

# Zorranow

COMMUNITY EVENTS & SERVICES MAGAZINE

Winter 2022



Photo taken by Zorra Public Works Employee & Volunteer Firefighter Alan Thirkettle

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## Message from the Mayor

Your new Council has been sworn in and has already begun what is probably the hardest part of their job: 2023 budget and strategic planning.

of Education to preserve and enhance the role of our schools in our communities

Again, all these challenges and opportunities should be assessed using a “triple bottom line” approach of evaluating the financial, environmental, and social impacts of each.

Our community has done great things.

We’ve stopped school closures, high speed rail, and a landfill. We’ve built splash pads, 100% renewable energy buildings that cost us all less, and will build an 88 space childcare. 7 of 8 budgets below inflation (2018 Zorra budget was 0.1% above inflation).

We need to do more of these things that will define our own community for all of us. Many of these things will be very challenging, and none of them will be quick. But hard things are hard, and our communities have never shied away from that.

So we need a plan to get them done.

In order to deal with the challenges and opportunities we face I am proposing that the Township implement a “triple bottom line” approach of evaluating the financial, environmental, and social impacts of all issues. Each of us will weigh these differently on each issue, but these are the things to consider. Financial will not only be property tax impact, but economic development impact (which has a long term property tax impact). Environmental will be short term and local like trees and green spaces, but also long term and broad like climate change impacts. Social will be ensuring that we strive to include everyone, and not just reactively, we need to encourage everyone’s participation. Without as much participation in our communities as possible, we cannot put forward our best effort to overcome challenges and realize opportunities. Everyone should be able to do their part.

The challenges and opportunities we need to tackle are:

- Housing, we need more quantity, variety, and affordability
- Continue the 100% renewable energy plan
- Childcare – Thamesford will have a licensed space in 2023, we need one in Embro now
- We need to implement a “total life cycle cost model” for all assets and services to best manage our finances and keep taxes low
- Examine the possibility of more aggressive rebuilding of gravel roads to remove 1/2 load
- Continue to work with other levels of government to bring true high speed internet to every residence
- Continue to protect farmland and green spaces by reducing sprawl and increasing density in serviced villages
- Continue to work the the Thames Valley District School Board and the Ontario Ministry

The Zorra Township policies I am proposing to pursue to address these challenges and opportunities are:

- Zorra needs more than 800 new homes by 2031 for the growth that is inevitably coming, we need policies to get that done
- Secondary Plans to encourage the type of development we want, rather than only reacting to development proposals from developers. A variety of housing where we want it, while minimizing sprawl
- Implement the Community Safety and Well-Being Plan to help include more people, and address homelessness and crime
- Total life cycle cost models to better assess the true costs of assets and services
- Implement a robust Asset Management Plan to accurately forecast the maintenance and replacement costs of all assets (buildings and equipment) and plan finances accordingly
- Develop a plan to secure the future contribution of our schools to our communities

Again, all these policies should be assessed using a “triple bottom line” approach of evaluating the financial, environmental, and social impacts of each.

There are some challenges and opportunities we need to advocate and lobby the Ontario government to address:

- Fairer taxation, and improved regulation, of aggregate sites
- Rural communities shouldn’t bear the costs of protecting Prime Agricultural Land on their own. The Provincial Government needs to understand that there are consequences to rural Ontario for rightly protecting Prime Agricultural Land on behalf of all Ontarians. Rural communities should not have to bear the costs (reduced growth resulting in reduced services such as schools, hospitals, infrastructure) on their own. The Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF) should be increased to previous levels to address this unfairness.
- Our schools are integral parts of our small rural communities. The Province needs to recognize this in changed funding formulas and policies.

I started by highlighting the great things our community has done. We got those things done by hard work, and a plan. So we need to continue with the same effort if we want to continue to get results for our communities: we need a plan that can actually deliver results.

Please feel free to comment and ask questions. It’s not a perfect plan, no plan is, it can get better with your input.

As always, feel free to contact me on any issue.

Mayor Marcus Ryan

## Strategic Plan Open Houses

The Strategic Plan will guide the Municipality’s budget over the next term of Council. It is through the budget process that Council’s Strategic Plan will be implemented with details on actions, timing, required resources and accountability. On an annual basis, Council will report to citizens of Zorra Township on its implementation progress and how the work is impacting our community. Zorra Residents are invited to provide input as we prepare our Strategic Plan. Your voices is valued!

