

Zorranow

COMMUNITY EVENTS & SERVICES MAGAZINE

Fall 2021

● OPEN HOUSE & PUBLIC FEEDBACK ●

For Zorra Municipal Centre

WE NEED YOUR INPUT:

Child Care, Fitness Facility, and Municipal Office
& Community Offices





Message from the Mayor

We are in a completely different phase of the Coronavirus pandemic now. It's not over, but it is much more manageable, and we can all do more things. But we do have to MANAGE it. Our communities' children under twelve cannot yet get vaccinated, and there are many residents who are immunocompromised and all these people need the rest of us to get vaccinated to protect them, especially before school starts. These vaccines are safe and effective, there is literally an entire planet's worth of data to support this now. So please encourage and help those not yet vaccinated to get vaccinated to protect their community, and help businesses and schools get back to what they do.

Zorra Township Council has voted to not provide a resolution of support for the Walker proposed southwest landfill in Zorra. Such a resolution of support is required under the Provincial Environmental Assessment Act, which means the landfill application can now not proceed unless the Act is changed, or a future Council provides a resolution of support. Ingersoll, Southwest Oxford, and the County of Oxford all passed similar resolutions the week after, making the local political situation very clear. Walker then sent a letter saying their proposal is formally "on hold".

Many people have many reasons for opposing the landfill. But for me the main reason was that it is clear that extracting resources, expending energy to transform them, trucking them around, and then burying them in the ground cannot be a long-term solution to waste.

In response to the suggestion that municipalities would have the right to say "no" to a landfill many people concluded that the biggest problem with that was that none would ever say "yes", and there would never be another landfill. To that I would say "what's the problem?" Isn't that our desired outcome? Zorra and Oxford have been leaders in waste reduction for decades. This is another opportunity to lead. By making landfills difficult and expensive we can be part of driving the innovation required from the waste and recycling industry. The Province is already moving in this direction, we're doing our part to push them

harder. We were given the tremendous power to say "no" to a development that does not fit the values of our communities.

But with great power comes great responsibility. The power to say "no" to this landfill comes with the responsibility to greatly reduce our own waste footprint. If we do not invest both socially and financially in significant waste and energy reduction then we are no better than those who wanted to truck their waste to Zorra.

It is now time for Zorra and Oxford to move on and do the work on our communities that WE want to be doing.

In May, what many First Nations people had said for a long time was confirmed by the discovery of 215 bodies at a "residential school". These were children. Dead and buried and undocumented. Did their families even know? This school operated until 1978. I was 8. This could have been me except I wasn't taken from my parents... As a member of a society who has benefited from the actions of previous governments, I'm sorry. There's no excuse for this behaviour by governments or churches. I am a proud Canadian. What I am mostly proud about is that Canada always strives to be better. We do not rest on our laurels. We do better today than yesterday. We do better tomorrow than today. To be a proud Canadian is to embrace ALL our history AND learn from it so we can do better. We need to do more, and in Zorra we do our part. I spent my Canada Day being smudged, talking with a First Nations Zorra resident, and reading the Truth and Reconciliation Report's Calls to Action. Watch for more action on this.

Seventh generation decision making is about considering the consequences of our decisions on the next seven generations. It is most frequently cited in an environmental context, and that is a great use of it, but it is useful in a broader context too. Decisions we make today will not only affect US tomorrow, but our children's children, and theirs, and our neighbours' grandchildren, and on and on.

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!

Mayor Marcus Ryan

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Zorra Caledonian Society

Rev. George Leslie MacKay Homestead Pillar Restoration by Zorra Caledonian Society



The restoration of the stone pillars flanking either side of the driveway leading up to the Rev. George Leslie MacKay homestead is now complete. Exposure to the elements had left the former pillars in such a poor state, that new footings and a complete rebuild from the ground up was the only sound option.

With the original house gone, these were the only markers left to indicate

the birthplace of Zorra's most famous missionary son & Taiwan's 'Black Bearded Devil'. The ZCS felt that it was important to retain this part of Zorra's early Scottish pioneer heritage and decided to fund and oversee the project. The ZCS Restoration committee would like to thank everyone involved for their time and effort, it is truly appreciated!

The homestead is located on the 10th line in East Zorra-Tavistock, not far from Embro.



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

Karen Martin - Director of Corporate Services
274620 27th Line, P.O. Box 306, Ingersoll, ON N5C 3K5
Ph. 519-485-2490 ext. 7228, Toll Free 1-888-699-3868
kmartin@zorra.ca www.zorra.ca

Zorra Welcomes New Staff

Council and staff are pleased to welcome Deanna Kirwin as the Township's new Fire Chief and Aaron LeDuc as Director of Finance.



Deanna Kirwin

Chief Kirwin has been a volunteer firefighter for six years with Zorra Fire and Emergency Services at Embro Station and was the Township Training Officer. She was formerly employed in the education sector at the public K-12 level and at Conestoga College as Regional Training Center Coordinator – School of Community Services and a program instructor.

Chief Kirwin is responsible for overseeing 60 volunteer firefighters and three fire stations. Additionally, Ms. Kirwin will also be the Township Community Emergency Management Coordinator and will manage and oversee the Township Emergency Management Plan.

Mr. LeDuc was formerly the Manager of Corporate Services with the Long Point Region Conservation Authority. Prior to assuming this position, he was the Supervisor of Finance and Administration for the Conservation Authority. Mr. LeDuc has previous municipal experience with Municipality of South Huron and also with the County of Oxford.

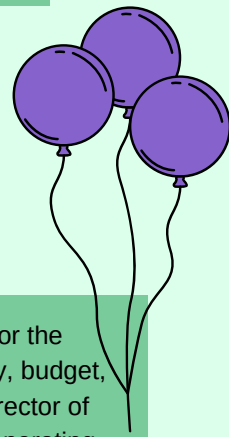
Aaron LeDuc

At Zorra, Mr. LeDuc will be responsible for the Township accounting, purchasing, tax policy, budget, and asset management programs. The Director of Finance manages the Township's annual operating budget of \$8.2 million and annual capital budget of \$6.2 million.

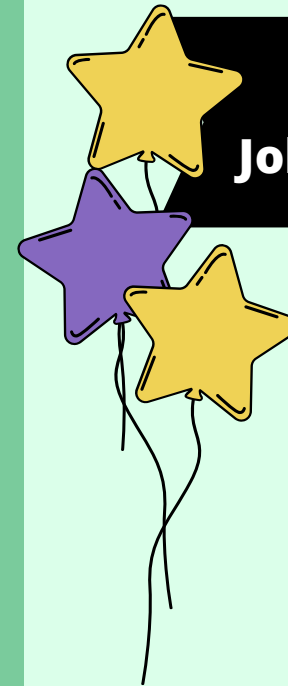


Spencer McDonald

We would also like to welcome Spencer McDonald as the new Planner for the Township of Zorra. Mr. McDonald is responsible for providing professional planning advice and recommendations on all types of planning applications, including official plan amendments, zone change amendments, severances, draft plan of subdivisions, site plan control, and minor variances.



Happy Retirement to John McFarlan and Maureen Simmons



Former Chief John McFarlan began his service with Zorra Fire on January 1, 1981, and worked his way up through the ranks, and was appointed as Thamesford Station Chief on January 24, 2012. Chief John McFarlan was then appointed as Zorra's second Fire Chief and is retiring after nine years as Fire Chief.



The Township's current Director of Finance, Maureen Simmons, is retiring after spending the last 14 years with Zorra. Council and staff wish Maureen and John a long and happy retirement and thank them for the excellent service provided to the residents of Zorra.



Public Works Department

Zorra Maintenance Facility

The Township of Zorra finalized plans to build a new public works maintenance facility, known as the Zorra Maintenance Facility (ZMF) in December 2020. The new maintenance facility is adjacent to the existing shop on Road 78 just east of County Road 119.

When the project was tendered, it was done with a conventional design and a net zero energy use option. The building and sand/salt storage building underwent a thorough review by Council to ensure energy efficiency. The Township received a total of 19 bids on the project with the lowest bid of \$8,005,980 for the conventional gas system. To reach net zero energy, the Township required a solar energy component that will add an additional \$750,000 to the project. Township of Zorra Council has made a commitment to be carbon neutral by 2040. The projected lifespan of the facility is over 50 years and will help the Township achieve its goal by choosing the net zero option.

