

# Zorranow

COMMUNITY EVENTS & SERVICES MAGAZINE

Spring 2021



**New Facility Signs**

**pg. 12**

**High-speed fibre optic  
internet expanding in Zorra**

**pg. 24**

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## Message from the Mayor

A lot has changed since the Winter edition of Zorra Now. When I wrote that we were yet to enter lockdown and a new State of Emergency, and now (March 24th) we are

back to “Orange - restrict” and vaccinations have begun in earnest.

Following the advice of public health has been very effective in keeping our numbers low in Zorra. Let us continue to control our situation by following the best advice available to us. Let us do our part and keep our community safe, and schools, businesses, and services open.

Zorra Township Council has passed the 2021 budget as follows:

- 2021 Approved General Levy \$8,927,328.50 or a 2.35% increase over 2020. However, because of the growth in assessment (new builds) this will result in the “average residential property” paying the same property taxes as last year.
- That is 0% Zorra residential tax increase and 0% Oxford residential tax increase in 2021.

Final impact on your property tax bill will not be known until decisions have been made by Oxford County council on tax ratios and the Province of Ontario establishes the 2021 Education tax rates.

At the last Zorra Council meeting of the year Council decided to award a contract to build a new

Zorra Maintenance Facility south of Kintore to replace the two existing facilities.

Making commitments is easy. Keeping them is hard.

The commitments that Council made were: “We are a prosperous community that provides opportunities to work and shop in our community and to grow in a sustainable manner”, “we are an environmentally conscious community, are good stewards of our natural environment and we protect our environment by valuing our natural assets and using our resources wisely”, and “commit to 100% use of Renewable Energy by 2040”.

Our commitments mean a lot to me. It is a matter of principle. Too often politicians make commitments and then do not do the hard work of meeting them. This Zorra Maintenance Facility decision was a test of Council’s ability to meet those commitments to residents.

I am very proud of the decision Council made on this project. It has taken many years, more than one Council, and countless reports answering council’s questions, and analyzing all the options, to arrive at this point.

The existing buildings are long overdue for replacement, and not suitable for housing or maintaining the modern equipment needed to maintain our roads.

Because of the way this project has been planned for and financed over the last ten years there will be NO IMPACT on 2021 property taxes for this building. Additionally, because of the choice of geothermal

heating powered by solar panels through net metering, the building will cost less over its lifespan than a conventional natural gas building. Zorra residents will be protected against rising energy costs and carbon taxes.

On top of all that, it uses 100% renewable energy and significantly reduces the Township’s pollution and carbon footprint.

Council did its part to meet ALL our commitments: We strive to make Zorra better by doing our part, Zorra is progressive, environmentally conscious, economically strong, and prosperous.

In addition to last year’s SWIFT announcement to service the northern third of the Township with fibre, Council has agreed to work with Quadro telecommunications to bring a fibre optic line south on 15th Line to service Thamesford and properties along 15th Line. Council also wrote a letter of support for Execulink Telecom for a provincial funding application for a project that would extend fibre optic coverage to the remaining areas of Zorra south of Road 84 not presently serviced by high-speed internet, the above Quadro project, or the previously announced SWIFT project.

### Proposed Southwest Landfill update:

Under the Planning Act any applicant is entitled to a fair hearing as their planning application(s) proceeds. Council members must not take an opinion in favour of, or opposed to, any application in advance of rendering a decision on any planning matter. For a municipality to take a position before even considering a planning application would be considered “bad faith” and leave the Township, and any of its decisions, vulnerable to appeal or a court challenge.

It would be a great shame if a council member, in an effort to appease immense public pressure, publicly stated a position that could then legally undermine their ability to deliver the desired result for their community.

There is more detail in a “backgrounder” we released to explain Zorra’s role and position in the process: search “backgrounder” at zorra.ca

Your Joint Municipal Coordinating Committee is expecting the final Peer Review Team report by June.

I can assure you that the Zorra Strategic Plan commitments will be considered by Council in that decision.

If you have input on the proposal, I encourage you to also submit your input to Walker as they are obliged to include it in their Environmental Assessment application to the Provincial Ministry of the Environment.

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 to. 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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JC Graphics Thamesford

# Development Charges

Municipalities in Ontario use Development Charges (DCs) to recover growth related capital costs associated with residential and non-residential growth. In accordance with the Development Charges Act, DCs are collected at the building permit stage to help pay for municipal services needed to support the new development. These services include water, wastewater, emergency services, roads, and more.

## NOTICE OF PASSING OF DEVELOPMENT CHARGES BY-LAW

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Township of Zorra passed municipal-wide development charges By-law No. 18-21 on the 7th, day of April, 2021 under section 2(1) of the *Development Charges Act, 1997, S.O., 1997 c.27*, as amended;

AND TAKE NOTICE that any person or organization may appeal to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal under section 14 of the Act, in respect of the development charges by-law, by filing with the Clerk of the Township of Zorra on or before the **10th day of May, 2021** a notice of appeal setting out the objection to the by-law and the reasons supporting the objection.

The schedule of development charges imposed by the by-law, which came in to effect on **April 7, 2021**, is as follows:

### SCHEDULE B By-law No.18-21

Service/Class	RESIDENTIAL				NON-RESIDENTIAL	
	Single and Semi-Detached Dwelling	Apartments - 2 Bedrooms +	Apartments - Bachelor and 1 Bedroom	Other Multiples	(per m2 of Gross Floor Area)	(per Wind Turbine)
<b>Municipal Wide Services/Class of Service:</b>						
Fire Services	650	347	234	408	2.23	650
Roads and Related	2,459	1,311	887	1,545	8.44	2,459
Parks & Recreation	1,435	765	518	901	3.44	-
Growth-Related Studies	227	121	82	143	0.71	227
<b>Total Municipal Wide Services/Class of Services</b>	<b>4,771</b>	<b>2,544</b>	<b>1,721</b>	<b>2,997</b>	<b>14.82</b>	<b>3,336</b>

No key map has been provided as the by-law applies to all lands located within the Township of Zorra. A copy of the complete by-law is available online at the municipality's website [www.zorra.ca](http://www.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.

# ASSET NAMING POLICY

On occasion, the Council of the Township of Zorra may wish to acknowledge the activities and significant contributions (either financial or otherwise) of an organization, a person(s), or family to the community by naming or dedicating a municipal asset to them.

In February, 2021, the Township of Zorra Council approved the Township's Asset Naming Policy. An Asset Naming Policy provides a framework for the naming, renaming, or dedication of Township of Zorra assets. This includes the naming of roads, parks, trails, open spaces, buildings, memorial areas, or any other municipal facilities.

The Township has a **Names Registry** to list all of the names that have been submitted, and approved, to be used to name, rename or dedicate an asset to in the future.

## How do I submit a name for the Names Registry?

Any member of the public, a developer, or an organization will have the opportunity to provide name suggestions by completing the Zorra Names Registry Request Form (available on the Township website). The name will only be considered if historical and/or background information is included. The name should also:

- Give a sense of place, continuity, belonging, and celebrate the uniqueness of Zorra Township
- Promote pride in Zorra, acknowledge local heritage, history, and recognize unique features and geography
- May (on an exceptional basis) honour the significant contributions of an individual or family

To review the full criteria for naming please view the [Township's Asset Naming Policy on the Township website.](#)

# Public Works Department

## Reduced Load Season

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

## Half Load Season Rationale

- Minimize Long Term Damage to Infrastructure
- Problems caused when Roads are soft often require major repairs
- Prevent additional Damage to Culverts and Bridges
- Heavy loads do Damage to Road Sub-base that is difficult to detect
- Changes in the size of agricultural equipment i.e. Large Liquid Manure Trailers
- Multiple Aggregate Producers in Township
- Infrastructure repair costs borne directly or indirectly by residents
- All of the above lead to safety issues during Half Load Season.

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](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.

*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)

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 at 519-485-2490 ext. 7224 or [mhughes@zorra.ca](mailto:mhughes@zorra.ca)



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DAVE.MACKENZIE.C1@PARL.GC.CA

TILLSONBURG CONSTITUENCY OFFICE  
43 BROCK ST. EAST, TILLSONBURG, ON N4G 1Z7  
TEL: 519-688-3620 FAX: 519-688-3622  
DAVE.MACKENZIE.C2@PARL.GC.CA  
[WWW.DAVEMACKENZIE.CA](http://WWW.DAVEMACKENZIE.CA)

# Fire & Emergency Services

## 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.

## Fireworks

Please keep in mind that the Township has a Fireworks By-law, #36-2014. The by-law regulates selling fireworks, displaying fireworks and special events.

All retail sales of consumer fireworks requires and application permit, fees, and approval from the Fire Chief or his designate.

All fines related to fireworks are set at \$200.00 plus surcharge.

If you plan on celebrating a national holiday (Canada Day, Victoria Day, Labour Day), with the use of fireworks, please review the By-law which can be found at [www.zorra.ca](http://www.zorra.ca), or contact the Municipal Law Enforcement Officer or Fire Chief for further details.

John McFarlan, Fire Chief / CEMC  
519-485-2490 ext. 7240  
[jmcfarlan@zorral.ca](mailto:jmcfarlan@zorral.ca)

# Open Air Burn By-law

Please use this page as a guide only. For complete details on recreational fires and open-air burning in the Township of Zorra, please see Township of Zorra By-law 30-20. The by-law is available on our website at [www.zorra.ca](http://www.zorra.ca)

## Recreational Fires

Recreational fires are permitted anywhere in the Township provided proper clearances can be maintained.

Fire must be contained within appropriate device or confined area and cannot be larger than 2ft x 2ft.

Must be a minimum of 4.5m (15 ft) from any combustible structure (building, tree, fence, etc.)

Can burn from 4pm to midnight. But please be neighbourly! If smoke from your fire disrupts your neighbours, you will have to extinguish it.

Burn clean, dry wood - untreated and unpainted.

ALL fire burning must be supervised by a responsible adult at all times, and fully extinguished before leaving. An acceptable means of extinguishment must be available.

No burning will be permitted during "High Risk Periods" as declared by the Fire Chief or "Poor Air Quality Days" as declared by Environment Canada.

## Open Air Burning

Open Air Burning is not permitted in hamlets or built-up areas, but is permitted in rural areas in the Township with a valid open air burning permit. Application forms are available on the Township website. There is no fee for this permit and an approved permit is good for the life of your property.

Burn pile must not exceed 9m<sup>2</sup> in area and 2m in height while burning, unless otherwise approved by the Fire Chief following an on-site inspection.

Burns shall be located at least 30m from any combustible structure, vegetation, or materials.

Open air burning is permitted during daylight hours ONLY. Fire must be completely extinguished before dark.

