

Zorranow

COMMUNITY EVENTS & SERVICES MAGAZINE

Spring 2023

New Municipal Office & Child Care Facility



On hand for a groundbreaking ceremony at the site of the new Zorra Municipal Office and Child Care Centre today were (l-r) Paul McCaig, President, Paulsan Construction Inc; Taige Towler, Project Manager, Paulsan; Zorra Director of Corporate Services Karen Martin; Mayor Marcus Ryan; and Deputy Mayor Katie Grigg. #ZMCCC

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**Book and
memorial
honour
Thamesford
legacy of
W. Harvey
Beaty**



Message from the Mayor

Zorra is revising its Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan sets broad priorities and long term goals for Council and Staff based on the communities

needs and wants. In order to do that, we need to hear from you, the residents who pay for and use the services the Township provides. Please check the website and talk to your Councillor about the goals you have for your community and all of Zorra. We've achieved big things, and this is how it's done: by identifying those things (no matter how big or difficult) and developing a strategy to get them done.

We just had an election and the discussions had during that time are fresh in our ears. But what else do you want to tell us? What do you want us to consider for long term goals for our community?

What do you love about your Zorra Township?

What are the things you like to tell people about Zorra?

What are the places and moments that you'll remember?

What can we do as a community to make Zorra even better?

Please look here for more info and to give feedback on the Strategic Plan:

www.zorra.ca/en/our-township/strategic-plan.aspx

Check in on the website, follow the Township on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, phone or email Staff or Council: We want to hear from you.

Join us and add to your community by doing your part!

Marcus Ryan

Mayor - Zorra Township, Warden - Oxford County

"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:



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

Farmer Wellness Initiative



Support is available 24/7/365
Call 1-866-267-6255

2023 Large Item Collection

ZORRA TOWNSHIP APRIL 24

REQUIREMENTS

- Set out by 7 a.m. the Monday of your collection week. **Late set outs will not be collected.**
- Max weight for any item is 45 kg or 100 lbs.
- Bag tags are not required for large items.
- Place items no more than one metre from the curb.
- Items must be on your property, not across roads/ ditches, and easily visible (clear of tall grass).
- Do not place small items on top of larger items. **Inaccessible material will be left behind.**

DOES YOUR ITEM QUALIFY?

- Does it weigh more than 45 kg (100 lbs)?
- Can it be broken down into a garbage bag?
- Is it eligible for a recycling program? See below.
- Is your item small but you have a large quantity?

If you answered “yes” to any question, your item **does NOT** meet the requirements.

THIS PROGRAM IS FOR LARGE ITEMS

It’s NOT a spring clean-up
Non-program material will be left behind, and the homeowner will be responsible for removing it.

Note: automotive parts, glass, mirrors and items piled on trailers/wagons or loose in boxes will not be collected.

Did you miss large item collection?

Visit the Waste Management Facility
384060 Salford Rd.
Salford, ON

Mon – Fri: 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Sat: 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

*Tipping fees may apply



RECYCLING PROGRAMS

Visit wasteline.ca for complete details
User fees may apply at some of the depots

	Blue Box items	Bulky Styrofoam	Cardboard	Construction & demolition	Electronics	Film plastic	Freon-containing	Household hazardous waste	Leaf & yard	Scrap metal	Tires
Oxford County Waste Management Facility	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Town of Tillsonburg Transfer Station		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	
City of Woodstock Enviro Depot	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

519-539-9800 | info@wasteline.ca **wasteline.ca**

Visit www.wasteline.ca for details about what items will be accepted.

Public Works Department

Reduced Load Season

A reminder to all drivers of heavy trucks and equipment that the reduced load season takes effect from **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 and 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

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 NOM 2M0 – phone 519-485-2490 ext. 7245
- Embro Zorra Community Centre, 355644 35th Line, Embro, ON NOJ 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 2,952 lbs of batteries to Raw Materials Company for Recycling.

DAYCARE

WAIT LIST OPEN!

New Licenced Daycare!
Opening early 2024
Brock Street, Thamesford

Wait list: https://onehsn.com/oxford/ux_2_0

Building & Drainage Department

Building Department

Applying for a Building Permit

To complete a building permit application, please register an account at www.cloudpermit.com. You will complete the application online and be required to upload a site plan, drawings, and designer information to the application. For more information on how to submit an application or if you are unsure if your project requires a building permit, please visit the Building Department webpage or contact us at ext. 7231.

Failure to obtain a Building Permit may result in a penalty of double the permit fee, as per the Township of Zorra's Building By-Law No. 18-19.

Building a Deck?

We have added a step-by-step Residential Deck Design Guide (including diagrams and calculations) to help homeowners develop a set of deck plans that will streamline the building plans review process. You can check out the Residential Deck Design Guide posted online in the Building Department section at www.zorra.ca. To complete a permit application for a deck, head over to www.cloudpermit.com.



Sanitary Sewage System

The Township Building Department oversees the private sanitary sewage system (septic systems) approvals for Zorra. If you have any questions or concerns regarding these approvals, please contact the Building Department.

Drainage Department

Construction Drains

- Construction on drains are initiated by a petition that is filed by the landowner, county or even the Public Works Department of a municipality.
- Council will either accept or reject the petition.
- If Council accepts the petition, Council will then appoint an Engineer to carry out a study and report.
- Drainage meetings will be arranged and notifications will be mailed to the landowners within the watershed.
- It is very important that **any** notifications that a landowner receives from the Township be fully understood by the landowner.
- It is essential for all landowners to understand all the deadlines, appeal dates and the financial implications of the drainage work.

Any building or drainage questions should be addressed to

Mike Hughes

Chief Building Official/Drainage Superintendent

519-485-2490 ext. 7224 mhughes@zorra.ca



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Get Prepared #ReadyForAnything

Emergency Preparedness Guide

Emergency preparedness is a shared responsibility. All Canadians are encouraged to be prepared to cope for at least the first 72 hours of an emergency, while emergency workers focus on those in urgent need.

Personal Support Network

In addition to this, consider creating a personal support network. A personal support network is a group of at least three people you know and trust and who would help you during an emergency.

How do you create a support network?

- Ask people you trust if they are willing to help you in case of an emergency. Identify contacts for important locations such as home, work or school. Neighbours are often the closest and most available contacts in an emergency.
- Tell these support people where your emergency kit is stored. Give one member a key to your home.
- Include a support network contact who is far enough away that they are unlikely to be affected by the same emergency.
- Work with your support network to develop a plan that meets your needs.
- Practice your emergency plan with your network. If applicable, show them how your special needs equipment works.

#DoingYourPart

Is there someone in the community that could use assistance in getting prepared for an emergency? Do they have special needs for their mobility, hearing or vision? Perhaps they have a non-visible exceptionality such as specific medications or a severe allergy. In event of an emergency - offer your support. Check in and be part of their support network to ensure that the residents of Zorra Township are **#PreparedForAnything**

Zorra Fire & Emergency Services

Township of Zorra Fire Chief Deanna Kirwin
519-485 2490 ext. 7240



Please contact the Township's Fire Chief/CEMC, Deanna Kirwin at 519-485-2490 ext. 7240 or at dkirwin@zorra.ca if you have any questions.



Get Prepared Quiz

Emergency Preparedness **TRUE** OR **FALSE**

1. I can use my camping gas stove indoors in case of an emergency.
2. In the event of an extended power outage there is no way to safely heat my home.
3. I should keep an emergency kit for my pets.
4. Water does not need to be treated before drinking it in an emergency.
5. The recommended amount of water stored for an emergency is 1 L per person per day.



1. **FALSE** Never use unvented combustion appliances, such as barbecues, cook stoves, butane camping lanterns, or propane or kerosene heaters and lamps inside your house. They burn up available oxygen and produce CO₂ (carbon dioxide) and other combustion gases and fumes. Some also produce huge quantities of colourless, odourless and deadly carbon monoxide.

2. **FALSE** You can safely heat your home during a power outage if you already have a standby heating unit installed, such as a non-electric stove or heater, or a wood-burning fireplace.

3. **TRUE** You should personalize your basic emergency kit items according to your needs. If you have pets include special items such as food, water and medication for your pets or service animal. Whether you decide to stay put in an emergency or evacuate to a safer location, you will need to have a plan ready for your pets.

4. **FALSE** You should treat all water of uncertain purity before using it for drinking, food preparation or hygiene. Treatment can vary depending on the nature of the contamination, but when in doubt, do not drink water you suspect may be contaminated. Boiling is the safest method of treating water. Bring water to a rolling boil for 10 minutes, keeping in mind that some water will evaporate. Let the water cool before drinking.

5. **FALSE** You should have at least four litres of water per person per day - for drinking, food preparation, personal hygiene and dishwashing. So for example, if you have three family members, you should have 12 litres a day for at least a three-day period, i.e. 36 litres of bottled water in a cool, dark place, in washed and disinfected plastic bottles that are easy to carry.

Zorra Fire & Emergency Services

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519-485 2490 ext. 7240





Burn Permits

Fire Permit Activation has Changed

Do you have a fire permit on a property in Zorra Township? The phone number to activate your permit has changed.

All burn permit activations must call the new Dispatch phone number **519-842-2481 as of March 1, 2023.**



Does your permanent fire permit information require updating?

- Has the contact information changed?
- Do you have additional addresses to add to your file or properties to remove?
- Do you have questions about the conditions, or wish to review the parameters in which you can burn?

Consider checking in and verifying the information we have on file for your permit so when the time comes to activate your permit you can proceed without issue.

If you require any further information regarding this, please contact the Township office by email at mmcLellan@zorra.ca or by phone at 519-485-2490 Ext. 7221

OPEN AIR BURNING (PERMIT REQUIRED)

- **Open Air Burning is not permitted in hamlets or built-up areas.**
- **Application forms are available at www.Zorra.ca**
- **Burn piles must not exceed 9 square meters and 2 meters in height unless otherwise approved by the Fire Chief**
- **Burns shall be located at least 30 meters from any combustible structure**
- **Permitted ONLY during daylight hours and MUST be extinguished before dark**
- **No burning of petroleum-based products**
- **A responsible adult must be present at all times**
- **No burning is permitted during high-risk periods or poor air quality days.**

Zorra Fire & Emergency Services

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519-485 2490 ext. 7240





Fire Doesn't Take a Vacation



CAMPER



CABIN

Smoke & CO Safety

- When you open up your cottage or cabin, make sure your **smoke and carbon monoxide alarms** are **working**.
- **Install smoke and carbon monoxide alarms** in RVs, trailers and campers.
- **Stay in the kitchen area while you cook.** Keep anything that can catch fire away from the stovetop.
- Check **propane refrigerators, furnaces, ovens and stovetops** for leaks.
- **Replace** worn out alarms and batteries.
- Test them **monthly**.

Zorra Fire & Emergency Services

Township of Zorra Fire Chief Deanna Kirwin
519-485 2490 ext. 7240





A 4 day experience like no other where young women can experience what it's like to have a career in the fire services.



