

# Zorra NOW

community events and services



Fall 2020

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*and more!*



## Message from the Mayor

Originally, I began writing this for the (cancelled) Spring edition before COVID-19 reached Zorra. That now seems so long ago now.

As I write this we have been through quite a lot of changes: quarantine, stage one, two, and three re-opening, and most recently a Letter of Instruction from Southwestern Public Health requiring us to wear face coverings in enclosed public spaces. All along Zorra residents have been fantastic. You have all looked out for each other, for your family members, friends, and neighbours, and supported local businesses. You have done your part and you should all be proud.

Following the advice of public health has been very effective in keeping our numbers low. We need to keep following that advice, even as they learn more, and that advice changes. In many ways this is now the most challenging time. Our local infection and transmission rates are low due to the excellent work you have all done following the advice of our public health experts. We have seen what it can be like in communities that did not follow the advice of public health as well as you have. But now as the weather gets cooler, more people return to work, and children will be returning to school and daycare, the risk of a second wave is very real. Please continue to do your part and follow the emergency orders and the advice of public health. We need to get back to work, we need businesses and services that have re-opened to stay open, and we need our kids to be able to go to school. It is within our power to make this happen.

Many people ask me what I think the “new normal” will be like. I think we know already; I think until there is a vaccine or significantly improved treatment, we are in it now: washing our hands, physically distancing, staying in small groups, and wearing a face covering when we cannot physically distance or we are indoors.

Let us take control of our situation by continuing to follow the best advice available to us. Let us do our part and keep our community safe, and businesses and services open.

Zorra Council passed the 2020 operational and capital budget at the beginning of the year. The Township tax levy requirement is \$8,721,928.50, a 5.62% increase over 2019. This is a good budget that delivers based on a 1.9% inflation/CPI plus extra expenditures to deliver improved services that Council has heard demand for from residents. Specifically, some of those priorities are:

- \$175,000 for SWIFT to get more high-speed internet to more residents. We should be hearing in the fall exactly what this will get us.
- \$350,000 transportation increase totalling \$3,000,000 on bridges, culverts, and road reconstruction, changes to gravel maintenance to improve gravel road quality (more dust suppressant, less gravel), a more robust paved road plan for preventive maintenance.

- \$97,100 increase in recreation staffing to improve user experiences. And Zorra recreation facilities and services have been amongst the first to re-open of all our municipal neighbours.
- \$331,000 in recreation facilities upgrades including trails and other Recreation Arts and Culture Master Plan items and the Embro Town Hall roof.

Walker Environmental Group released their Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Southwestern Landfill proposal on March 2nd. At that point, the work of your Joint Municipal Coordinating Committee’s (JMCC - Zorra, Ingersoll, South West Oxford, and Oxford County) own independent Peer Review Team (PRT) began reviewing Walker’s work. We will continue to ensure that our residents are informed about the EA process. The release of the Draft EA presents a first real opportunity for the public to review and comment on the landfill proposal and its impacts. I encourage all residents to learn what you can about the Southwestern Landfill Proposal, ask questions, and submit your comments formally through the EA process so they are recorded. Please visit [www.oxfordreviewteam.ca](http://www.oxfordreviewteam.ca) for more information, or [www.walkerea.com](http://www.walkerea.com) to ask a question or make a comment. Please continue to submit comments to Walker at [www.walkerea.com](http://www.walkerea.com) as they have not stopped their application. On July 8th the Provincial Government introduced the “COVID- 19 Economic Recovery Act” which is of general interest obviously, but is of particular interest to Zorra residents because it promises to “provide more local say on future landfill sites”. Specifically, the proposed legislation says “New section 6.0.1 in Part II requires a proponent of an undertaking to establish a landfilling site to obtain municipal support for the undertaking in accordance with that section. An equivalent section is included in Part II.3 with respect to projects to establish landfilling sites.” Basically, it gives all Ontario municipalities the choice as to whether they want to host a private landfill or not. This has been a long-standing position of Zorra, and we have made many presentations to our local MPP and the Minister of the Environment requesting this right.

Council is continuing it’s work to finalize the design of the new Zorra Maintenance Facility (ZMF) to replace both the Kintore Public Works Shop and the Embro Public Works Shop at a new centralized location immediately beside the existing Kintore location. At present the focus is on trying to reduce the total life cycle cost of the building. Council has been clear that as this will be the single largest expense in the history of the Township we must get it right, get it right the first time, and have the lowest cost building for today and the future in keeping with our Strategic Goals.

We strive to make Zorra better by doing our part. Zorra is progressive, environmentally conscious, economically strong, and prosperous.

Check in on the website, follow the Township on Facebook or Twitter, phone or email Staff or Council: we want to hear from you. Join us and add to your community by doing your part!

*Marcus Ryan*  
Mayor

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## On the cover

Drone photo of field on Highway 19, just west of the Township office

## COVID-19 UPDATE

The Township of Zorra has been proactive in its response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Township has maintained compliance with all provincial measures and has implemented enhanced cleaning and hygiene measures at all Township facilities. The Township office closed to the public on March 16 and reopened on Wednesday, May 27. Although the office is open, residents are encouraged to carry out municipal services online where possible. Physical distancing is being practiced by staff at the Township Office. Residents are permitted to enter the Township Office entryway but are limited to two at a time, must physically distance, and wear a face covering when in the office building. If you are feeling unwell, or exhibiting any COVID-19 symptoms, please stay at home.

Should you wish to meet with municipal staff, a special meeting area has been set up in the Council Chambers. You will be required to check in at the reception area and then be directed to the meeting area. If you require a meeting with staff, please make an appointment ahead of time to minimize wait times. Your patience is appreciated.

The following recreation facilities are open:

- The Thamesford Dog Park has reopened but physical distancing requirements still apply.
- Recreation amenities based on Ministry of Health guidelines: dog park, skatepark, splashpad, and sports fields to allow team play with gathering limits and physical distance requirements in place.

The Township recognizes that there have been changing service levels and that these changes may be challenging for some citizens. However, we would not take these actions if we did not believe it was in the best interest of the community. We are **doing our part** to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and encourage you to **do your part** to help as well.



# TOWNSHIP OF ZORRA PUBLIC WORKS

## Brush, Leaf and Yard Waste Depot

Zorra has a Depot for brush, leaf and yard waste. Located across the road from the Kintore Public Works Shop at 783045 Road 78, just east of Highway 19.

**Acceptable materials include:** fruits & vegetables, garden hedge & tree trimmings, grass, leaves, Halloween pumpkins, house & garden plants, brush (not longer than 6ft), Christmas Trees.

**Unacceptable materials include:** garbage, old fencing, plastic bags, hazardous waste, top soil, rocks and stumps.

This depot is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. There is no charge for this service.

## Construction Zone Sign Clarification

In a Construction Zone, "Local Traffic Only" means you are accessing a property inside the section of road that is closed. It does NOT mean that you live in the area adjacent to the construction and the closed road is the shortest distance to your destination. It is a Highway Traffic Act Offence to misuse this privilege.

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

# BUILDING & DRAINAGE DEPARTMENT

## BUILDING

### ***Obtaining a Building Permit in Zorra:***

Fill out a Building Permit Application, either in person at the Township Office or online at [www.zorra.ca](http://www.zorra.ca)

In addition to the completed application form, applicants must also submit building drawings, plans and other documents to the Township of Zorra for processing. A detailed description of the planned work and intended occupancy, identification of the building lot or site, a valuation of the proposed work including materials and labour costs are required.

### ***Building Permit Fees:***

**Residential:** (including new homes, additions, renovations, decks) – \$100.00 + 0.40/sq. ft.

**Agricultural:** (including coveralls, barns, storage sheds, workshops) – \$100.00 + 0.20/sq. ft.

**Garden Sheds** - \$50.00 flat rate

**Swimming Pools** - \$100.00

**Demolition Permit** - \$50.00

A full list of Building Permit Fees are located on our website, [www.zorra.ca](http://www.zorra.ca), please see Building By-Law 18-19.

A Building Permit is NOT required for a fence, however by-laws still apply to fence heights.

Failure to obtain a Building Permit will result in a penalty of double the permit fee, as per the Township of Zorra's Building By-law.

## SANITARY SEWAGE SYSTEMS

The Township Building Department now oversees the private sanitary sewage system approvals for Zorra. Historically, Southwestern Public Health managed this function, however it has been passed on to the Township to manage. If you have questions or concerns regarding these approvals contact the Building Department.

**Any drainage questions should be addressed to**  
Mike Hughes  
Chief Building Official/Drainage Superintendent  
519-485-2490 ext. 7224 mhughes@zorra.ca

# BY-LAW ENFORCEMENT

## RECREATION VEHICLE PARKING (RV):

Notice to all RV/boat owners. Our Zoning By-law allows front driveway storage of RVs and boats from May 1 – October 31. After October 31, front driveway storage of these vehicles shall be removed and stored elsewhere. After October 31, the vehicles may be stored on your side lot or rear lot provided that they meet the 5-foot setback.

## OFF-ROAD VEHICLES

Off-Road Vehicles (ORVs) and All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) are NOT PERMITTED on Zorra Township and Oxford County Roads.

## WINTER PARKING

Please be advised that the winter parking restrictions will be enforced starting November 15, 2020 and remain in place until March 31, 2021 in accordance with By-law 48-20. For snow removal purposes, 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 set fine for this violation is set at \$50.

## LEAVES/SNOW REMOVAL ONTO ROADWAYS

The autumn season is quickly approaching and therefore the leaves will begin to fall. As a reminder to all residents, depositing your leaves onto the roadway and sidewalk is dangerous and is a contravention of the Clearing Refuse from Land By-law No. 16-18. If you wish to drop off your yard waste, visit the County of Oxford website to view all brush, leaf, and yard waste depot locations. Pushing or placing any leaves, snow or ice or any other obstruction of a roadway is an offence that carries a Provincial Offences Fine of \$200.00.

## KEEPING PROPERTIES CLEAN AND CLEAR

In the Township of Zorra, all grass and weeds must be maintained at a height less than 8 inches. This is done to promote safety in the Township, including pest-control, as well as to maintain the appearance of Zorra. Further, property owners and tenants shall keep their land free from industrial and domestic wastes, inoperable motorized vehicles (both licensed or unlicensed), vehicle parts, construction materials, and other refuse. If refuse has started to accumulate on your property, you are required to place it in appropriate containers, stored at the side or rear of your lot, and placed curbside within 14 days.

## NEW FENCING BY-LAW 42-20

In July, the Township of Zorra Council approved a new Fencing By-law for the Township of Zorra. The Fencing By-law regulates general fencing, manure-pit fencing, and pool-fencing for the Township. It regulates the size, structure, and location/placements of these types of fences. It also has several fines for contraventions to the provisions in the By-law. These fines are in place to deter individuals from violating the by-law. The fencing provisions are in place for the community's safety!

## NEW PARKING BY-LAW 48-20

The Township of Zorra Council passed a new Parking By-law in August. A Parking By-law regulates the parking of vehicles, including recreational vehicles, in the Township of Zorra. The Parking By-law contains new provisions for electric vehicle parking and parking vehicles on front yards. The Township's Public Works Department staff will be updating parking signage to reflect the new parking provisions. Please visit the Township's website to review the new by-law.

If you wish to view our By-laws they can be found on our website <http://www.zorra.ca/Home/Our-Township/By-Laws-Policies>.