No burning of petroleum based products will be permitted. All burning materials must be generated on the landowners property.

You MUST call dispatch at the phone number provided on your valid burn permit at least 30 minutes before you start the burn.



## UNDERSTANDING YOUR SMOKE & CARBON MONOXIDE ALARM

It is important to understand how every smoke and carbon monoxide alarm in your home operate. Knowing the different sounds and what they mean can save an un-needed response from your Fire Department. Many new styles of alarms communicate with words or send messages to your smart devices to let you know if you have a smoke or carbon monoxide emergency. Those that still use a chirping sound require an understanding of what the sounds mean. This information can be found on the back of the alarm or in the instructions that come with it.

**INTERMITTENT CHIRPS** that happen infrequently and approximately once per minute often indicate a low battery or faulty source of power. This can be checked by changing your batteries, installing the manufacturers recommended type of battery or having an electrician inspect the wiring on hard wired alarms. If the chirps persist after the power source has been determined to not be the cause, it is likely that your alarm has reached its end of life or is faulty. In both instances you must replace it with a new unit.

**FALSE SMOKE ALARMS** can and do happen. If your alarm is making the sound for a smoke emergency but you have determined that there is no smoke present you should check for the following environmental conditions that may trigger an alarm: Humidity, steam, and condensation; Extreme temperature changes; Excess airflow. Ensure that your alarm is properly placed away from cooling/heating sources, ceiling fans, or open windows as outlined in the owner's manual.

If your alarm is warning you of a **CARBON MONOXIDE** emergency, please **EVACUATE** the building and call 9-1-1. Carbon Monoxide is odorless and must not be mistaken for a false alarm. Fire departments have the required equipment to safely determine the cause or source of a Carbon Monoxide emergency.

If you have additional questions or require assistance, please never hesitate to contact your Fire Department.



John McFarlan, Fire Chief/CEMC  
519-485-2490 ext 7240 [jmcfarlan@zorral.ca](mailto:jmcfarlan@zorral.ca)

# By-Law Enforcement

## Updated Property Standards By-law:

The Township of Zorra has a Property Standards By-law so as to establish standards for the maintenance of properties and buildings. Some of the many items that shall be maintained are as follows: maintenance of all plumbing, heating, ventilation, electrical, lighting, doors and windows, stairs, handrails and guards, the structural integrity of the building and interior/exterior finishing of the buildings.

## Restrictions for ATV's and ORV's – By-law 72-20

Common ORV Types	All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs)		Side by Sides		New ORV Types	
						
	"single-rider" all-terrain vehicle (ATV)	two-up all-terrain vehicle (two-up ATV)	recreational off-highway vehicle (ROV)	utility terrain vehicle (UTV)	off-road motorcycle (ORM)	extreme terrain vehicle (XTV)

A reminder to all residents that no person can operate a motorized snow vehicle, off-road vehicle and all terrain vehicle within the Township limits, on sidewalks, and any other municipally owned property, including on a Township highway within a Residential or Rural Residential Zone anywhere within the Township.

Crossovers at a 90 degree angle are permitted and ATV's and ORV's with more than two wheels are allowed for farm use when travelling between fields and farms as long as the vehicle bears a slow moving vehicle sign.

### 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.

### Rules about dogs:

The weather is now changing and dogs are outside for extended periods of time, please be aware of the Animal Control By-law 43-15. The By-law prohibits dogs from running at large. The result of which may be a fine of \$200.00 plus fees. Dogs require a leash at all times when walked. They shall not wander (Running at Large) on public or other private properties. In addition all excrement shall be picked-up and properly discarded in a garbage bin as outlined in the By-law, failure to do so could result in a fine of \$125.00.

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

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

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



### What does this mean for you?

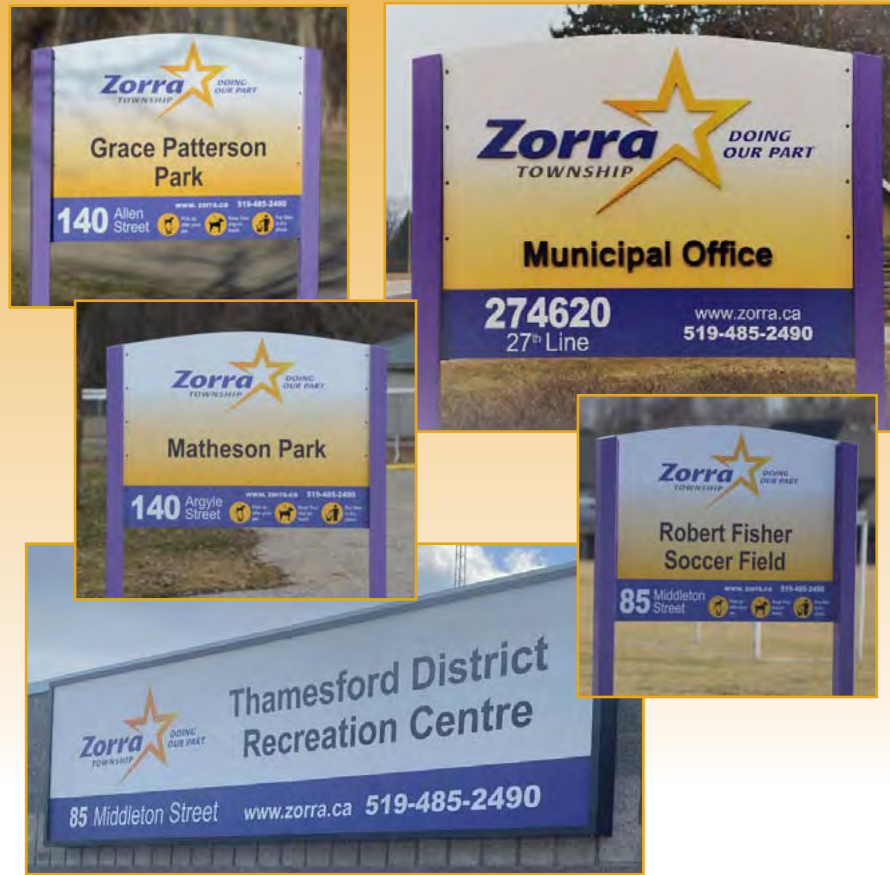
- Your current tag is valid until December 31, 2021.
- You can replace your township tag with a personalized tag that will allow others to contact you quickly if your pet is found.
- Residents are encouraged to purchase a new tag by the end of the year. Consider shopping local:
  - WOOF Pet Wellness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

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



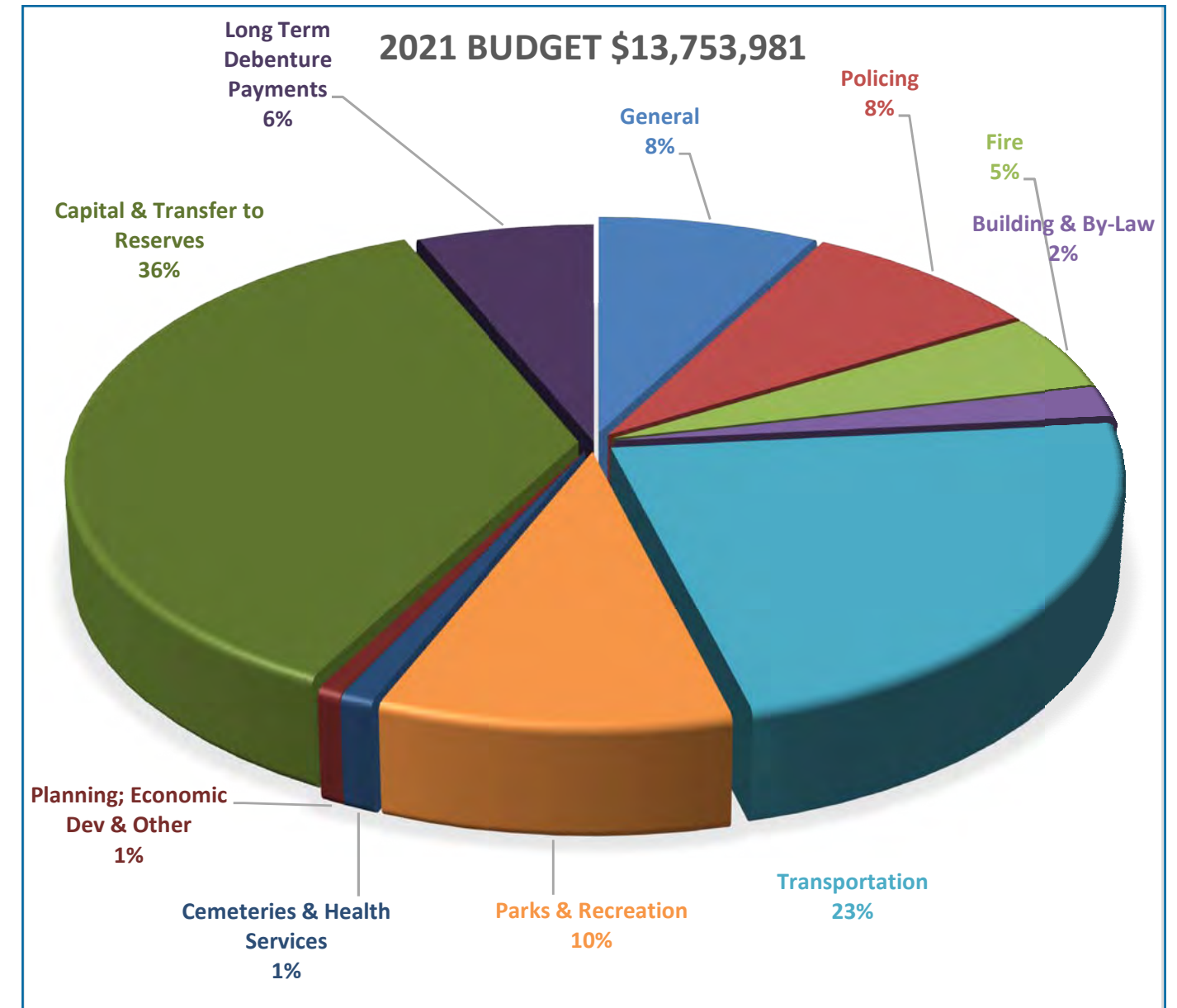
# NEW FACILITY SIGNS

The Township of Zorra purchased new signs for our facilities and parks in December 2020. The new signs have been “Zorra-fied” with our Zorra purple and yellow colours and Township logo on them. Installation of the signs has begun and is scheduled to be complete in Spring 2021. Keep an eye out for our new signs!



# Finance Department

The 2021 Municipal Budget and Business Plan has been approved as a result of deliberations with Council and public consultation held in February, 2021. Here is a pie chart showing the 2021 Operating and Capital Expenditures.