Construction on the ZMF began in 2021 and is well underway. Exterior works are expected to continue well into the fall that will include the erection of the sand/salt storage building. Interior work will extend into the winter with completion expected early in 2022.



Share the Road

Farm operations are always extremely active in the fall with harvest season. Please pay special attention to the large equipment moving about on Zorra roads. Especially during this busy time of the year, we like everyone to share the road equally, be aware, and be courteous. We know farmers are extremely busy during harvest time and it is important to take that extra care regardless of which vehicle they are using.



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 (no 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 or 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 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.
- 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

A Building Permit is NOT required for a fence.

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.

Mike Hughes,
Chief Building Official/Drainage Superintendent
519-485-2490 ext. 7224
or mhughes@zorra.ca

Oxford County Library

connect. discover. share. become.

**FREE BOOKS.
FREE DAYDREAMS.
FREE IDEAS.**

Discover your
Oxford County
Library



Libraries Open

All OCL branches are open for limited in-person use. For up-to-date library hours, visit www.ocl.net. If unable to visit the library, contact us to arrange curbside service or home delivery.

Check-In Calls

While we welcome the public back into our branches, we recognize some may still find it a challenge to visit in person. Our check-in calling service for seniors, families without transportation, and home-bound individuals can connect you with library services tailored to your needs. Our friendly staff can guide you to online library resources, place holds on library materials, and arrange home delivery or curbside pickup. Call 226-232-5092 to connect with us.

Oxford Reads

This year's book is *The Pull of the Stars* by Emma Donoghue. Ms. Donoghue will join us for a virtual Oxford Reads Gala later in the fall. Stay tuned to www.oxfordreads.ca for program and gala details coming soon.

1000 Books Before Kindergarten

Join the 1000 Books Before Kindergarten challenge at OCL. Reading and sharing books with your child from the moment they are born helps them to develop pre-reader skills for Kindergarten, form a positive attitude towards reading, and encourages bonding. Any child from birth to five years can participate for free. Visit www.ocl.net to sign up and for further details.



connect. discover. share. become.
visit ocl.net

Fire & Emergency Services Department

Fire Prevention Week

Sunday October 3 – 9, 2021

Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety!

Hear a beep, get on your feet! A BEEPING ALARM means smoke or carbon monoxide is present – get out, call 9-1-1, and stay out.



Zorra Firefighters will be running community activities all month long to help communicate this year's message focused on the Sounds of Fire Safety. Below is good review for your family now.

A smoke alarm will let people know if there is a fire in their home.

- Every home needs working smoke alarms.
- If there is smoke, the smoke alarm will make a loud “beep, beep, beep, pause, beep, beep, beep pause.”
- Here are the four important things to do if the smoke alarm makes the “BEEP, BEEP, BEEP” sound:
 1. STOP what you are doing. Get up and walk.
 2. CHOOSE the best way out of the room. Each room should have at least 2 ways out.
 3. GET outside quickly.
 4. GO to your outside meeting place.
- Sometimes a smoke alarm makes a chirp sound, like a chirping bird. That means the battery is not working well or the smoke alarm is getting old.
- When you hear a CHIRP, put in a new battery or get a new smoke alarm.

Embroided Firefighters Association Fireworks Display

Thank you to all that attended the Embro Tractor Pull grounds on July 2nd, 2021 for a Drive-In Style Fireworks Display put on by the Embro Fire Department. Not only are our members of the Zorra Fire Department certified as Firefighters, but many are also licensed to launch commercial fireworks shows allowing them to safely put on the display for the public that evening.

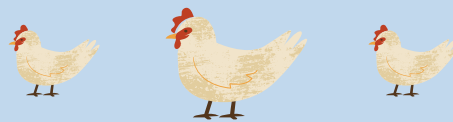
Thank you to the generous community sponsors and other volunteers who helped make the show a success. As a result of donations at the gate \$2,500.00 was donated to the Embro Splash Pad fundraiser

DID YOU KNOW: The July 2nd Embro Fireworks Display was one of the largest in the Province that weekend!

UNIONDALE FIREFIGHTERS

CHICKEN BBQ

Thursday, September 9, 2021, 4:30-7pm | Uniondale Fire Hall



Adults \$20 Half Chicken Dinner | Advance Ticket Sales Only
Take-Out Only

Burn Permits

A reminder that 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 to review the application form and conditions for the new permit, then complete your application!

DID YOU KNOW: Small recreation burns within a ring or fire pit in backyard don't require a permit.

Recreation Burning Reminders

The Township of Zorra recently adopted a new Open-Air Burning By-law in June 2020. 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!

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 4pm 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 2 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 fifteen kilometres per hour or during rainy or foggy weather

New Recruits 2021

Congratulations to the newest members of Zorra Fire for their completion of Recruit Training. This summer the stations welcomed 5 new members into active duty following their completion of 6 months of training with the Rural Fire Services of Oxford County (RFSOC) Fire School. Upon conclusion of this training, each recruit challenged the NFPA provincial written and practical exams, and all were successful in achieving full certification as firefighters. Congratulations on your achievements. Your hard work and dedication is seen within our community and we look forward to your years to come with Zorra Fire.

Embro Station

- Dennis Berkers

Uniondale Station

- Kyle Henshaw
- Rolf Haanstra
- Adam Knoop
- Brian Stoesser



Firefighter Recruitment

Interested in Becoming a Firefighter with Zorra Fire & Emergency Services?

Zorra Fire is currently looking for Firefighters. 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, 2021. The application deadline is **September 30, 2021.**

If you have any questions, please contact Fire Chief Deanna Kirwin at dkirwin@zorra.ca

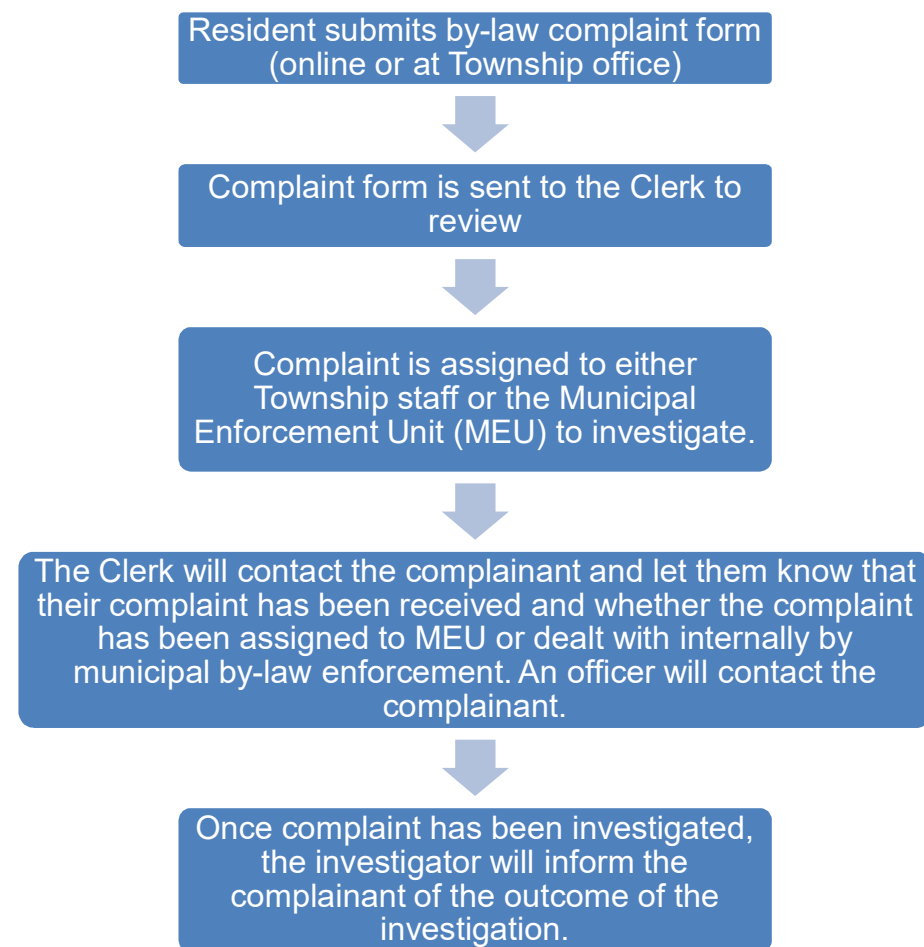
Deanna Kirwin, Fire Chief
519-485-2490 ext. 7240 or dkirwin@zorra.ca

By-Law Enforcement

NEW! Municipal Enforcement Unit

The Township of Zorra is working with the Municipal Enforcement Unit (MEU) to provide by-law enforcement services in Zorra. MEU provides municipal enforcement services throughout Southwestern Ontario. MEU enforces by-laws enacted by the Township of Zorra Council. The goal of the MEU is not to penalize the citizens and/or visitors to our community. Rather, the goal is to educate and provide information that may help residents/visitors realize their mistake, which will help to preserve the quality of life in our Township.