**Thank you for your cooperation!**

**Any questions about any of the Township of Zorra's by-law should be addressed to Mathew Paul, By-law Enforcement Officer 519-485-2490 ext. 7230, or [mpaul@zorra.ca](mailto:mpaul@zorra.ca)**

## 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](http://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.



**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 Donna Wilson at [dewilson@zorra.ca](mailto:dewilson@zorra.ca) or 519-485-2490 ext. 7228 to have it appear in an upcoming Zorra Now Edition.

# FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES DEPT.



## **BURN PERMITS**

Zorra Township has a Permanent Fire Permit process for open air burning. This process involves a one-time application which will reduce the effort required to set up permission for an open-air burn. All applications will be reviewed by the Fire Chief and upon approval, the applicant will be able to proceed with open air burns by calling into dispatch directly to report the burn details. Visit our website at [www.zorra.ca](http://www.zorra.ca) to review the application form and conditions for the new permit, then complete your application!

*Please note: small recreation burns within a ring or fire pit in backyard don't require a permit.*

## **RECREATION BURNING**

Backyard campfires may be permitted in built up areas (including the Villages of Embro & Thamesford) if the fire is contained within a non-combustible container or pit using only dry seasoned wood. Please ensure safety while having recreational backyard campfires. Be aware of current weather factors including wind and extreme heat. Whether in the backyard of your home, the cottage or at a campground, make fire safety a priority!

The Township of Zorra recently adopted a new Open-Air Burning By-law in June 2020. The updated By-law contains new provisions with an updated fine schedule. Also, this by-law more clearly defines the difference between open-air burning and recreational burning. Failure to comply with the Open-Air Burning By-law may result in a monetary fine. Provisions and conditions can be found on the Township Website at [www.zorra.ca](http://www.zorra.ca) (By-law 30-20).

Some general provisions are listed below, however, please see the Open-Air Burning By-law 30-20 for all recreational burning provisions:

- You may have a campfire only between the hours of 4 p.m. and midnight, after which time you are required to fully extinguish the fire.
- No materials other than dry firewood (NO Burning of brush, leaves etc.), commercially produced charcoal and briquettes may be burned
- Campfires shall be confined to non-combustible containers or to a pit no larger than two feet by two feet with flames not exceeding two feet in height.
- The campfire shall be confined to a location at minimum of 15 feet in all directions from adjacent properties, structures or combustibles.
- If you have a campfire, you must have an extinguishing agent of sufficient size (water) immediately available at all times.
- The fire shall be attended, controlled and supervised at all times.
- Campfires are prohibited when the wind speed exceeds 15 kilometres per hour or during rainy or foggy weather conditions or when a smog alert or fire ban has been declared.

To mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 on human health and the economy, Zorra Township Fire Department Events will not take place this year. By cancelling these events Zorra Fire are doing their part to try to stop the spread of COVID-19. Zorra Township Fire Department look forward to seeing you all back in 2021 at our various events.

**Please contact the Township's Fire Chief/CEMC,  
John McFarlan at 519-485-2490  
ext. 7240 or at  
[jmcfarlan@zorra.ca](mailto:jmcfarlan@zorra.ca)  
if you have any questions.**

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Fire Prevention Week  
**Oct. 4-10, 2020**

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**Zorra Fire & Emergency Services**

Chief John McFarlan  
519-485-2490 ext 7240  
jmcfarlan@zorra.ca

SERVE  
UP **Fire  
Safety**  
IN  
THE **KITCHEN!**



Sparky® is a trademark of NFPA®.

[firepreventionweek.org](http://firepreventionweek.org)

# Volunteer Firefighter Recruitment



**Zorra Fire & Emergency Services is looking for volunteer firefighters for our Embro and Uniondale Fire Stations.**

If you think you have what it takes, and would like to contribute to the safety and quality of life in your community, we need you!!

Recruitment applications will be available as of **September 1, 2020.**

**Application deadline is September 25, 2020**

If you have any further questions please contact **Fire Chief John McFarlan** at [jmcfarlan@zorra.ca](mailto:jmcfarlan@zorra.ca) or 519-485-2490 ext. 7240



## TAX DEPARTMENT

The Final 2020 Tax Bills were mailed in July, if you have NOT received your bill, please contact Kelly Hall, Tax Collector, immediately.

The third Instalment is due August 31, 2020 and the fourth AND FINAL Instalment of taxes are due October 30, 2020.

### **Payment Options:**

- Cash, Cheque or Debit accepted at the office
- On-Line or Telephone banking, or Monthly Pre-Authorized Payment Plan, either on the instalment dates, 10 or 12 month plan.

- To set up your property taxes as a bill paymet online: Go to 'add a bill' and search for "Zorra". Select Zorra Township Tax and enter the Roll Number from your tax bill as your account number. Use your 15-digit roll number on your tax bill, example 011-090-25600-0000, you would enter this as 01109025600. If an error occurs, please add the extra four zeros at the end and try again.

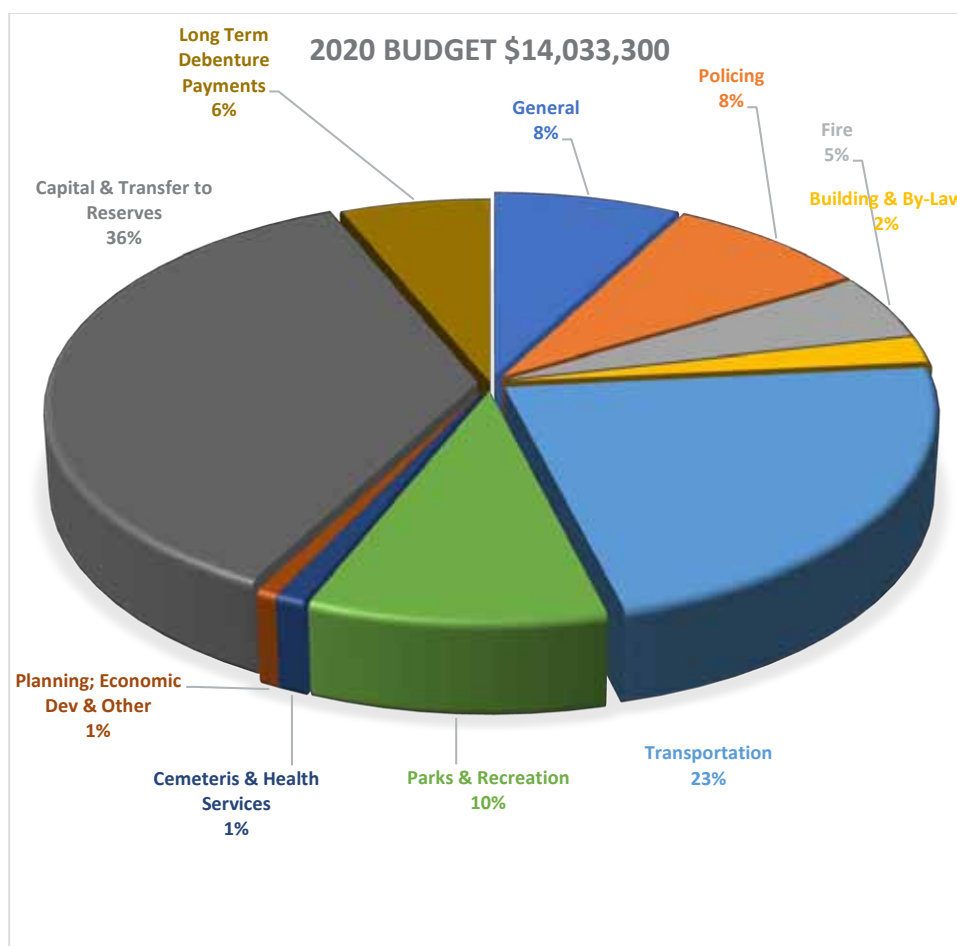
**Any tax questions or inquiries, please direct them to Kelly Hall, Tax Collector/Deputy Treasurer at 519-485-2490 ext 7222 or [khall@zorra.ca](mailto:khall@zorra.ca)**



# FINANCE DEPARTMENT

The 2020 Municipal Budget and Business Plan has been approved as a result of deliberations with Council and public consultation held in February 2020. Please see the pie chart for the 2020 Operating and Capital Expenditures.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT	\$1,091,373	CEMETERIES & HEALTH SERVICES	\$1,417,475
POLICE	\$1,203,394	PARKS & RECREATION	\$134,765
FIRE	\$706,769	PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT, OTHER	\$98,792
BUILDING & BY-LAW	\$284,305	CAPITAL & TRANSFER TO RESERVES	\$5,043,495
TRANSPORTATION	\$3,175,830	LONG TERM DEBENTURES	\$877,102



## Community Grants Program

Volunteer organizations provide many services and complete a variety of community-minded projects for the citizens of the Township of Zorra. To assist these organizations in completing their activities, the Township of Zorra offers financial assistance through the annual Community Grants Program. Applications are **due by October 31** each year and approved through the annual budget process. Details of the program and application form can be found on the Township of Zorra website at [www.zorra.ca](http://www.zorra.ca).



# Township of Zorra 2019-2021 Dog Tag Campaign

*It's easy, and it's the law!*

Save Time,  
Apply Online!  
[www.zorra.ca](http://www.zorra.ca)

### Do you have a 2019-2021 tag on your dog(s)?

You don't have to take any action for the new year. Your tag is good until the end of 2021. The annual administration fee of \$15.00 will be added to your final 2020 tax bill.

### Do you have a new dog?

Contact the office to obtain a new tag or complete the dog tag request form on our website. The fee is \$15.00 per year, per dog. Your new tag will be mailed out to you.

### Do you have a dangerous dog?

Dangerous dogs must be registered in person at the Township Office each year before December 24. Be sure to bring current vaccination records for your dog. Annual fee for a dangerous dog is \$30.00.

### Questions?

Call the office 519-485-2490 ext 7221 or email [dogtag@zorrap.ca](mailto:dogtag@zorrap.ca)

### Who do I contact for Canine Control?

(Dogs running at large, found dogs)

#### Kismutt Small Dog Rescue

Kimberly Thomas  
519-619-6203

[kismutt@sympatico.ca](mailto:kismutt@sympatico.ca) [www.kismutt.com](http://www.kismutt.com)

Pay with debit  
at the office!



Township of Zorra



@ZorraTwp



# FREE BOOKS. FREE DAYDREAMS. FREE IDEAS.

## Discover your Oxford County Library

We are here for you. As we discover the new normal together, Oxford County Library is here to support you and your family.

### WHAT'S ON NOW?

#### OXFORD READS

Have you read this year's Oxford Reads title, *Crow* by Amy Spurway? Visit [oxfordreads.ca](http://oxfordreads.ca) to reserve a print copy or to place a hold on the eBook version of the selected title. You won't want to miss this year's Oxford Reads gala, which will be hosted online, with author Amy Spurway in November.

#### WHAT'S COMING THIS FALL?

Visit the Oxford County Library's online program calendar to discover programs and events offered by the Library this fall. Check out our growing number of virtual storytimes, book clubs, book talks, craft sessions, and more.

#### CURBSIDE PICK-UP ASSISTANCE

To request help with reading suggestions, or placing library materials on hold, email your name, card number, and book titles and author names to: [curbsidebooks@ocl.net](mailto:curbsidebooks@ocl.net). For any changes to your account information or to create a new account contact us at [myaccount@ocl.net](mailto:myaccount@ocl.net).

For up-to-date library information and hours call your local branch or visit [ocl.net](http://ocl.net).



## OxfordCounty Library

connect. discover. share. become.