GENERAL GOVERNMENT	\$1,079,850	CEMETERIES & HEALTH SERVICES	\$129,645
POLICE	\$1,235,847	PARKS & RECREATION	\$1,325,480
FIRE	\$706,389	PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT, OTHER	\$99,762
BUILDING & BY-LAW	\$285,200	CAPITAL & TRANSFER TO RESERVES	\$4,792,250
TRANSPORTATION	\$3,240,955	LONG TERM DEBENTURES	\$858,603

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# Tax Department

The 2nd Instalment of your 2021 Taxes is due **May 31, 2021**.

Final 2021 Tax Bills will be issued and mailed the first week of August and their due dates are August 31 and October 29, 2021.

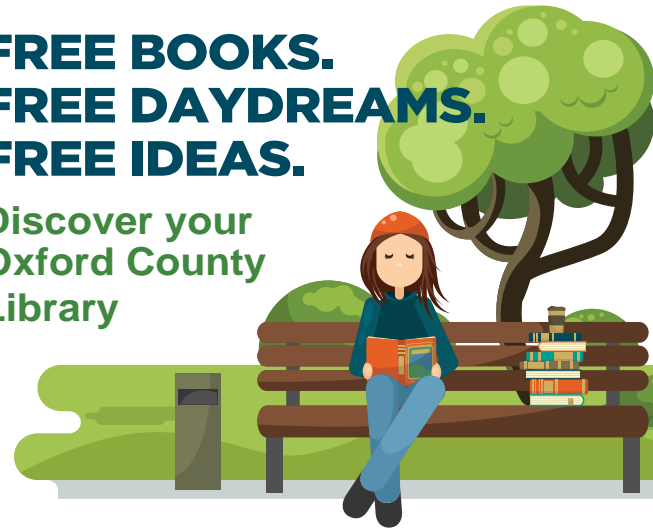
### Payment Options:

- Cash, Cheque or Debit accepted at the office. Please consider paying electronically or mailing a cheque to help us in our efforts to reduce the spread of COVID-19
- On-Line 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 10 or 12 months
- Pre-Authorized Payment Plan on the instalment dates
- eTransfer is now available, please to include your Tax Roll No. in the message field for payments - [accountsreceivable@zorra.ca](mailto:accountsreceivable@zorra.ca)

Kelly Hall,  
Tax Collector/Deputy Treasurer,  
519-485-2490 ext 7222 or  
[khall@zorra.ca](mailto:khall@zorra.ca)

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

Discover your  
Oxford County  
Library



### CALL-IN SERVICE

We know it's challenging to speak with library staff in person right now. There are so many services that OCL can offer to you while you're at home, whether you live on your own or with a busy family. From no-tech to high-tech, we can connect you with the services that work best for you. Spend some time with us over the phone and we'll walk you through how to access these services. We are here for you. Connect with us by calling 226-232-5092.

### DIGITAL RESOURCES FOR KIDS

Take advantage of our robust digital library for kids, including the newly added *World Book Online* and *STEM Village*. These resources are geared to school-age children and can help with homework and STEM skills. For more information, visit [www.ocl.net/eLibrary/For-Kids](http://www.ocl.net/eLibrary/For-Kids).

### ONLINE PROGRAMMING

Check our web calendar for information about storytimes, crafts, reading suggestions and more. Stay tuned for our Summer Reading Club and reading activities throughout July and August.

### NEED A LIBRARY CARD?

Send an email with your name, address (including postal code), telephone number, and birth date to [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)



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JULY 5-9	MISSION IMPOSSIBLE
JULY 12-16	PIRATES
JULY 19-23	ANIMAL KINGDOM
JULY 26-30	SPACE IS THE PLACE
AUGUST 3-6	IMAGINARIUM
AUGUST 9-13	TROPICAL PARADISE
AUGUST 16-20	FUN & FITNESS
AUGUST 23-27	SUPERHEROES
AUGUST 30- SEPT. 3	TIME TRAVELLERS



**EMBRO ZORRA COMMUNITY CENTRE**  
AVAILABLE FOR KIDS BORN BETWEEN 2017\* - 2010  
\*Kids born in 2017 must be 4 years old by their first day of Camp.

**THAMESFORD DISTRICT RECREATION CENTRE**  
NEW! TWO CAMPS AVAILABLE!  
**JUNIORS**  
For kids born in 2017\* - 2013  
\*Kids born in 2017 must be 4 years old by their first day of Camp.  
**INTERMEDIATE**  
For kids born in 2012 - 2010





# Township of Zorra Committees

## **NEW!** Zorra Multi-Use Court Committee

The Township of Zorra is excited to announce that we have a new Township committee – the Zorra Multi-Use Court Committee!

The committee is the result of a delegation made to Township of Zorra Council by Andrew Goodwin, a Thamesford resident. Mr. Goodwin made a delegation to Council proposing the construction of outdoor multi-use courts in Zorra Township. Mr. Goodwin's proposal included the construction of up to 4 courts to include tennis, pickleball, ball hockey and basketball surfaces. Township staff then researched the feasibility and community buy-in for multi-use courts, which was met with enthusiasm by the community. As a result, at the November 18, 2020 Township of Zorra Council meeting, Council established a committee known as the Zorra Multi-Use Courts Committee.

The purpose of this committee is to make recommendations on all aspects relating to the potential multi-use courts being constructed at the Thamesford District Recreation Centre and Embro-Zorra Community Centre. The committee is comprised of five (5) community members - Andrew Goodwin, Jim Gillespie, Ashley Herron, Brenda Carnahan, and Jeff Ruston – and Councillor Katie Davies.

Please join us in welcoming our newest Zorra Township committee. Thank you for doing your part Zorra Multi-Use Court Committee!

## Zorra Local School Committee

In 2017, Zorra Township Council approved the formation of the Zorra Local School Committee (ZLSC). The purpose of the Zorra Local School Committee was to provide advice to Council regarding opportunities for the Township of Zorra to maximize economic development, and the ability to attract and retain residents, by developing a "School Retention Plan" in accordance with the Township's Strategic Plan. The committee was comprised of five community members – Kim Brekelmans, Justin Green, Leeanne Hopkins, Sheila Weir, and Daniel West – Councillor Katie Davies, and Mayor Marcus Ryan.

Since 2017, the ZLSC has been working hard to identify opportunities to support youth in Zorra Township by enhancing the relationship between the Township and its schools, while simultaneously working on the Township's School Retention Plan. In December 2020, the ZLSC then submitted their proposed School Retention Plan to Zorra Township Council. The plan was approved by Council and is now posted on the Township website.

Since the Committee mandate had been met, this Committee was dissolved in January 2021. **Staff and Council are thankful to all members of this Committee who showed their passion for preserving local rural school life. Thank you for doing your part Zorra Local School Committee!!**

## Zorra Community Policing Committee

The Zorra Community Policing Committee (ZCPC) reports to Zorra Township's Council and meet 4 times per year. The mandate of the ZCPC is to advise on all aspects of the provision of police related matters in the Township of Zorra and to promote and maintain communication with the public. Meetings help maintain a strong and productive relationship with the Oxford OPP Detachment and are a forum for discussion and learning.

In the past year we were able to influence and be an active part of the Traffic Calming Policy that Zorra adopted. There is a new process to follow if you have concerns about speeding or other issues where traffic and vehicles are involved. I would like to emphasize that if you have an urgent concern, call 911. If it is not urgent but you want to report something, call the

OPP at their non-emergency line (1-888-310-1122) and talk to them. They can do a much better job of responding when you help by reporting what you are seeing.

Our meetings have some structured and required items to deal with, but we also like to look ahead to other things related to living and thriving safely and securely in our community. At our next meeting, we are planning to talk about recreational vehicle use in Zorra. The provincial government updated the recreational vehicle use regulations and Zorra Township has updated our policy. We also plan to have a discussion and learn more about community watch programs. Your input would be greatly appreciated. If there are other issues you think might be part of our committee's work, email [admin@zorra.ca](mailto:admin@zorra.ca) or call in to the Township office (519-485-2490). The folks there are very good at helping you to find the right person or place to connect with. We will likely be on ZOOM for our April ZCPC meeting (6:00 pm, 20 April 2021), so it's easy to participate. When we get back to face-to-face meetings, we hope to see you at our meetings at the Township Office.

Michael Kukhta, Chair

*Committee members:*

Derek Collins, Amanda Breen-Cowan, Betty Bartram, Greg Schuurman, Jessalyn Munro, Mark Seaton, and Sheila Weir.

## Zorra Recreation Advisory Committee

The committee is comprised of 8 community members, and 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 p.m. at various Township facilities.

*Zorra Recreation Advisory Committee Update*  
The Zorra Recreation Advisory Committee (ZRAC) has been working hard this winter to bring new ideas and initiatives to Council for the upcoming Spring/Summer seasons.

- A pilot Community Garden project is underway for the communities of Harrington and Embro. If you would like to be involved, please reach out to Ann Slater (Harrington) or Katherine Grieve (Embro) to find out more.
- The Oxford EarlyON Child and Family Centre is bringing the "Story Strolls" program to our communities! Story strolls are a great way to enjoy a book while being active and getting some fresh air. Watch for updates in your local Village Voice for specific dates and locations.
- The plan to create a Zorra Disc Golf Course is underway. An online poll was taken in January and residents gave their strong support to bring this initiative to Council. Stay tuned for details to come!
- Later this year, Zorra will be working on a Cultural Map to identify and highlight the many cultural resources in our township. Contact Sam Coghlan ([sam@oxford.net](mailto:sam@oxford.net)) if you're interested in getting involved.

For more updates and information on these projects and other arts, culture and recreation initiatives, check out the Zorra Township Website where detailed ZRAC meeting agendas can be found or reach out to a committee member with your ideas, comments and feedback.

ZRAC would also like to say a huge thank you to the Township's Recreation Staff in their continuous efforts to keep our parks, facilities and other recreational spaces safely operating, maintained and ready for use through a challenging period. Their quick response to put COVID-safe measures in place allowed our communities to remain active and engaged in recreation.

As the warmer weather begins, we look forward to seeing our residents out enjoying the many walking trails, multi-use courts, parks and gardens throughout Zorra Township!

Kate Lockhart, ZRAC Chair

*Committee Members:*

Matt Young (Vice Chair), Ann Slater, Brenda Krantz, Derek Collins, Jo-Anne Fleming, Katherine Grieve, and Sam Coghlan

*continued...*

## Zorra Splash Committee

The Zorra Splash Committee is working towards constructing a splash pad in Embro. The committee encourages 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.