The by-law enforcement process has changed since working with MEU (see below). For additional information on bylaw enforcement, please visit www.zorra.ca.



Recreation Vehicle (RV) Parking:

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

Winter Parking

Please be advised that the winter parking restrictions will be enforced starting November 15th and remain in place until March 31, 2022 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 on to 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.

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 co-operation.

Mathew Paul, By-law Enforcement Officer
519-485-2490 ext. 7230 or 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

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



Our Dog Tag Program is being eliminated at the end of 2021.

What does this mean for you?

- Your current tag is valid until December 31, 2021.
- You can replace your township tag with a personalized tag that will allow others to contact you quickly if your pet is found.
- Residents are encouraged to purchase a new tag by the end of the year. Consider shopping local:
 - WOOF Pet Wellness 519-421-7387
 - Pet Valu Ingersoll 519-425-1544

**Questions? Concerns?
Contact us at 519-485-2490.**



Finance Department

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

Aaron DeLuc, Director of Finance
519-485-2490 ext 7225 or adeluc@zorra.ca

Tax Department

The Final 2021 Tax Bills were mailed in July. If you have NOT received your bill, please contact the Township Office immediately.

The third instalment is due August 31, 2021 and the fourth AND FINAL instalment is due October 29, 2021.

Payment Options:

- Cash, Cheque or Debit accepted at the office
- Online or Telephone banking – to setup your property taxes as a bill payment:
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.
- Monthly Pre-Authorized Payment Plan, either on the instalment dates, or a 10-or 12 monthly payment plan.
- eTransfer payment now accepted. Please send eTransfer payments to accountsreceivable@zorra.ca

Kelly Hall,
Tax Collector/Deputy Treasurer
519-485-2490 ext 7222
or khall@zorra.ca



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 ext. 7221
- Thamesford Community Centre, 85 Middleton Street, Thamesford, ON N0M 2M0 – phone 519-485-2490 ext. 7245
- Embro Zorra Community Centre, 355644 35th Line, Embro, ON N0J 1J0 – phone 519-485-2490 ext. 7251

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 2,699 lbs of batteries to Raw Materials Company for Recycling.

Township of Zorra Committees

Zorra Community Policing Committee

An update from ZCPC Chair, Michael Kukhta

The Zorra Community Policing Committee (ZCPC) is a committee comprised of eight 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 help maintain a strong and productive relationship with the Oxford OPP Detachment and are a forum for discussion and learning.

"The ZCPC held an information session about Community watch programs on 10 June 2021. Constable Patti Cote, Community Safety and Relations Officer from the OPP Oxford detachment explained what these programs are and answered many questions about how they might work in Zorra. Community volunteers set up and run their own neighbourhood activities in partnership with and with the support of police. The approach to policing works in less populated regions like Zorra depends on community support and engagement. We help by being eyes and ears for the police. Community Watch programs are one way to do this. We can also help by calling in activities to the OPP non-emergency number (*OPP or 1-888-310-1122) or Crime Stoppers [1 800 222-TIPS (8477)]. If you don't call in or report a concerning activity, then it is a missed opportunity for collecting data and identifying patterns that the police can work with. If it is an emergency, call 9-1-1. If you are interested in helping form a Community Watch program, you can call in to the Zorra Township office at 519-485-2490 ext. 7231.

We welcomed OPP Sergeant Aaron Happel to our meeting. Last fall Aaron, born and raised in the area, transferred into the Oxford Detachment. We continued our discussion about concerns about All terrain Vehicle (ATV)

and Off Road Vehicle (OFV) use in Zorra. These vehicles are only legally operated on our roads for specific purposes, particularly for farm people who are moving between their properties. We hope you will report to the OPP if you see these vehicles operating without permission on private property or see packs of these ATV/OFV's buzzing around. Call in to *OPP even if you do not have a full description of what occurred. If enough people report, the OPP can start to identify patterns and respond more effectively."

Zorra Recreation Advisory Committee

The Zorra Recreation Advisory Committee (ZRAC) is comprised of seven community members (Derek Collins, Matthew Young, Ann Slater, Brenda Krantz, Katherine Grieve, Sam Coghlan, and Kate Lockhart), Councillor Steve MacDonald, and Councillor Paul Mitchell. 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 have been on hold for the summer months, but the community garden subcommittee of ZRAC has been hard at work. The subcommittee has been working on bringing community gardens to Harrington and Embro this summer. The gardens have been planned, created, and maintained by community members and include any/all types of flowers, non-produce bearing plants and produce-bearing plants. Although the community gardens were a ZRAC initiative, they provide an opportunity for residents to contribute to the gardens.

ZRAC meetings will resume on Tuesday, September 28th.

There is a vacancy on ZRAC. If you are interested in joining the committee, please fill out an application on our website or email clerk@zorra.ca Applications are due Friday, September 15th

Zorra Multi-Use Court Committee

The Zorra Multi-Use Courts Committee is comprised of five (5) community members (Andrew Goodwin, Ashley Herron, Brenda Carnahan, Jeff Ruston, and Julie Riley) and Councillor Katie Davies. The purpose of this committee is to make recommendations to Council on potential multi-use courts being constructed in Zorra Township at the Thamesford District Recreation Centre and the Embro-Zorra Community Centre.

The ZMCC is working towards bringing multi-use courts to Zorra Township. The committee was formed in early 2021 and has been hard at work preparing a project proposal for Council. The project proposal will include recommendations to Council on the location of the courts, number of courts, types of sports the courts will be able to accommodate, materials to be used, and additional features for the courts. The proposal is set to go to Council for their consideration of it at the October 6th, 2021 Council meetings. Updates on the proposal will be posted on the Township website.

Zorra Splash Committee

The Zorra Splash Committee (ZSC) 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 six community members (Crystal Finch, Emily Moitoso, Danika Lyons, Alicia McCall-VanGinkel, Victoria Cybulski, and Debbie Baker), and Councillor Steve MacDonald.

An update from Crystal Finch, Chair of the ZSC:
"The Zorra Splash Committee would like to say a BIG

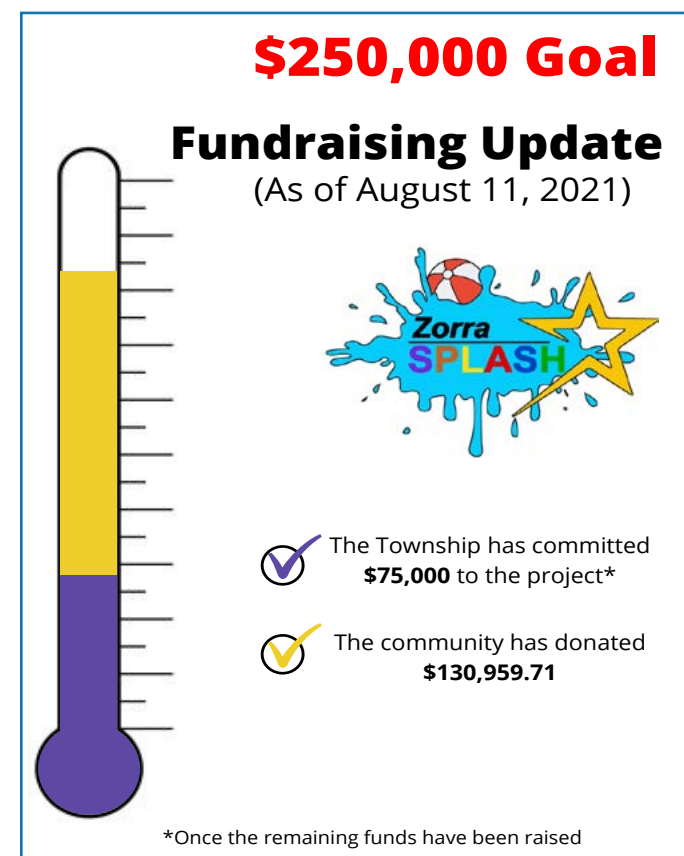
thank you to the Embro community and surrounding Zorra community for their continued support. We had an amazing turn out for the fireworks on July 2nd that were put on by the Embro Fire Department, with a portion of the funds raised going to the splash pad. The fireworks fundraiser raised \$2500! So fantastic. Thank you to everyone for coming out.