# RECYCLING SORTING GUIDE

## ALL YOUR RECYCLING CAN GO IN ONE CONTAINER

### ALUMINUM ITEMS

- Aluminum/steel food and beverage cans
- Tin foil (no food residue)
- Aluminum trays
- Tin cans



### CONTAINERS

- Pop bottles and milk/juice cartons
- Yogurt containers
- Laundry detergent and shampoo bottles
- Glass jars
- Frozen juice containers/ Pringles cans



### PAPER ITEMS

- Newspaper, flyers
- Egg cartons
- Boxboard/cardboard must be bundled no larger than 75cm x 75cm x 20cm and 20kg



### OTHER

- Empty and dry paint and aerosol cans (lids off)
- Black plastic food and beverage containers (#2 or #5)
- Coffee cups and lids (separated)
- No plastic bags or film



Still not sure if it's recyclable? Go to [wasteline.ca](http://wasteline.ca) and use the **What Goes Where** search tool.

# BATTERY RECYCLING



The Township of Zorra has a free program for the 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 Community Centre, 85 Middleton Street, Thamesford, ON N0M 2M0 – phone 519-285-2236
- Embro Zorra Community Centre, 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.**

Since the start of this program in September 2012, the Township of Zorra has collected and returned 2,470 lbs of batteries to Raw Materials Company for recycling.

# TOWNSHIP OF ZORRA COMMITTEES

## Zorra Local School Committee

The Township of Zorra Local School Committee (ZLSC) is a committee comprised of 5 community members (Kim Brekelmans, Justin Green, Leeanne Hopkins, Sheila Weir, and Daniel West), Councillor Katie Davies, and Mayor Marcus Ryan. The committee's mandate is to identify current and future opportunities to support youth in Zorra Township by enhancing the relationship between the Township of Zorra and its schools and thereby improving student well-being, and increased programme options.

The committee is working on developing a "School Retention Plan" in accordance with the Township's Strategic Plan. Zorra has 3 elementary schools that are currently in an "area of study" at the Thames Valley District School Board. The possibilities of this study are many, among them are boundary changes, consolidation, or closure. A School Retention Plan will help the Township of Zorra prepare for potential changes to our schools by providing a plan of action for Council, staff, and community members to abide by. If you have any comments or suggestions for this plan please contact the committee staff liaison, Lisa Teeple, at lteeple@zorra.ca.

ZLSC meetings are held on a quarterly basis on the third Monday of the month at 10:30 a.m. at the Township office. Due to COVID 19 the April meeting was cancelled. The next ZLSC meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 19 at 10:30 a.m. The place of the meeting is to be determined and will be posted on the Township website when confirmed.

## Zorra Community Policing Committee

The Zorra Community Policing Committee (ZCPC) is a committee comprised of 8 community members (Betty Bartram, Amanda Breen-Cowan, Derek Collins, Michael Kukhta, Jessalyn Munro, Greg Schuurman, Mark Seaton, and Sheila Weir), Councillor Katie Davies, and Mayor Marcus Ryan. The committee's mandate is to advise on all aspects of the provisions of police-related matters in the Township of Zorra and to promote and maintain communication with the public.

ZCPC meetings are held on a quarterly basis on the third Monday of the month at 6:00 p.m. at the Township office. Due to COVID-19 the committee meetings had been suspended until June 2020. The ZCPC held their first ZOOM meeting on July 20, 2020. Make sure to check out the meeting on the Township's YouTube page! The next ZCPC meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 19 at 6:00 p.m. The place of the meeting is to be determined and will be posted on the Township website when confirmed.

## Zorra Recreation Advisory Committee

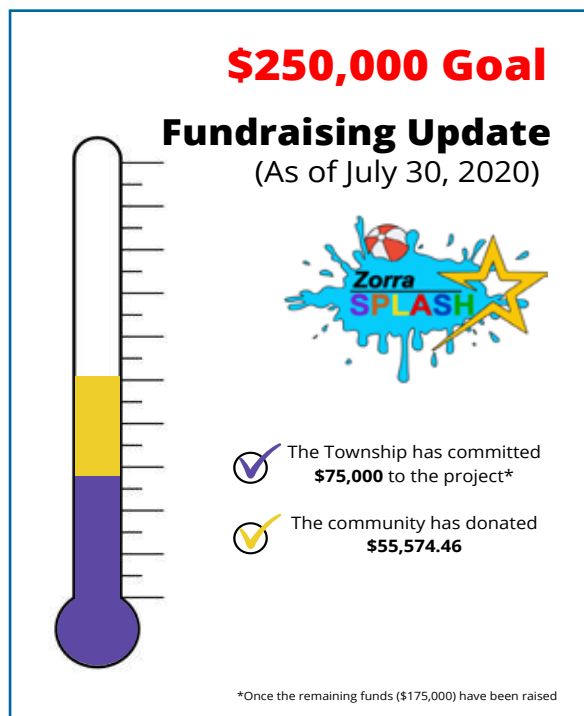
The Zorra Recreation Advisory Committee (ZRAC) is comprised of 8 community members (Derek Collins, Matthew Young, Ann Slater, Brenda Krantz, Jo-Anne Fleming, Katherine Grieve, Sam Coghlan, and Kate Lockhart), Councillor Steve MacDonald, Councillor Paul Mitchell, and Mayor Marcus Ryan. The Committee's mandate is to advise on all aspects of the provision of leisure and recreation services in the Township of Zorra and to promote and maintain communication with the public on parks and recreation needs.

ZRAC meetings are held on the fourth Monday of the month, excluding the months of July, August, and December when no ZRAC meetings are held. The meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. at various Township facilities. Due to COVID 19 the committee meetings were suspended, and the March through June meetings unfortunately had to be cancelled. Township of Zorra staff are hopeful that ZRAC will be able to meet for their Monday, September 28 depending on COVID-19 restrictions at that time. The meeting will be posted on the municipal website when confirmed.

## Zorra Splash Committee

The Zorra Splash Committee is working towards constructing a splash pad in Embro. The committee encourages community support for the project, leads community fundraising efforts, and works alongside staff to provide advice to Council on the plan, design, and construction of the potential Embro splash pad. The committee comprises of 6 community members (Crystal Finch, Emily Moitoso, Danika Lyons, Alicia McCall-VanGinkel, Victoria Cybulski, and Debbie Baker), Councillor Steve MacDonald, and Mayor Marcus Ryan.

The committee meets on the fourth Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Embro-Zorra Community Centre. The next Zorra Splash meeting is scheduled for September 24, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.





For more information please email [embrosplash@gmail.com](mailto:embrosplash@gmail.com) or contact a committee member:

Crystal Finch  
Alicia McCall-Van Ginkel  
Emily Moitoso  
Victoria Cybulski  
Danika Lyons  
Debbie Baker

# Embrosplash Pad Project

OR contact the Township's Director of Recreation & Facilities, **Matt Brown**, at [mbrown@zorra.ca](mailto:mbrown@zorra.ca)

Community fundraising is ongoing for the Embrosplash pad project with a target of **\$275,000**. To date, \$55,574.46 has been generously donated from the community.

**To support the splash pad in Embro please mail donations to:**

Township of Zorra PO Box 306,  
Ingersoll, ON N5C 3K5

*Cheques payable to Township of Zorra (note Zorra Splash) and include the following information: name of donor, amount and mailing address (for tax receipt purposes)*

## Zorra Splash Pad Challenge

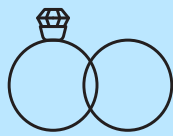
Post a video on Facebook surprising a friend or family member with a splash of water!

Please donate online  
[www.amilia.com/store/en/zorra/shop/fundraising](http://www.amilia.com/store/en/zorra/shop/fundraising).

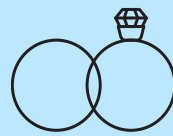


**Follow our fundraiser page on Facebook for info on our upcoming events ~Embro Splash Pad Committee~**

For further information on any of the above committees visit the Township of Zorra website at [www.zorra.ca](http://www.zorra.ca)  
ALL TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!! FEEL FREE TO ATTEND!  
Due to COVID-19 if you wish to attend a meeting please contact the Township Office to ensure space for attendance is available.



# Marriage Licences



A marriage licence is a required official permit that enables the couple to have a marriage ceremony. This is a prerequisite in obtaining an official marriage certificate from the Province. The Township of Zorra issues marriage licences that can be used anywhere in Ontario.

To obtain a marriage licence, an application form must be filled out and signed by both parties. When you come into the office to apply for a marriage licence, you will leave with your completed licence on the same day!

A Marriage Licence **Application Form** must be completed and signed by both parties to the marriage. **Government issued photo identification and proof of citizenship are required for both applicants.**

Acceptable identification includes: original birth certificate, valid drivers licence with photo, valid passport, Canadian Citizenship card with photo, native status card with photo, record of Immigration Landing with photo, or Age of Majority card with photo.

**Licence fee: \$90 including taxes (CASH OR DEBIT)**

Licences are issued Monday to Friday - 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

## Civil Marriage Ceremony & Licence Package

The Township of Zorra has designed an all-in-one service where you can obtain a marriage licence and the services of an experienced Wedding Officiant for the price of **\$375.00**.

The package includes the following:

- Marriage Licence
- Civil marriage wedding service (& choice of customizable wedding vows)
- Pre-wedding meeting with Officiant
- Completion and mailing of Wedding Licence
- Attendance at rehearsal for an additional fee

# RECREATION DEPARTMENT

## Summer in Zorra!

Congratulations to everyone for making Zorra a great place to be this summer! When the Ontario government moved our area into Stage 2 of the reopening plan, the Town of Zorra embraced the opportunity to also open some of their summer facilities and programming. This provided opportunities for families to experience some familiar summer time activities in their communities.

In addition to the splash pad in Thamesford opening up on June 12, the Thamesford Area Swimming Pool also opened up on July 6! Visitors to the pool experienced some different procedures, such as getting their temperature taken, reduced access to change rooms and smaller class sizes. Other protocols also required parents to get into the pool with their children during lessons.

Our drop in programs also saw an increase in popularity. With surrounding pools still closed, our Aquafit and Lane Swim programs saw an increase in participation with more classes and lane times offered. Public Swim was also a popular activity for families in the community, with the pool filling to capacity on the hot days! Pool Staff also found their jobs modified in and out of the pool with increased cleaning and screening safety protocols, educating their guests on the new pool rules and finding creative ways to teach their swimmers without getting close! Thanks to the parents for getting in the pool this year to help! Staff at the pool have always risen to their challenges and this summer they went above and beyond!

Zorra Summer Day Camp also opened their operations on July 6 in both Thamesford and Embro. Despite many COVID-19 restrictions required to keep the kids and staff safe, we were able to find a way to operate and provide care for many families in the Township.

Modifications included reduced group sizes, restrictions on visitors, removal of games and activities that produced close or frequent contact, and increased daily screening and cleaning protocols. This also required an increased challenge for staff to find appropriate games and activities to offer the campers each week – and they came through with fun and entertaining activities for everyone, each week, all summer long!

It has been a pleasure to provide these programs and facilities in Zorra Township. Staff have witnessed the spirit of community and cooperation from residents when asked to navigate through new and unfamiliar rules and protocols. It is evident, now more than ever, that participating in recreation activities is a pastime that requires little from each of us but provides much more to your spirit, family and sense of belonging. We look forward to embracing more recreational opportunities in Zorra Township!



*Connor Starchuck, Fiona Kersel and Jordan Cowell having fun at the Thamesford Pool.*

# Zorra Recreation Department

## BOOK WITH US reception halls

Located at the Thamesford District Recreation Centre or the Embro Zorra Community Centre, our large halls can hold up to **300 people** and are the ideal location for your wedding reception, stag and doe or family reunion! Equipped with a full size commercial kitchen, tables, chairs, a PA system and a generous amount of tableware are just a few of the many amenities that we offer.