### Zorra Splash Pad Committee Update

The Splash Pad Committee would like to take a moment to Thank everyone for your continued support. Near the end of 2020 we announced the location of the future Splash pad. It will be located in Matheson Park in Embro.

Covid-19 has made fundraising a little difficult, but we are trying to keep on top of this project and keep things moving. We are trying to be creative with our fundraising while keeping within covid-19 standards. In February we sent out a splash Paddy colouring page for Valentine's

day. We also had Sugar Bloom raise over \$125 with her Valentine's bouquets! Rural Refresh raised over \$500 with a virtual yoga class! We are so blessed to have such a giving community.

We are hoping to be able to have another drive thru event over the kids Spring break in April to keep things going and keep the community involved. To keep connected on what's happening remember to find us on Facebook under 'Embro Splash Pad Committee'.

Crystal Finch, Chair

### Committee members:

Emily Moitoso, Danika Lyons, Alicia McCall-VanGinkel, Victoria Cybulski, and Debbie Baker.

## Upcoming Committee Meetings

**ZRAC** – Tuesday April 27, 2021  
7:00 p.m. Virtual

**ZSC** - Thursday May 27, 2021  
7:00 p.m. at the Embro-Zorra Community Centre\*

**ZCPC**–Tuesday April 20, 2021  
6:00 p.m. Virtual

**ZMCC** – Tuesday, May 11, 2021  
7:00 p.m. at the Beaty Room\*

\*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.

For further information on any of the above committees visit the Township of Zorra website at [www.zorra.ca](http://www.zorra.ca)

## THAMESFORD AREA SWIMMING POOL 2021 PROGRAM GUIDE

204 George Street, Thamesford  
519-485-2490 Ext. 7285  
[thamesfordpool@zorra.ca](mailto:thamesfordpool@zorra.ca)

## LESSONS

**COVID-19 Modifications: All swimmers who register for lessons in Level 2 or lower MUST have a parent in the class with them.**

### LESSON SCHEDULE

<b>Morning Lessons</b> Swimmers will come each weekday morning for two weeks. Lessons are scheduled between 9:00a.m. -1:00p.m.	<b>\$55.00/session</b> Session 1, July 5 - 16 Session 2, July 19 – 30 Session 3, August 2 – 13 Session 4, August 16 - 27 30 minutes/lesson
<b>Evening Lessons</b> Swimmers will come once each week for 8 weeks. Lessons are scheduled between 5:00p.m. -8:00p.m.	<b>\$45.00/session</b> Tuesdays or Thursdays 30 minutes/lesson
<b>Saturday Lessons</b> Swimmer will come every Saturday for 8 weeks. Lessons are scheduled between 9:00a.m. – 1:00p.m.	<b>\$45.00/session</b> Saturdays 30 minutes/lesson
<b>Private Lessons</b> Can be scheduled as often as required, subject to availability. Lessons are 1 on 1 and 30 minutes in length.	<b>\$20.00/lesson</b> Wednesday & Friday evenings, Saturday mornings 30 minutes/lesson

## REGISTRATION

**REGISTRATION OPENS  
MAY 3, 2021!**

### HOW TO REGISTER

**ONLINE:** Starting May 3, visit [www.zorra.ca](http://www.zorra.ca) for access to the registration link. For assistance registering online, please contact us at [thamesfordpool@zorra.ca](mailto:thamesfordpool@zorra.ca) or 519-485-2490 Ext.7285

**IN PERSON:** Registration in person is available at the pool starting June 28 from 1:00pm-7:00pm. See hours of operation below for more information. The

Thamesford Area Swimming Pool is located at 204 George Street, Thamesford.

### WAITING LISTS

If your child can not be placed in any of your class choices, he/she will be placed on a waiting list. You will be contacted if a spot becomes available.

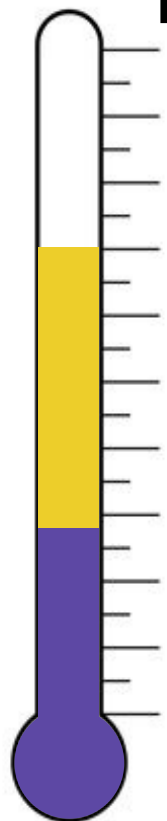
### REFUND & CANCELLATION POLICY

- Refunds will not be considered after the 2<sup>nd</sup> lesson. Due to the short pool season, missed classes will not be made up.
- Cancellation of lessons by the Township due to inclement weather or mechanical/chemical malfunctions will not be refunded or rescheduled.

**\$250,000 Goal**

## Fundraising Update

(As of March 25, 2021)



- ✓ The Township has committed **\$75,000** to the project\*
- ✓ The community has donated **\$100,562.81**

\*Once the remaining funds (\$175,000) have been raised

# THAMESFORD AREA SWIMMING POOL 2021 PROGRAM GUIDE

204 George Street, Thamesford  
519-485-2490 Ext. 7285  
thamesfordpool@zorra.ca

## DROP-IN PROGRAMS & SPECIAL EVENTS

Schedules are subject to change based on COVID-19 Safety Guidelines.  
Updates will be posted online at [www.zorra.ca](http://www.zorra.ca) or at the Facility.

### PUBLIC SWIMS

Public Swims are a fun way to get into the pool every day! Bring your favorite pool toys and floaties too! These recreational swims are open to everyone.

Schedule:	*Schedule Subject to Change
Monday	2:00 – 4:00p.m. & 6:30 - 8:00p.m.
Tuesday	2:00 – 4:00p.m.
Wednesday	2:00 – 4:00p.m. & 6:30 - 8:00p.m.
Thursday	2:00 – 4:00p.m.
Friday	2:00 – 4:00p.m. & 6:30 - 8:00p.m.
Saturday	2:00 – 4:00p.m.
Sunday	1:00 – 4:00p.m. & 6:30 - 8:00p.m.

Schedule begins Saturday, June 26, 2021

FEES	
Per Person	\$3.00
Children 3 & Under	Free
Family*	\$8.00
10-Swim Punch Card	\$20.00
Single Season Pass:	\$60.00
Family Season Pass*	\$120.00

\*Family rate includes up to 6 people in the same immediate family with a maximum of 2 adults.

### ADULT FITNESS

#### AQUAFIT

Aquafit is a great aerobic program that improve strength and increase cardiovascular fitness. It is a low-impact work out with the cushioning effect of the water protecting joints. Or join us for the great music, fun instructors and social opportunities!

#### LANE SWIM

A great full body workout using all the muscles in the body! So whether you swim a gentle breaststroke or hammer butterfly, there is a lane for you at TASP! Need some help with your strokes? Speak to the staff, they love sharing their techniques!

#### Schedule:

Monday & Tuesday	7:00p.m. – 8:00p.m.
Wednesday & Friday	8:00a.m. – 9:00a.m.

**FACILITY CAPACITY FOR OUR DROP-IN PROGRAMS IS LIMITED.**  
*Entry Is Available on a First Come, First Served Basis.*

### ADMISSION GUIDELINES

The following guidelines are to be followed by all swimmers in the pool during public swim. These guidelines outline the SUPERVISORY requirements of guardians and children while using this facility.

Age	Band	Guardian Supervision Requirements	Supervisory Ratios
<b>6 Years &amp; Younger</b>	<b>RED BAND</b>	Guardians (13+) must stay <b>WITHIN ARMS REACH</b> at all times	1 Guardian for every 2 children OR 1 Guardian for every 4 children with lifejackets
<b>7 - 9 Years Old</b> <small>Swimmers will take a swim test to determine their ability and supervision level</small>	<b>YELLOW BAND</b> <small>(unsuccessful swim test)</small>	Guardians (13+) must stay <b>WITHIN ARMS REACH</b> at all times. When the child wears a lifejacket, guardian must only remain at the facility.	1 Guardian for every 2 children OR 1 Guardian for every 4 children with lifejackets
	<b>GREEN BAND</b> <small>(successful swim test)</small>	Guardian (13+) must remain at the facility and continue to supervise their child.	1 Guardian for every 4 children OR 1 Guardian for every 8 children with lifejackets
<b>10 Years &amp; Older</b>	<b>GREEN BAND</b>	No supervision required. Swimmers may be asked to take the swim test at any time as the discretion of the Pool Staff	n/a

As per Public Pool Regulation 565 under the Health Protection & Promotion Act.

# THAMESFORD AREA SWIMMING POOL 2021 PROGRAM GUIDE

204 George Street, Thamesford  
519-485-2490 Ext. 7285  
thamesfordpool@zorra.ca

## ADVANCED CLASSES

**As a lifeguard and instructor in aquatics, you can get a great summer job here TASP! Working at the pool is a fun and rewarding experience. Work with great people, be part of an awesome team, and gain valuable skills to help you in your future career goals!**

**DATES AND TIMES WILL BE CONFIRMED IN JUNE – PLEASE CHECK WITH THE POOL FOR FURTHER DETAILS.**

We are hoping to offer the following courses, as COVID-19 restrictions permit:

### JUNIOR LIFEGUARD CLUB

The Junior Lifeguard Club offers a unique alternative for those who love water and want more than lessons. This course keeps kids interested and active in aquatics; especially quick learners and those caught between levels. Serious fun for kids 8 years and up who can swim at least 25m & tread water for 2 min.

- \$25 per session
- Typically occurs during morning lessons for 1 hour, Monday to Friday, over a two week time period.

### BRONZE STAR

Prepare yourself for the advanced Bronze courses in this class. Participants will work on swimming fitness, rescue skills and build their knowledge or basic first aid in this program. Minimum age 12 recommended.

- \$75 + manual (\$50)
- Minimum of 4 candidates required
- 10hr. of water & classroom or virtual instruction

### BRONZE MEDALLION & BRONZE CROSS

Both of these advanced classes will continue your journey to become a lifeguard! In Bronze Medallion you will gain an understanding of lifesaving: water-rescue, aquatic skills & fitness. Candidates must be 13 years old or have completed Bronze Star.

The Bronze Cross course is for those who have obtained their Bronze Medallion and are interested in more advanced training or continuing onto achieving National Lifeguard and Instructor certifications. This course will provide an introduction to safe supervision in aquatics, use of special equipment and principles of teamwork. Emergency First Aid certification also required.