CAMP MOLLY

www.campmolly.ca

SCAN HERE



Molly Williams, a black slave in New York City, was the first recognized female firefighter on record in North America in 1818. The name, Camp Molly, pays tribute to this incredible trailblazer through providing young women in the community a unique opportunity.

Zorra Fire will be hosting a Camp Molly, June 1 - 4, 2023, which will provide a positive and supportive opportunity for young females aged 15 - 18. The camp will allow the chance for these young women to learn a wide range of skills involved in the fire service from fire service professionals across the province volunteering their time as mentors.

REGISTER TODAY

**BE PREPARED TO BE CHALLENGED - BE PREPARED TO BE EMPOWERED
BE PREPARED TO CHANGE THE WAY YOU SEE YOURSELF**



Zorra Fire & Emergency Services

Township of Zorra Fire Chief Deanna Kirwin
519-485 2490 ext. 7240



By-Law Enforcement

Recreation Vehicle (RV) Parking:

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

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>.

Fireworks

Residents may set off consumer fireworks on their private property 2 days prior to and 2 days following Canada Day, Labour Day, Victoria Day and Diwali as long as they are set off before 11PM, by persons 18 years of age or older. Consumer fireworks are prohibited from being discharged inside of any building, structure, or vehicle. Written approval by the Chief Fire Official is required for discharging fireworks from municipal property including streets, lanes,

squares, parks, etc. Reminder for residents to let their neighbours know when they plan to set off fireworks.

Fireworks may be sold in the Township, 7 days prior to Canada Day, Labour Day, Victoria Day and Diwali, to persons 18 years of age or older, as long as the retailer receives an approved permit from the Township.

Dave Robertson, By-law Enforcement Officer
226-374-6795

Animal Control

LOW-COST PET SERVICES AT THE STRATFORD PERTH HUMANE SOCIETY

Did you know that Zorra Township pet owners can access a variety of services at the Stratford Perth Humane Society? They include:

- Weekly low-cost microchip appointments
- Monthly rabies vaccination and microchip appointments
- Low-cost spay neuter clinic for cats (no income or geography restrictions)
- TNR services for community cats/barn cats
- And more!

Check out kwsphumane.ca for more information or to register today!

LOST OR FOUND A PET?

Please contact our Animal Services provider, the Stratford Perth Humane Society, ASAP and file a lost/found report. Also check out the stray pets in care page to see if your pet is currently at the shelter (pets will show for the first five days from intake, so please always call). Call 519-273-6600.

2023 Budget Facts



Council approved the 2023 Budget at the January 18th meeting and reports are available on our website for your information. We now wait for the County to finalize the tax ratios before we can finalize the Township's tax rates for 2023. Some key points include:

- Capital Budget will need \$3,005,180 collected from taxes to fund all projects scheduled for 2023
- The Operating Budget requires \$7,346,437 from taxes to fund the operation of the Township
- Total taxes for the year to be collected is \$10,351,167
- This is an 8.15% increase over 2022
- The Township saw 1.35% increase in growth
- If the tax ratios remain the same as 2022 (the tax policies that set the tax ratios are conducted at the upper tier level by Oxford County), an approximate increase of 6.72% for the tax rate, just under the 6.9% rate for cost of living at the time the 2023 Budget was produced.
- Including the 2023 tax rate increase, this is an average of 2.46% of the tax rate over the past 6 years for Zorra residents.

Tax Department

PRE-AUTHORIZED PAYMENT PLAN FOR YOUR TAXES

The Township of Zorra offers 10 or 12 month or by installment due date Pre-Authorized Payment Plans. If you are interested in enrolment, you can find the authorization form on our website at www.zorra.ca or you may call Lynda at 519-485-2490 ext. 7222.

A VOID cheque will also be required. You may enroll in any of our plans throughout the year provided that your account is in good standing. We require 30 days notice for any new enrollments or changes existing banking account information.

If you are currently enrolled in one of our pre-authorized payment plans, you DO NOT need to re-apply each year.

ON-LINE OR TELEPHONE BANKING

Online or telephone banking is available. All banks accept Zorra as a client and the account number required is your ROLL NUMBER from your tax bill, starting after 3227. For example, 012-010-13100-0000, you would enter this as 01201013100, if an error occurs, please add the extra four zeros at the end and try again.

2023 PROPERTY ASSESSMENT

Property Taxes for the 2023 taxation year will continue to be based on the January 1, 2016 valuation date. Property assessments will remain the same as they were for the 2022 tax year, unless there has been changes to your property.

SOFTWARE ENHANCEMENTS ARE COMING!

The Township of Zorra's Finance Department is working towards software enhancements that will improve efficiencies.

With these changes, it will be even more important that your online banking payee information is correct.

Please ensure that your account number listed for on-line banking is your roll number and that you have a separate payee set up for each property tax account (for each tax notice that you receive).

For example, if your roll number is 3227-012-010-02222-0000, for on-line banking purposes you would enter this number as 01201002222 (no dashes or spaces).

If an error occurs, try entering the four zeros at the end and this should resolve the issue.

You can check to make sure your account number is entered correctly in your on-line banking by going to your list of payees and selecting Zorra Township Taxes.

You should be able to edit the payee and this is where you can confirm that the roll number has been entered correctly.

We appreciate everyone's cooperation!

Lynda Thornton, Tax Collector/Deputy Treasurer
519-485-2490 Ext. 7222 lthornton@zorrap.ca

ZORRA MULTI-USE COURTS COMMITTEE

The Zorra Multi-Use Courts Committee is working towards bringing multi-use courts to Thamesford! The courts will be used to play basketball, ball hockey, pickleball, and tennis, and will serve as a community hub for all Township of Zorra residents to enjoy.

Committee members Andrew Goodwin, Brenda Carnahan, Julie Riley, Libby Wilkinson, Kate Lockhart, Rebecca Ruddy, and Deputy Mayor Katie Grigg have been working hard to fundraise for the multi-use courts. The total cost of the project is approximately \$266,500.00 with the Township of Zorra Council committing nearly \$80,000.00 to the project (once the remaining funds have been raised). This means that the ZMCC and the community need to fundraise approximately \$186,000.00 for the courts!

To raise money for the multi-use courts, the committee has hosted pickleball tournaments, volleyball tournaments, Christmas craft markets, and sold Cinnabons - just to name a few of their past fundraisers! The Zorra community has also been *doing their part* to help fundraise for the multi-use courts. Sugar Bloom Floral in Embro donated \$100.00 from their Valentine's Day sales to the multi-use courts project this winter. Take a look at the updated fundraising thermometer to see the fundraising progress!



In March, the Thamesford Lions Club donated **\$50,000.00** to the multi-use courts project!! This generous donation brings the committee a big step closer in their fundraising goal and has brought the Lions Club to "partner" level donation status. This donation is another example of how the Lions Club works towards improving their communities. Without groups like the Thamesford Lions Club, this project would not be possible! On behalf of the Zorra Multi-Use Courts Committee and Council, we would like to extend a big thank you to the Thamesford Lions for this donation! Thank you for doing your part Thamesford Lions!

Make sure to check out **ZORRA MULTI-USE COURTS COMMITTEE** on Facebook for updates on the ZMCC and their fundraising initiatives!

Are you a business, club, or individual that would like to donate to this family-friendly sports facility?! Please reach out to any member of the Zorra Multi-Use Courts Committee.

Recreation Department

THAMESFORD AREA SWIMMING POOL 2023 PROGRAM GUIDE

204 George Street, Thamesford
519-485-2490 x7285
thamesfordpool@zorra.ca

REGISTRATION

REGISTRATION OPENS MAY 1, 2023!

HOW TO REGISTER

ONLINE: Starting May 1, visit www.zorra.ca for access to the registration link. For assistance registering online, please contact us at thamesfordpool@zorra.ca or 519-485-2490 Ext.7285

IN PERSON: Registration in person is available at the pool starting June 26 from 1:00 p.m. -7:00 p.m. 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, they 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 2nd 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.

LESSONS

Thamesford Area Swimming Pool is now teaching the SWIM FOR LIFE curriculum provided by the LIFESAVING SOCIETY. If you have questions about this program or how to transition from what the comparison is to your current Red Cross level, please reach out! We would be happy to help!

LESSON SCHEDULE

Morning Lessons

Swimmers will come each weekday morning for two weeks and participate in the Swim for Life program. Lessons are scheduled between 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Session 1: July 3 – 14

Session 3: July 31 - August 11

Session 2: July 17 – 28

Session 4: August 14 – 25

\$56.00/session

Parent & Tot classes and levels 'PreSchool 1 to 5' and 'Swimmer 1 & 2'. 30 minutes/lesson

\$65.00/session

For 'Swimmer' levels, 3 to 6. 45 minutes/lesson

Evening Lessons

Swimmers will come once each week for 8 weeks. Lessons are scheduled between 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

\$46.00/session

Tuesdays or Thursdays
30 minutes/lesson

Saturday Lessons

Swimmer will come every Saturday for 8 weeks. Lessons are scheduled between 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

\$46.00/session

Saturdays
30 minutes/lesson

Private Lessons

Can be scheduled as often as required, subject to availability. Lessons are 1 on 1 and are 30 minutes in length.

\$25.00/lesson

Wednesday & Friday evenings, Saturday mornings
30 minutes/lesson

LESSONS

Thamesford Ares Swimming Pool now provides swim instruction based on the Lifesaving Society *Swim for Life* curriculum. The Red Cross Swim program is no longer offered.

Placement in the Swim for Life programs depend on many variables including age, skill proficiency, previous experience and readiness. Please use the following as a guide when registering your child. If you have any questions or wish a skill screening of your child, please contact the pool at 519-485-2490 x.7285 or thamesfordpool@zorra.ca

SWIM FOR LIFE LEVELS:

PARENT & TOT

Structures in-water interaction between parent and child, participants will experience the importance of play while developing water-positive attitudes and skills. Classes will be made available based on age and child development. **For Parents and Children up to 3 years of age.**

PRESCHOOL, Levels 1 to 5

The basic aquatic progressions work to ensure swimmers become comfortable in the water and have fun acquiring and developing a foundation of water skills along with an appreciation and a healthy respect for the water. **For Children 3 to 5 years of age.**

SWIMMER, Levels 1 to 6

The Swimmer levels make sure children learn how to swim before getting in too deep. For swimmers as young as 5 years old, and accommodates all abilities from beginners to those continuing to develop their skills. **For Swimmers 5 years of age and older.**

Lesson Conversion Chart:

Use this chart to determine what level your swimmer should be registered. Still not sure? Please give us a call!