For smaller events, the Beaty Room in Thamesford and the Small Hall in the Embro Zorra Community Centre is an ideal location for a variety of events, such as business meetings and bridal showers! With a capacity of up to **80 people**, these halls also include tables, chairs, and access to a well stocked and inspected kitchen.

Consider renting at some of Zorra's historical locations for your special event. The Embro Town Hall or the Harrington Community Centre facilities boast a rich heritage and a unique setting for your event. With capacities between **50 – 100** and many of the amenities you can enjoy at our other facilities, these beautiful space will provide an experience you can't find anywhere else!

For more info & to book these rooms & all other recreation spaces, please email us at [booking@zorra.ca](mailto:booking@zorra.ca)

Rental room rates can also be found online at [www.zorra.ca](http://www.zorra.ca)

## PUBLIC SKATING SPONSORSHIPS

The Recreation Department is looking for businesses who would like to help support free access to our Public Skating programs in your community. Skating is an integral part of this community. Skating gives families, groups and individuals the opportunity to be active throughout the winter months while building memories in their own community.



Consider supporting your community by sponsoring a public skate. Your **\$120.00 sponsorship fee** will include advertisement through all Township social media platforms, in our recreation facilities, and in the Zorra Now magazine. Contact Stephanie Starchuck at [sstarchuck@zorra.ca](mailto:ssstarchuck@zorra.ca) for more information!

## WE'RE HIRING!!

The Recreation Department is now hiring for the following seasonal positions for the 2020 summer season:

- ★ FACILITY ATTENDANT
- ★ GATE ATTENDANT

Deadline for application is **September 11, 2020**. For position descriptions please visit [www.zorra.ca](http://www.zorra.ca).



# WINTER SKATING CALENDAR 2020-2021

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Embro Zorra Community Centre</b>	Shinny (1:00-2:00pm)		Adult Skate (9:30-10:30am)				
	Public Skating (2:00-3:00pm)		Parent&Tot (10:30- 11:30am)				
	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Thamesford Recreation Centre</b>	Public Skating (2:00-3:00pm)		Shinny (5:00-6:00pm)		Adult Skate (9:30-10:30am)  Parent&Tot (10:30 -11:30am)		Shinny (4:30-5:30pm)

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

### Public Skating

Get on the ice with your friends and family! There's no better way to spend your afternoon!  
(\$3.00/person or \$8.00/family)

### Parent & Tot Skate

A time to bring your pre-school children out for a quiet skate. Strollers permitted & skate aides are available. (\$3.00/person, pre-school age free)

### Adult Skate

Enjoy a skate around the rink during this adult-only drop in program. (\$3.00/person or \$8.00/family)

### Shinny

Non-competitive 'pick-up' hockey for all ages and abilities. Required equipment: skates, helmet, stick and hockey gloves. (\$5.00/person or \$13.00/family)

**Additional Public Skating is always scheduled from 2:00p.m.-3:00p.m. during school holidays and PD Days!**

**Interested in Sponsoring a Public Skate? Contact us at [booking@zorra.ca](mailto:booking@zorra.ca)!**

*\*Capacity limits in the facility will be in effect this season. Please refer to [www.zorra.ca](http://www.zorra.ca) for further details*



## Advertise with us!



Thinking about advertising your business in the Zorra Now?

This magazine is issued **three times a year** and a copy is delivered to **every home and business** in Zorra Township. That's an audience of **8,000+** people! Advertising is simple and cost effective.

## ADVERTISING RATES

	Size	Rate (HST included)
Business Card	3.5 x 2.25 inches	\$96.05
¼ Page	3.5 x 4.75 inches	\$169.50
½ Page Vertical	3.5 x 9.5 inches	\$282.50
½ Page Horizontal	3.5 x 4.75 inches	\$282.50
Full Page	6.875 x 9.5 inches	\$536.75

## BR+E Update

In the 2018 BR+E study, Rural Oxford businesses identified three key priorities:

Business Support, Infrastructure and Workforce Development. These priorities guided our planning and 2019 economic development activities.



**Business Support**



**Infrastructure**



**Workforce Development**

### 2019 Progress



**11 Projects**



**31 Inquiries**



**23 Outreach Initiatives**

Rural Oxford  
Economic Development

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@RuralOxfordEDC @RuralOxfordEDC

### Business Support

- Ongoing support for **Thamesford's re-development** of the Maple Leaf property.
- Awarded the Community Futures Oxford **Community Economic Development Project of the Year Award** for our collaborative "Oxford Fresh" Farm Gate Signage project with Tourism Oxford and OFA.
- Established a collaborative grass roots working group to support the growth and prosperity of rural businesses, facilitate connections, and provide advocacy for Oxford Rural Entrepreneurs.
- Facilitated the inaugural **Oxford Rural Entrepreneurs** networking event in partnership with Oxford County Library, Community Futures Oxford, Small Business Centre and Libro Credit Union.
- **Oxford Connection** – Active partner with this county wide economic development collective which focuses on marketing the area nationally.

### Workforce Development

- Participated on the **Oxford Workforce Development Partnership**.
- Promoted Community Employment Services, **WorkinOxford.ca**, and the **Local Jobs Hub** launch.
- **Regional Transit** partnership table engagement.
- Coordinated a **Professional Driver Strategy** – Employer Round Table



# Thamesford

## Thamesford Lions



# Club

## Community Events

### "Catch The Ace" Progressive Raffle

Tuesday Evenings, 8 p.m. - weekly Prize Draws  
 Brunny's Sports Bar & Grill 121 Dundas Street, Thamesford  
 Contact: Lion Tony 519-285-3618

*Brian Voigt, Thamesford Lions Publicity Chair*

## No Slowing Down at Beachville District Museum – Recapping a Summer of Exciting Projects

Beachville District Museum had a busy summer season. And while our projects may have looked a bit different from those undertaken in past summers, we were excited about all that was accomplished in the midst of new regulations and great uncertainty.

Through the Young Canada Works and Canada Summer Jobs programs we hired three young professionals in June -- Sidney, Hannah and Lily. These new members of our staff gained experience working at the museum and, in turn, contributed their skills to promoting the museum's collection and improving its programs. The staff re-designed two of the permanent displays in the main building – the toy room and the baseball exhibit. Artifacts that had been on display for several decades were moved to storage for a rest period while historical items not showcased in recent years were rotated out for public appreciation. With the help of McBain Signs we installed new vinyl lettering to function as exhibit headings. If you drop in for a tour, you'll notice a lot has changed.

Volunteers also worked diligently this summer to take stock of everything in the agricultural complex, forming an up-to-date inventory of the artifacts on display. We re-discovered some wonderful items like a 1930s Maytag washing machine, a Jenny steam engine, a Nelson's milk delivery sled, and antique fence-building tools.

In early July we completed the renovations in our program room. New LED lighting was installed by Mike's Electric and with support from the Environment and Energy Innovation Committee of South-West Oxford Township. Drywall improvements and several fresh coats of paint were overseen by Ian Cook of Thamesford. Thanks to this excellent work, the room is bright, clean and ready to accommodate group meetings, summer camp programs and special exhibitions. We also welcomed back the crew from Tom Burgess Contracting as they finished renovations to the west side of our front porch. The details of the existing woodwork on the porch were respected thanks to Tom and his crew's expertise.

Despite being closed to the public, we celebrated Museum Week and Historic Places Day with other museum-lovers and history-friends on several of our digital platforms. We've seen a spike, recently, in our number of Facebook followers and appreciate everyone who has taken the opportunity to connect with us during this unprecedented time. As a museum--as a public institution--we want to remain in touch with the members of our community in Zorra and South-West Oxford. We've been doing a lot to source necessary PPE, sanitizer dispensers and signage, and are ready to welcome groups back for tours of the grounds and museum. We encourage those looking for a place to explore, decompress or have a picnic to make use of the parkland at the museum. Ensure physical distancing and come out and see the artifacts on our lawn: the old toll booth, potato planter, road grater and school bell. Or,

tour the grounds to appreciate the distinctive foliage and memorial trees scattered across our property. We're nearby and a car-ride adventure or some fresh air may do you good. If you're looking to support the development of the museum grounds, keep an eye out for information about Beachville District Historical Society's 50/50 draw.

Also during the COVID closure, we were able to send some artifacts to Book & Paper Conservation Services for special attention. Jennifer Robertson deserves recognition for the excellent treatment she provided to an old map of Oxford County. The map had been in the museum's collection for many years and, even though it was designed to hang on the wall, it was not healthy enough to be displayed. It was creased and the map's surface was cracking. When you look at the amazing before and after photographs, here, it is clear just how much work was done to painstakingly repair this important piece of local history. If you'd like an ever closer look of the refurbished map, we invite you to come see it in person.

*Image of the Lloyd's Map of Oxford County Before Conservation Treatment.*  
*Courtesy of Book & Paper Conservation Services.*



*Image of the Lloyd's Map of Oxford County After Conservation Treatment.*  
*Courtesy of Book & Paper Conservation Services.*



In August, the museum operated its summer camp for children aged 5-11. The camp ran Monday to Friday from 9am until 4pm with 10 available slots per day. Camp weeks centered on themes like outer space, unsolved mysteries, arts and crafts and world travel. COVID-specific policies and procedures were in place to ensure a fun and healthy program and it was great to see some local families on-site once again.

As we make our way towards the fall we are collecting histories related to the quarries in and around Beachville and Zorra. We're reviewing old tapes of interviews with individuals who worked in the quarries in the 1940s and 1950s, digitizing photographs of the various quarry buildings and reading up on the companies that operated out of the local pits. All of this research will be pulled together to create an exhibit called "Bedrock of Beachville" for the Virtual Museum of Canada. If you have memories of the quarries as a place of work, we'd love for you to get in contact with us and share. With COVID impacting our lives so dramatically, we are seeing history-in-the-making. At the museum, our work continues. We're keeping busy making sure that our local histories are preserved and live on.



# Ontario Provincial Police

The OPP is reminding all Oxford County residents to be extremely vigilant and alert for unsolicited calls, text messages or emails. Always be certain of who you are dealing with before you ever consider withdrawing money for someone or sharing personal information, no matter how convincing they sound.

Your bank will never request you to withdraw cash to assist with an investigation and no government agency would demand anyone to complete a transaction by using gift cards.

To learn about ways to protect yourself from scams and frauds, the OPP encourages community members to consult the Competition Bureau Canada, The Little Black Book of Scams, which can be found online <https://www.competitionbureau.gc.ca/eic/site/cb-bc.nsf/eng/03074.html>.

If you are the recipient of a fraudulent call, text or email, or if you've been a victim of a fraud, you are encouraged to report the incident to the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre by calling 1-888-495-8501 or visit <http://www.antifraudcentre-centreantifraude.ca>.

## REMOVAL OF STOP SIGNS NOT ONLY HAZARDOUS - IT'S CRIMINAL



(OXFORD COUNTY, ON) - The Oxford County Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have received several reports of stop signs and other signage being removed or damaged.

The removal of any stop sign is extremely dangerous to the motoring public and could cause a serious or even fatal collision.

Stop signs are in place for the safety of the motoring public and pedestrians. Other cautionary or directional signs are just as important, regardless of anyone's familiarity with an area.

Damaging any road signs can be potentially as dangerous, if motorists are unable to see them clearly upon approach.

Police want to remind everyone, that this act is not only unsafe, it is a criminal offence. Mischief to any property or the greater offence of Criminal Negligence, carries serious consequences upon conviction.