- \$140 + manual (\$50)
- Minimum of 6 candidates required
- 20hr of water & classroom or virtual instruction

## COVID-19 SAFETY MODIFICATIONS

The following modifications have been made to our pool program to allow for a safe experience for everyone at the pool for both our lesson and public swim programs:

- All swimmers registered in **Level 2 or lower MUST have a parent/guardian in the pool with them.** Guardians will be 12 years of age or older. This allows for safe physical distancing between the instructor and the swimmer and between the swimmers participating in the lesson.
- Lessons will be reduced to 4 swimmers (plus parent/guardian when required) and 1 instructor.
- Spectators, siblings, etc. will **not be permitted on the deck during lessons.** Our viewing bleachers will be available for your use.
- We encourage swimmers to **arrive & leave in their swimsuits.** Access to change rooms will be greatly reduced.
- Please bring only the essential items needed for the lesson. (e.g. towel, water bottle, goggles) We will not be able to "loan" you goggles for your lesson, if needed.
- Please **arrive promptly 10 minutes** before your lesson. Swimmers will be screened every day upon arrival for COVID-19 symptoms, including temperature checks.
- All Guests and Participants who reside in RED or GREY Public Health Zones will not be permitted to access the facility.
- All Public & Staff will be expected to practice safe physical distancing while at the facility.

If at any time you have questions or concerns about the pool and their procedures, please contact us at [sstarchuck@zorra.ca](mailto:sstarchuck@zorra.ca) or 519-485-2490 x.7223

# Township of Zorra

## Staff Recognition

*"It's always a pleasure to thank Zorra staff for the work they do. Whether it's chatting beside the ice, or talking on the side of the road, I am always impressed with the passion they have for their work. And they do their work in the face of some pretty close scrutiny by residents. Council meets twice a month, and even if we have great ideas, it is staff that make it happen 24/7 365. Especially this past year, they have worked extra hard. They have adapted again and again to keep themselves and residents safe, and continue to deliver services safely. They make it easy to be a proud Mayor and brag about staff. So please join me in thanking them for doing their part when you see them. They have my thanks. They deserve it." - Mayor Marcus Ryan*

### ADMINISTRATION

Kelly Hall	30 years
Mike Hughes	26 years
Don MacLeod	24 years
Maureen Simmons	13 years
Lisa Teeple	10 years
Karen Martin	9 years
Mathew Paul	9 years
Jenna Belleau	3 years
Alycia Wettlaufer	2 years

### RECREATION

Scott Eaton	32 years
Rick Ackert	15 years
Jamie Adams	13 years
Shawn McNaughton	12 years
Stephanie Starchuck	4 years
Matthew Brown	2 years
Ryan Beckett	1 year
Jason McEachnie	

### PUBLIC WORKS

Chris Jensen	30 years
Steve Oliver	23 years
Scott Simmons	19 years
Doug Nairn	17 years
Ross Ball	15 years
Chris DeBoer	14 years
Derek Collins	13 years
Jamie Horne	11 years
Murray Gunter	10 years
Derek Eddy	8 years
Alan Thirkettle	8 years
Steve Gordon	5 years
Cody Brown	1 year

### PART-TIME STAFF

John Dunlop	40 years
Keith Webb	14 years
Murray Weir	11 years
Pat Fortner	10 years
Tom Loghin	9 years
Kevin Sims	8 years

## FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES

Ron King	45 years	Ian Hunter	7 years
John McFarlan	39 years	Dave Munro	7 years
Bruce Brebner	38 years	Chris Betzner	7 years
Jim Manzer	35 years	Ashlee Aldred	4 years
Charlie Weir	35 years	Cody Brown	4 years
David Switzer	34 years	Wes Crandall	4 years
Andy Martin	32 years	Carley Brown	4 years
Rick Langford	27 years	Stan Dobbin	4 years
John Renkema	25 years	Matt Hopkins	4 years
Mark Woods	22 years	Mike King	4 years
John Janzen	21 years	Deanna Kirwin	4 years
Glenn Rounds	21 years	Murray Perry	4 years
Marty Winter	19 years	Tammy Spriel	4 years
Jim Forbes	17 years	Justan VanMaar	4 years
Chris Schurman	15 years	Harrie Arts	3 years
Jeremy Wallace	14 years	Wayne Hutson	3 years
Dan DeBoer	14 years	Emma MacIntrye	3 years
Kelly Linton	14 years	Phil Schinbein	3 years
Matthew Cockle	14 years	Rob Hargreaves	3 years
Ryan Ehgoetz	12 years	Dan Mills	1 year
Kevin Rye	11 years	Dan Innes	1 year
Shawn Kraft	11 years	Kraemer Pestell	1 year
Matthew VanGinkel	10 years	Marjo Wiles	1 year
Michael McKone	10 years	Aaron Mustard	1 year
Matthew Munro	10 years	Brad Langford	
Jeff King	9 years	Brian Stoesser	
Scott Matheson	9 years	Dennis Berkers	
Alan Thirkettle	9 years	Rolf Haanstra	
Corby Kirwin	9 years	Adam Knoop	
DJ Ross	9 years	Kyle Henshaw	
Gerry Brandow	9 years		
Jason Brekelmans	7 years		
Len Brown	7 years		
Michael Henderson	7 years		
Norman Hewitt	7 years		



# High-speed fibre optic internet expanding in Zorra

By Stew Slater

"It's night and day . . . You're not sharing bandwidth so you don't have issues with getting connected at certain times of the day. And it's so-o-o-o fast!"

That's the description from Happy Hills-area advertising agency owner Karen Sample, about getting connected to internet through fibre optic cable in August 2020. And it's a description that many other residents and business owners in the township will soon find themselves repeating.

(At this point I should make a disclosure; not only am I a Zorra Township farmer and freelance journalist, I'm also currently a member of the Board of Directors at Quadro Communications Co-operative – the company through which Sample now purchases internet services. But it was the Township of Zorra which asked me to write this article, not Quadro.)

The expansion of high-speed internet into rural and remote regions gained significant focus for all levels of government because of the COVID-19 pandemic and – although it may seem to some Zorra Township residents like it's taking forever (perhaps just like their internet connections delivered over copper wire) for that focus to reach them, our little municipality has actually been quite fortunate in securing not-too-far-in-the-future improvements.

A map on the website of the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) shows that all portions of the Uniondale telephone exchange, along with the villages of Embro, Beachville and Thamesford currently have internet download/upload speeds of 50/10 megabits per second (Mbps).

For seamless use of multiple applications in working from home and/or studying from home, households, according to in an article on the website entitled Closing the Digital

Divide in Canada, "should have an internet connection with access to broadband speeds of at least 50 Mbps download and 10 Mbps upload and access to unlimited data."



Quadro cable plow

Nationally, those speeds are currently available to 87.4 per cent of Canadians. "But many Canadians," the article continues, "particularly those in rural and remote areas, do not have adequate access to these services."

Indeed, a closer look at the CRTC website map reveals that, aside from those neighbourhoods noted above, almost the entirety of the remainder of Zorra Township has download/upload speeds of either 10/2 Mbps or 5/1 Mbps, with small sections at 25/5 Mbps. Meanwhile, across all rural or remote communities of Canada, only 45.6 per cent of residents have access to 50/10 Mbps internet.

Sample, whose 31st Line Communications employs about a dozen people and offers a full spectrum of traditional and internet-based advertising and marketing solutions, knows all about this "digital divide." For years, she felt helpless as she saw nations like Korea and parts of Europe push fibre optics into rural areas and her own company's competitors in Canada upgrade their internet connections as high-speed providers rolled out innovations in cities – where a rapid return on investment could be guaranteed due to economies of scale.

"I had set up my business in Zorra on purpose," she recalled, successfully using the farm-country location as

a drawing card for the agricultural-sector clients by which 31st Line Communications is now a recognized leader.

But as expectations grew for firms like hers to provide just-in-time solutions remotely, the urban-rural divide became more and more of a burden. She knew the nearest fibre optic cable served the Harrington area but learned it would – at that time – require a six-figure investment of her own money to have it extended to her office. So she looked into other, less costly technologies.

"The wireless options we had available here were just terrible," Sample said. Providers promised upload speeds of 5 Mbps but the speed tests she conducted (they're easily accessible online) showed as low as 0.4 Mbps. A document being sent remotely to a client's printer would routinely take all day to be uploaded.

31st Line Communications eventually purchased equipment to be installed on a neighbour's silo, and a pole placed in a field between the two locations, securing the company upload speeds of up to 4 Mbps and download speeds of approximately 10 Mbps – "even though you're supposed to get more. And there were still problems." Last year though, thanks to the extension of a Quadro Communications Co-operative cable that also hooked up the Happy Hills Retirement Resort and other properties along 31st Line, all that changed for the company. Sample recalls when the company first sent a representative to households along the roadway inquiring about interest in purchasing an internet plan if and when the company brought its line south.

"I said 'absolutely! Where do I sign?'"

And within less than two years, the download/upload map of Zorra Township is set to be similarly transformed.

"Township Council has been working very hard to get (broadband internet) expanded to all residents

of Zorra," said CAO Don MacLeod in a recent interview. Two separate items on the agenda for the March 3, 2021, Council meeting related to broadband expansion: A report from MacLeod detailing an application from Execulink Telecom for a Universal Broadband Fund (UBF) cost-share grant to bury fibre optic cable throughout much of the southern portion of the township; and a request from Quadro for Council to declare surplus a municipally-owned piece of land near Thamesford's wastewater treatment plant so the Kirkton-based company can build a switch building. This request, Council was told, comes as Quadro applies for similar cost-share funding to extend its fibre network southward through Zorra along the 15th Line.



Quadro directional boring

Those two applications represent what may happen, but haven't yet been confirmed. Already, though, much work is underway or set to begin very soon.

On Oct. 15 2020, the provincial government announced during a news conference in Drumbo that a federal/provincial/municipal partnership called SWIFT (Southwestern Integrated Fibre Technology) will help fund the expansion of high-speed internet infrastructure to approximately 1,670 more homes and businesses in Oxford County, to a total cost – to be split between SWIFT and the Internet Service Provider (ISP) constructing each project – of \$9.9

million. Seven proposals were accepted for funding, with two – including the largest of the seven – in Zorra Township.

As a result, by the end of 2022, 82 premises along 10.5 kilometres of roadway in and near Kintore and 326 premises along 106.8 kilometres of roadway in northeast Zorra will have fibre optic cables installed in underground conduits where only copper-wire telephone lines exist now.

Residents of those areas should soon see locators from the G-Tel agency in their areas marking out existing infrastructure in advance of the construction. Following that they will get accustomed to the red-and-black logo of Clifford-based Weber Contracting. This specialized company has contracts with both Quadro, which secured SWIFT funding in northeast Zorra, and Woodstock-based Execulink, for the Kintore project. If it hasn't happened already, Weber's pickup trucks, excavators, directional drilling equipment and cable plows will become very common sights up and down your roadways in the very near future.

I'm trying to be careful to strictly keep my journalism hat on while writing this article, but it's important to state that all three of these companies – Quadro, Execulink, and Weber Contracting – have strong reputations for customer service at an extremely local level. If you have questions about when and how the fibre roll-out will happen, or if you have concerns about the work as it unfolds, don't hesitate to contact them.