	If your child is under 3 years of age:	Has completed Red Cross Swim:	Then register in Lifesaving Society:
Parent & Tot	Is under 3 years old with no previous lesson experience	n/a	Parent & Tot 1
	Is 4 to 12 months old and ready to learn to enjoy the water with parent	Starfish	Parent & Tot 1
	Is 12 to 24 months old and ready to learn to enjoy the water with parent	Duck	Parent & Tot 2
	Is 2 to 3 years old and ready to learn to enjoy the water with a parent	Sea Turtle	Parent & Tot 3
Preschool	If your child is 3-5 years old and can:		Has completed Red Cross Swim:
	Is 3 to 5 years with no previous lesson experience	n/a	Preschool 1
	Is 3 to 5 years and just starting out on their own	Sea Otter	Preschool 1
	Can jump into chest-deep water assisted	Salamander	Preschool 2
	Can float and glide on front and back assisted		
	Can blow bubbles and get face wet unassisted	Sunfish	Preschool 3
	Can jump into chest-deep water unassisted		
	Can submerge and exhale underwater 3 times	Crocodile	Preschool 4
	Can float on front and back wearing a PFD for 3 seconds		
	Can jump into deep water wearing a PFD	Whale	Preschool 5
	Can hold breath underwater for 3 seconds		
	Can front and back floats for 5 seconds		
Can glide and kick on front and back for 5 metres (all skills performed unassisted)			
Can jump into deep water			
Swimmer	If your child is 6 years of age or older and can:		Has Completed Red Cross Swim:
	Is 6 to 12 years with no previous lesson experience	n/a	Swimmer 1
	Is 6 to 12 years old with some lesson experience	Swim Kids 1, Sea Otter, Salamander, or Sunfish	Swimmer 1
	Can jump into chest-deep water unassisted and into deep-water wearing a PFD	Float, kick and glide on front and back	Swim Kids 2 or Crocodile
	Can open eyes, hold breath, and exhale	Swim 10 m on front and back	Swimmer 2
	Can jump into deep water and do a sideways entry wearing a lifejacket	Do whip kick in vertical position	Swim Kids 3 or Whale
	Can support self at the surface for 15 sec	Swim 15 m front crawl and back crawl	Swimmer 3
	Can tread for 30 sec	10 m whip kick on back	Swim Kids 4 or Swim Kids 5
	Can do kneeling dives and front somersaults	Swim 15 m front crawl and back crawl	
	Can complete the Swim to Survive Standard	15 m whip kick on front	Swim Kids 6
Can roll - Tread (1 min.) - Swim (50 m)	Breaststroke arms with breathing		
Can dive	Swim front and back crawl 25 m	Swim Kids 7	
Can swim underwater	Breaststroke for 25 m		
Can do shallow dives and cannonballs	Sprint 25 m	Swim Kids 8	
Can eggbeater and scissor kick	Swim 100 m of front crawl and back crawl and		
Can swim 50 m front and back crawl	300 m workout	Swim Kids 9	
Can do stride entries and compact jumps			
Can legs only surface support for 45 seconds			
Can sprint 25 m breaststroke		Star Patrol	

PRIVATE LESSONS

For swimmers who prefer one on one instruction.

A 1-on-1 setting designed to provide extra attention to a specific skill or a swimmers need that group lessons may not address. Private lessons are flexible and scheduled as often as required and are booked late afternoons or on the weekend. Lesson times are subject to availability. Please contact the pool to discuss your needs.



THAMESFORD AREA SWIMMING POOL

2023 PROGRAM GUIDE

204 George Street, Thamesford
519-485-2490 x7285
thamesfordpool@zorra.ca

DROP-IN PROGRAMS & SPECIAL EVENTS

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

Schedule begins Monday, June 26, 2023

FEES

Per Person	\$3.00
Children 3 & Under	Free
Family*	\$8.00
10-Swim Punch Card	\$25.00
Single Season Pass:	\$60.00
Family Season Pass*	\$150.00

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

SPECIAL EVENTS

DIVE-IN

Friday, August 11, Dusk

Watch a movie under the stars in the pool or on the deck with us! *(drop-in fees apply)*

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
6 Years & Younger	RED BAND	Guardians (13+) must stay WITHIN ARMS REACH at all times	1 Guardian for every 2 children OR 1 Guardian for every 4 children with lifejackets
7 - 9 Years Old <small>Swimmers will take a swim test to determine their ability and supervision level</small>	YELLOW BAND <i>(unsuccessful swim test)</i>	Guardians (13+) must stay WITHIN ARMS REACH 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
	GREEN BAND <i>(successful swim test)</i>	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
10 Years & Older	GREEN BAND	No supervision required. Swimmers may be asked to take the swim test at any time as the discretion of the Pool Staff	n/a

Swim Test Includes: Swimming on their front with his/her face in the water using a recognizable stroke for a half-length of the pool and then treading water for 30 seconds. Swimmers must maintain a regular, comfortable breathing pattern and must not stop during the entire test. A guardian must be present for the test.

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

THAMESFORD AREA SWIMMING POOL

2023 PROGRAM GUIDE

204 George Street, Thamesford
519-485-2490 x7285
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!

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. Emergency First Aid certification will also be achieved in this course. 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.

- \$150 + manual (\$55)
- Minimum of 6 candidates required.
- 20hr of water & classroom instruction

July 17 – 28

Monday – Friday, 4:00-6:00pm

*Mandatory test day: Friday, July 28 at 4pm

July 14-16 & July 21-23 (“Weekend Intensive” Class)

Friday 4:00 – 8:00pm and Sat. & sun., 9:00am-12:00pm

*Mandatory test day: Friday, July 28 at 4pm

August 28 – September 1

Monday – Friday, 9:00am-2:00pm

*Mandatory test day: September 1

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.

- \$80 + manual (\$55)
- Minimum of 6 candidates required
- 10hr. of water & classroom or virtual instruction

August 14 – 18

Monday to Friday, 4:00pm-6:00pm

SWIM PATROL

The Rookie, Ranger and Star Patrol levels provide enriched training for those who are ready to go beyond regular lessons. These classes will continue to develop participants swim strokes and provide the skill foundation that prepares them for success as they prepare for the Bronze medal courses. Minimum Swim Kids Level 6 recommended.

- \$65 per session
 - Minimum of 4 candidates required
- Available during morning lessons. Times vary per session.



SWIM TEAM

The **Tiger Sharks Swim Team** is a great way to build your swimming skills and have fun while on a team! Team members will have the opportunity to go to swim meets throughout the summer and test their skills against others in the area! Open to all ages: child, teen, adult who can swim (a recognizable stroke) for one length of the pool.



Practices: Tuesday, Thursday & Saturdays
1:00–2:00pm

Swim Meets: Wednesday evenings.

Cost: \$85.00 per swimmer

Register: www.zorra.ca

VOLUNTEER!

Volunteer at the pool! A great way to get some experience as a Swim Instructor! Volunteers will help run the swim classes with our staff during regular lesson times throughout the summer. Volunteers must be minimum 12 years of age and have completed Red Cross Swim Kids Level 8 or higher. To apply, visit www.zorra.ca for more information.



TOWNSHIP OF ZORRA
SUMMER DAY CAMP

JULY 3 - SEPTEMBER 1
2023

Registration Now Open!
visit www.zorra.ca to register!

July 3-7	Too Cool For School
July 10-14	The Secret Life of Pets
July 17-21	Amazing Race
July 24-28	Beach Week
July 21-Aug. 4	To Infinity and Beyond!
August 7-11	Shark Tank
August 14-18	The Music is Gonna Move You
August 21-25	Tropical Paradise
August 28-Sept. 1	Tastebud-tastic!

**8:00AM -
5:00PM**

**PIZZA
FRIDAYS!**

\$164/WEEK

**FIELD
TRIPS!**

BEFORE & AFTER CARE AVAILABLE!

EMBRO ZORRA COMMUNITY CENTRE
AVAILABLE FOR KIDS AGES 4 TO 12

THAMESFORD DISTRICT RECREATION CENTRE
TWO CAMPS AVAILABLE!

JUNIORS
For kids aged 4 to 8

SENIORS
For kids aged 9 to 12



Additional Residential Units in Zorra Township



The Township of Zorra is in the process of updating its Zoning By-law to allow for Additional Residential Units (ARUs) in settlements and on rural residential and agricultural lots, where appropriate. County Council approved Official Plan Amendment (OPA 285) on February 8, 2023 which directs Townships to identify zones where ARUs are to be permitted and establish standards and requirements for these units. Background information regarding OPA 285 is available on *Speak Up, Oxford!*

What are ARUs?

Additional Residential Units (ARUs) are separate, self-contained dwelling units (i.e., own kitchen, bathroom and sleeping areas) that are inside, attached to, or ancillary to (located on the same lot as) a single detached, semi-detached or street townhouse dwelling. ARUs can take many forms, such as basement apartments,

attached suites, tiny homes and coach houses, but they must be smaller than the principal dwelling or residence.

Zoning By-law Amendment

The Township of Zorra will hold a Public Meeting under the Planning Act regarding the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment (File Number ZN5-23-04) prior to Township Council making a decision.

The Public Meeting date is scheduled for May 3, 2023 at 10 am. Please check the *Township Council Agenda* and the *current application notices* page on the County website to confirm the date, time and location of the meeting and read the Planning Report, including draft zoning provisions.

If you have any comments or questions, please contact Meghan House, Development Planner at the County of Oxford at (519) 539-9800, ext 3219, or by email at mhouse@oxfordcounty.ca

Zorra Staff welcome new additions!

it's a
B O Y

CONGRATULATIONS to Jenna and Scott Gallman
on the safe arrival of

Kane William

JANUARY 11, 2023

Jenna will be returning to our
Finance Department next year after
enjoying her maternity leave.

Decorative elements include a footprint, a baby t-shirt, a baby stroller, and a stork carrying a bundle.

IT'S A BOY!!!!

CONGRATULATIONS to Cody and Carley
Brown on the safe arrival of

Walker Wesley

MARCH 4, 2023

Cody and Carley will be enjoying some time with
their new baby boy before returning to their
duties at Zorra Fire & Emergency Services Embro
Station and Zorra Public Works.

Decorative elements include a blue and white bunting banner, a hot air balloon with a teddy bear basket, and clouds.