Thamesford Library Beaty Room January 17, 2023 7:00 p.m.		Embro-Zorra Community Centre January 31, 2023 7:00 p.m.
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## Township Holiday Closures

The Township office will be closed on Friday, December 23, 2022 at 3:00 p.m. and reopen at 8:00 a.m. on Monday January 2, 2023. In case of an emergency requiring staff, please call 519-485-2490 and leave a message at extension 7226. Messages will be monitored on a daily basis and forwarded to a contact person.

The Thamesford District Recreation Centre and the Embro Zorra Community Centre will close at 3:00 p.m. on December 24, 2022 and will reopen on December 27, 2022. They will also close at 3:00 p.m. on December 31, 2022 and reopen on January 2, 2023

*Happy holidays from the Township of Zorra!*

“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

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# Public Works Department

## REDUCED LOAD SEASON - February 15 - April 30

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

## HALF LOAD SEASON RATIONALE

- Minimize long term damage to infrastructure
  - Problems caused when roads are soft often require major repairs
  - Prevent additional damage to culverts and bridges
  - Heavy loads do damage to road sub-base that is difficult to detect
  - Changes in the size of agricultural equipment i.e. large liquid manure trailers
  - Multiple aggregate producers in Township
  - Infrastructure repair costs borne directly or indirectly by residents
- All of the above lead to safety issues during Half Load Season.

## NOTICE TO RESIDENTS...

### WINTER ROADWAY MAINTENANCE ON TOWNSHIP OF ZORRA ROADS

The winter level of service to be delivered is prescribed in the Minimum Maintenance Standards – Ontario Regulation 239/02 regarding snow and ice control. The Minimum Maintenance Standards are a regulation of the Municipal Act, 2001. Service will be delivered during the following hours:

Monday to Friday - 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. with additional hours as determined by weather conditions  
Saturday, Sunday, holidays - as determined by weather conditions.

### Any roads questions should be addressed to

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.

Keep up to date on news and events in Zorra Township

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



Find us on Facebook!  
Township of Zorra



Follow us on Twitter!  
@ZorraTwp



Follow us on Instagram!  
@ZorraTwp

# Building Department

The Building Department is excited to announce that the Township is using Cloudpermit for the permit application process. Residents, builders, and the business community can now submit building permit applications directly through the cloud-based system. Cloudpermit benefits both the community and Township staff by streamlining the permit process and improving communication and efficiency.

Cloudpermit allows you to apply for a permit, see the status of your application and permit anywhere, at anytime. You will receive email notifications on the status and you can

communicate with our Building Department through a messaging feature and request inspections.

We encourage all applicants to submit permit applications using Cloudpermit, however we will still accept paper applications by attending the Township office. Please visit our Building Department webpage for up-to-date information and instructions on how to submit a permit or contact the Building Department at ext. 7231. For additional Cloudpermit resources including video tutorials, visit [cloudpermit.com](http://cloudpermit.com)

### Any building or drainage questions should be addressed to

Mike Hughes

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

# SHOP local SHOP Oxford

Visit [tourismoxford.ca/holiday](http://tourismoxford.ca/holiday) to discover the magic of shopping local in Oxford County





## Emergency Response

In the Spring edition we shared that not all properties in Zorra Township have a blue emergency number. Rural properties are identified by 911 signs, but properties in Zorra's villages and in town have house numbers that match the street address.



### Worried Emergency Services Won't Find you?

Zorra Fire & Emergency Services not only completes training on operational firefighting skills but also those related to our local community. In addition to being certified to provincial standards, Zorra Township's firefighters must also live and/or work within our community to ensure their availability to formulate a response when called upon. It is a part of their role as an emergency responder to know the jurisdiction they serve and the most efficient ways to navigate it.