Neither approved project is small. Execulink plans to spend \$274,491 (the company also had four other projects approved for funding in Oxford County on Oct. 22, with a total investment of almost \$1.9 million) in Kintore while Quadro has committed over \$2.5 million in northeast Zorra. The contribution from SWIFT – which is described in the news release as “a not-for-profit corporation initiated by local municipalities to address connectivity in Southwestern Ontario” and is chaired by former Oxford County Warden David Mayberry of South West Oxford – matches the ISP's spending in each case.

“At Execulink, we're proud to provide the awesome telecom experience our local communities deserve and are grateful to SWIFT for allowing us to expand and enhance the experience for our customers,” said Execulink

President and CEO Ian Stevens, in a news release about the Oct. 20 funding announcement. “Reliable, fast internet has never been more important and, with SWIFT, we're able to ensure more people have access to the services they need.”

A blog on Execulink's website from January 2021 compares fibre optics to other technologies through which internet communication can be transmitted. It explains that rather than using an electronic signal (as with copper wire or co-axial cable) and the associated “latency” – the time it takes for the signal to be delivered – fibre optics uses light. So data travels at the speed of light.

The technology is also capable of supporting multiple devices at the same site. “If your family uses the internet often and engages in high-bandwidth internet activities such as online gaming or movie streaming on Crave, Netflix, Amazon Prime, or YouTube, then fibre fits the bill,” states the blog. “It offers high-quality streaming and smooth web browsing, which means no matter how many people are using the connection, the overall performance is superior.”

Karen Sample confirms this assessment. Her company's connection to fibre optics came during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, when doing business in Canada had almost completely shifted to online data transfer and remote discussions.

“There's such a huge difference” when using online meeting platforms like Zoom. “So many people now, when I'm in meetings with them and they're in a location without adequate high-speed internet, to participate in the meeting they have to turn off their camera because their connection won't support it.”

“That never happens to me because I have fibre.”



Virtual interview with Karen Sample

## GARBAGE & RECYCLING: 5 TIPS FOR SET OUT SUCCESS

**Secure your materials.**  
In your blue box, place heavier materials on top. Use a lid to keep items secure, and do not overfill your containers.

**Location, location, location.**  
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.

**No plastic bags.**  
Recyclables in plastic bags will not be collected. One exception is shredded paper which should be placed in a clear plastic bag and sealed.

**Weight matters.**  
For the safety of waste collectors, garbage bags and containers must not weigh more than 20kg (44lbs).

**Set out by 7 a.m., on collection day.**  
Late set outs may not be collected.

**For more information:**  
wasteline.ca | 519-539-9800

**Oxford County**  
*Growing stronger together*

THAMESFORD  
MEDICAL CLINIC

# NEW PHYSICIAN

We at Thamesford Medical Clinic are excited to announce the arrival of **Dr. Anthony Ezepue!** He is moving to Canada from the UK with his wife and two children.

He is going to be taking new patients. Please contact the office to book a meet and greet appointment.

Appointments will be booked starting April 19, 2021.

We look forward to having Dr. Ezepue joining us and providing you care.

**141 Dundas Street. W.**  
Thamesford ON N0M 1M0  
Phone: 519-285-3770



# Entrepreneurs raise a glass to new podcast

By Emily Stewart,  
The Woodstock Local

Two local business owners will be chatting over drinks with other entrepreneurs in their upcoming podcast.

Bear and Fox Apparel owner Erica Marchand and Kintore Coffee Co. owner Todd Pearson are creating the Drinks With podcast. The podcast will feature small business owners and each guest will bring their choice of beverage for themselves and the hosts during in-person interviews in the recording studio. The interview occurs while they have drinks.

"We're letting our guests have creative freedom over what drink they bring," Marchand said. "Maybe that small business is launching a brand new line of products, so they bring champagne. Maybe they have a signature flavour in their bakery, so they make a cocktail that's vanilla flavoured or whatever. We're allowing them to bring whatever they want in their drink to also help represent their brand and then as a person."

COVID-19 health and safety protocols like physical distancing, hand sanitizing and wearing a mask when not drinking will occur.



Rural Oxford  
Economic Development

PEOPLE • PROXIMITY • PROSPERITY

No more than three or four people would be in the studio at a time.

Marchand and Pearson talked to The Woodstock Local about how the show came to be, what they like about working together, and why podcasts are ideal for entrepreneurs.

## How did you come up with the idea for the Drinks With podcast?

Marchand reached out to Pearson and said she would like to feature him on her show, and he said he also thought about launching his own podcast. After talking about their plans, both realized they wanted to do a small business podcast, but Marchand's idea had the unique element of enjoying drinks during the conversation.

"Everything else has honestly just fallen into place since," she said.

## What do you like about working together?

Kintore Coffee carries Bear and Fox Apparel products and the business owners have a lot of

mutual friends in common but until last year, they hadn't crossed paths.

"Our business relationship just has grown so much in the last year that it really did seem like very natural for us to pair together. We work really well together," Marchand said.

Pearson added that Marchand's driven with everything she does, whether its Drinks With or Bear and Fox Apparel.

"You look at the first year that she did in business and she absolutely killed it," Pearson said. "She's in multiple stores and she sells a crazy amount of clothing out of our store and everything. She's super ambitious so teaming up with her was a no-brainer for me."

## When will the podcast launch?

So far, the podcast should launch around March 17. The recording will start for the first few episodes, as podcasters need about three or four episodes before publishing the content. However, if another lockdown occurs, it could push the date back as the in-person interviews would not be allowed.

## Why do you think podcasts are the way to go for entrepreneurs?

Marchand said that podcasts are appealing to small business owners because of creative control. Compared to radio, television, or print media, there are less restrictions over what can be said in a podcast and the audience listening understands that.

"You can kind of let your guard down a bit and really let your personality shine," she said.

Pearson also liked that he and Marchand can control the podcast content and the medium's on-demand aspect.

"We can control who comes on, how long it is," he said. "The customer or the listener can control when they want to listen to it instead of having a show come on at a certain time."

## Anything else?

Pearson said the Drinks With Podcast will be a good show.

"Erica's hilarious. I do a lot of talking. We have some really, really great guests lined up. We've got funding and

backing from a few different places, so I think there's a lot of support behind us," he said. "I feel like if this is getting out there, people should be listening to it because it's going to be entertaining and it's going to provide a voice for a lot of small companies from the area."

Follow the podcast on social media by visiting:

[facebook.com/drinkswithpodcast](https://facebook.com/drinkswithpodcast) and  
[www.instagram.com/drinkswithpodcast](https://www.instagram.com/drinkswithpodcast).  
<https://bearandfoxapparel.ca/>  
<https://kintorecoffee.com/>



# Tourism Oxford providing partnership opportunities for local businesses and organizations

Partnerships provide businesses with learning opportunities and resources to help grow their tourism business

Tourism Oxford is offering a variety of partnership opportunities for local tourism businesses and organizations looking to increase their reach and engage audiences. Businesses that meet appropriate criteria, developed through research and consultation with the tourism industry, are eligible to participate in a variety of marketing activities. Eligible businesses will be provided with an opportunity to receive a free listing on [tourismoxford.ca](http://tourismoxford.ca). Other partnership benefits include specialized supports to coach local businesses in developing experiential tourism products, and the opportunity to take part in culinary tourism programs including Oxford Fresh initiatives.

The goal of the new criteria program is to support more businesses in meeting the needs of tourists while ensuring a quality visitor experience. The criteria is a starting point for businesses to consider ways they can improve their interactions with and services provided to customers or visitors. Examples of qualifying criteria include having an up-to-date website, being active on at least one social media channel, and owning and maintaining Google and Trip Advisor listings to ensure customer reviews are monitored and responded to accordingly.

The new partnership model offering free website listings provides an opportunity for more new and growing businesses to participate while allowing those who can contribute to broader marketing campaigns to collaborate on joint marketing opportunities. If businesses do not meet the eligibility criteria for a free website listing or partnership program they are encouraged

to visit [oxfordcounty.ca/tourismpartners](http://oxfordcounty.ca/tourismpartners) for resources and support in developing their customer experience and in working towards becoming market-ready.

Tourism Oxford's 2021 Partnership Opportunities brochure provides further details on the numerous partnership opportunities provided to eligible businesses and the benefits of partnering with Tourism Oxford. Interested businesses are encouraged to review the 2021 Tourism Oxford Partnership Eligibility & Application Form for a list of eligibility requirements and for more information on how to apply to a partnership program.



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f @ in [ruraloxford.ca](http://ruraloxford.ca)

**Ronda Stewart**  
Economic Development Director  
519-619-6895 • [ronda@ruraloxford.ca](mailto:ronda@ruraloxford.ca)

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**Zorra now**  
COMMUNITY EVENTS & SERVICES MAGAZINE

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

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

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Ph. 519-485-2490 ext. 7228  
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[clerk@zorra.ca](mailto:clerk@zorra.ca) [www.zorra.ca](http://www.zorra.ca)



# Supporting Oxford

## Digital Marketing Campaign Report

March- December 2020

### Supporting Oxford

www.supportingoxford.ca

Prepared by: Lindsay Wilson  
Community Futures Oxford

### What are impressions?

Ad impressions are the total number of times the ad appeared on someone's screen (for example, in their Facebook newsfeed). A simple comparison is the number of times a commercial is played while a consumer watches television.

### About Supporting Oxford

In March 2020, businesses began choosing to close in an effort to slow the spread of COVID-19. Shortly after, non-essential businesses were mandated to close to the public. To serve their customers and remain viable, many businesses quickly adapted by offering delivery, curbside pick-up and online ordering. This was a new (and fast!) pivot for both businesses and consumers. In an effort to better connect consumers with the new ways businesses were operating, Supporting Oxford was launched as a simple listing of businesses in Oxford County. Listings included information about how the businesses were

adapting to serve their customers. On March 17, the website launched in less than 24-hours with support from Community Futures Oxford, Tourism Oxford, Rural Oxford EDC and The Social Factory.

The listings were initially limited to businesses with a physical location closed to the public and/or operated within tourism, food service, hospitality, retail, or service-based offering gift certificates. As the holidays arrived, the listing also included online stores based in Oxford County. There are currently more than 300 consumer-facing businesses listed on the website.

### Oxford Shopping Channel

This campaign focused on content that educated consumers about where to shop locally for the holidays. This campaign was on the market from November 9 – December 24, 2020.