Anyone with information about any similar ongoing investigation is asked to contact the Oxford County OPP at 1-888-310-1122. Should you wish to remain anonymous, you may call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477), or submit an online tip at [www.oxfordcrimestoppers.com](http://www.oxfordcrimestoppers.com) where you may be eligible for a cash reward of up to \$2000.

# OPP REMIND OF SAFEGUARD ONTARIO PROGRAM

The OPP SafeGuard Ontario Property Security Program is a community-based crime prevention program that is designed to: reduce break and enter crimes, increase support to victims of crime, reduce re-victimization and engage and empower citizens to take an active role in helping prevent crimes.

Safeguard your valuables by making your mark! Property that is marked or etched with an identifying number is considered "damaged goods" in the eyes of a criminal.

In support of the OPP SafeGuard Ontario Property Security Program, Operation Identification is a property marking initiative designed to help discourage the theft of valuables by facilitating the identification of recovered stolen property. The idea is to simply engrave your valuables with an identifying number in a highly visible spot.

The OPP recommends using a unique identifying number as your personal Operation Identification number to visibly mark all your valuables.

In most cases, when theft occurs, the stolen property is not actually kept by the person committing the crime. In fact, many criminals specialize in the theft of certain items that they resell in bulk. As a result, victims often find that only specific items have been stolen, while other valuable items are left untouched.

Items that can be traced back to an owner are NOT very appealing to criminals. This is because visible identifiers provide immediate and irrefutable evidence of theft. Attempting to remove identifiers from property is time consuming and requires extra work by the thief. Property with identifiers or scars left from removing identifiers is not easily sold for profit.

*Things to consider putting an identifier on:*

- In your home on: computer equipment, TVs, DVD players, stereos, cameras, game machines, video equipment and jewelry
- In your garage, shed or barn: lawn tools, hand tools
- In your vehicle on: personal property, cell phones and other electronic equipment
- In your business on: computers, printers, copiers, fax machines, hand tools and other portable equipment
- In your closet on: expensive clothing, such as leather jackets or fur coats, use a ballpoint pen for similar protection.

Suspicious vehicles or suspicious people need to be reported to police as soon as possible so that an officer can investigate.

***Remember - theft is a crime of opportunity that you can help control.***



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You may have seen a bright yellow Oxford Fresh sign when travelling through Zorra Township. These signs will help you discover your amazing neighbours bringing local products to your plate. Buffalo, chicken, beef, pork, syrup, berries, and fresh greens are just a few of the items produced in Zorra Township. Shopping the farm also allows you to avoid the line-ups and support local while enjoying a country drive. Visit [www.OxfordFresh.ca](http://www.OxfordFresh.ca) for a full list of producers in Oxford County.



## OXFORD COUNTY TRAILS BADGES:

The Oxford County Trails Council has launched a badge program to encourage people to hike the many beautiful trails in Oxford County, while rewarding your kilometres logged. Badges are earned by completing a specific distance and recording your results on the trail log. Once you have completed the distance required simply mail your log card with (\$5 for postage and handling) and the appropriate badge and a Certificate of Achievement will be mailed to you. In order to receive your badge and certificate you must keep track of your kilometres and dates hiked. There is no time limit to complete the kilometres. With the exception of the Warrior badge, you can hike any combination of trails, or stay on your favourite trail. For details visit [www.OxfordCountyTrailsCouncil.ca](http://www.OxfordCountyTrailsCouncil.ca)



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## FEATURE ARTICLE

# 'Bacon' the Pig brightens spirits throughout Thamesford

By Stew Slater

Up until three years ago for the McLay family of Thamesford, collecting porcine memorabilia – salt and pepper shakers; piggy figurines – remained confined to inside their Stanley Street home.

"We're not pig farmers. I guess it's just a thing," explained Julie McLay, who shares the home with her husband Randy and daughter Emma.

But just before Easter, 2017, a serendipitous purchase at a neighbour's yard sale allowed the family to expand their collection to the great outdoors. And the village of Thamesford was transformed for the better. Even through the strain of this year's global pandemic, the now well-known extra member of the McLay family, affectionately named "Bacon," shone through as a beacon of hope and goodwill.

"I think we can all learn from this family," offered Thamesford Ward Councillor Katie Davies, when asked about what happened after that fateful Stanley Street yard sale. "Don't underestimate the power of sharing a smile or act of kindness with those around you."

What did the McLay family do? Well, initially, Randy thought his purchase might be a good promotional prop for his brother Flint's whole-pig barbecuing/catering business. However, because the purchase happened to be a 400-pound ceramic pig, things didn't work out quite as planned. Instead of being hoisted onto the trailer housing the barbecue spit, it instead only made it as far as a few doors down to their home.

The pig, Julie sighed, was too big to move around. "So we just plopped it down in the front flower bed." (Fortunately for Flint, whose company is based in Woodstock, there was also a ceramic piglet at the yard sale. That smaller hog is now a regular fixture as his company, known as McLay Bros. BBQ, satisfies hungry guests at weddings, parties and other events.)

After a few days wondering how to display what – at that time – was a large but still run-of-the-mill lawn

ornament, Julie decided as a joke to put an Easter bonnet on it. "And somehow, it just kind of took on a life of its own."

Three-and-a-half years later, everyone in the village knows where the McLays live. They find excuses to walk their dogs down that stretch of Stanley Street on a regular basis just to be sure they know the latest developments. Julie posts updates on her Facebook page, as well as the What's Up Thamesford page.



And the 400-pound pig has a name. Julie doesn't know for sure who came up with "Bacon."

"I think it was just some smart-alecky remark that someone made when the question came up about what to call it." But she does know one thing: Bacon is a girl. (Why would she be anything else? Of course, Julie jokes, her husband needs one more female influence in the household!)

You see, after Easter passed in 2017, it didn't seem right for the big pig to keep wearing a bonnet. So the family conceived of another outfit. After that, another. And then another. There has been a Hawaiian grass skirt with accompanying lei and sunglasses; a hard hat and





road safety vest when construction crews were working on Thamesford's streets; special outfits for various holidays.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, there was a "Canada, Eh" protective mask and matching ballet skirt, as well as a "social distanced" Bacon joined in the front yard – six feet apart – by a pink teddy bear and a little plastic piggie donated by a Thamesford youngster.

Julie says they try to change Bacon's attire monthly, at least during warmer months when she's not covered in snow. Sometimes the next feature is obvious thanks to what's coming up on the calendar; at other times, "we just stand in the dollar store looking at the shelves, hoping for some inspiration."

She remembers one lull in her family's creativity, between celebrated holidays, when she had taken away the previous outfit because it was getting worn and tattered. Bacon stood naked for a few days. It wasn't very long, though, before family members arrived home to discover the pig had donned a knit cap and scarf. And a note hung from her ear: "Bacon looked a little cold."

"It gave us a chance to meet another neighbour, because we had to return the hat and the scarf," Julie recalled.

Another time, when poor weather had taken its toll on Bacon's outfit, a resident left a bag of supplies hanging from the pig. Inside was a note: "This is for Bacon." Julie crafted an elf costume from the bag's contents.

Just recently, Julie followed through on the request submitted with another donated bag of supplies, and decked the ceramic pig up for Pride Month.

"When Bacon first showed up, no one knew what it was about or why they put it there," Davies commented. "But it caught our attention! As time went on, seeing the dress-up

pig either when driving, walking or biking past, it has given residents something light and fun to talk about and share a laugh."

The Thamesford Ward councillor continues that Julie's updates on social media are equally appreciated – particularly by those who can't always make their way to Stanley Street to see Bacon in person (or "in pig").

"The comments from people are always positive, and it creates a topic for us to take part in, no matter who you are or how you came to be in Thamesford," Davies said. "Bacon has become a pseudo mascot for the village, and is one that brings a smile to those who live here."

Julie McLay agrees it's the positive feedback that her family appreciates the most. Requests and suggestions for new outfits are frequent. Kids pass by on the school bus and are eager to see what Bacon is wearing now, and cheer if her attire has changed.

"I work in the school system. There's a lot of negative stuff that happens, on social media and just in what's happening in the lives of the kids. So it's nice to give them something positive to think about."

Katie Davies, like most Thamesford residents, is thankful the McLay family came up with the odd Eastertime idea of dressing up their new lawn ornament, and even more thankful they created a tradition that seems likely to continue well into the future.

"I think we are all aware that there is a real ability for messages to spread quickly in a small town," the Thamesford Ward councillor said. "When these messages and ideas are negative they can really impact not only how individuals feel but also how a community functions as a whole. It is so fantastic to see this family doing a simple act of positive sharing with the village, and to see the ripple effect of that positivity reaching the far corners of the community."



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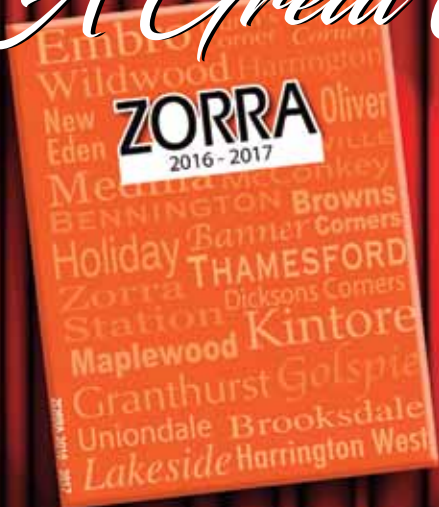
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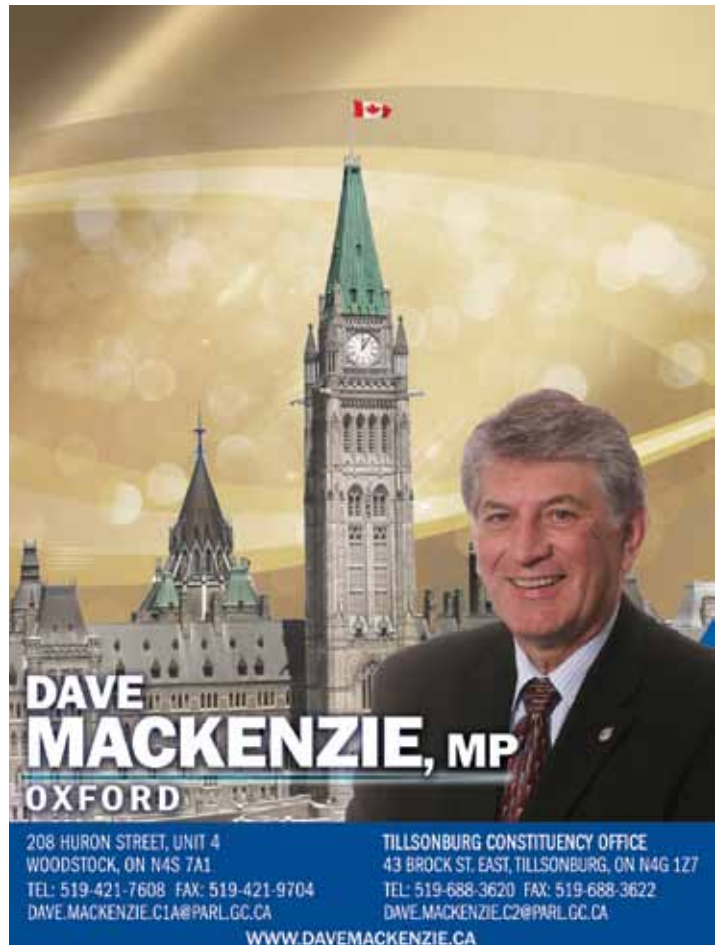


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[WWW.DAVEMACKENZIE.CA](http://WWW.DAVEMACKENZIE.CA)

# Harrington's Library

February 1, 1997 was a red-letter day for Harrington. On that Saturday, the good folk of Harrington demonstrated their commitment to community with two significant, but not unrelated, actions:

- The Harrington and District Men's Club announced to the community that it did not wish to continue as a male-only organization and invited area residents of either sex to join in forming a service club with a new name but the same objectives. From this expansive gesture grew the Harrington & Area Community Association (affectionately known as HACA).
- The volunteer-run Harrington Community Library opened, marked by festivities including a clown, live music and, of course, free refreshments. Dignitaries attended, including County Warden, Edward Down and Zorra Mayor Bill Semeniuk. Library card 001 was issued to life-long Harrington resident, Mel Mackay. The Harrington Community Library became HACA's first signature project.