In addition to the talents and skills of our personnel, Zorra Fire has a lot of support behind the scenes. The communication our firefighters have with dispatch and the support that team of communicators provides helps ensure Zorra Fire will get to an emergency scene in a timely fashion. They also have methods built in to communicate additional information such as road closures or alternate routes. The County GIS team provides updated maps to be carried in all apparatus and hung in the fire stations whenever changes occur and technology in the form of an App on each firefighters cell phone helps pin point exact locations of emergencies, provides photos of the property and navigational mapping data right to scene.

## 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](mailto:dkirwin@zorra.ca) if you have any questions.



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



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.

This June, Zorra will host a Camp Molly, 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.

**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







# Car Safety

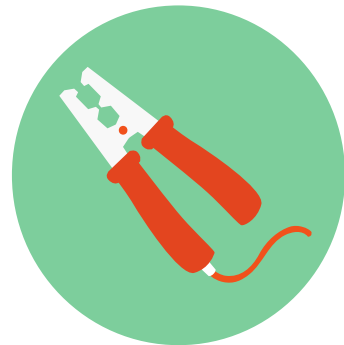
## #ReadyForAnything

### Building an Emergency Safety Kit For Your Car

With cold weather approaching, it is important to stay alert for your safety on the roads, and inside your vehicle. Nearly 30% of Canada's car accidents occur in snow and ice conditions. To help prevent incidents this coming winter, ensure you have the proper tires on your vehicle. Winter or all-season tires are crucial as we enter cold weather conditions. Changing your tires before the weather gets bad is the perfect way to mitigate and prepare for any emergencies that may occur. It's important for drivers to use extreme caution when driving in bad weather as the chances of losing control of the vehicle are greater, and it can be more difficult to see.

Another way to be prepared is to have an emergency kit stored in your vehicle at all times. Here are some items to keep in your car in case of a roadside emergency:

- Jumper cables and/or portable battery
- Bag of sand
- Flashlight
- Blanket, hat, and mittens
- Shovel, and snow brush
- First aid kit
- Water and snacks
- Tow rope
- Cell phone charger
- Flare lights (if travelling to a remote area)



#ReadyForAnything

**Zorra Fire & Emergency Services**

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



## Activity: What's in your Emergency Kit?

Draw three items you would pack in your emergency kit.

**Hint:** for ideas, think of the list on the earlier page.

#ReadyForAnything

**Zorra Fire & Emergency Services**

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





# Congratulations

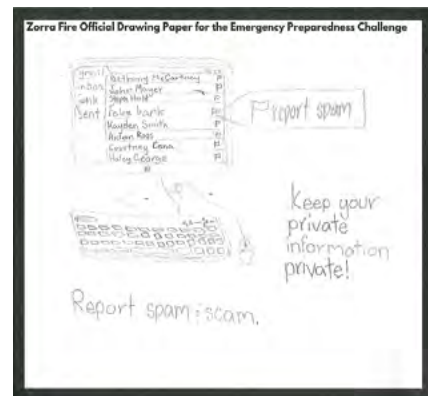
## Safety Tips from across Zorra

This Spring we asked Zorra community members to illustrate an Emergency Preparedness Tip and submit to the Township Office. This year we received tips about 'stop drop and roll', what to do in case of a power outage, staying low in smoke and call 9-1-1', what to do in event of an earthquake, and internet privacy.



### CONGRATULATIONS

- Mackenzie Stears
- Thea Roulston
- Jake Hance
- Damen Sol
- Becca Norwood



## Zorra Fire & Emergency Services

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



# By-Law Enforcement Department

## WINTER PARKING

Please be advised that the winter parking restrictions will be enforced starting November 15, 2022 and remain in place until March 31, 2023.

Parking is not permitted on any road or street from 1:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. 7 days a week during this period. Any vehicle owner found in violation of this by-law could be fined or have their vehicle removed/towed at owners' expense. The fine for this violation is set at \$50.

## RECREATION VEHICLES

Notice to all RV/boat owners. The Zoning By-law allows front yard 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. The vehicles may be stored on your side lot or rear lot provided that they meet the 5ft setback.