The Oxford Shopping Channel was a unique take on both encouraging local spending as well as helping local consumers find what was local to them both in small, independent businesses and online shops. Using a series of over 40 videos, the campaign featured more than 39 businesses with the support of 12 collaborative partners including:

Rural Oxford Economic Development  
Tourism Oxford  
Community Futures Oxford  
Future Oxford Legacy Fund  
Tillsonburg BIA  
Ingersoll BIA

Woodstock BIA  
Thamesford Business Association  
Tavistock Chamber of Commerce  
Norwich BIA  
The Social Factory  
Puffin Media

### Website Statistics

Total page views to date: 67,405

#### Months with the most traffic:

May 2020: 18,791  
Nov. 2020: 11,107

#### Top Sources and Devices

Facebook: 22,653  
Mobile: 19,119

#### Most popular content

- Homepage (originally hosted the entire directory): 17,366 page views
- Online Shopping/ Gifts: 7,929 page views
- Oxford Shopping Channel: 7,100 page views



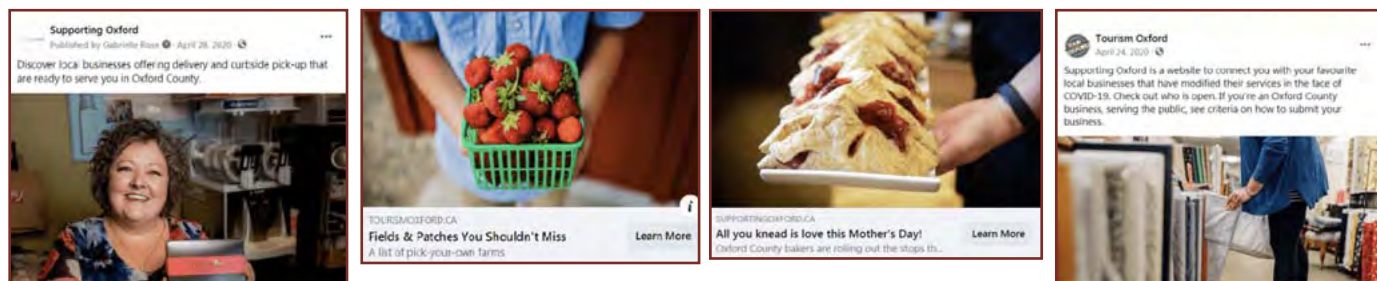
The business listings are sorted into categories followed by location.

### Social Media Ad Campaign Results

Between March- December, a total of 46 paid ad campaigns ran on Supporting Oxford, Tourism Oxford and/or Oxford Fresh. Each

campaign targeted 'supporting local' and with an ad spend of \$6488.14, the campaigns achieved more than 1 million impressions.

#### Popular Campaigns



### Video Performance

Featuring rural and urban downtowns across the county

- 3 rural and 3 urban locations featuring 20 main street businesses

- Businesses selected based on a set of criteria (mainly strong online presence)
- 67,500 people reached across all videos

#### Ad campaign statistics

Feature Location	Minutes Viewed	Video Shares	People Reached	% Views Paid
Tavistock	4,600	75	14,700	44.9
Tillsonburg	3,600	32	13,800	69.8
Ingersoll	3,200	58	9,400	35.2
Woodstock	2,900	4	11,900	78.9
Norwich	1,600	24	10,300	86.1
Thamesford	1,300	23	7,400	89.9
<b>Totals</b>	<b>17,200</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>67,500</b>	-

continued...

## What the businesses are saying

### Testimonials from small businesses

“Supporting Oxford has created so much exposure for small businesses in a time when exposure is worth its weight in gold. From the quick turnaround on the website to the social media engagement and the Support Oxford Shopping Channel, this program has done nothing short of be a beaming light for small businesses through the darkest of times.

In a time when the world was falling apart, Supporting Oxford brought us closer together. Through the quick turn around of the website, the social media engagement and the Oxford Shopping Channel, this program helped carry small businesses through an incredibly turbulent time.

The Oxford Shopping Channel was a unique, and fabulous way to have my brand break through the white noise of the Holiday Season. It was professional and extremely safe. It also allowed me the opportunity for some networking – which quite frankly, was non-existent in 2020. Thanks for helping to grow my small biz, and the other businesses in our community.”

-Erica Marchand, Bear & Fox Apparel

“As a small business wading through the unprecedented year we have had, we have been so fortunate to receive support and assistance from various organizations in the community. The promotional tools and material aimed at supporting local businesses during this past year have been so helpful to our business in 2020. We have noticed through our analytics the increase in traffic to our website from promotional websites aimed to support locals and are so grateful for the assistance that has been openly provided. We were also supported with video interviews and promotional footage which was so helpful during the holiday season to ensure that we were able to reach new audiences and bring back

returning ones as well. This was the first time our business has done video footage including recorded interviews and it was such a great positive learning experience for us. We have learned a great deal from the support provided over the past year and will continue to use it to help grow our business into the years ahead.”

-Lindsay Rennie, Betty's Marketplace

### Thank you to our partners

Supporting Oxford and the coordinated campaigns that followed became a large project that was only possible because our partners leveraged their strength to make it successful.

Working Group and Financial Contributions  
Tourism Oxford  
Rural Oxford Economic Development  
Community Futures Oxford

Financial Contributions  
Ingersoll BIA  
Woodstock BIA  
Tavistock Chamber of Commerce  
Norwich BIA  
Thamesford Business Association  
Tillsonburg BIA  
Oxford Connections  
Future Oxford Legacy Fund

Special Thank You To Our Technical Experts  
The Social Factory- branding and web development  
Puffin Media- video production

**Rural Oxford**  
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**Thank You**  
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## 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

# Oxford 4-H Association



4-H is still going strong a year later in the pandemic!! 4-H youth members are using the motto "Learn To Do By Doing" to continue with learning in a variety of 4-H projects available virtually.

There are opportunities for everyone to learn something new with the step-by-step cooking and sewing projects available with Oxford 4-H Clubs. Members have the great advantage of being



Hailey Peters participating in the virtual soup-and muffin-making project.

involved with other 4-H clubs across the province with virtual learning as well.

Learning to make suncatchers with items found around the yard or cutting up fruit and then adding water and a string then freezing makes for something to watch or feed the birds. Easy creative activities for youth to be engaged with nature in the gardening project!

The step-by-step cooking of muffins, parfaits, Easter devilled eggs or learning

about other countries foods through the International Lunch project is hands on learning for youth to develop their skills in the kitchen with making different food. Members and families get to sample foods that they wouldn't normally have had the opportunity to do.

Members are learning to sew their own pajama pants step-by-step virtually. This opportunity makes it easier for members to sew right at home and not take their sewing machine & items anywhere.

Youth are engaging with adults in the VON Adult Learning Program virtually to play games and do a talent/variety show. The members made cards and wrote pen pal letters. Through the Adopt-A-Grandparent project experience, youth also learned about the challenges of aging.

There are also the on-line projects being provided by clubs. The members of Thamesford's club are busy making dinner for their families, with an online project called Six by Sixteen.



Clara Heberling (Alberta) participating in the virtual sewing project.



Hickson 4-H Club Muffin & More project - Zoom meeting

This project is based on the OFA's concept, that would help young people with the skills needed to be able to prepare 6 complete meals by the time they are 16 years old. Members have been honing their culinary skills by making spaghetti, stir fry, soup, shepard's pie, shake 'n' bake and lasagna. Members submit pictures and information to the club volunteers as part of the project.

The Fancy Feather, Beef, Pollinator, Dairy, Swine and Community Relay projects are starting soon. Club volunteers are starting the projects on zoom and hopeful to have in-person meetings to give youth the experience of working together again face to face.

To know more about the 4-H program, please contact the acting Oxford 4-H Communications Coordinator, Shonna Ward, by email [oxfordcounty4h@gmail.com](mailto:oxfordcounty4h@gmail.com) or call/text 519-854-6919 or check out Oxford County 4-H Facebook.

# FRAUD

## RECOGNIZE. REJECT. REPORT.



### How to protect yourself:

- Do not open or click the link in unsolicited emails or text messages.
- Verify the hyperlink behind the link's text or button by hovering over the text.
- Do not click on any suspicious attachments as they can contain malware.
- Be mindful of where you post your resume.
- Beware of unsolicited text messages offering employment.
- Most employers will not use a free web-based email address to conduct business.
- Take the time to research a potential employer.
- Never use your personal bank account to accept payments from strangers.
- A legitimate employer will never send you money and ask you to forward or return a portion of it.
- If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.
- Beware of pop-ups that direct you away from the current website.
- Consumers should verify the URL and seller contact information.
- Search for any warnings posted online and read reviews before making a purchase.
- Spelling mistakes and grammatical errors are other indicators of a potentially fraudulent website.
- Use a credit card when shopping online. Consumers are offered fraud protection and may receive a refund. If you have received anything other than the product you ordered, contact your credit card company to dispute the charge.
- Research local market property values.
- Verify the property's address on an interactive map and search for duplicate posts.
- Whenever possible, physically visit the property.
- Request a lease agreement and review it thoroughly.
- Do not send money to strangers.
- Fraudsters will often use the word "item" instead of what is being sold.
- Beware of buyers that try to change the shipping address at the last minute.
- Authenticate payments before shipping the goods.
- Never send payments to a third party.
- LEARN.



Consumers and businesses can report directly to the CAFC by calling toll free 1-888-495-8501 or online through the CAFC Online Fraud Reporting System (FRS).

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# Quadro Communications Is Coming to Town!



From humble beginnings in 1924, Quadro Communications Co-operative Inc., has proudly served rural communities for over 95 years. Quadro's mission has remained the same; to enrich customers' experience with personal service and innovative telecommunication products.

It was announced in October 2020 that Quadro had been awarded funding by Southwestern Integrated Fibre Technology (SWIFT) to expand their fibre optic network. Bringing high speed internet access to over 300 underserved homes and businesses in the Township of Zorra.

This spring you'll see Quadro Communications with the assistance of Weber Contracting Ltd. start the first stage of construction by burying fibre optic cables and conduit underground, along more than 106 kilometers. Construction of this \$5.2 million fibre-to-the-home initiative is expected to be completed late 2022.

This project is slated to take place in two phases. First phase starting April 2021, second phase Spring 2022. The project will start on Perth Oxford Road and head South. Fibre placement in 2021 tentatively will go as far South as Road 96 leaving the remainder down past Road 88 to be completed in 2022. Ranging in width from 14 kilometers East to West and 16 kilometers North to South in length. This project covers considerable ground in Zorra Township.



"Quadro is thrilled to expand our Fibre network into this community. This project when completed will provide the services needed for today and will future proof these customers as requirements change" said John H. DeHeer, General Manager, Quadro Communications.