The committee also had a Miedema Meats, Alstein Farms, yoga events, and Bear & Fox apparel donating portions of their funds back to the splash pad. We also had a day in August alongside Core Fuels with a car wash and food truck with a portion of the funds being donated to the splash pad. We are so very grateful to all these fantastic people and everyone that participated.

We are so close to our fundraising goal. We are excited to get the shovel in the ground and get this splash pad up and running for 2022. COVID put a bit of a crinkle in a few of our fundraiser and grant opportunities, but we are doing our best to keep pushing forward. With the location picked, we have high hopes we can get the rest of these funds and be digging in 2022.

Be sure to follow us on Facebook at Embro Splash Pad Committee.

Thank you to all!"



Upcoming Committee Meetings

ZMCC – Tuesday, September 14, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. at the Beaty Room, Thamesford Library.

ZSC – Thursday, September 23, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. at the Embro-Zorra Community Centre

ZRAC - Tuesday, September 28, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. at the Municipal Office

ZCPC – Tuesday, October 19, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. at the Municipal Office

For further information on any of the above committees visit the Township of Zorra website at 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.

*Please note that the location of the meetings may change due to the COVID-19 restrictions at the time of the meeting. Any changes to the committee meeting locations will be posted on the Township website and social media pages.

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 or call 519-485-2490 ext. 7223

Rental room rates can also be found online at 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 ssarchuck@zorra.ca or 519-485-2490 for more information!



Registration for Zorra's March Break Camp will open on February 1, 2022. Camp will be offered in both Thamesford and Embro and is available for kids between the ages of 4-11. Visit zorra.ca to register.

WINTER SKATING CALENDAR 2021-2022

| | Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|------------------------------|--|--------|---|-----------|---|--------|------------------------|
| Embro Zorra Community Centre | Shinny (1:00-2:00p.m.) Public Skating (2:00-3:00p.m.) | | Adult Skate (9:30-10:30a.m.) Parent&Tot (10:30- 11:30a.m.) | | | | |
| Thamesford Recreation Centre | Public Skating (2:00-3:00p.m.) | | Shinny (5:00-6:00p.m.) | | Adult Skate (9:30-10:30a.m.) Parent&Tot (10:30 -11:30a.m.) | | Shinny (3:30-4:30p.m.) |

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!

Join us from October 4, 2021 to March 27, 2022

Pickleball popularity continues to rise in Zorra! Drop-in & learn what it's all about!



Pickleball

All abilities and experience welcome!
Equipment is available to use!

WEDNESDAYS
6:00pm - 9:00pm

TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS
9am - 12pm

Thamesford District Recreation Centre
September 7, 2021 - May 19, 2022 (except holidays)
\$3.00





Oxford County Official Plan Update

What's happening?

Later this fall, planning staff will be initiating a review of the County Official Plan. The first phase of this review will focus on proposed updates to the agricultural policies. This will include engaging with the local community on possible changes to the policies which guide the protection of farms and agricultural land, control the creation of new lots in the countryside and allow for secondary business and small industries on farms and rural residential lots.

What is the Official Plan?

The Official Plan is a document that guides all development in Oxford County and applies to all lands within the County. The policies and mapping within it provide direction on where and how the community will grow, the location and type of land uses and associated development review requirements, and the provision of municipal services and facilities. This direction helps guide the local requirements for development set out in the zoning bylaws. The Official Plan also provides direction to help balance social and economic interests while preserving and protecting the natural assets of our community, including agricultural lands and natural spaces.

Why update the Official Plan?

Updating the Official Plan helps ensure that the policies it contains remain current, with Provincial legislation and policies, and reflective of local planning principles and objectives as the community continues to grow and change.

The first part of the Official Plan update will focus on the agricultural policies.

Where can I find more information?

You can find more information online at <https://www.oxfordcounty.ca/OfficialPlanupdate>

How can I stay informed or get involved?

If you would like to be notified about the Official Plan update, upcoming engagement opportunities or have questions please contact Community Planning staff at:

OPupdate@oxfordcounty.ca
519-539-9800
1-800-755-0394



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Steve and Dianne Rounds: 30 Years Doing Business Their Own Way

By Stew Slater

Farming has changed in the 30 years since Steve Rounds found himself without a buyer for a late-harvested crop of dark red kidney beans. Better equipment, refined genetics, and especially tile drainage, he suggests, make it much less likely someone would find themselves in the situation he was in late fall 1990 – forced to come up with an innovative way to sell the beans directly to consumers.

“There’s people going hungry in the world. There’s no reason you can’t sell food,” Rounds told me for an article I wrote at the time for the St. Marys Journal Argus newspaper, about the launch of his and wife Dianne’s now iconic Hillbilly Beans company.

But spend just a few minutes exploring the varied and often unconventional activities he has been involved in since 1990 (and even before that, as a just-out-of-high-school entrepreneur bringing luxury limo service to his smalltown community), and you’ll understand there’s an even bigger reason why no one would likely find themselves doing what he did.

Quite simply, there’s nobody quite like Steve Rounds.

In early 2021, Steve and Dianne celebrated three decades for Hillbilly Beans. And as he weaves through the story of how the family business got to where it is today, you’re struck by a bit of a recurring theme. With Hillbilly Beans, with the limo business, and more recently with the very successful firewood business that Rounds has been operating since 1997, there was always a big splash of media coverage, followed by continuously strong word-of-mouth promotion, and culminating with “I never advertise again.”

With the beans, media coverage showed Steve cooking up big pots of chili and handing out free samples at well-known roadside markets. With the firewood, he got the London Free Press’s Business section interested in his innovation for weighing the product instead of selling it by the

old-style “cord.” Accompanying that article was an eye-catching photo of a smiling Steve Rounds – only his head showing, seemingly buried by an avalanche of firewood. “After that article, I never advertised again,” Rounds recalled.



Steve Rounds next to the pile of firewood ready for delivery at his R.R. 3 Lakeside farm

Rounds was reminded of Hillbilly Beans’ sustained word-of-mouth presence after a recent newspaper article marking the 30th anniversary. After it was published, they got a call from a reader of the Wilmot Post.

“You don’t know me but I’m one of your biggest fans,” the woman said. “I’ve been buying your beans for over 20 years. Don’t stop what you’re doing.”

It all started with that wet fall harvest year. “Put ‘em in a pot and cook ‘em,” he told me for that 1991 Journal Argus article, describing his company’s genesis.

He took a pot of chili to the Trails End market on Highway 2, handing out free samples and selling packages of dry beans to a few satisfied market-goers. That soon grew to 20 quarts of chili and five markets per week stretching from Chatham to Stratford, plus hiring on a then 12-year-old Hugh Seaton of Lakeside -- who now, with his wife Becky, operates the Seaton Ranch artisanal chicken business and credit Rounds as being an early inspiration.

For 10 years they set up booths at those markets. It paid off in sales.

“People get to trust you, and the quality of your product.” But “it doesn’t just happen. You’ve got to do the legwork.” And they certainly did.

Now, Hillbilly Beans – with mixes compiled of various varieties of edible beans grown almost exclusively in Ontario, barley from Ontario, lentils from western Canada and peas mainly from Quebec, along with chickpeas from California and Lima beans from Peru – are still available at those markets through other vendors. Retail stores, though, gradually became more and more important, and Rounds now personally delivers to approximately 40 outlets across the region.

Coyles is their biggest retail outlet by volume. Prior to COVID-19, the unique Tillsonburg store hosted hundreds of tour buses per year, mostly from the United States. The “Hillbilly” name (which came from an off-hand comment made by a passerby at one of Steve Rounds’ early farmers’ market booths) seems to have a particular pull for those US visitors. “I guess people want to take something home showing that there are hillbillies in Canada too . . . There’s something about that name that just has a stroke of genius to it.”