Township Contacts

Council



Mayor Marcus Ryan
Email: mryan@zorra.ca
Cell: 519-301-1634



Ward 1 Councillor
Kevin Stewart
Email: kstewart@zorra.ca
Tel: 519-808-7839



**Ward 2 Councillor/
Deputy Mayor**
Katie Grigg
Email: kgrigg@zorra.ca
Tel: 226-268-4495



Ward 3 Councillor
Paul Mitchell
Email: pmitchell@zorra.ca
Tel: 519-349-2271



Ward 4 Councillor
Crystal Finch
Email: cfinch@zorra.ca
Tel: 519-532-9037

Upcoming Council Meetings

Council meetings are held the first WEDNESDAY of the month at 9:30 a.m. and the third WEDNESDAY of the month at 6:00 p.m. (* only one meeting these months)

May 3 at 9:30am
May 17 at 6:00pm
June 7 at 9:30am
June 21 at 6:00pm
July 5 at 9:30am*
August 2 at 9:30am*

Employees

Building/Drainage Department

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

*Deputy Chief Building Official/
Building Inspector* - Mathew Paul
Phone: 519-485-2490 ext 7230
Email: mpaul@zorra.ca

Building Services Coordinator
Nicole van Breda
Phone: 519-485-2490 ext 7231
Email: nvanbreda@zorra.ca

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

Director of Corporate Services/Clerk
Karen Martin
Phone: 519-485-2490 ext. 7228
Email: kmartin@zorra.ca

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

By-law Enforcement Officer - Dave Robertson
Phone: 226-374-6795
Email: drobertson@zorra.ca

*Records Management Coordinator/
Executive Assistant* - Lisa Teeple
Phone: 519-485-2490 Ext. 7229
Email: lteeple@zorra.ca

Legislative Coordinator/Deputy Clerk
Maggie McLaughlin
Email: mmclaughlin@zorra.ca
Phone: 519-485-2490 ext. 7250

Finance Department
Director of Finance - Diane Larder
Phone: 519-485-2490 Ext. 7225
Email: dlarder@zorra.ca

Tax Collector/Deputy Treasurer - Lynda Thornton
Phone: 519-485-2490 Ext. 7222
Email: lthornton@zorra.ca

Financial Services Clerk - Pauline Todd
Phone: 519-485-2490 Ext. 7237
Email: ptodd@zorra.ca

Public Works Department

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

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

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

Protective Services
Fire Chief/CEMC - Deanna Kirwin
Phone: 519-485-2490 ext. 7240
Email: dkirwin@zorra.ca

Embro District Chief - Matthew Cockle
Email: embrofire@zorra.ca

Thamesford District Chief - Andy Martin
Email: thamesfordfire@zorra.ca

Uniondale Deputy District Chief – Scott Matheson
Email: uniondalefire@zorra.ca

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

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

Recreation and Facilities Program Coordinator
Stephanie Starchuck
Phone: 519-485-2490 Ext. 7242
Email: sstarchuck@zorra.ca

Facility Booking
Phone: 519-485-2490 Ext. 7223
Email: booking@zorra.ca

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

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

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

Keep up to date on news and events in Zorra Township www.zorra.ca



Like us on Facebook!
Township of Zorra



Find us on Instagram!
ZorraTwp



Follow us on Twitter!
@ZorraTwp

Community Contact Listing

Minor Sports

Embro Minor Hockey Club www.embrohockey.com
 Zorra Skating Club www.zorraskatingclub.ca
 Embro Minor Baseball Association
www.embrominorbaseball.com
 Embro Minor Soccer Association www.embrosoccer.ca
 Kintore Optimist Soccer League
www.leaguelineup.com/kintoresoccer
 Thamesford Area Minor Hockey Association
www.tamha.net
 Zorra Skating Club (Thamesford)
www.zorraskatingclub.ca
 Thamesford Minor Baseball Association
www.thamesfordminorbaseball.ca
 Thamesford Minor Soccer
www.leaguelineup.com/thamesfordsoccer
 West Oxford Girls Hockey Assoc. www.wogha.ca

Other Organizations

Thamesford Jr. PJHL Hockey Club
www.thamesfordtrojans.pjhl.on.hockeytech.com
 Thamesford NBC Hockey
www.tnhl.hockeyleaguestats.com
 Embro NBC Hockey www.embronbc.ca
 Thamesford Men's Slo-Pitch
www.thamesfordslopitch.com
 Thamesford Beach Volleyball Club
www.thamesfordvolleyball.com

Schools (Elementary)

Zorra Highland Public School 519-475-4121
 A.J. Baker Public School 519-283-1098
 Thamesford Public School 519-285-2043
 Roch Carrier French Immersion 519-537-7321
 John Knox Christian School 519-539-1492

School Boards

Thames Valley District School Board 519-452-2000
 1-888-224-3354
 London District Catholic School Board 519-663-2088

Service Clubs & Community Groups

Embro & Zorra Agricultural Society
 Nicole Barnett 519-533-2208
 Embro Highland Games/
 Zorra Caledonian Society 519-475-4451
 Thamesford Lion's Club
 Barb Corrin, President 226-751-5828
 Thamesford Scouts
 Jackie Van Daele 519-283-6159
 Kintore Optimist Club 519-283-6321
 Harrington & Area Community Association
 Philip Kerr 519-475-0484
 Harrington Grist Mill Restoration Project
 Tim Van de Kemp 519-475-4376
 Oxford County 4-H oxford4-h@xplornet.com

Other

Alzheimers Society 519-421-2466
 1-877-594-2368
 Beachville District Museum 519-423-6497
 Big Brothers Big Sisters of
 Ingersoll, Tillsonburg & Area 519-485-1801
 or 519-842-9000
ingtburg@bigbrothersbigsisters.ca
www.sharethefun.org
 Calithumpian Committee 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 Pond Association
 Brian McCowan, President 519-301-4893
 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
 Shelia Greason 519-349-2768
 South West Community Care Access Centre 519-539-1284
info-woodstock@sw.ccac-ont.ca
 Thamesford Block Parents 519-285-1126
 Thamesford Business Association 519-285-3249
 Thamesford Public Library 519-285-3219
 Thamesford Snowmobile Club
 Harold Hacon (trails) 519-461-0855
 David Blight (President) 519-432-2729
 Thistle Theatre - Box Office 519-475-4201
infothistletheatre@gmail.com
 Tiny Paws Dog Rescue - Linda Collier www.tpdr.ca
 VON Oxford 519-539-1231
 VON Sakura House 519-537-8515
 Welcome Wagon 519-485-2990
 Wienerfest - Linda Collier 519-285-5123
 Women's Canadian Club 519-471-8924

Places of Worship

St. Andrew's United Church
 924044 Road 92, Brooksdale, Ontario
 519-475-6011
 Chalmers United Church
 842993 Road 84, Kintore, Ontario
 519-283-6376
 Crossroads Alliance Church
 194552 19th Line, R.R. 3
 Ingersoll, Ontario
 519-485-4440
 Knox Presbyterian Church
 115 St. Andrews Street
 Embro, Ontario
 519-475-4816
 Knox Presbyterian Church
 963727 Road 96, Harrington, Ontario
 519-475-4011
 Knox United Church
 116 Kincardine Street, Embro, Ontario
 519-475-4060
 Maple Grove Christian Retreat
 194936 19th Line
 Thamesford, Ontario
 519-285-3334
 St. John's Anglican Church
 220 Dundas Street
 Thamesford, Ontario
 519-285-3218
 Truth Community Church
 154978 15th Line (Banner Rd.)
 Thamesford, Ontario
 519-285-2112
www.truthcommunitychurch.ca
 Westminster United Church
 115 George Street
 Thamesford, Ontario
 519-285-3212
www.makingconnections.com
 East Nissouri Union Church
 519-349-2333



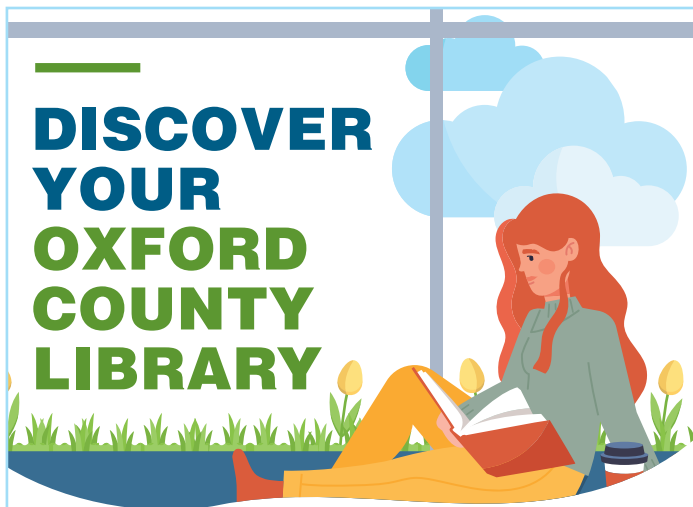
Spring is here! It's time to pump up the tires and tune up your bike for Oxford's newest Gravel Route, Taste of Embrosia. This bike route weaves through Zorra Township so you can stop for a mid-ride refreshment in Embro. Find the route at www.RideOxford.ca

Also remember shopping local is year round in Zorra Township! For a guide to local food in Zorra and Oxford County visit www.OxfordFresh.ca

Discover these local producers:

- Aarden Farms
- Alstein Farms Inc.
- Ann Slater Fresh Organic Vegetables
- Big Ass Slabs
- Braemar Hills Farm
- Buffalo Ben Bison
- Deep Purple Lavender Farm
- Eshcol Farms
- Fleming Farms
- Garden in Harrington (The)
- Golspie Dairy
- Good Nature Eco Farm
- McCully's Hill Farm
- Miedema's Meat Market
- Rooster Creek Farm
- Sheldon Berries
- Still Meadow Farm
- Turner's Farm Market
- Vanderpol Farm "What's Your Beef?"
- Wildlife Gardening

DISCOVER YOUR OXFORD COUNTY LIBRARY



Oxford Reads. Our 2023 Shortlist titles will soon be announced! Stay tuned to www.oxfordreads.ca for this year's Shortlist and details on how you can vote for our 2023 Oxford Read.

Forest of Reading®. The Forest of Reading® is Canada's largest recreational reading program and an initiative of the Ontario Library Association. Designed to encourage a love of reading, the Forest of Reading® celebrates Canadian books, publishers, authors and illustrators. Ages 4-18 can participate in one or more of the reading challenges for their age/grade category.

Oxford County Library is encouraging participants to discover as many of the books as they can in their age/grade category and vote on their favourite in April! Visit our Forest of Reading® webpage at www.ocl.net: Programs & Events – Forest of Reading.

Meet author Tim Van De Kemp. Join us at the Harrington Branch on Wednesday, April 19 at 6:30 p.m. as Local Author Tim Van De Kemp shares his book, *A New Life in a New Land*, and his journey of capturing his family history in print. If you have an interest in recording your family history, this is the event for you!

Summer Reading Club. Don't forget our Summer Reading Club starts in June. All OCL branches will feature special performers, crafts, and other activities all summer long.

Library cards. Do you need a library card? Send an email with your name, address (including postal code), phone number, and birth date to myaccount@ocl.net.

For up-to-date library information and hours call your local branch or visit www.ocl.net.



connect. discover. share. become.

