouts - Thamesford 519-285-6159
 Welcome Wagon 519-485-2990
 Wienerfest/Dog Rescue - 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
 Embro, Ontario
 519-475-4816

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

Knox United Church
 116 Kincardine Street, Embro, 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

East Nissouri Union Church
 519-349-2333

"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:

Ashley Sage, Clerk, Township of Zorra
 274620 27th Line, P.O. Box 306
 Ingersoll, ON N5C 3K5
 Ph. (519) 485-2490 ext. 228
 Toll Free 1-888-699-3868
asage@zorra.on.ca www.zorra.on.ca



Tree Planting around Zorra!

Trees help to clean the air and fight against global climate change, they also impact aesthetic, social, economic and health benefits.

Environmental needs are becoming increasingly important across our globe and every tree helps!!

Throughout the Township of Zorra there are various tree planting programs available for residents. Available programs are as follows:



New Memorial Forest Sign!! Located on the 43rd Line, North of Road 68.

TOWNSHIP OF ZORRA MEMORIAL TREE PROGRAM

Memorial Trees can be purchased, in memory of loved ones, at the Township Office for \$40.00 through the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA). Individuals may also have their loved ones name added to a memorial tree sign when they purchase a tree for an additional fee per. Signs are located at Grace Patterson Park in Thamesford, Embro Conservation Area and Harrington Conservation Area. The trees are planted in various locations throughout Zorra on Township or UTRCA property at a pre-determined location. Approximately 60 trees, usually 6'-8' sugar maples, have been planted throughout the Township since the start of this program in 1995. Fill out the Memorial Tree Request Form on the Zorra website www.zorra.on.ca or contact the Township Office.

TOWNSHIP OF ZORRA MEMORIAL TREE FOREST

Zorra Township has partnered with Brock and Visser Funeral Home – Thamesford Chapel and UTRCA to have trees planted in memory of those individuals whose funeral arrangements have been conducted through Brock and Visser Funeral Home. The Memorial Tree Forest is located on the 43rd Line, North of Road 68 on land owned by UTRCA. The trees are purchased by Brock and Visser Funeral Home. The trees that are being planted

TOWNSHIP OF ZORRA REPLACEMENT TREE PROGRAM

Currently when the Township of Zorra Public Works staff take down a tree along a road side or near private property, they offer the land owner two trees to replace the one that was removed. The two trees are for planting on their private property. In 2015, 150 6'-8' sugar maple trees were planted through this program. Fill out the Tree Replacement Form on the Zorra website www.zorra.on.ca or contact the Township Office.

UTRCA PRIVATE LANDS PROGRAM

Landowners who reside in the Upper Thames River watershed and own a minimum of 2.5 acres of property are eligible to participate in the UTRCA's Tree Planting on Private Lands program. The program offers large stock trees and seedlings. For further details visit the UTRCA website at www.thamesriver.on.ca.

COUNTY OF OXFORD TREE PROGRAM

Currently, if trees are removed on the County's road allowance, the County of Oxford will replace the trees, if the landowner is willing to plant on their own property and not the road allowance. The trees are replaced using a 1 to 1 ratio. As for the species, it typically is native to the area and depends on the soil conditions. Contact the County of Oxford for further information at 519-539-9800.

For additional information on any of the above, please contact the Township Office at 519-485-2490.

Friendship Tulip Gardens Planting Ceremony

The Township of Zorra would like to thank Canadian Garden Council, Vesey's Bulbs, and the many other partners that were involved for the opportunity to be a part of the 70th Anniversary Dutch-Canadian Friendship Tulip Garden. The Township of Zorra was honoured to be chosen as one of the 140 Canadian communities that received a tulip garden.



Councillor Keasey planting!



Mayor Lupton planting the first row of tulips to get the ceremony started!

On October 29, 2015, the Township of Zorra held their Tulip Garden Planting Ceremony at the Township Office around the Cenotaph. It was an extremely cold and windy day that kept most people inside but dedicated staff, Councillors and media representatives were in attendance.

An annual spray keeps rust away!



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ZORRA COMMUNITY POLICING COMMITTEE

Check the Township of Zorra website, or call the office at 519-485-2490 for the next scheduled meeting. All meetings are held at the Township Office located at: 274620 27th Line, P.O. Box 306, Ingersoll, ON N5C 3K5.



100
YEARS
1915-2015

OXFORD
COUNTY
4-H

Oxford County 4-H has been busy this year celebrating 100 years of 4-H in Ontario throughout the County.

The Oxford County 4-H Association started the year off with a new pop-up banner showcasing 4-H in Oxford over the past 7 decades, and a 4' x 8' sign promoting the anniversary. The sign has been in parades and placed at homes and businesses around the county. There was a 4-H Celebration dinner at the Embro Fair in September with past, present and future 4-H members and volunteers participating in the event. Oxford County 4-H Association sponsored the '4-H Artistic Display' fair class at the 5 Oxford fairs, where Amy Loggan's entry consistently took the top placing. The 14 seed pictures were then taken to the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto for the 4-H Artistic Display competition, with Emily Schwartzentruber placing 6th, Amy Loggan 9th, Amy Gras 10th and Hannah Van Boekel 11th out of 30 entries. In October, 100 trees for 100 years were planted at Pittock Conservation Area with sponsorship from Cargill Community Care program, Clarke Abbey Memorial funds, George Thornton Bequest funds, and Oxford County 4-H Association, and support from the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority.