Country Pantry in Heidelberg is a key outlet – for which he attributes a predominantly Mennonite and Amish clientele. “They’re home-cooking folk.” They see a bag of dry beans and immediately have visions of an inexpensive, nutritious meal.

It took COVID-19, though, for those same visions to appear in the minds of many Ontarians living more conventional lifestyles. With food service and restaurant sectors sent into lockdown, suddenly almost everybody became “home-cooking folk.” And Rounds’ simple, straightforward recipes for chili, soup or stew – coupled with the well-documented hysteria about potential food shortages – had consumers scrambling to grab a few pounds of beans before the store shelves ran empty.

There’s also a bulk sales option at Hillbilly Beans, and people began forming unofficial buying clubs with their neighbours and family members, each ordering a few bags so they could compile a bigger bulk order and come to the farm and buy direct. “After 30 years, I just figured I was finally in the right place at the right time.”

“We were really busy” in the early months of the pandemic, Rounds recalled. “We had people coming from the GTA every day for weeks. We had never seen so much bulk sales.”

In the stores and through bulk sales, he wants to be known for a unique and affordable product, good service to the businesses selling that product, and quality and convenience for the consumers buying the product.



Caveman Firestarters that Steve Rounds developed as a value-added element of his firewood business

And that’s a mission that just naturally flowed when Rounds somewhat unexpectedly launched his next great small-turned-moderate-sized business in 1997.

The smaller of Rounds’s two immaculately clean on-farm shops is ringed with newspaper clippings and photos – mostly featuring his own business activities. Several clippings, feature his grandfather Otto Rounds – well-known for his collection of antique farm equipment. One photo shows a smartly-dressed Otto standing in front of his steam engine that he took every year to the Milton Steam Show near Toronto. Smiling from the operator’s seat of the engine is a teenaged Steve Rounds.

On several occasions during the conversation, Steve asserts that he is the way he is because of Otto – which elicits a slight eye-roll from his wife Dianne, as she glances through the doorway into the other immaculately-clean (and much larger) on-farm shop – home to a collection of several restored and customized classic cars and countless vintage signs for such things as gas stations or carmakers. (One of those cars, from 1926, had been sold off when Otto died but Steve bought it back several years later from the man who had purchased and restored it.)

It was Otto's wife though, the very long-lived and well-known to the Lakeside community Bessie, who he says inspired the firewood business. Living across the road from Steve at the time, she called him one day and said the township was taking down 27 maple trees along the 29th Line. Did he want 27 maple trees?

"I said, 'Grandma, I don't even have a chainsaw.' My dad (Clarence) never used a chainsaw. If he had trees on the edge of a field, he would rather bulldoze them into a pile and burn them that cut them up for firewood. He just didn't see value in wood."

"But then I said, 'how hard could it be to cut up 27 maple trees?'"

Steve was farming about 2,000 acres at the time (he doesn't farm his land nowadays) and had a couple of employees. He bought some chainsaws and a couple of wood splitters. And they went to work.

He grew up knowing the value of hard work though, so he doesn't remember that mammoth undertaking as being too exhausting. What he does remember was that, by early November, about 200 cords of high-quality firewood had been piled in an idled gravel pit on his farm. And an ad had been placed in the Free Press for "firewood for sale" at \$50 per cord.

"We sold it all. And I had all this cash before Christmas," he smiled. "I thought I had died and gone to heaven."

He spent the winter conceiving of ways to grow and refine the business. The business section coverage came after he adapted a tractor-loader weigh scale designed for gravel pits so he could sell firewood by the pound. "People told me 'you can't sell firewood by weight. It's just not the way it's done.'"

He tells a story, though, of a customer who receives his delivery stacked into a small outbuilding on his property. Delivery after delivery, there are exactly three pieces of wood left that simply won't fit inside the building. The customer eventually asked Steve how he manages such precision. "Do you count the pieces when you load them?"

"No, I told him. I weigh it!"

Efficiency came through the custom manufacture in 2005 of a huge woodsplitter, exerting 100 tonnes of pressure and capable of tackling logs three feet in diameter and 10 feet in length.

He started out "following around the township trucks" and gathering logs taken down for construction projects. That evolved into specializing in single-site projects that he didn't have to drive as much for to retrieve the logs. In particular, he recalls a London Airport expansion that yielded enough logs that it took him three years to sell the resulting firewood.

Nowadays, he typically purchased tractor-trailer loads of "firewood quality" logs delivered to him by logging companies around southern Ontario.

It's coming up to autumn –the busy season for both Hillbilly Beans and firewood. But after 30 years, Steve Rounds shows no signs of slowing down. He says he'll get through it as he always has – waking up every day and getting done what needs to be done, and then doing it again the next day. Just as he learned from his parents and grandparents.

"I feel very lucky," he says. "I've met a whole lot of interesting people along the way, and doing things the way I do means I'll probably meet a lot more."



Steve and Dianne Rounds in the farm shop.
Photo credit: St. Marys Independent Newspaper

OPEN HOUSE & PUBLIC FEEDBACK

For Zorra Municipal Centre

Child Care

Municipal Office & Community Offices

Fitness Facility

Dates:

**September 14 @ 6:30 p.m. (Thamesford District Recreation Centre),
September 21 @ 6:30 p.m. (Embro Zorra Community Centre),
and September 28 @ 6:30 p.m. (Virtual)**



YOUR FEEDBACK IS IMPORTANT TO US!

Please attend one of our public meetings or email us your comments at zmc@zorra.ca

The Township Council is hosting three public information sessions on a proposal to relocate the Township Office to one of the structures on the former Maple Leaf Foods property in Thamesford.

The main level would be home to a licensed child care facility with space for 70 children. The YMCA of Southwestern Ontario has approached the Township to operate a fitness facility on the first floor of the building. This would see the Township Office on the second story of the building. It is also proposed that a small portion of the third story would be used for community office spaces that would be available for rent on a daily, weekly or monthly basis. The entire structure would be barrier free, fully accessible and serviced by an elevator. The building would be known as the Zorra Municipal Centre (ZMC).

Financial information on the proposal will be provided at the open houses and will also be available at www.zorra.ca one week before the first open house.

A Slowed Down Day in Zorra Township

A slowed down day in Zorra. Now THAT's what we're talking about. No need to rush. No need to stand in long lines. Just enjoy the back roads. On this itinerary, you'll find everything from tasty coffee to your next great hike and a cozy woodshop.

Stop 1: Sheldon Berries
276347 27th Line Lakeside

Sheldon Berries is a great spot to spend the first part of a beautiful day! Pick your own blueberries, raspberries and strawberries when in season or enjoy ready-picked in their on-farm store. Travel down raspberry tunnels, be awed by their great selection of local produce and take in the beauty of Oxford's rural farmland.

Stop 2: Kintore Coffee
117 Huron St. Embro

Kintore Coffee's cafe in Embro is the perfect spot to grab an excellent cup of coffee. Stocking a great selection of local goods like sandwiches, kombucha and their signature cold brew, you'll love the space.

Stop 3: Embro Pond & Conservation Area
843972 Rd. 84 Embro, ON.

Just three minutes away, this easy-going, scenic trail is the perfect way to get out in Mother Nature. Well-maintained with mostly packed earth and wood chips, there are several different loops to try to make the trail longer or keep it short and sweet. It's equipped with parking, picnic tables and shelters. On your way, checkout one of the area's many markets, grabbing some picnic goodies and taking them out to a great spot along the trail.

Kintore Custom Hardwoods
155999 15th Line, Kintore, ON.

When emerald ash borer devastated southern Ontario, the Houston family's woodlot, which was about 60-70% ash was hit hard. Not to be defeated, the Houstons put their money together to make use of the wood and purchased a saw mill. Fast forward to today as they sell kiln-dried lumber as well as custom furniture, charcuterie boards and more. Check out their beautiful showroom nestled on their quiet farm property.

Want to make this a true staycation? Consider booking you and your bubble into a wonderful stay at Spruce Lea Gatherings on the backroads of Thamesford!