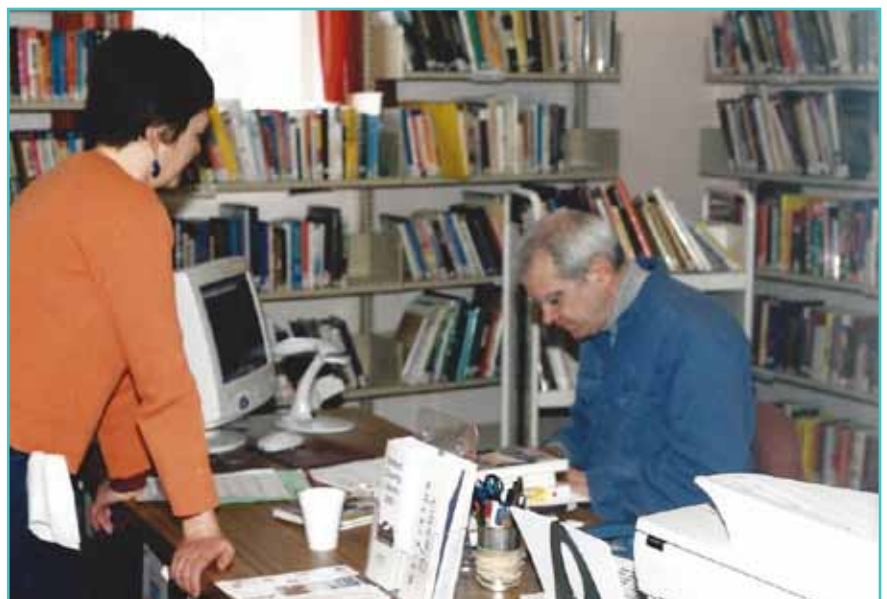
A library in Harrington was not a brand new reality in 1997; rather, it was a re-birth of sorts. In fact, the first record of a library in this village just short of a century prior. On November 24, 1898 nine gentlemen signed an application for incorporation of the Harrington Public Library. The Public Library Act 1895 allowed for the creation of a library board even without a building and without funding from the municipality, although a small grant was available from the provincial government.

From its first beginning, the Harrington library was a community project. Funding was raised via concerts and dances. Take a look at the replica of that 1898 document and see the several familiar Harrington surnames. Library service was provided from residents' homes, beginning with that of Miss Margaret Macleod. When it became a branch of the Oxford County Library in 1965 library service was provided from the home of Mrs. Alma Kittmer.

In 1991 the library had to vacate its location at the NE corner of Road 96 and 33rd Line because landlord Earl Clark needed the premises for his antiques business (the "Jade Tree"). Several options were explored by the county library and some were tried, including providing service from a store (Harrington Mill Stream Variety and Alternate Foods) and from the Embro branch, but nothing was satisfactory and the village found itself without library service.

Concerned community members found it unacceptable that Harrington was without a library. With membership in the Men's Club dwindling, members John Hiuser and Harry Jongerden put forward a proposal to start a

volunteer-run library in the basement of the Broadview United Church. Several hard-working volunteers stepped forward and became active in bringing the project to fruition, including Julie Morris, Kathy Eastman, Dave Aikenhead, Verna Lester and Cher Sprague. Harrington resident, Sam Coghlan, was Chief Librarian of Oxford County Library at the time and was able to expedite an arrangement for borrowing books from that library to lend in Harrington. He also found used library shelving for sale from the Mississauga Public Library. Harrington Community Library was similar to a county library branch but operated by volunteers and with expenses such as telephone covered by HACA.



*Verna Lester and Ed Fischer at Harrington Library 2002*

Many local residents stepped up as “volunteer librarians”, providing not only books and videos, but access to information tools, story time for children and movie nights on Fridays. The library was the only place in the village where everybody and anybody was welcome to drop in on a regular basis. At first the library was open only 4 hours a week, but by 1999 it was open 12 hours per week and was participating in a program to deliver federal government services including assistance with job searches and federal programs such as the Canada Pension Plan. The HACA volunteers also donated dozens of hours of their time, working at bingos in order to raise the revenue needed.

With the opening of a library, the congregation of Broadview United Church was pleased to see more community use of their premises. When they, reluctantly, decided that a congregation in Harrington was no longer viable, the church building was sold to the Township for a dollar (in 2000). Harrington Hall and Library, as it's now known, remains a valuable resource for Township events such as public meetings and open houses.

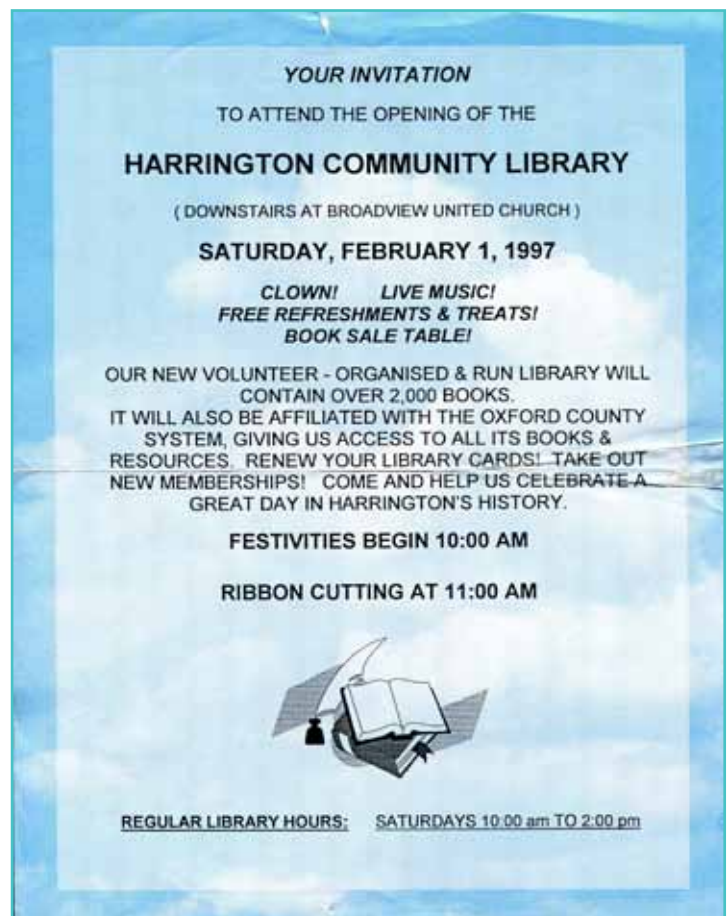
Dial-up internet access bedevilled most of the community in the early days of the community library. But HACA and library chair, Harry Jongerden, submitted an application to the federal government to build a broadband communications tower beside the building that would allow the library to tap into the high-speed County of Oxford Integrated Network (COIN) which had recently been built to connect all libraries and municipal services in the county to the Internet (and each other). In 2000, the federal government granted HACA \$39,858, with the tower and equipment becoming the property of the County of Oxford as part of COIN.

With connection to COIN, the library was able to use the county library's automated system for checking books out and back in. This, and the need to provide training support for people using the internet, made it increasingly difficult to staff the library with volunteers, some of whom themselves lacked training. After five years of operating a community-run volunteer library, HACA was successful in bringing the Harrington branch back into the Oxford County fold.

This special relationship had a number of positive impacts on the community, beyond helping HACA realize its capacity to make a difference. Harrington is the smallest community in Oxford with a branch library and the number of in-house visits and borrowings reflects this fact, but our library is fully part of our community and is present and active in all our major community events. So far the library's involvement has tended to be focused towards families and children, but HACA remains hopeful that we will find ways to expand the library's engagement in our community activities. Harrington Hall, for instance, is enriched by having access to the library's Wi-Fi network and can be a valuable resource for training or other gatherings, whether organized by HACA, the library or by a third party.

Angus Mowat, Ontario's Director of the Provincial Library Service until 1960 [and, yes, Farley's father], proclaimed that A Town Without A Library Is Like A Farm Without A Well. HACA agrees and has gone out of its way to ensure that Harrington does not become a dry village.

***Submitted by Brenda Krantz, Harrington & Area Community Association***



*Harrington Community Library invitation for Opening*



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# Community 4-H Club Relay for Life Team continues to fund-raise for 15th year to help find a cure for Cancer and support those battling Cancer.



In 2007, Katrina (Hart) Murray asked 4-H volunteers Shonna Ward & Chris Hart if they would chaperon a Woodstock Relay for Life Team. The group of 4-H youth members from the 2006 Oxford 4-H Exchange wanted to do something together in the community. With community service being one of the five core competencies of the 4-H program in Ontario and following the 4-H pledge, 'my hands to larger service', this started the Community 4-H Club Relay for Life Team.

There have been 55 different members on the team, with some being siblings joining as they joined the 4-H program over the years. All the 4-H youth members and volunteers on the team have been affected by Cancer either themselves, a family member or someone in their lives. With sad hearts on July 18, 2019, one of the original team members passed away at the age of 24 after courageously battling Cancer for 16 months. Even though some have graduated the 4-H youth program, some have continued as 4-H club volunteers and others have continued to support the various fundraising activities the team does.

It was a slow start for the first year only raising \$2,066. With the team being more involved with the community each year, the team has raised more and more every year, with raising \$12,713 this year, now with a total of \$141,800 over the 15 years to date. For the past 9 years, the team has raised \$10,000-\$15,000 each year. The team received various awards at the Woodstock

Relay For Life event—Bronze, Silver & Gold Team, Best Dressed, Top Online Donations, Dream Team, Best Decorated Campsite and Premier Team. There have been several team members receive fundraising achievement awards too. In December 2019, the team was privileged to tour the McMaster Health Science Center in the BioChemistry & BioMedical Science Lab and was presented with the Canadian Cancer Society

Provincial Spirit Award by Hailey Parliament with the Woodstock Office. The team members were honoured to meet Dr Li and his research colleagues and see & learn about the testing that was being done to find more information about Cancer. The various types of tests being done and equipment used was interesting to see in-person.



The funds raised mostly come from the 4-H youth members doing activities with donations to the Community 4-H Club Relay for Life Team. The 4-H youth members and club volunteers have served at food booths, done roadside & park cleanups, catered at meetings & events, stone picking, fence painting, sold pop & water, pancake fundraiser, event setup & take-downs, poinsettia plant fundraiser, collected



used electronics, pop cans & returnable bottles/ cans, and most recently made face masks and sold rhubarb jam & grape jelly that was made by team members from a team member's garden. They have also collected pledges. Thank you to the community organizations & businesses-

-Woodstock Agricultural Society & Ladies Auxiliary, Oxford County Junior Farmers', Woodstock Chorales, Hickson Lions Club, Tavistock Men's Club, Embro Truck & Tractor Pull, Oxford Holstein Club, Jakeman's Maple Products, Canada's Outdoor Farm Show, Tavistock Optimists, Country Geek, Farm Credit

Canada, Canadian Cancer Society, and Oxford County Agricultural Societies with club display boards promoting 4-H & Relay for Life and to individuals for their pledges to the team.