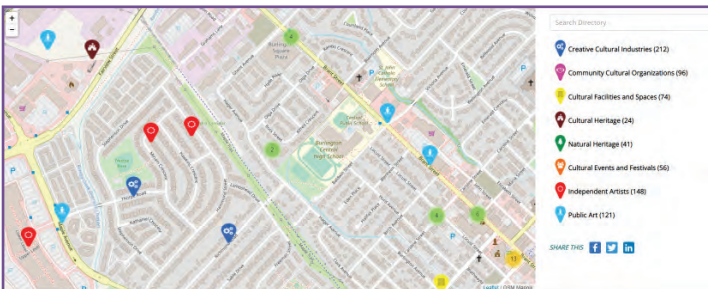
Cultural Mapping Task Force

Inventory underway of Zorra's cultural resources

A wide-ranging list of artisans, festivals and events, businesses, non-profit organizations, heritage sites, and other cultural resources in Zorra Township is being compiled by a volunteer Cultural Mapping Task Force set up by Council.

The inventory was requested so an interactive map of Zorra's arts and culture sector could be developed by Township staff. In turn, this would help Council identify ways it might provide improved service to local artists and others involved in culture-related activities.

The online information also would be a ready reference for residents and visitors, enhancing the marketing and promotion of local art, events and the many other cultural opportunities in Zorra.



An example of a cultural map for the City of Burlington.

If you have an idea, suggestion, or would like to help with information gathering for the project, we invite you to contact the Township or attend an upcoming task force meeting. All are welcome to attend! (The next scheduled meeting is Monday, May 1 at 7:00 p.m. in the small hall at the Embro-Zorra Community Centre.)

Arts and culture providers/creators who could be included in the inventory are also invited to contact the Township of Zorra.



EMERGENCY-GRANDPARENT SCAM

Fraudsters are targeting seniors by calling and pretending to be a family member in distress, the police or a justice official claiming that a loved one or grandchild is in trouble and needs money immediately. **Victims are told there's a gag order and can't speak to anyone.**

PROTECT YOURSELF



Fraudsters...

Call demanding immediate payment for bail, or fines to avoid going to jail

Remember! The courts won't ask for cash to bail out someone in custody and will require people to be present in court.

Claim to be a lawyer, police or family member in an emergency situation demanding funds

Be suspicious of calls that require immediate action. Hang up! Call your local police and contact the family member directly.

Request cash and send couriers for pick up or demand the victim to send cash by courier services or via cryptocurrency.

Never send cash, cryptocurrencies or any other funds to unknown persons, unverified addresses or bank accounts.

If you believe you have been scammed, contact your local police and the **Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre:**

1 (888) 495-8501 / antifraudcentre.ca

Recognize. Reject. Report.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT WEEK

October 16th - 22nd, 2022



While some refer to municipal government as the third order of government, anyone that has ever served on a council or worked at a municipality will say it's the first order of government – it is the order of government closest to the people. Local Government Week was developed to celebrate the key role that Ontario local governments play in helping to define the character, priorities, and physical make-up of communities. The week is meant to educate students on the importance and operation of municipal government, engage youth, and create an interest in community leadership, while putting a face to local government staff and elected officials.



Local Government Week was held on October 16-22 in 2022.

Township staff contacted the Zorra schools for their participation in Local Government Week and offered the schools options on how they wanted to participate this year. Thamesford Public School grade 4/5 and grade 5 classes decided to host a question-and-answer session with Mayor Ryan, Councillor Grigg, Matthew Brown, Director of Recreation and Facilities, Deanna Kirwin, Fire Chief, and Steve Oliver, Director of Public Works. Zorra Highland Park Public school hosted Mayor Ryan for a question-and-answer session as well.

Both Township staff and councillors that attended were impressed with the insightful questions that the classes came up with. It was clear that the students put a lot of hard work and effort into preparing for the Local Government Week Q&A sessions.

On behalf of Zorra Township Council and staff, we would like to thank all the students and teachers for participating in the 2022 Local Government Week activities. Thank you for doing your part!

REDUCING FOOD WASTE AT HOME

Reduce what you can; compost what you can't

Did you know? The average household throws out \$1,766 worth of food waste each year. That's the same as dropping a bag of paid groceries on the way out of the store each week.

By reducing food waste, you can cut back on your household waste by up to 24%, saving on bag tags and extending the life of our landfill.

How to reduce food waste at home

1. **Plan meals:** Plan your meals a week ahead to reduce the amount of food waste you produce.
2. **Shop smart:** Using your weekly meal plan, only buy what you need, and check the best before and expiration dates before you buy.
3. **Store food properly:** Make sure you store fresh fruits, vegetables, and meats properly to prolong their life.
4. **Stock your pantry:** Keep your pantry stocked with basic, nonperishable ingredients that can be used in a variety of meals.
5. **Use leftovers wisely:** Shop your cupboards, fridge and freezer before buying more food.

Some food waste is unavoidable. Fruit and vegetable peels, along with yard waste, can be put in a backyard composter. Peels, oils/fats, meat and bones can be put in a green cone food digester.

Why compost?

Composting is the process of breaking down organic material (food and yard waste) into a dark, nutrient-rich soil. This soil can be used to help your gardens and flower beds grow, in addition to saving you money.

Backyard composters and green cones are available to Oxford County residents for purchase at a discounted rate. Learn more at wasteline.ca.



wasteline

Better for you, better for all of us.




Download the **Wasteline app** for reminders, how to report a problem, “**What goes where**” wizard and more.




App Store® is a trademark of Apple Inc.
Google Play and the Google Play logo are trademarks of Google LLC.

Questions about Wasteline?

 wasteline.ca

 info@wasteline.ca

 1-800-755-0394

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Book and memorial honour Thamesford legacy of W. Harvey Beaty

By Stew Slater

Over the past year, a memorial to W. Harvey Beaty has been taking shape in the Thamesford Lions River Park – a labour of love, of sorts, for Thamesford resident Doris Weir. But the time spent on the memorial, being constructed in partnership with the Township of Zorra, pales in comparison to the many months spent by Weir compiling a recently-published book of memoirs about the remarkable Thamesford-based businessman.

Weir worked more than 15 years at Cold Springs Farm, the company Beaty founded in 1949 – naming it after the springs that created a “village swimming hole” in the Thames River at the back of the 110-acre property that started it all – and oversaw until his death in 1994. She started there in 1987, so had seven years working in the office interacting almost daily with the boss before he passed away and Cold Springs Farm was split up and sold.

Maple Leaf Foods eventually took over the poultry processing facility on the original farm site that had grown over the decades into Zorra Township’s largest employer. Maple Leaf closed the plant in 2018 and the property was sold the following year to the Township; it is currently being redeveloped for housing and municipal uses.



In April 2020, Weir approached the township about documenting the barns and processing plants before all the buildings were demolished, as a way of preserving a record of what had been essentially the lifeblood of Thamesford for decades. She was given access to the site, along with Beachville District Museum curator Stephanie Radu. Weir was able to take dozens of photos which are now available through a Flickr account. And Radu was able to acquire dozens of artifacts and documents.

About 45 of the artifacts – including boxes that employees picked up their Christmas turkeys in, work permits, cones for poultry deboning, promotional DVDs, turkey shackles, years of service plaques, key rings and trophies from the employee association’s participation in hockey tournaments – are now in the possession of the Beachville District Museum.

Other documents secured by Radu at the time were passed on to the Oxford County Archives. Not long after, Weir was surprised to be contacted by former Cold Springs Farm Turkey Division Vice President George Leroux. Having learned of her effort to preserve the site’s history, he informed her that he had in his possession other photos associated with the company.

“So he gave me a bunch of negatives,” Weir explained in a recent interview. “But with the negatives came this memoirs book. I started looking through the book and immediately I thought, ‘oh my God, people have to know about this.’”

On two different occasions in 2020-21, she was laid off from her job due to COVID-19. She decided to use this time to “digitize” the memoirs by scanning pdfs of the pages and converting them to text, then going through that text word-by-word to ensure the writing translated correctly from the written to computerized word.

Generally spending between 2-3 hours per day at it (“I can’t sit at a computer all day”), it took her approximately six months. The memoirs included notes written by Harvey Beaty himself about his early life, pre-Cold Springs employment and business ventures, successes and setbacks as

the president of Cold Springs Farm, and other activities. They also included a “biography” of sorts written by Cold Springs Corporate Secretary Fred Wisdom under the title “Cold Springs Farm Limited: First 50 Years.”

With all this information digitized, she now had to figure out how to make it available to the public. She decided on the <https://lulu.com> self-publishing website. For editing assistance, she credits Cheri Handy as well as Linda Schwientek from JC Graphics, and her book is adorned by three paintings by Dorothy Adams – who was commissioned in the early 2000s to create murals chronicling the company’s heritage.

“It was verbatim,” she says of the information contained in her book – entitled simply “W.



Harvey Beaty Memoirs”. “I never even changed sentence structure. I wanted it to be presented just as Harvey had written it.”

Weir was working in the office at the time some of the events and business dealings took place but she admits she wasn’t aware of many of these

upper-level dealings. “There were things in the book I knew nothing about,” she said. “You didn’t always realize it while you were working there but it was such an incredible company, so vertically integrated. I don’t think you’ll ever see another company like that again.”

Even the descriptions in the memoirs about Harvey Beaty’s partial paralysis were a surprise to her. The truth is that Beaty broke his spine in 1943 after falling from a ladder but “it was never talked about. I assumed he got polio . . . He called himself ‘crippled’ but it never affected the way he did business.”

Harvey Beaty used a wheelchair or walked with the help of crutches for the rest of his life.

All the while, Weir had been thinking a memorial should be put up in honour of Beaty and his wife. She originally thought it should be put on the site of the original farmhouse attached to the original farm but the changes and development that subsequently took place in that vicinity made

her reconsider. Then she learned from a fellow member of the Thamesford Lions Club that Cold Springs Farm had also at one time owned – and subsequently donated for use as a park – the property now home to the Lions River Park. So her focus shifted there.

Weir decided to sell copies of the book to raise money for the memorial. The Lulu website offers a publish-on-demand model and, through that, she has so far sold approximately 400 books with approximately \$10 from each book going towards the memorial.

Already, a stone with an engraving and accompanying sign are in place at the park. A garden has been created and Weir plans on adding to that garden when the weather allows. She also looks forward to the coming months when she hopes the Township of Zorra is able to expand the pathways in the park to include a path past the memorial.

“It’s been fun. I feel like it’s so important that I do this, because I don’t want people to forget Mr. Beaty.” He put a lot of money and in-kind donations into Thamesford, she stresses. In the winter, he would send someone over to clear the snow from the arena parking lot. Cold Springs employees watered flowers and cut grass on some municipal properties. “Because that’s just what you did. Or at least that’s what HE did.”

Harvey Beaty has been honoured in various ways both while he was alive and since his passing. Perhaps most notably, he was inducted in 2018 into the Ontario Agricultural Hall of Fame – with the first two paragraphs of his biography reading as follows: “William Beaty was the founder and chairman of Cold Springs Farm Ltd., an enterprise that he started in 1949 in Thamesford on 100 acres. By 1994, it had grown to include 60 farms and nearly 9,000 acres for producing hogs, turkeys, chickens, beef cattle and crops, along with a feed mill, grain elevators, processing plant, fertilizer plant and more.”