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| | Size | Rate (HST included) |
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| 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 |

For further information and to book your space please email:
zorraadvertising@rogers.com

New Facility Signs
High-speed fibre optic internet expanding in Zorra

Pg. 12
Pg. 24

SENIOR OF THE YEAR - JIM KERON



Congratulations to Jim Keron, this year's recipient of the Senior of the Year award! COVID has changed the way we've done things and there have been less opportunities for residents to give back to the community. Jim has found ways to keep giving to the community during the pandemic when so many shut down. He used his tech knowledge to create opportunities for everyone to have access to participation in the Thamesford Lions Club. Lions were able to make choices that they were comfortable with and felt safe, and were able to keep doing great things for the community. The theme for the Senior of the Year award this year is "Stay safe, active, and connected." This is exactly what Jim has done for the Zorra community. Thank you for doing your part Jim!

THANK YOU! ★ ★ ★ To Our Volunteers and Seniors

Every year the Township of Zorra hosts a breakfast for our volunteers and seniors to show our appreciation. In light of the COVID-19 outbreak, the Township was unable to host the breakfast last year and will not be hosting this year as well.

We 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 that you do your part for Zorra!



Thamesford Lions Club

Thamesford Lions Community Events



"Catch The Ace" Progressive Raffle

Weekly Prize Draws • 8PM Tuesday evenings at Brunny's Sports Bar & Grill
Tickets can be purchased in Thamesford from:
Dewy's Auto • Village Catering & Deli • JC Graphics
McFarlan Rowlands Insurance • Shell Gas Station
Tickets can be purchased in Embro from:
Highland Restaurant
Contact: Lion Tony 519-285-3618

Takeout BBQ

Saturday, September 25, 2021 • Time – TBD
Thamesford District Recreation Centre
Contact: Lion Sheldon, sheldonwade81@yahoo.ca

**Look For The Latest On Thamesford Lions Club Events
on the "Thamesford Lions" Facebook page!**

SOUTH PARK PAVILION

During the pandemic of 2020, the Thamesford Lions partnered with the Township of Zorra on a joint project to build a new timber frame pavilion in the Lions South Park. This fulfilled a promise we made to Lions International to build something permanent in our local community to honor 100 years of Lionism in Canada. Our club was truly grateful for the financial support we received from the community to bring this project to completion. In addition, the project received a donation from Lions District A-15 and several Lions Club members made personal donations & helped with several other aspects of the project.



Lions Glenn & Joe and Mayor Marcus Cut the Ribbon

On December 12th, 2020, the pavilion was officially opened by township Mayor Marcus Ryan, along with our remaining 60-year Charter Member Joe Wallace and pavilion committee chair Glenn Ross.

Make sure you keep an eye out for further changes in our local parks. The Thamesford Lions are always looking at projects to bring improvements throughout the village!

Beachville District Museum



While the pandemic closures carried on through until the spring, museum staff was busy with behind-the-scenes planning and preparations. In May, we celebrated Museum Week with many other institutions across the globe. We re-housed upwards of 500 artifacts from the museum's off-site storage facility, finding new space for them in the museum's main building. We also took a few batches of artifacts off of display for rest periods. This allowed us to introduce other artifacts into our permanent exhibits – pieces that had long remained in storage and inaccessible to the public.

The property committee and our groundskeeper, Claude, remained active in late June by



Re-housing



Bridge Work

repairing both of the footbridges that extend over the creek by our west lawn. The east bridge, once repaired, was also repainted.

We had our Summer Activity Coordinators hired in June, through Young Canada Works. These new staff members, Erin and Zoe, sourced supplies, finalized themes and prepared schedules for 8 weeks of our summer camp program. We launched our online

booking platform during the first week of June and, immediately, were struck with a rush of registrations. We are so grateful that in the midst of the pandemic, local families were eager to register, follow all COVID guidelines and participate in this program. It has been wonderful to see the campers crafting, playing outdoors and making new friends. Summertime at the museum is more vibrant because they are out having fun and exploring the site.

We were also excited to finally enter Stage 3 of re-opening in July, when the South-Western Ontario Baseball Pass was officially launched. Our museum has partnered with Tourism London, Labatt Memorial Park, the London Majors Alumni Association, and the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame on this project. The pass gives its holders access to new tours at the world's oldest ballpark in London, ON, the Hall of Fame in St. Mary's and our museum exhibits. The Baseball Pass can be purchased online at swobaseballpass.com.



SWO Baseball Pass

We're excited to play a role in sharing Ontario's baseball histories with new audiences.

We, once again, missed out on our annual summer barbecue. We typically host this event with the intention of connecting with the community at the end of the busy summer season. In spite of the event cancellations that have resulted from lockdowns, the fundraising committee of the Beachville District Historical Society has adapted.

They coordinated an exciting summer celebration raffle with outstanding support from sponsors, Woodstock Home Building Centre, McKim's Home Hardware, JTK Meat Shoppe, the Ingersoll Creative Arts Centre, Jakeman's Maple Syrup, the Beachville Legion and Leaping Deer Farm Bakery. We want to thank these local organizations and businesses for their generosity. All proceeds from this fundraiser will be directed to improve the walkways leading to the museum's entrances. The winning raffle tickets will be pulled at the Beachville District Museum on August 31st at 4:30pm. Tickets were available for purchase at the museum and online through the museum's website www.beachvilledistrictmuseum.com.

The museum officially re-opened to the general public after the Civic Holiday – on August 3rd. This presented new opportunities to share digital content from our Prezi online exhibits with returning visitors. We also re-launched our grounds tour brochure and online content. This allows museum-goers to explore the artifacts, structures and wildlife that scatter our property.

This fall, we look forward to picking up our roles as research supporters, program organizers, rental facilitators and school-group educators. We'll be hiring for the roles of Education and Exhibition Coordinators through the Young Canada Works – Building Careers in Heritage Internships and looking to engage with members of our community as they inch back to their new normal.

The **BEACHVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY** is having a **SUMMER CELEBRATION RAFFLE.**

The draw will be Tuesday, August 31st at 4:30PM at the Beachville District Museum. Purchase tickets at the Beachville District Museum.



Proceeds go towards refurbishing the Beachville District museum's sidewalks.

Thank you to all of our sponsors for their generous donations: Woodstock Home Building Centre, McKim's Home Hardware, JTK Meat Shoppe, the Ingersoll Creative Arts Centre, Jakeman's Maple Products, the Beachville Legion and Leaping Deer Adventure Farm + Market.

Tickets are \$5.00 each or 3 for \$10.00

Embroid Minor Baseball

Embroid Minor Baseball Association is a collection of volunteers dedicated to growing our fastball program in Embroid. By working together, we provide a safe and positive atmosphere for youth in our community to learn the sport of fastball. We value teamwork, leadership, commitment, and inclusiveness.



Louie Turpin and Ryder Aarts

EMBA has grown exponentially in the past few years. From having only one team in 2018, we have grown to include both boys and girls' youth teams, learn to play programs, and adult co-ed slo-pitch. Our teams continued to thrive in 2021 despite a challenging "pandemic season" and we look forward to what 2022 has to offer.

With all of the growth EMBA has experienced, means growth in our facilities and playing fields. We continue to work with the Township of Zorra to make safe and beautiful ball diamonds that Zorra can be proud of. Some highlights of park improvements include shade structures built for team benches, updated accessibility,



U8 groups Embroid 1 vs Embroid 2 playing at Matheson Park



U12 team practicing in the newly revamped Harrington Diamond

reworked parking lots, and painted washroom facilities at Matheson Park. The Zorra Recreation Department has secured funding through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure program to replace the lighting system at Matheson Park and has also fully reworked Harrington ball diamond to playable condition! We thank our Township for their efforts in making our community vibrant and we look forward to filling the Matheson and Harrington parks with teams for years to come.

It's true what they say, "it takes a village" and there are many people to thank for the growth of our programs. To our community, coaches, parents, players and many volunteers in between we appreciate your support and look forward to many more years of fastball in Embroid.

Yours In Ball,
Embroid Minor Baseball Executive
Natalie Berg, Sonya Green, Jill Whetstone, Emily Grieve, Jeff Wilks & Jenn Leversage



Embroid U10 age group vs Hickson Tigers

SAVE A LIFE TODAY.

STOP

LOOK

& LOOK AGAIN

DRIVERS: Did you know?
Every year the OPP investigates thousands of intersection-related motor vehicle collisions that result in serious injury and death. The majority of these collisions are the result of distracted, careless and inattentive driver behavior, and are among the most preventable of collisions. **Road safety is everyone's responsibility!**

KNOW THE LAW

- A stop sign means you must come to a complete stop.
- Stop at the stop line if it is marked on the pavement.
- If there is no stop line, stop at the edge of the intersection.
- Wait until all traffic is clear before entering the intersection.