Oxford 4-H welcomed 53 new members and 177 returning members for a total of 230 members completing 28 projects in 15 clubs. There were

five Dairy clubs (Bennington-Cody's, Bonds, East Nissouri, Ingersoll Kiwanis, Tavistock), whose members participated at various cattle shows in the county and region and at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, one Swine Club and two County-wide clubs, one specially formed to spearhead celebrations in the County for the Anniversary of 4-H in Ontario, and one exploring the fun, sportsmanship and safety aspects of Paintball (this one was run as an Oxford - Middlesex collaboration). Six Lifeskills clubs explored projects ranging from cooking, sewing, gardening, drama, heritage, woodworking, crafting, conservation, social recreation, pottery and Lego. Brooksdale offered Explore 4-H – an overview of all things 4-H – The Power of Produce, Lego Engineering, Lego Solar, Wind and Water, and Sew Easy. Embro 2 offered All Manner of Red Meat. Hickson offered Small Engines, the Cookie Club, the Potato Club and a craft club featuring Artistic Seed Display – a special class sponsored by Oxford 4-H at fairs in our county. Mt Elgin was busy completing projects on Chocolate, Drama, Woodworking, Our Heritage, and Community Involvement which included blankets made and donated to DASO and pillowcases made and donated to the cancer patients at London Sick Kids Hospital. Oxford Centre offered Trash to Treasure and Focus on Fun. Thamesford was able to offer a project on Pottery with support from the FCC 4-H Club Fund. This allowed them to use the facilities of the London Clay Art Centre with assistance

from the Potters Guild. They also offered Lego, Social recreation, A Walk on the Wildside and A World of Food in Canada. As well, the Community Club explored Community Involvement where the members raised over \$12,000 for their Relay for Life team.

There were 6 teams of Oxford 4-H members participating in the Go For The Gold (trivia game about 4-H projects & local information) competition in July. Two teams advanced to the Regional Go For The Gold in Shedden where one team placed second.

The 2015 4-H Achievement Awards were presented at the Oxford County 4-H Awards Night, November 20 at the Embro West Zorra Community Center. The evening started with a pot luck dinner and then enjoyed guest speaker Andrew Campbell, who is engaged in using social media for promoting and educating about agriculture while he is busy on the family dairy farm and with various organizations, such as 4-H and other farm-related organizations.

The Gay Lea Awards of Achievement for completing 24 4-H projects and being in 4-H for 5 years were presented by Steve Veldman to Tom Jackson, Trent Jones and Ashley Skillings.

The Janet Wilson Outstanding 4-H Member Awards, sponsored by Woodstock Nursing friends and Janet Wilson memorial funds, were presented by Ross Wilson & family for the Novice female & male—Erin Shrigley/Keeton Jones; Junior female & male—Laura Witmer/Brayden Gras; and Intermediate female & male—Jessie Carberry/Lucas Swartzentruber. The Outstanding Agricultural 4-H Member Award, sponsored by Ontario Plowmen's Association, was presented by Eric Howard to Tanner Jones. The Outstanding Overall 4-H Member Award, sponsored by Your Neighbourhood Credit Union, was presented by Sandra Eedy to Elizabeth Bruce. The Oxford County 4-H Association presented the 30 project completion gift to Julie DeBruyn and Emily Van Bommel, and the 60 project completion certificate to Janneke Van Den Nieuwelaar.

Norman Dickout Memorial Judging Awards were presented by Russell & Bernice Dickout to Novice Olivia Romkes, Junior Lilli Smith, Intermediate Iain Grieve, and Senior & Overall Judging to Josh Karn. The 4-H Project of the Year Award, recognizing the project with the most 4-H participation with activities was presented to the Hickson Cookie 4-H Project members. Recognition and congratulations were given to each member completing 4-H projects in 2015 with a 'Learn To Do By Doing' notepad and year plate. Graduating from the 4-H program after completing 12 years in 4-H are Paul Knoops, Stephanie Koot and Janneke Van Den Nieuwelaar.

Volunteers are an important part of the 4-H program. Recognition of becoming a new 4-H volunteer was given to Julie Schwartzenruber and Carolyn Wilson; completing 5 years to Megan Davis; completing 10 years to Julie McIntosh and Gijs Arts. Karen Witmer, volunteering for 20 years, was given a 4-H Ontario 100th anniversary apron; Marian Sterk, volunteering for 25 years, was given a 4-H spoon custom-made into a bracelet; and a donation was made to the '4-H Forever Legacy Program' to recognize Geoff Innes for 30 years of volunteering.

For more information about the Oxford 4-H program, please contact Communication Coordinator Linda Humphrey at oxford4-h@xplor.net.



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