“Harvey was renowned for his business acumen, his concern for the environment, his support for Supply Management and his generosity towards countless people and organizations, a generosity which continues today through the Erma and Harvey Beaty Endowment Fund.” But Weir believes many Thamesford residents aren’t aware of his legacy.

Asked what she thinks set Harvey Beaty apart and set him on a path to creating this legacy, Weir believes work ethic played a part. She knew a one-time neighbour of Beaty who would see Harvey at his desk at 10:30 p.m. writing. Weir imagines

him thinking about what the next breakthrough was going to be, or which company or farm to purchase next.

In the book, he writes, “I get my enjoyment out of solving problems and putting things together and making them work. When an operation becomes routine, I want to leave it with someone who likes routine and I move on to something new.”

Thinking of what Weir said and what she found in his memoirs, I imagine Beaty in the 1970s sitting at that desk long after sundown thinking it would be a good idea to buy the company’s own heavy industrial equipment, concrete batching plant, and a fleet of ready-mix concrete trucks so they could continue with construction without delays. It was something that was unheard of at the time for a company whose predominant business was primary agricultural production, and probably will never happen again. But it worked at that time.

Notes under the heading “Construction” in the book outline Beaty’s rationale for the 1978 decision. It has become apparent to him, after close to 20 years of construction and renovation projects on the Thamesford site as well as on purchased farms, that “the building program carries on forever, it seems, at an ever-increasing pace.”

“The first Cold Springs project (was) the remodelling of the (former dairy) barn in Thamesford into a five-floor brooder barn” after the original Billy McKay farm was purchased in 1949, he recalled. “Next was the building of the #6 barn in 1950 to be followed by the #7 barn in 1954. (Then) came the new killing plant and, in the fall (of 1955), the #9 brooder building.” Between 1957–59, three more brooder buildings – numbers 10 through 12, ranging in size from 24,000 to 32,000 square feet – were completed, as well as a turkey hatchery.

“1960 brought on the building of the West #1 brooder house of 28,000 square feet on the West Farm and the East #2 brooder house containing 75,000 square feet being built in 1961.” And between 1972–78 “there were 14 concrete grain storage silos built, equipped and put into use as needed.”

Make no mistake, Beaty made sure the company got full value out of the decision to diversify into concrete. “The feed mill was constructed in 1979 to completion in 1981 . . . The sewage treatment plant was built in 1982. The Protein Recovery plant was built in 1980–81. Grain receiving and storage terminals were built in 1983 at both Harmony and Dresden. The fabrication plant and Farm Centre

warehouse were built in 1987, and the pork plant in 1988–89.”

There was also the Putnam complex for Cold Springs Agri-Services in 1985–86, with additional offices and a truck service headquarters added a year later. “Over the years on the various farms, probably 100 sizeable brooder and finishing barns have been built (and) at least 30 hog farrowing and finishing barns have been constructed.” In short, Beaty’s assessment of the building program – that it “carries on forever” – was true.

Amazingly, this is far from the only section of the book that presents what, to the average person, would seem like a dizzying whirlwind of stress-inducing activity. Under sections entitled “Turkey Breeding,” “Hatchery,” “Processed Product Sales,” “General Farming,” “Farming in Michigan,” “Hog and

Pork Production,” “Joint Corporations,” “List of Property Purchases,” “The Florida Project” and numerous others, the progression of the Cold Springs Farm business – all under Beaty’s direction – must have left him with little or no time to sleep . . . for four-and-a-half decades!

There must have been times when he worried about financial threats. In notes probably written around 1991, Beaty assesses the performance of the pork processing facility. “While the plant so far has been a loser, ways will be found to



keep it operating, for it is a good modern plant. Cold Springs is not alone in this profit pinch.”

He also writes about a short-lived, early 1980s foray into dairy production. It was, as Fred Wisdom states in his “Cold Springs Farm Limited: First 50 Years” section of the book, “a sorry period in the group’s history” during which the dairy division never turned a profit and was discontinued by 1990.

“Farm milk production is best in the hands of an owner producer who looks to the caretaking of the

cows for his salary, perhaps with some of his family,” Beaty offers in his memoirs. “It does not pay off,” he concludes, under the Cold Springs Farm employee model.

Despite these setbacks, however, Beaty never shied away from risks. He built a company that, when it came time to sell it following his death in 1994, no one else could have taken over in its complete format. There were some huge corporate names interested in Cold Springs assets at the time but they only wanted portions of the company.

None of them had the ability to dream about the next acquisition, or the next diversification project, the way Beaty did in front of his Thamesford desk on those late evenings.

Weir laments that the notes and memoirs she digitized to compile her 400-page book cover the business part but not so much the personal part of Harvey Beaty’s life. She seeks to rectify this, to a degree, in the “Acknowledgements” section, where she thanks her husband (also a former Cold Springs Farm employee) and kids “who listened to me enthusiastically talk about Harvey, his life and his humbleness while creating an empire.” And speaking to me about her book and memorial projects, she added, “he was never high on himself. He was high about other people. He always said his employees were his best asset.”

Reading through the pages carefully, however, reveals significant references to Beaty’s personality and personal life.

He writes, in a section entitled “Private Life with Help from Others,” about his marriage in 1955 to front office employee Erma McFadden, who had lost her husband – the father of her three children (“a ready-made family,” Beaty said) – to cancer. Erma “accepted my proposal of marriage,” he wrote. “I am grateful that she did for we have had many years of pleasant times together.”

This statement is followed by a touching passage about her care for the physical challenges related to his paralysis.

And Wisdom’s section includes “extracts from a speech made by W. Harvey Beaty to a group (unknown) in the middle 1970s, published here because he reveals his philosophy of life and gives the reader an insight into his character.” In the speech, Beaty talks about his early life on a small mixed farm near Milton without electricity or running water, where “in the wintertime, the pot under the bed usually froze. But we were comfortable, we slept on feather ticks with down comforters. My mother raised geese and we used feathers and down.”

It was an era of loose hay piled on wagons and stacked in the barn; of corn and spring grains cut and tied into sheaves then loaded by hand onto wagons and hauled by horses to the barn to be fed into threshing machines or cutting boxes “It was hard work but I enjoyed it,” Beaty wrote. Perhaps not surprisingly given his mother’s enterprising work with poultry, Harvey – the oldest of four – first entered business raising chickens and eggs during his final two years of high school to help pay for post-secondary education in Engineering at the University of Toronto.

Not wanting to enter the active overseas fighting of World War Two, Harvey instead sought employment in an agricultural sector supporting the troops. He landed in Seaforth, heading up a flax growing and processing company. Flax fibres, three times stronger than cotton, were used in the war effort for such things as parachute cords. It was in Seaforth that Beaty suffered his debilitating fall from the ladder while removing a tree limb in March 1943. He spent three months in Toronto General Hospital, another month in Seaforth “in bed at my close friend’s home,” and did bookkeeping for his friend’s plumbing business “while continually trying to figure out what I could do with my future.”

In September, after consultation with his family, Beaty’s parents decided to give up farming and purchase a feed and seed store in London; at age 27, he rejoined his parents – both in home life and in business.

Almost immediately, Harvey’s penchant for deal-making became evident. Within a year of taking over, the Beatys purchased a feed mill in Thorndale to streamline the supply of grains to the store. The next year, they rented a farm in Westminster Township to grow beans and corn. And in 1947 they were back in the poultry business, first selling baby chicks from a hatchery in Exeter and eventually establishing a first-of-its-kind “cut-up chicken” outlet to serve the city’s home cooks. Aiming to streamline the supply of poultry, Harvey Beaty purchased the farm in Thamesford in 1949. And the rest, as they say, is history – a history meticulously detailed in Weir’s digitized collection of memoirs and writings.

A second book is in the works. Weir learned that one former Cold Springs Farm staffer possesses every single edition of the employee association newsletter, which was published from 1984-94. She’s going to compile excerpts from these into “Part 2” of the Cold Springs Farm story.

To purchase the book, visit <https://www.lulu.com/> and search for “Harvey Beaty.”



WHAT IS THE EZCC PAVILION ?

The EZCC Pavilion Project Steering Committee is fundraising to build a permanent, outdoor, low-maintenance pavilion that can be enjoyed by the community year-round!

Located on the grounds of the Embro Zorra Community Centre (EZCC), the pavilion will be equipped with hydro and water and will provide shelter from the elements so outdoor events and activities are more enjoyable for all participants.



40' x 80' Pavilion
Bright with High Ceilings
Low-maintenance

SUITABLE FOR LARGE SCALE
COMMUNITY EVENTS

VOLUNTEER COMMUNITY GROUPS:



WHY IS A PAVILION NEEDED ?

In 2022, the Embro Highland Games and Embro Fair together attracted over 4,500 visitors. Embro Minor Soccer has seen an increase in the number of registrations, with over 250 children participating in the sport last year.

Adding a pavilion to the EZCC grounds will enhance these events and encourage other community groups to host outdoor activities on the site. It will also be available for the community to book for weddings, family reunions or other social gatherings. Having an outdoor, covered space for activities like pickle ball and basketball promotes a healthy community.

MAKE YOUR PAVILION PLEDGE

We have 60% of the project funded so we need YOUR PLEDGES to raise the final 40%.
Construction is set to begin Fall 2023!



GOLD
\$5000+



SILVER
\$2500+



BRONZE
\$1000+

THIS EXCITING COMMUNITY PROJECT NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

Anyone who makes a pledge will be contacted in the Fall 2023 with updates! The fundraising committee continues to write grants so the final amount needed from community pledges may change. Pledges that convert into donations will be issued a tax receipt by the Township of Zorra.

Donor recognition will be part of the final project plans.



HELP US BUILD A PAVILION IN 2023!



**60%
RAISED**

\$58,200

\$40,000

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**40%
TO GO**

We need your support to build a 40' x 80' permanent, outdoor, low-maintenance pavilion at the Embro Zorra Community Centre. The pavilion will be equipped with hydro and water, making it perfect for outdoor community events!

EVERY BRICK BRINGS US CLOSER TO THE PAVILION

1. Choose your Brick (\$5,000, \$ 2,500 or \$ 1,000)
2. Email or call Project Co-Chair Gord MacKay at gordmackay4@gmail.com or 519-421-6342 to confirm your pledge
3. Stay tuned for updates in the Fall of 2023!

Special thanks to the Township of Zorra who have pledged \$ 58,200 to this project!