TAKE THE TIME TO STOP, LOOK... & LOOK AGAIN



The Thamesford Trojans had a very successful big yellow bag fundraiser this past spring. Through the give and grow program we were able to receive a cheque for \$350.00. With your support we sold 35 big yellow bags with \$10.00 from every bag sold going back to the Trojans.

The Thamesford Trojans would like to thank you for your support.

2020 saw our season come to an abrupt halt due to the pandemic but don't worry we are planning to put a top-notch team on the ice for the 2021-2022 season.

Please watch the Village Voice and the sign at the Shell station for further updates.

The Thamesford Trojan golf tournament was held Sunday August 15, 2021 at Forest City National.

Thanks to everyone who came out and supported the Trojans.

Todd Arthur
Thamesford Trojans



2022 Embro Dinner Theatre

Embro & Zorra Agricultural Society Presents

“Splitsville”

by Linda Lloyd-McKenzie

Directed by Norm Northmore • Produced by Sara Stephenson & Kim Jakeman

Casting Needs:

Five Females 20-65 yrs and two Males 40-65 yrs

Auditions will be held late October / early November

Contact Sara Stephenson (519-533-7199) or Kim Jakeman (519-801-8400) for more information

Reading Scripts are available at Workshop Supply (100 Commissioners St Embro, 519-475-4947)

Tickets go on sale at Box Office Sat. Dec. 11th 2021 at 8a.m. at the Embro Zorra Community Centre.

Show dates:

Saturday Feb. 26th (Dinner & Show) - \$40

Sunday Feb. 27st (Brunch & Show) - \$40

Thursday Mar. 3rd (Cocktail Hour with Cash Bar & Show) - \$20

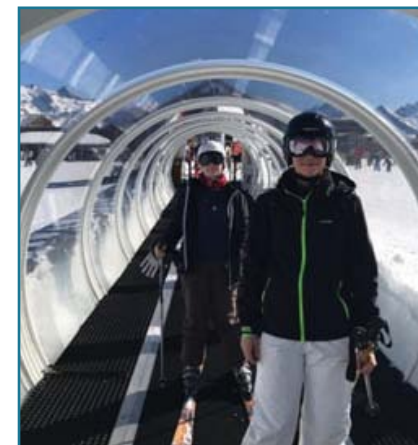
Friday Mar. 4th (Dinner & Show) - \$40

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

www.embrofair.com

International Student Exchanges Restarting

February 2022 will see the first flights of international exchange students pioneering a return to reciprocal experiences in Zorra and five European nations. France, Germany, Italy, Switzerland and Spain will welcome students between 13 and 18 years of age for nine week stays. The Spring return to Ontario will not mean never seeing your partner – Look to their arrival in late August 2022!



Pioneering? Zorra's Jessica Hatch was the first student in Oxford to layer a bursary onto her exchange. Not only did she live well in France, but she also

brought back fascinating comparisons of public transit solutions for Oxford and Ontario. She accessed her personal experience with bike-to-bus-to-train connections as well as European facts to produce a much-applauded presentation, thus enriching her fun, adding to our knowledge, and tapping into a bursary to help with her exchange costs. As for living in France – Magnifique! Encore?



Germany! Ja! Wunderbar! A culture focused on athleticism and art, a history we share, and enthusiasm for life! Knowing that 40% of English is German, you will acquire communicative language while enjoying the best wurst. Italy is characterized by la dolce vita, the jaw-dropping sublime beauty of mountain lakes in the north. Switzerland, a multilingual federation, shares diverse landscapes with Canada, but unlike our likeable flatlands has Alpine meadows and peaks. Watch hang-gliders leap from La Salève and circle over Lake Geneva's massive fountain. In Spain there is much to gain! It has ocean beaches to rival Lake Huron's, but with salt-water seas. It has ancient living hilltop towns. Clatter on cobblestones; stomp and clack castanets with flamencos; or, hear the hush of Alhambra, Grenada. Pick one, and pick up a bursary along the way.

Start your engines, pilots! For applications, information and more local connections visit www.iseontario.on.ca Bon Voyage! GuteReise! En Route! BuonViaggio! FelizViaje!



Embro & Zorra Agricultural Society

Join us to help celebrate our great community!

Sept 3rd Birdhouse Contest Ends

Sept 11th Fall Front Porch Display Submissions Due

Sept 15th Virtual Baby Show Entries Due
Pumpkin Prince & Princess Weights Due

Sept 18th Outdoor Movie at Embro Zorra Community Centre

Sept 19th Embro Parade & Artisan Market

Ongoing Standing Field Crops Competition

Follow along at www.embrofair.com for more information and for our sign up sheets

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 lteeple@zorra.ca for more information! Drop by our office and see what we have to offer! #ShopLocal

Watch The Oxford Shopping Channel - Rural Oxford Series



Community Futures Oxford | Branding The Social Factory Web Design | Rural Oxford Economic Development | Puffin Media | TOUR OXFORD

oxfordshoppingchannel.ca

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Oxford County 4-H Association



Congratulations to George M. Thornton, Kintore area of Oxford County, on receiving the Oxford 4-H Volunteer Tribute Award posthumously in 2019.



This award is open to all 4-H volunteers, present, past, or posthumously, including club leaders and non-traditional volunteers, who have made a difference to Oxford 4-H. Nominees must have shown significant leadership and initiative and made a positive impact on 4-H in Oxford County (club, county). Nominee's involvement in other community activities/organizations are considered as well. 4-H Volunteers can be nominated more than one time, but only receive the award once.

The recipient has a tree planted or bench placed in their local community in their honour. There is a plaque put beside the tree or on the bench for recognition. The recipient's name is also put on the Oxford 4-H Volunteer Tribute Award plaque. There was a personalized bench made through the College Avenue Secondary School welding program and placed at the Kintore Methodist Cemetery in May this year for George. The bench includes George's farm name, logos of Hereford Association, 4-H and Optimist Club.

George was a member of Oxford 4-H and then became a volunteer in the late 1970's with the



Beef Club. His family was very involved with 4-H—his mother being a Homemaking Leader, sister's Margaret & Beth being members with Margaret being a 4-H Volunteer too with Oxford 4-H, his brother Alfred being a member and his Dad being a big supporter of whatever event or activity his family was involved with in 4-H. Alfred made the Oxford 4-H Volunteer Tribute Award plaque for Oxford 4-H when the award was created in 2003.

George's passion for beef farming was shown through his involvement with the Beef 4-H Club that he was a leader with and other beef clubs in the County in which he helped with when needed. He was always willing to give a hand or provide information about the beef industry. He was also involved with the Sheep 4-H Club in Oxford County.

George was involved with the Oxford County 4-H Association for many years—not sure when he started, but he retired from the Board of Directors in 2010. He did hold the position of President in the 1980's. George attended meetings faithfully for years and was a quiet person. When he wanted to provide some information to a subject being discussed—it was time for everyone to listen to him with his valuable insight.

George was always willing to help behind the scenes at 4-H events like the Judging Competition. Whether he provided classes or overseeing the quiz stations, George was there to help the youth grow and develop.

George was so passionate about the 4-H program, he wanted to see it continue for many, many years to come. He generously donated a portion of his estate to the

Oxford County 4-H Association upon his death in December 2012. As noted by the words of George Thornton's brother, Alfred Thornton, at the Oxford County 4-H AGM, November 2014: "Trust that Oxford 4-H will use this money in the best way possible to allow 4-H members to learn head, hands, heart and health and to continue this value system that we share into the future. Farmers learn at a young age that planting seeds in well-managed soil will produce crops that can sustain life, and I hope this money will sustain Oxford 4-H for generations long after we are all gone. Education, Showing Cattle, Farm life, farm and management skills should all benefit from this legacy my Mother, Father, Sisters, Brother and myself now leave in your care."