During the club meetings, members have learned about working with community organizations & businesses, fundraising, Cancer, leadership skills, gardening, grapes, pumpkins, rag quilting, square dancing, careers and preparing for the Relay For Life.

Members also participate in the Go For The Gold (GFTG) event in Oxford and numerous times advanced to the Region 6 GFTG and Provincial GFTG held at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair. In 2019, the team advanced to the final game and placed 2nd, the best Oxford 4-H has ever done. GFTG is a trivia game with questions from 4-H projects and general knowledge.



Each year, the team created a name that went along with the theme and keeping 4-H in mind. In 2020, the Community 4-H Club Distance Doesn't Stop Us Relay participants participated in the 'Relay at Home' event June 13th. The team faced the changes like everyone else did and used the 4-H Motto 'Learn To Do By

Doing' to keep going. They did virtual meetings through zoom and continued to support the Canadian Cancer Society. With the team fundraising throughout the year, they had raised \$6,500 by mid March when all the regular fundraisers had been canceled, but that didn't stop them. They came up with new ideas—sold rhubarb jam that used rhubarb from Tina's garden AND made face masks which were sold at one of Tina's place of employment and Facebook. The team has decorated the luminary bags purchased for the past 5 years—this year being no different, the team purchased 100 luminary bags and did a design of a house with a rainbow on them along with the In Memory or In Honour of loved ones names and message.

Cancer is expected to be diagnosed in 1 of every 2 people with 80,000 people passing away each year in Canada. Cancer does not sleep. To help find a cure for Cancer and support those battling Cancer, you can help support the Community 4-H Club Relay for Life fundraisers. Currently the team is selling rhubarb jam, grape jelly, handmade face masks and collecting used electronics with proceeds to the Canadian Cancer Society. Please contact Shonna Ward by email [wardshonna@hotmail.com](mailto:wardshonna@hotmail.com) or call/text 519-854-6919 for further information or to support.



# “A Big Anniversary for a Small-Town Stage - Embro’s Thistle Theatre Turns 25”

By John Turvey



It has a very tiny stage – it would make you wonder how it would be possible to stage a full-scale musical with a cast of

over 40. In fact, the stage is probably amongst the smallest in all of Ontario. And yet, Embro’s Thistle Theatre is celebrating a large and amazing legacy this year, as we mark the Theatre’s 25th Anniversary in 2020. Since 1995, Thistle Theatre has been producing a wide variety of plays. The Theatre’s main production occurs every fall, usually in November, and every few years, is accompanied by a second show in the Spring. Capacity for most performances is a cozy 170. Those crowds have been treated to many memorable productions over the past twenty-five years, and we’ve seen many interesting characters grace the stage, while transporting us to far off locations across the globe. There have been lots of orphans, a musical con artist, and a very tall rabbit. We’ve been to Brighton Beach and Camelot. We’ve been caught up in tornadoes and gone “Over the River and Through the Woods”. We’ve had “Strangers Among Us”, a Fiddler, and a Nerd. More recently, we’ve pondered if a woman from Galt married a prince; visited the mystical Brigadoon, which might just have reminded you of earlier times in Zorra; and had a Halifax tailor remind us that sometimes our recollections of the past, blind us to the good things we enjoy today.

Thistle Theatre’s existence today can be traced to a group of keen and enthusiastic folks who wanted to see more theatre in Embro and take on new artistic challenges. In 1994, they organized a ‘steering committee’ to create a community theatre group in Embro. Founding members were: Harold and Sharon Arbuckle; Chris and Nancy Cockle; Sue and Keith Garner; Nancy and John Hazeleger, Laurence and Mary MacKay, and Sharry and John VanderHorn. The committee obtained the Township of Zorra’s agreement on a proposal to rent the historic Embro Town Hall, which had been recently renovated. The group worked tirelessly on planning a production and selling charter memberships. The Town Hall had no sound or lighting facilities, so renovations were needed as the ceiling was not sound enough to support a

lighting bar. A name contest was held with Annie and Dave Parker submitting “Thistle Theatre”. The logo design competition was won by Becky Dahl. And then it was opening night – November 8, 1995! The first play was “Perils of Persephone” by Dan Needles. A gala opening reception was planned at the Embro Community Centre, the

ribbon was cut on stage and the show went on, despite the attempt



My Fair Lady - 2015

of an early winter snowstorm to wreak havoc. In the 25 years that have followed, Thistle Theatre has provided an outlet for the creative talents of people living in the area and provided quality entertainment for the enjoyment of the community. Special mention should be made of our very own ‘Phantom of the Theatre’, Harold Arbuckle, who has been hovering in the background, (and sometimes the foreground), since 1995, liaising with the Township, and making sure our theatre runs both technically, and functionally.

Since the beginning, among its primary objectives, Thistle Theatre has encouraged youth participation in theatre, and helped young people to develop their theatrical skills, both on and off stage. Young people have always had a major role on the Embro stage, and many of Thistle Theatre’s productions over the years have featured children in a variety of roles. Dramarama began in the summer of 1996, the year after Thistle Theatre’s first production. Every summer, the program gives nearly 50 children, aged 7 to 14, the opportunity to spend 2 weeks learning theatre craft, creativity and expression. Daily workshops explore drama, dance, production, mime, voice work, tableau, improv and more. The kids benefit tremendously from the confidence they learn from the program and taking an active role on stage. The shows developed and staged by the kids at the end of their 2-week program are often wildly entertaining.



A group of “happy campers” - Dramarama 2019

Teenagers with specific theatrical skills are the counselors for the Dramarama program, and many of them have



*Brigadoon - 2018*

participated as children in the program when they were younger. To make the program accessible to as many children as possible, Thistle Theatre has deliberately tried to keep costs down and keep the program affordable. For its first 10 years, the Dramarama program was coordinated by Bernice Finch, then by Sue Garner and Barb McIntosh, and since 2010, the program has been under the leadership of Phoebe Campbell.

Another primary objective of Thistle Theatre has been to provide quality entertainment for the enjoyment of area residents. But as our community has aged, and we've learned to better understand how barriers can limit the ability of all in our community to participate equally, Thistle Theatre has taken steps to ensure that live local community theatre is accessible for all in the community. Thanks to an Ontario 150 Grant, a donation from the Township of Zorra, and a community fundraising campaign that brought in more than \$22,000 in just 9 months, we were able to install a lift and make other improvements



*The Nerd - 2016*

to the Old Embro Town Hall. From its outside entrance, the lift provides access to the Green Room, a dedicated accessible Washroom, and the Embro Library on the first floor; and access to the Theatre Hall on the second floor.

The lift was first used in the Spring of 2018 to bring patrons into the theatre for the production of "Kai the Barbarian". Since that time, it has become more and more popular, and it's not unusual for our House Managers and Ushers to welcome 10 to 12 patrons

to a performance using the lift, especially for matinees. The lift allows many of our patrons the opportunity to continue to enjoy theatre in their local community. As part of our ongoing efforts to make Thistle Theatre accessible for all, assisted listening devices are the latest improvement. These devices became available for our production of "The Gentleman Clothier" in 2019 and have brought the theatre experience to a whole new audience.

Unfortunately, plans for a big celebration for our 25th Anniversary, which would have included a Variety Night, with special moments from some of our past musical productions, and a Comedy Night has been put on hold for now. Hopefully, we will be able to put



*Music Man - 2000*

these events on in the not too distant future. Stay tuned to our website for more details, <http://www.thistle-theatre.com/>. (Interested in supporting Thistle Theatre through a membership? Find more information on-line.) Currently, plans for a fall production of "A Red Plaid Shirt" are tentatively proceeding for later in 2020. However, if needed, alternative plans are being considered in these challenging times. When the chance presents itself, we will celebrate Thistle Theatre, with its small stage, and its large place in the heart of the local community.



*The Gentleman Clothier - 2019*



*Ethan Claymore - 2001*



The Trojans have a long history in the Township of Zorra. Interest was very obvious in 1976 to have a junior hockey team in the newly built Thamesford arena. Fans packed the stands and the team was blessed with lots of people helping run the team. After a couple of years, it was recognized that (for the betterment of the people operating the team) the organization should become a not-for-profit corporation. It became more and more serious hockey. As the game of hockey evolved so did the Trojans, local talent became more difficult to come by, competition for

talented players increased as the various leagues expanded. Minor hockey changed and players left the area and were picked up by other centres. In many cases, the Trojans lost track of local talent. The grass always appears to be greener on the other side of the fence.

Now the Trojans are in a more modern world of hockey. We are now in the very competitive P.J.H.L. (Provincial Junior Hockey league) with over 60 teams. Today's coaching and training staff are required to upgrade their league requirements with new issues arising every year. These are the people who really are committed to the game. As in most volunteer organizations it is harder to recruit good people to assist in the everyday running of the business (\*hint\*) but we will soldier on.

The 2019/20 season was our year to shine. It takes about 4 years to build a team that can make a run for the gold and under the coaching of John Caulderozi we were able to accomplish this. This past season I was fortunate to witness some of the best hockey ever. Our division was so competitive that it took the whole season to sort out which team would finish in first place. The very last game in our division put us on top with one point separating the top place teams. Then, COVID 19 hit and everything came to a halt. We could not face off against the Exeter Hawks; just one day short of the start of the finals. I was totally disappointed, and I can't imagine how the players and the coaching staff felt.

As a new hockey season approaches, will it happen? The Trojans hockey team is ready to play, our sponsors are ready to sponsor, our fundraisers are in place just waiting for things to open up but unless we can figure out a way to get the fans in the stands it will make it very difficult financially to put the team on the ice. I remain optimistic that there will be a season, but I am not willing to bet on it.

We thank all of you for your support and look forward to seeing you once again at the arena. In the meantime, keep your stick on the ice and stay safe.

*Tony Redix (President, Thamesford Trojans)*

## Community Events

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, Most Community Events will not be taking place this fall in order to reduce the spread of the virus. Please visit the Townships website or social media pages for update info.

# Council Update

## FALL 2020

### **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

In May 2020, the Township of Zorra Council amended the Township's Procedural Bylaw. The Procedural Bylaw dictates the rules for Council and committee meetings.

As part of the update, Council added a "Public Comment Period" to Council meetings. The Public Comment Period allows individuals to present comments to Council on an item on the agenda. Comments will be limited to 3 minutes per presenter with a maximum of 4 presenters per meeting. Any individuals interested must submit a written request to the Clerk the day prior to the Council meeting. For more information on the Public Comment Period please visit the Township website.

### **ZORRA YOUTUBE CHANNEL**



You can now watch the Township of Zorra Council meetings live on our YouTube channel!!

The Township began live streaming the Council meetings in April 2020. The videos are saved and can be watched on our YouTube channel. Subscribe to our YouTube channel (Zorra Township) to watch Council meetings and other Township-related content!

## THANK YOU to our VOLUNTEERS & SENIORS

Every year the Township of Zorra hosts a breakfast for our volunteers and seniors to show our appreciation. In light of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, the Township will not be hosting the annual appreciation breakfast this year.

The Township of Zorra would like to recognize, celebrate and thank the many volunteers and seniors that we have in our community! One generous act can have a huge impact and improve quality of life. We appreciate you doing your part for Zorra!