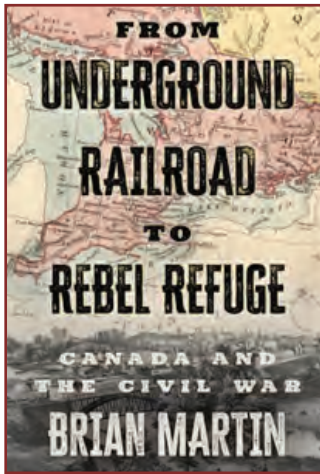


Oxford Historical Society Events

This year marks the 125th Anniversary of the Oxford Historical Society and the 75th Anniversary of the Woodstock Museum NHS. Please sign up on our website, www.oxhs.ca, to receive information about the Society and our upcoming events. We can be reached by email at info@oxhs.ca or by calling 226-242-4774

Wednesday, April 26, 2023:

Chip Martin discussing his book "From Underground Railroad to Rebel Refuge" at the Woodstock Museum, NHS. Doors open at 6:30pm. His book will be available for sale for \$25.00, cash only. A free event and all are welcome to attend. www.oxhs.ca for the latest event information.



Wednesday, May 31, 2023:

Karen Houston, Woodstock Museum NHS Curator, will present 75 years of the Woodstock Museum NHS. This special presentation will highlight the beginnings of the Museum, its ties with the Oxford Historical Society and some of its exhibits and events throughout its history. Presentation will take place at 6:30pm at the Woodstock Museum NHS. This is a free event and all are welcome to attend, Society membership not required.



RETURN. FLIGHT. IDEAS.



Did you know that 13 to 17 year-olds in Zorra can be community leaders while enjoying the experience of living elsewhere? In France, Germany, Italy, Spain and Switzerland, there are teens galore looking to experience life in Zorra! ISE Ontario, a non-profit exchange organization, matches them up so that they can spend 9 weeks together in Ontario, and 9 weeks seeing Europe through the eyes of each other.

ISE Ontario is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing extraordinary cultural and linguistic experiences. Residents of Zorra, no matter where they go to school, are eligible for \$1200 from Oxford County if they promise to share ideas they have gathered while on exchange that will help with the Community Sustainability Plan.

The renewal of this significant bursary means extra opportunities for at least one Zorra teen, extra chances for community groups to hear about brilliant ideas, and extra fun for all.

For information on 9 month school-year programs through ISE, on how to access this financial contribution by Oxford, and the process for applications to both, contact bryansmith@iseontario.on.ca

Bon voyage!

**CLICK ON THE LINK FOR MORE INFORMATION!
ISEONTARIO.ON.CA/DESTINATIONS/**

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The Rural Oxford Shopping Channel Returns for a Second Season!

Oxford County's five rural townships have an abundance of local shops, tourism stops, and service businesses that we just love to promote!

Building on a successful community collaboration, our Rural Oxford team will again partner to add another dozen videos to the collection of local business features on the Rural Oxford Shopping Channel.

The initial Oxford Shopping Channel concept came together during the pandemic as a means to provide digital marketing support to hard hit businesses through a partnership between Community Futures Oxford, Rural Oxford Economic Development, Puffin Media, The Social Factory, and Tourism Oxford.

To read the rest of the story, click on the link below!

<https://ruraloxford.ca/the-rural-oxford-shopping-channel-returns-for-a-second-season/>

After Nearly 150 Years, Golspie Dairy Modernizes the Retail Market

Zorra Township's Golspie Dairy has been around for many years but until recently most people have never heard of it. Thanks to some slick new self-serve equipment and cheese making, the company has been added to the impressive list of retail food destinations in Oxford County.

"My husband's great, great grandparents started milking cows back in 1874 so we are the fifth generation running the dairy farm. In 2022 was the first time we started actually processing the milk to sell on farm directly to customers," says co-owner Marja DeBoer-Marshall.

To read the rest of the story, click on the link below!

<https://ruraloxford.ca/after-nearly-150-years-golspie-dairy-modernizes-the-retail-market/>

Oxford County. We've made history.

Oxford Local History Day
Ingersoll Library

Experience collections, exhibits & featured stories from archives, museums & heritage groups from around Oxford County

Snap a 'Step Back In Time Selfie' in the Ingersoll Historical Photo Booth!

Presentations:
 11AM: Lost Ingersoll Architecture
 12PM: A Community 10,000 Years in the Making: Oxford indigenous settlements
 1PM: Zorra Tug-of-War & Bob Hayward
 2PM: Oxford Militia: War of 1812

Exhibitors:
 Oxford County Library
 Ingersoll Cheese & Ag Museum
 Oxford Historical Society
 Beachville Museum
 Oxford Ancestors
 Ingersoll Pipe Band
 Plattsville & District Heritage
 Heroes of Zorra
 Zorra Heritage Committee
 Tavistock Historical Society

Saturday, April 22
11AM - 3PM



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And, Thamesford Lawn Bowling Legacy at Oxford Community Foundation for sponsoring Sunday Public Skating in Thamesford for the next six years!





Dramarama 2023

Join us at the Embro Town Hall for 10 days of imagination and creativity!

For young people ages 7 - 14

July 3rd - 14th, 2023 OR
July 17th - 28th, 2023

Monday through Friday from 9:00am - 3:00pm

\$240 per child/per session.

A 2-week session at Dramarama is all about creativity and self-expression! Workshops in drama, dance, arts and crafts, and theatre production take place each morning while the afternoon is spent working in small groups to collectively create short plays.

REGISTRATION IS STILL OPEN!

For anyone still curious about registering,

July 3 - 14th - OPEN AVAILABILITY
July 17 - 28th - ONLY 6 SPOTS LEFT!

To register, please send an email to:
dramarama.thistletheatre@gmail.com.

More details are available on the Thistle Theatre website (www.thistle-theatre.com) or email dramarama.thistletheatre@gmail.com with any questions.

Thistle Theatre's Next Production – "Last Resort"

Thistle Theatre's next production will be Norm Fosters' "Last Resort". It's a murder, mystery, comedy, musical set in Saskatchewan. It has a cast of 4 men and 4 women, in the age range of 30+. The play will be co-directed by Doug Turvey and John Hazeleger. Watch for details about auditions on social media on the Thistle Theatre website (www.thistle-theatre.com) in late Spring. The show will run between November 17 and 26, 2023.



Thamesford Lions Club Thamesford Lions Community Events

Spring Edition!

"Catch The Ace" Progressive Raffle

Weekly Prize Draws will start again in the spring
Contact: Lion Tony, 519-285-3618

Good Friday Salmon Drive-thru Meal

Friday April 7, 2023

4PM-7PM Thamesford Library (behind Beaty Room)

Contact: Lion Sheldon

email: sheldonwade81@yahoo.ca

Electronic, Metal, Batteries Recycling Day

Saturday April 22, 2023

7AM-2PM Thamesford Community Centre Parking Lot

Contact: Lion Scott 519-520-9016

Calithumpian Weekend - Trout Brunch

Sunday May 21, 2023

Serving: 11AM-1PM Thamesford Community Centre

Contact: Lion Sheldon email: sheldonwade81@yahoo.ca

Zorra Photo Contest - Calendar Fundraiser

Deadline August 2023

Contact: Lion Doris

email: dcweir222@yahoo.ca

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

TROJANS NEWS



At the time of writing, the Thamesford Trojans just finished up the second round of the PJHL playoffs. The Trojans finished the regular season in third place with the top four teams all being within one or two losses. Thamesford faced the Lucan Irish in the first round. Lucan proved to be a tough test for the Trojans in the regular season and would be a strong opponent in the playoffs. The Trojans came out and strong in game 1 winning 10-4. This was followed by a 7-2 win the next night in Lucan and two nights later at home before

over 200 fans the Trojans won 5-2. The Trojans completed the series sweep the next night in Lucan with another 5-2 win.

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Thamesford now faced the second place North Middlesex Stars in round two. Last year North Middlesex swept the Trojans in the division final, and this would be another challenging series. Game 1 was a hard-fought battle and Thamesford prevailed 1-0 in Parkhill. Game 2 was played the next night in Thamesford before 340 home fans and the Trojans did not disappoint and hammered the Stars 8-0. Game 3 saw another dominating performance by the Trojans and they came away with a 5-1 road victory. This set the stage for a potential series sweep on home ice on March 29. The Trojans and Stars played a back and forth games with great goaltending at both ends but Thamesford's veteran team prevailed 3-2 to avenge last year's Stars sweep.

Thamesford will now face the first place Mount Brydges Bulldogs in the Yeck Division final. Follow the Trojans on Facebook or at www.thepjhl.ca.



Oxford 4-H Club

The 4-H Pancake Fundraiser started March 4th, having it every weekend in March along with Wednesday of March Break and April 1 & 2. Thank you to everyone who came out to enjoy a pancake meal served up by the 4-H youth. It was great to be able to do the 4-H Pancake Fundraiser again to give 4-H youth the learn to do by doing experience of setting up, making, serving and cleaning up for the opportunity to demonstrate 4-H leadership and community involvement. A huge thank you to Jakeman Maple Products & Jakeman Families for providing the facilities to make the 4-H pancake fundraiser a great success!!

Oxford 4-H clubs have a variety of projects happening this spring for hands-on learn to do by doing activities in-person. Thamesford 4-H Club have started a 'Best of the Bakery' 4-H project, Brooksdale 4-H Club are finishing a 'Pizza' 4-H project with the Achievement Program in April, Hickson 4-H Club completed a virtual 'Breakfast' 4-H project this winter, the Community 4-H Club will be doing 'Community Engagement' project. The Cloverbud 4-H Club have started this winter with visiting the Woodstock Art Gallery and learned how to work with clay to make their own sculpture; then went to the Ingersoll Library to make their own scrapbook page; in March some of the 4-H Cloverbuds experienced the 4-H pancake fundraiser by helping one of the days. The Mt Elgin 4-H Club is doing a 'Crochet' 4-H project. The Oxford Beef 4-H Club started the 'Beef' project and the Dairy and Swine 4-H Clubs will start soon. There will be quilting 'Blocks be Magic' 4-H project done the week of July 17-21 by the Oxford Quilting 4-H Club.



The Oxford 4-H Go For The Gold will be happening July 10th at the Salford Community Hall at 7pm. 4-H youth test their knowledge about various 4-H projects in the trivia games they play. The top two teams will advance to the Region 6 Go For The Gold. Everyone is welcome to come and check it out!!

The 4-H Ontario youth participant fee is paid online directly with 4-H Ontario. The Oxford County 4-H Association will be subsidizing the provincial youth participant fee by \$20.00 for Oxford 4-H youth members for 2023 with the George Thornton Bequest Funds. Oxford 4-H youth members will pay \$75 to join 4-H in 2023—registration is done on the 4-H Ontario website. Please contact the club volunteer or oxfordcounty4h@gmail.com to confirm the project you are interested in is running in 2023 before registering.

The 4-H program is a leadership development program for youth ages 6-21 from urban and rural areas learning about health, environment, technology, agriculture, science, food, community and communication in a hands-on learning atmosphere.

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





Courage for Freedom.

An event for all who are concerned for the safety of children and young adults in our community.