Oxford 4-H has tried to make contributions to the 4-H program in the past 8 years with the George Thornton Bequest with the following projects:

2014 – 4-H Expo – daylong interactive sessions featuring current Oxford County 4-H projects

2015 – 100 Trees for 100 Years of 4-H in Ontario, planted in cooperation with the Upper Thames Conservation Authority at Pittock Park, Woodstock, by 4-H members, volunteers and families

2016 – new 4-H logo metal sign for each member and volunteer

2017 – Oxford County 4-H Showcase with guest Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, coroplast "Parts of the Dairy Cow" poster, Pittock Park 100 Trees for 100 Years sign unveiling and tree check

2018 – \$100 per project paid to each 4-H project in Oxford County registered between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2018

2019 -- \$100 per project paid to each 4-H project in Oxford County registered between July 1, 2018 and June 30, 2019. And subsidize Oxford 4-H youth membership for 2020 by \$10 each

2020 -- \$150 per project paid to each 4-H project in Oxford County registered between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020. And subsidize Oxford 4-H youth membership for 2021 by \$15 each.

2021 -- \$200 per project paid to each 4-H project in Oxford County registered between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021.

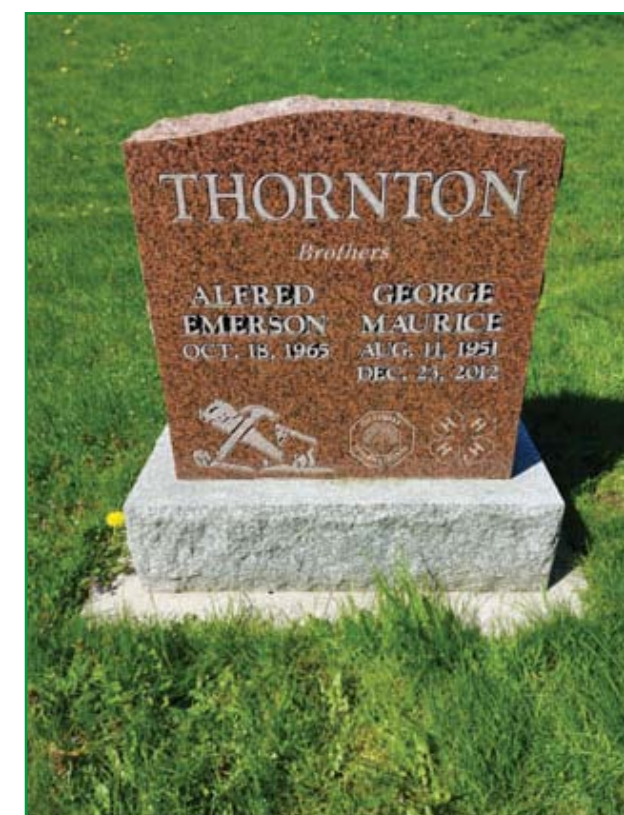
George's commitment was not only to the 4-H program. He was a lifelong member of Chalmers United Church in Kintore and a member of the Kintore Optimist Club.

Throughout George's life, he had the challenge with his health with muscular dystrophy, but never made that an excuse to not help wherever he could.

George's thoughtfulness and generosity in helping to make the 4-H program last for years to come to help youth in Oxford County become good citizens within their community is greatly appreciated.

Other recipients of the Oxford 4-H Volunteer Tribute Award are Gwen King, Lynn Blum, Audrie Boughner, Janet Wilson, Laura Green, Marian Sterk, Janet Fleming, Dean Karn, Barb McIntosh, Russell Dickout, Katherine Grieve, Jakeman's Maple Products and Shonna Ward. These recipients have either had a tree planted or bench placed in their community.

To learn more about the award, nominate someone or about the 4-H program, please contact the Oxford 4-H Communications Coordinator at oxfordcounty4h@gmail.com.



Township Contacts

Council



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



**Ward 1 Councillor
Ron Forbes**
642960 Road 64, RR 3
Ingersoll, ON N5C 3J6
Email: rforbes@zorra.ca
Cell: 519-709-4527



**Ward 2 Councillor
Katie Davies**
168 George Street
Thamesford, ON N0M 2M0
Email: kdavies@zorra.ca
Tel: 226-268-4495



**Ward 3 Councillor
Paul Mitchell**
963229 Road 96, RR 2
St. Marys, ON N4X 1C5
Email: pmitchell@zorra.ca
Tel: 519-349-2271



**Ward 4 Councillor
Steve MacDonald**
455703 45th Line, RR 5
Embros, ON N0J 1J0
Email: smacdonald@zorra.ca
Cell: 519-475-4219

Upcoming Council Meetings

*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.

September 1 at 9:00 a.m.
September 15 at 6:00 p.m.
October 6 at 9:00 a.m.
October 20 at 6:00 p.m.
November 3 at 9:00 a.m.
November 17 at 9:00 a.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 -
Karen Martin**
Phone: 519-485-2490 Ext. 7228
Email: kmartin@zorra.ca

Planner - Spencer McDonald
Phone: 519-539-0015 Ext. 3205
Email: jsmcdonald@oxfordcounty.ca

**Deputy Chief Building Official/ 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 - Aaron Deluc
Phone: 519-485-2490 Ext. 7225
Email: aleduc@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: jbelleau@zorra.ca

Keep up to date on news and events in Zorra Township

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Township of Zorra

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 - Deanna Kirwin
Phone: 519-485-2490 Ext. 7240
Email: dkirwin@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 - John Renkema
Phone: 519-520-6502
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

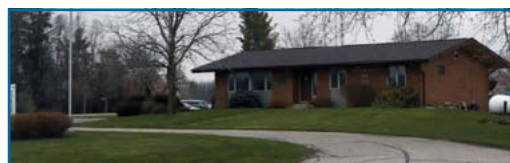
Phone: 519-485-2490 Option 4, then 1
Email: booking@zorra.ca

Recreation Facilities

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

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

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



Community Contact Listing

Minor Sports

Embro:
Embro Minor Hockey Assoc. 519-475-6515
Zorra Skating Club www.zorraskatingclub.ca
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 Jr. PJHL Hockey Club 519-285-3618
Thamesford Minor Baseball Jay Bruinsma
jaybruinsma@gmail.com 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 Barnett 519-533-2208
Embro Highland Games/
Zorra Caledonian Society 519-475-4451
Thamesford Lion's Club
Scott Barr, President 519-520-9016
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 oxford4-h@xplonnet.com

Other

Alzheimers Society 519-421-2466
1-877-594-2368
Beachville District Museum 519-423-6497
Big Brothers Big Sisters of
Ingersoll, Tillsonburg & Area 519-485-1801
or 519-842-9000
ingtburg@bigbrothersbigsisters.ca
www.sharethefun.org

Calithumpian Committee
Rebecca Garrod 519-535-9198
Canadian Blood Services 888-236-6283
Canadian Cancer Society 888-939-3333
Canadian Red Cross 519-539-0265
Children's Aid Society, Oxford County 519-539-6176
Crime Stoppers 800-222-TIPS
Cuckoos Nest Folk Music 519-473-2099
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 519-475-4530
Ontario Early Years Programs 800-539-9800
OPP 800-265-7191
Oxford County Jr. Farmers 519-469-3281
Oxford County Federation of Agriculture 519-852-8856
Oxford District Women's Institute 519-475-4502
South West Community Care Access Centre
519-539-1284
info-woodstock@sw.ccac-ont.ca
Thamesford Block Parents 519-285-1126
Thamesford Business Association 519-285-3249
Thamesford Public Library 519-285-3219
Thamesford Snowmobile Club
Harold Hacon (trails) 519-461-0855
David Blight (President) 519-432-2729
Thistle Theatre - Chris Cockle 519-475-4201
Tiny Paws Dog Rescue
Linda Collier www.tpdr.ca
VON Oxford 519-539-1231
VON Sakura House 519-537-8515
Welcome Wagon 519-485-2990
Wienerfest - Linda Collier 519-285-5123
Women's Canadian Club 519-471-8924

Places of Worship

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

East Nissouri 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.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, 385 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 road side or near private property, they offer the land owner two trees to replace the one that was removed. The two trees are for planting on their private property. In 2020, 250 6'-8' sugar maple trees were planted through this program. Fill out the Tree Replacement Form on the Zorra website www.zorra.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.



Our memorial tree signs have been Zorra-fied! New signs have been erected in Grace Patterson Park, Embro Conservation Area and Harrington Conservation Area in the Township of Zorra official colours.



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



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2021-2022 WASTELINE CALENDAR

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 Set-outs should be clearly visible from the road, placed on a level surface no more than 1 m (3.3 ft.) from the curb or roadside.

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