# TOWNSHIP CONTACTS

## Council



**Mayor** Marcus Ryan  
237175 23rd Line, RR 2  
St. Mary's, ON N4X 1C5  
Email: mryan@zorra.ca  
Cell: 519-301-1634



**Ward 1 Councillor**  
Ron Forbes  
642960 Road 64, RR 3  
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**Ward 2 Councillor**  
Katie Davies  
168 George Street  
Thamesford, ON NOM 2M0  
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Tel: 226-268-4495



**Ward 3 Councillor**  
Paul Mitchell  
963229 Road 96, RR 2  
St. Marys, ON N4X 1C5  
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**Ward 4 Councillor**  
Steve MacDonald  
455703 45th Line, RR 5  
Embro, ON NOJ 1J0  
Email: smacdonald@zorra.ca  
Cell: 519-475-4219

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## Upcoming Council Meetings

All meetings held at the Township Office –  
Council Chambers

\*Council meetings are held the first WEDNESDAY  
of the month at 9:00 a.m. and the third  
WEDNESDAY of the month at 6:00 p.m.

Sept. 2 at 9:00 a.m.      Oct. 21 at 6:00 p.m.  
Sept. 16 at 6:00 p.m.    Nov. 4 at 9:00 a.m.  
Oct. 7 at 9:00 a.m.      Nov. 18 at 6:00 p.m.

## Employees

### Building/Drainage Department

*Chief Building Official*  
*Drainage Superintendent* - Mike Hughes  
Phone: 519-485-2490 Ext. 7224  
Email: mhughes@zorra.ca

### Corporate Services

*Chief Administrative Officer* - Don MacLeod  
Phone: 519-485-2490 Ext. 7226  
Email: dmacleod@zorra.ca

*Director of Corporate Services/Clerk*  
Donna Wilson  
Phone: 519-485-2490 ext. 7228  
Email: dewilson@zorra.ca

*Planner* - Adam Ager  
Phone: 519-485-2490 ext. 7237  
Email: aager@oxfordcounty.ca

*By-law Enforcement Officer* - Mathew Paul  
Phone: 519-485-2490 ext. 7230  
Email: mpaul@zorra.ca

*Records Management Coordinator/*  
*Executive Assistant* - Lisa Teeple  
Phone: 519-485-2490 Ext. 7231  
Email: lteeple@zorra.ca

*Legislative Coordinator/Deputy Clerk*  
Alycia Wettlaufer  
Email: awettlaufer@zorra.ca  
Phone: 519-485-2490 ext. 7250

### Finance Department

*Director of Finance* - Maureen Simmons  
Phone: 519-485-2490 Ext. 7225  
Email: msimmons@zorra.ca

*Tax Collector/Deputy Treasurer* - Kelly Hall  
Phone: 519-485-2490 Ext. 7222  
Email: khall@zorra.ca

*Financial Services Clerk* - Jenna Belleau  
Phone: 519-485-2490 Ext. 7221  
Email: jbellau@zorra.ca

**Karen Martin, Director of  
Corporate Services/Clerk is on  
Maternity Leave until April 2021.  
Township Staff are thrilled to  
announce that Donna Wilson  
has taken over the position for  
the 12 month leave. Ms. Wilson  
is a retired Clerk from the Town  
of Tillsonburg where she has  
held various roles since 1986.**

### Public Works Department

*Director of Public Works* - Steve Oliver  
Phone: 519-485-2490 Ext. 7227  
Email: soliver@zorra.ca

*Foreman – Embro Works Yard* -  
Scott Simmons  
Phone: 519-485-2490 Ext. 7265  
Email: ssimmons@zorra.ca

*Foreman – Kintore Works Yard* - Derek Collins  
Phone: 519-485-2490 Ext. 7260  
Email: dcollins@zorra.ca

### Protective Services

*Fire Chief/CEMC* - John McFarlan  
Phone: 519-485-2490 ext. 7240  
Email: jmcfarlan@zorra.ca

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

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

*Uniondale District Chief* - Ron King  
Phone: 519-275-4958  
Email: uniondalefire@zorra.ca

### Recreation Department

*Director of Recreation and Facilities*  
Matt Brown  
Phone: 519-485-2490 Ext. 7243  
Email: mbrown@zorra.ca

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

*Recreation and Facilities Program Coordinator*  
Stephanie Starchuck  
Phone: 519-485-2490 Ext. 7223  
Email: sstarchuck@zorra.ca

### Facility Booking

Phone: 519-485-2490 Option 4, then 1  
Email: booking@zorra.ca

### Recreation Facilities

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

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

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

**Ms. Wilson obtained a diploma of  
Public Administration from Western  
University. Ms. Wilson will be an asset  
to the Township.**

dewilson@zorra.ca 519-485-2490 ext. 7228

# COMMUNITY CONTACT LISTING

## Minor Sports

**Embro:**

Embro Minor Hockey Assoc.	519-475-6515
Zorra Skating Club	519-281-1402
Suzanne McRoberts	519-469-9782
	<a href="http://www.zorraskatingclub.ca">www.zorraskatingclub.ca</a>
Embro Minor Ball Association	519-475-4012
Embro Minor Soccer Association	
Tim and Katrina DeWit	519-475-0460
Kintore Minor Soccer	
Kate Henderson	519-320-8660

**Thamesford:**

Thamesford Minor Hockey Assoc.	519-285-3796
Thamesford Skating Club	519-285-5556
Thamesford Jr. PJHL Hockey Club	519-285-3618
Thamesford Minor Baseball	Jay Bruinsma
<a href="mailto:jaybruinsma@gmail.com">jaybruinsma@gmail.com</a>	519-572-3802
Thamesford Minor Soccer	519-670-7002
Thamesford NBC	519-639-4507
Thamesford Rec. Men's Slow Pitch	226-926-9016
West Oxford Girls Hockey Assoc.	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	
Nicole Barndt	519-533-2208
Embro Highland Games/ Zorra Caledonian Society	519-475-4451
Thamesford Lion's Club	
Jim Keron, President	519-639-1910
Thamesford Scouts	
Jackie Van Daele	519-283-6159
Kintore Optimist Club	519-283-6321
Harrington & Area Community Association	
Philip Kerr	519-475-0484
Harrington Grist Mill Restoration Project	
Tim Van de Kemp	519-475-4376
Oxford County 4-H	<a href="mailto:oxford4-h@xplornet.com">oxford4-h@xplornet.com</a>

## Other

Alzheimers Society	519-421-2466
	1-877-594-2368
Beachville District Museum	519-423-6497
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Ingersoll, Tillsonburg & Area	519-485-1801 or 519-842-9000
	<a href="mailto:ingtburg@bigbrothersbigsisters.ca">ingtburg@bigbrothersbigsisters.ca</a>
	<a href="http://www.sharethefun.org">www.sharethefun.org</a>
Brooksdale Women's Institute	519-475-4502
Calithumpian Committee - Katie Davies	226-268-4495
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	
Helen Brenneman	519-535-4728
Embro Library	519-475-4172
Fanshawe Pioneer Village	519-457-1296
Girl Guides - Thamesford	519-285-1126
Harrington Public Library	519-475-6909
Hardeman, Ernie, MPP.	519-537-5222
Horticultural Society (Ingersoll)	519-485-1808
Ingersoll Choral Society	519-285-2825
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
MacKenzie, Dave MP	519-421-7608
North Embro Cemetery	
Darwin Cooper	519-475-4385
Ontario Early Years Programs	800-539-9800
OPP	800-265-7191
Oxford County Jr. Farmers	519-469-3281
Oxford County Federation of Agriculture	519-852-8856
Oxford District Women's Institute	519-475-4502
South West Community Care Access Centre	519-539-1284
	<a href="mailto:info-woodstock@sw.ccac-ont.ca">info-woodstock@sw.ccac-ont.ca</a>
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 Dog Rescue - Linda Collier	<a href="http://www.tpdr.ca">www.tpdr.ca</a>
VON Oxford	519-539-1231
VON Sakura House	519-537-8515
Welcome Wagon	519-485-2990
Wienerfest - Linda Collier	519-285-5123
Women's Canadian Club	519-471-8924

## Places of Worship

St. Andrew's United Church	
924044 Road 92, Brooksdale, Ontario	
519-475-6011	
Chalmers United Church	
842993 Road 84, Kintore, Ontario	
519-283-6376	
Crossroads Alliance Church	
194552 19th Line, R.R. 3	
Ingersoll, Ontario	
519-485-4440	
Knox Presbyterian Church	
115 St. Andrews Street	
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	
<a href="http://www.truthcommunitychurch.ca">www.truthcommunitychurch.ca</a>	
Westminster United Church	
115 George Street	
Thamesford, Ontario	
519-285-3212	
<a href="http://www.makingconnections.com">www.makingconnections.com</a>	
East Missouri Union Church	
519-349-2333	

# 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:

## 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. 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 200 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](http://www.zorra.on.ca) or contact the Township Office.

## Township of Zorra Memorial Tree Forest

In 2015, Zorra Township 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 are native species, 6'-8' in size. Since 2015, 206 trees have been planted in the forest. Contact Brock and Visser for more details at 519-285-2427.

## Township of Zorra Replacement Tree Program

Currently when the Township of Zorra Public Works staff take down a tree along a roadside 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 2019, 250 6'-8' sugar maple trees were planted through this program. Fill out the Tree Replacement Form on the Zorra website [www.zorra.on.ca](http://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](http://www.thamesriver.on.ca).





# PLAN YOUR SPRING TREE PLANTING PROJECT NOW!

## TREES AVAILABLE

The Upper Thames River Conservation Authority has trees & grants available. Landowners who reside in the Upper Thames River watershed and own a minimum of 1 hectare (2.5 acres) are eligible to participate in the UTRCA's Tree Planting on Private Lands program.

### The program offers:

- **Large stock trees** (coniferous and deciduous)
- **Seedlings** (coniferous and deciduous species, as well as wildlife shrubs)

Trees purchased through this program may be planted by the landowner or through the UTRCA's full planting service.

**For pricing and availability please contact:**

**UPPER THAMES RIVER**  
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

John Enright, UTRCA Forester  
(519) 451-2800 ext. 243 or  
[enrightj@thamesriver.on.ca](mailto:enrightj@thamesriver.on.ca)

# Local Talent at the Zorra Municipal Office

Are you a local artist or vendor operating in Zorra Township? Do you have items to display in our office? We have space in our lobby to display your items! Contact Lisa 519-485-2490 ext 7231 or lteeples@zorrapublic.ca for more information! Drop by our office and see what we have to offer! #ShopLocal



## Road safety must be a top priority for farmers and motorists

Road safety must be a top priority for farmers and motorists.

It's the time of year when farm equipment hits the roadways again, and when slow moving vehicles share the road with motorists, OFA reminds everyone to remember the rules of the road and take the time to put safety first.

When it comes to multi-vehicle collisions, motorists often collide with farm machinery that's turning from a farm road on to a public roadway. Use lights, taillights and signals to make your equipment as visible as possible to other motorists. Always display your slow moving vehicle sign prominently on the back of your equipment. And take the extra time to wait for an opening onto a main roadway that will give you enough time to get on the road and be visible.

We can't anticipate what other motorists will do, or how they'll react to sharing the road this Fall with farm

equipment. Roads, bridges and traffic circles aren't built to accommodate machinery and a lot more motorists are increasingly impatient around slow-moving vehicles. So always start with safety. Be alert for drivers anxious to pass you at unexpected times. Use your lights. Share the road. And watch carefully as you turn onto public roadways and make left hand turns across traffic. Safe roads and safe driving practices are important for everyone.

For more information on road safety, visit [ofa.on.ca/roadsafety](http://ofa.on.ca/roadsafety)

Thank you to our essential agri-food workers



Heather Derks  
OFA MSR Oxford  
519-719-2072  
[Heather.derks@ofa.on.ca](mailto:Heather.derks@ofa.on.ca)





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