**Westminster United Church
June 13, 2023. 7 pm
Free will donation at the door**

Come and hear Kelly Franklin, the founder and Chief Executive Director of Courage for Freedom, a Canadian-leading organization who exists to educate, train, and certify front-line and community service providers on proven strategies and prevention tactics to serve vulnerable victims of human trafficking and sexual exploitation.

Please Contact Linda Pike 519-285-2767 or Hendrika Matheson 519-290-1683 for further information

Celebrate Harrington Community Auction 2023

hosted by

**Harrington's Knox Presbyterian Church
Harrington & Area Community Assoc.**

ONLINE AUCTION:
OPENS: Wed. May 10th, 2023 at 8am
CLOSES: Tues. May 16th, 2023 at 8pm
 (with extended bidding)

www.32auctions.com/Harrington2023

DONATIONS of new, or gently used items, including antiques and collectibles, will be gratefully received at Harrington Hall, 539 Victoria St., Harrington on Thurs. May 4th: 5pm to 7pm, and Saturday, May 6th: 10am to Noon. Please note: we are unable to accept ALL items, due to health concerns &/or lack of interest from buyers

**HANGING BASKET SALE: Fri. May 19th and Saturday
May 20th at Harrington Hall. Further details to follow.
Plants from Sebringville Garden Centre**

Funds raised will be shared between the Church's Missions, and HACA's projects that benefit the Harrington & Area Community

For more information:
 Sharon: 519-475-6069 sharons@execulink.com
 Philip: 519-475-0484 philipdkerr@gmail.com

Thames Valley Dance Club is going great guns this year. We had 13 new dancers join us for a fun-filled year. We dance every Monday night, with a few special nights where we celebrated Halloween, Christmas, Valentine's Day and St. Patty's Day.

On April 24th, we are having *"Bring a Friend Night!"* This is an opportunity for you to come out and try modern square dancing for free, and see just how much fun we have. We dance at College Avenue Church, 22 Wilson St in Woodstock. The fun starts at 7:00 pm sharp. Hope to see you there! For more information contact Doug or Lois Turvey at 519-537-9037 or 519-535-2884.

Crackerjack Palace

HARRINGTON HALL

539 Victoria St., Harrington Doors open 8pm

Sat. June 10th, 2023

Spring Dance!

Crackerjack Palace is a local Classic Rock cover band formed in 2004. They cover songs from The Beatles and The Rolling Stones to Steely Dan and The Eagles. They focus on authentic reproductions of the original tracks from the '60's and '70's and continue to add new songs to their performance set list.

Cash Bar 50 - 50 Draw

Tickets \$20 per person Advance Only
eztix.com/haca or 519-536-0955

Hosts: Harrington & Area Community Association
www.exploreharrington.ca



EMBR0 & ZORRA

Annual General Meeting

The Embro & Zorra Agricultural Society (EZAS) wrapped up the 2022 year with an Annual General Meeting held on January 25, 2023 at the Embro Legion. The evening included a delicious dinner catered by Jed Lau, greetings from Zorra Township given by Ward 4 Councillor Crystal Finch, greetings from 2022-2023 Fair Ambassador Lili Smith, an update from OAAS District 7 given by Corporal Mona Eichmann, 2021 EZAS minutes, Treasurer Report, President Report, and guest speaker from the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, Joanne Fuller giving a presentation on the Farmer's Wellness Initiative – an important topic around mental health in the agricultural sector.

The 2023 Executive were installed by facilitator Jim Grieve: Katelyn Sykes (Past President), Chantel Van Ryswyck (President), Mark Zammit (1st Vice President), Rebecca MacLeod (2nd Vice President), Nicole Barnett (Secretary), and Emily Bertens (Treasurer). Board of Directors: Julie McIntosh, Kim Jakeman, Tori Smith, Trish Rochon, Eric Nicholls, and Selia Koops. Homecraft Directors: Marian Sterk, Veronica Sterk, Anne Matheson, Allison Wilks, Eleanor McIntosh, Laura Fraser, Lynne Heersink, Sue Langlois, and Kaitlan Van Wely. Retiring/Resigning Directors were thanked for their contributions and years of service: Sara Stephenson, Jill Whetstone, Gail Kavelman, Annie Parker, Pat Janscar, and Angela Cucksey. A warm welcome to our new directors joining the board: Jaclyn Turpin, Veronica Sterk, and Jenn McDonald. Aside from the Board of Directors, all members of the EZAS, volunteers, liaisons, and community members were thanked for their volunteerism, donations, and contributions – many hands make light work, and we are so thankful for a community that comes together like ours!

Secretary Nicole Barnett went over the proposed changes to the EZAS Constitution (2005), and a motion was carried to approve all amendments, thus adopting the updated EZAS Constitution (2022). Those wishing to have a copy of the updated Constitution can contact the Secretary.

An addition to the meeting were the newly added OAAS Awards. Congratulations to OAAS Award recipients: Katherine Grieve (OAAS Accomplishment Award), Sara Stephenson (OAAS 10 Years of Service Award), Julie McIntosh (OAAS 25 Years of Service Award), and Marian Sterk (OAAS Meritorious Service Award).

Dinner Theatre

In February and March, Embro & Zorra Agricultural Society presented their dinner theatre production fundraiser '*Splitsville*' written by Lynda Lloyd-McKenzie, directed by Norm Northmore, stage managed by Geoff Innes, and produced by Kim Jakeman & Sara Stephenson. The talented cast consisted of John Hazeleger, Meagan Hargreaves, Doug Turvey, Elaine Northmore, Kathy Dodd, Kelly McFarland, and Candice Lisk. It was a heartfelt comedy with an unforgettable cast of characters. Darryl, the harassed manager of the bowling alley with a dry sense of humour, Allie the determined type-A captain of the Allie Catz team, and of course, the Allie Catz team. The team includes the eccentric man-crazy middle-aged Reba, the ever-so-sweet (and accident-prone) retiree Molly, Lexi the confident hipster-type and Jasmine, a newly divorced young mother trying to have some fun whilst dealing with the issue of her ex. Frank, Molly's husband, is always next to Molly, whether she wants him to be or not, to practice his knitting and to cheer on the team.

We would like to thank all those who made donations and volunteered their time and talents. We are so lucky to have amazing assistant stage managers, lighting, sound, costume design, props, set design, ticket sales & promotion, program design, house managers, photography, hair & makeup, set-up crew, and more! We would also like to thank local business Workshop Supply for acting as a ticket sales location after box office closed. The delicious dinner was catered by Janice's Fine Country Catering and included many favourites such as a salad with Fairboard Dressing, buns from Sassy's, pork loin, chicken divan, roasted potatoes, vegetables, with cake and coffee to finish off the meal. For the Brunch, Village Deli & Catering served up a feast! Patrons enjoyed sausages, meatballs, cheesy bacon hashbrown casserole, green beans, pasta salad, veggie and fruit trays, and assorted desserts. Ticket sales were almost to $\frac{3}{4}$ capacity each performance. Kitchen Convenor Chantel Van Ryswyck did an amazing job keeping everything rolling smoothly as always with her detail-oriented, organized manner and positive, cheerful attitude – thank you Chantel!

We are also so grateful to all of our volunteers. It takes so many people to help with both set-up and clean-up, serving, dishes, and bar. We couldn't do it without the support of the community, many of whom don't just volunteer, but are also patrons of the show. We were also so fortunate to welcome new volunteers this year and look forward to the next performance in 2024! Watch the website for the December box office date!

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

Spring Plant Sale

On Saturday, May 20, 2023 (9am-12pm), join us at the Embro Zorra Community Centre for our Spring Plant Sale. All proceeds from the event will go toward the building of our community pavilion, which is set to begin construction in the fall. Any plant donations are appreciated and can be brought to the community centre on Friday evening. Cash only for purchases. Coffee, tea, and baked goods will be available for purchase.

Mental Health Campaign

Mental health in agriculture is more important than ever. In order to bring more awareness around this crucial topic, EZAS has decided to create a public chalkboard for community members to share a positive thought, an encouraging word, or an inspirational reminder all year long. We would like to thank Core Fuels for offering up a space to hang these chalkboards along the fence, where 'Embro & Zorra Plant Seeds of Kindness', aligning with the Let's Grow Embro 2023 Fair Theme! Mental health resources are available on the website, and watch for more mental health initiatives throughout the year as well.

Pumpkin Competition

The EZAS Pumpkin Competition continues again in 2023! Grow the biggest pumpkin and become the Pumpkin Prince & Princess! Every student living in Zorra Township as of June 1, 2023 is eligible to enter. Five seeds will be mailed to each student who requests seeds through the online form on the EZAS website. The last date to order seeds is May 1, 2023 at 12:00 noon. Students must plant and care for their pumpkin. Students attending Zorra Highland Park Public School and A.J. Baker Public School must bring their grown pumpkins to their schools by 9am on September 13, 2023. All other entries can be delivered to the Embro & Zorra Community Centre by 12:00 noon on September 13, 2023 or call Anne Innes at 519-475-6135. All pumpkins will be judged by weight to determine the Prince and Princess, 2nd and 3rd place boy and girls, and lucky pumpkin winners. All winners, including lucky pumpkin winners, will get the opportunity to ride on the pumpkin parade float and be recognized on the main stage at the Fair. For more information, contact Anne Innes 519-475-6135, 519-532-8969, or email grainn@execulink.com

Embro Fair

Join us for the 165th Embro Fair where we celebrate 'Let's Grow, Embro!' on September 16 & 17th at the Embro & Zorra Community Centre. Don't miss out on the fun-filled events we are so excited to host: Fall Parade, Church Service, Heavy Horse & Haflinger Show, Nash Barnett Memorial Car Show, Beer Tent & live band, Brunch catered by Oxford 4-H, Local Artisan Market, Bouncy Inflatables, Kids' Activities, Touch-A-Truck, Tractor Barrel Train Rides, Face Painting, Balloon Animals, Baby Show, Pet Show, Silent Auction, Jr. & Sr. Ambassador Competition, Wing Night, Children's Movie Night, Petting Zoo, Used Book Sale, Stage Show by Rising Roots Farm 'The Hopeful Harvest', Antique Tractors & Farm Equipment, Hay Bale Maze, Kids' Crafts, Homecraft Exhibit Displays, Field Crops Competition, Pumpkin Competition, Kids' Games, Food Trucks, and more! As an agricultural society we aim to promote an awareness of agriculture and the environment through community events and opportunities. We celebrate rural lifestyle and support activities aimed to enrich rural life. We proudly host community events such as the Embro Fall Fair, Dinner Theatre, Community Dinners, Farm Safety Day and many more.

We are a volunteer run non-for-profit organization. Our membership consists of local community members that are committed to celebrating the beautiful area we live in and its rural roots. If you would be interested in joining EZAS as a director or would be interested in volunteering at an event we would love to hear from you. Please reach out to a director you might know, or check out the Contact Us page on the www.embrofair.com website to get in touch with our current opportunities.



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