Once construction has been completed and service wires brought to your home or business, Quadro not only offers lightning fast fibre optic internet but also has home/business phones, cellular and TV offerings. All your telecommunications on one bill with bundled discounts.

About Quadro: Reliable and dependable services brought to you by your neighbours. Quadro's employees live and work in their serving area. When you call technical support, you are getting someone from down the road, not oceans away.

Quadro is also one of several independent telecommunications companies in Southwestern Ontario. Members share power equally; it is not concentrated in the hands of a few. Being a co-operative means striving to re-invest profits back into the communities they serve.

Quadro is privileged to be able to provide rural communities like the Township of Zorra with an advanced telecommunication solution that are not readily available in many larger urban centres.

To learn more about this project please visit [www.quadro.net/zorra](http://www.quadro.net/zorra)



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# Township Contacts

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*Thamesford District Chief* - Jim Manzer  
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Email: thamesfordfire@zorra.ca

*Uniondale District Chief* - Ron King  
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*Recreation and Facilities Program Coordinator*  
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**Facility Booking**  
Phone: 519-485-2490 Option 4, then 1  
Email: booking@zorra.ca

**Recreation Facilities**  
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Email: tdr@zorra.ca

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

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

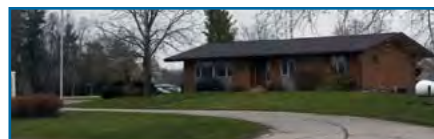
## Upcoming Council Meetings

\*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.

May 5 at 9:00 a.m.  
May 19 at 6:00 p.m.  
June 2 at 9:00 a.m.  
June 16 at 6:00 p.m.  
July 14 at 9:00 a.m.\*  
August 4 at 9:00 a.m.\*

## STAFF UPDATE!

Karen Martin, the Director of Corporate Services/Clerk is returning on August 3, 2021 from Maternity Leave. Township Staff are thrilled to welcome Karen back.



Find us on Facebook!  
Township of Zorra

Keep up to date on news and events in Zorra Township

[www.zorra.ca](http://www.zorra.ca)

Follow us on Twitter!  
@ZorraTwp

## Back in the Day ...

**On-line presentation series hosted free of charge** by the Ingersoll 50+ Activity Centre. All district residents over 50 years of age are welcome. You do NOT need a Centre membership for these presentations, nor do you need to live in Ingersoll.



### Beachville Bedrock

Tuesday, March 16, 2pm

Dr. Stephanie Radu, curator of the Beachville District Museum, takes you through the limestone valley, tracing the story of the early companies and the generations of people who worked there, and describing how 20<sup>th</sup> century advancements changed the lime business.

### The Street Where You Live

Tuesday, April 20, 2 pm

The history and stories behind the naming of a number of Ingersoll streets where you travel, where you work and play, and where you live. Told by **Scott Gillies**, curator of the Ingersoll Cheese and agricultural museum.



### Discovering Your Oxford Roots

Tuesday, May 18, 2pm

Whether you are a researcher or simply a curious browser, a treasure trove of Oxford County's past is available through Oxford County library resources. Better still, much of it is as close as your computer. Your guide is **Vicki Brenner**, Digital Literacy and Local History Technician at the Ingersoll library.

Reserve for each at 519-485-3869 or [info@ingersollseniors.com](mailto:info@ingersollseniors.com)

**These are Zoom events. After you register, you will be sent an email with a link. At presentation time, simply click on the link and you will be connected.**

# POSTPONED!

Due to Covid Stay-At-Home Order

## Celebrate Harrington Community Auction Spring '21

hosted by

Harrington's Knox Presbyterian Church  
and  
Harrington & Area Community Association

**PLEASE WATCH this site:**

[www.32auctions.com/HarringtonSpring2021](http://www.32auctions.com/HarringtonSpring2021)

**FOR UPDATES**

Tentatively, donations of new, or gently used items will be received at Harrington Hall (under Covid protocols):  
Thurs. May 13th 4pm - 7pm / Sat. May 15th - 9 - noon

**TENTATIVE DATE of Online Auction:**  
**OPENS: Tuesday, May 18, 2021 8am**  
**CLOSES: Tuesday, May 25, 2021 8pm**

Funds raised will benefit the Church's Missions, and the Mill Power Fund - supporting the ongoing restoration of the Harrington Grist Mill

**For more information:**

Sharon: 519-475-6069 [sharons@execulink.com](mailto:sharons@execulink.com)

Philip: 519-475-0484 [philipdkerr@gmail.com](mailto:philipdkerr@gmail.com)

**Sat. May 15th: 10am - 2pm Hanging Basket Sale**  
**Harrington Presbyterian Church**  
**Plants from Sebringville Garden Centre**

# Thamesford



# 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

### Electronic, Metal, Batteries Recycling Day - Saturday May 1, 2021

8AM-3PM Thamesford Recreation Centre • Contact: Lion Jim 519-285-3349

### Pork Chop Takeout BBQ - To Be Scheduled

TBD Thamesford Recreation Centre • Contact: Lion Scott [gscotty1971@gmail.com](mailto:gscotty1971@gmail.com)

All Events Are Pending Local Health Regulation Restrictions - Watch For The Latest Updates On These Events on the "Thamesford Lions" Facebook page!



# RECYCLE DAY

**SUBJECT TO COVID RESTRICTIONS**

**CURBSIDE PICK UP AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST 519-285-3349**



Bins &

hauling

donated by:



**519-455-1988**

**JUNE 5th 8am-3pm**

**THAMESFORD ARENA**

**DON'T PUT IT IN THE DUMP!**

### Metal Waste



BBQ's (not propane tanks)  
Metal bath tubs & sinks  
Bicycles (no tires)  
De-humidifiers  
Dismantled swing sets  
Metal fences  
Furnaces  
Metal furniture  
Hot water tanks (empty)  
Microwaves  
Pool heaters  
Metal shower enclosures  
Metal water softeners (empty)

### White Goods



Dishwashers  
Dryers  
Stoves Washers

**"No Refrigerators or Freezers"**

### Batteries



Car Batteries  
Truck Batteries  
Tractor Batteries  
Household Batteries

### Waste Electronics

desktop & portable computers, computer peripherals (Keyboards, mice, hard drives, optical drives - CD, Blu-ray, DVD, HD-DVD), monitors, TV's desktop printers & multi-function devices. Photocopiers, scanners, typewriters, telephones & answering machines, cellular phones, pagers, PDA's A/V players & recorders (eg. MP3, cassette, digital), cameras, equalizers, amplifiers, radios, receivers, speakers, turntables, video players/ projectors, digital frames, video recorders, personal hand held computers.



**100% of the Proceeds  
to Support  
Community Projects**

# 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>
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
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**Kintore**

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

Thamesford Public School	519-285-2043
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**Roch Carrier French Immersion**

John Knox Christian School	519-537-7321
	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	
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	<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>
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	519-475-4385
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.tpdrc.ca">www.tpdrc.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 Nissouri Union Church	
	519-349-2333

# Thamesford Beach Volleyball Club



Anyone else ready to turn off netflix and stop chilling? I know I am. Luckily for us we have the 2021 beach volleyball season on the horizon. We are happy to announce that registration is now open for both the spring and fall season. Here's what's new for 2021:

### Tuesday Nights:

Coed 2s - 16 teams max  
12-16 weeks based on # of teams for introductory rate of \$80

### Wednesday Nights:

Ladies 4s - 8 teams max  
Ladies 6s - 8 teams max

### Spring League

June 2nd - July 28 for \$240/team

### Fall League

August 4th - September 29 for \$240/team

Register for both now \$400/team

### Thursday Nights:

Coed 4s A - 8 teams max  
Coed 4s B - 8 teams max

### Spring League

June 3rd - July 29 for \$240/team

### Fall League

August 5th - September 30 for \$240/team

Register for both now \$400/team

Prorated refunds will be issued if necessary due to COVID-19. Pools will be limited to 50 people due to current covid protocols. Spots fill up quickly so get a team together and register soon. If there is high demand and Thursday nights sell out we may expand and start running a Friday night league as well. Check out our facebook group "Thamesford Beach Volleyball Club" for any updates and registration can be completed at [www.thamesfordvolleyball.com](http://www.thamesfordvolleyball.com)

# 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 158 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](http://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, 300 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](http://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](http://www.thamesriver.on.ca).



# 2021 Large Article Collection

MAY 3	ZORRA	MAY 10	EAST ZORRA-TAVISTOCK
MAY 24	NORWICH	MAY 31	BLANDFORD-BLENHEIM
JUNE 14	SOUTH-WEST OXFORD		

**NOTE:** The City of Woodstock and Town of Tillsonburg provide large item disposal/collection services on behalf of Oxford County.

Please check the Oxford County *Wasteline Calendar* and City of Woodstock *City Services Calendar* for large item program information in those communities.

### REQUIREMENTS

- Set out by 7 a.m. the Monday of your collection week.
- Place items no more than one metre from the curb.
- Max weight for any item is 45 kg or 100 lbs.
- Items must be on your property, not across roads/ditches, and easily visible (clear of tall grass).
- Bag tags are not required for large items.

Property owners are responsible for any unacceptable material left behind and/or late set outs.

### EXAMPLES OF ACCEPTABLE ITEMS

- Household furniture, tables and chairs
- Carpet rolls and under padding (6' max., rolled and bundled)
- Plastic and non-metal laundry tubs
- Plumbing fixtures (acrylic tubs/sinks)
- Pool filters (no sand) and pool covers
- Water softeners (no salt or contents inside)
- Mattresses and box springs

### EXAMPLES OF UNACCEPTABLE ITEMS

- Regular household garbage and recycling
- Glass and mirrors
- Leaf and yard waste
- Electronics (computers, televisions)
- Scrap metal
- Tires
- Construction, demolition and building material (concrete, toilets)
- Freon containing units (fridges, freezers, air conditioners)
- Hazardous waste (paint, pesticides, propane tanks)
- Appliances (washers, dryers, stoves)
- Items that can be broken down and placed in a garbage bag
- Automotive parts
- Items piled on trailers or wagons or loose in cardboard boxes

\* Indicates an alternate diversion program exists.

### DOES YOUR ITEM FIT THE PROGRAM?

- Does your item weigh more than 45 kg (100 lbs)?
- Can it be easily broken down into a garbage bag?
- Is there another diversion program in place for this item?
- Is your item small but you have a large quantity?

If you answered "yes" to any of the questions above, your item does NOT meet the program requirements.

### WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITY HOURS OF OPERATION AND LOCATION

Mon – Fri: 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
Sat: 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
384060 Salford Rd.  
Salford, ON

519-539-9800 | [info@wasteline.ca](mailto:info@wasteline.ca)

[WASTELINE.ca](http://WASTELINE.ca)



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