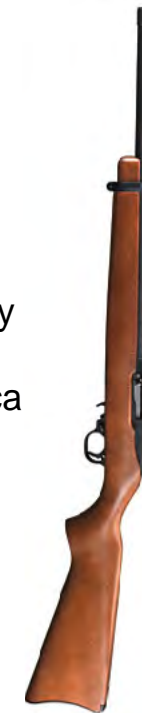
## LEAVES AND SNOW:

Did you know that it is a By-law infraction to push your leaves and snow onto the roadway or neighbouring properties? Depositing your leaves on the road or private property is considered dumping and is may result in a significant fine of \$700. Also depositing snow or ice onto public or private property carries a fine of \$200 and up to \$700! If you wish to review the Clean and Clear By-law it can be found on our website at [www.zorra.ca](http://www.zorra.ca)

For more information contact Mathew Paul, By-law Enforcement Officer at 519-485-2490 ext. 7230

## ZORRA HUNTING REGULATIONS

Sunday Gun Hunting in the Township of Zorra is prohibited. For further information visit the Ministry of Natural Resources website: [www.mnr.gov.on.ca](http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca) In accordance with Township By-law #43-09, Municipal licenses are not required for hunting rabbit and pheasant in the Township of Zorra.



## Steel City Rovers

Harrington Hall  
Dec. 3, 2022  
8pm

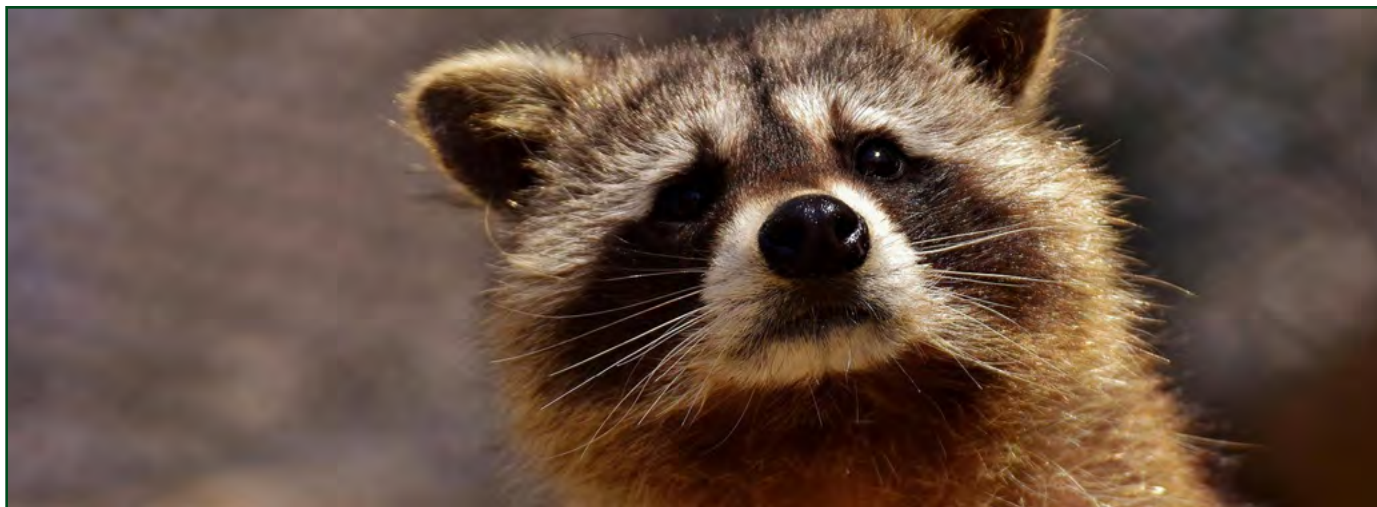


### Winter Tidings Concert

Tickets \$25 - Advance only  
[www.eztix.com/scr](http://www.eztix.com/scr) or  
519-536-0955  
Refreshments available  
Cash Bar 50/50 draw  
Doors open 7:30

539 Victoria St., Harrington (above the Library)

Steel City Rovers play a fusion of celtic, bluegrass, folk and roots, and will include both original and familiar winter-themed music.



Living in a beautiful rural community like Zorra means living in close proximity with wildlife. That's usually something we enjoy, but from time-to-time wildlife can pose concerns.

We've been getting a lot of calls into the office about raccoons lately. Here are a few things to remember:

- If you see a raccoon behaving strangely, do not approach it. Give it ample space, and make sure to keep children and pets well away. The raccoon will most likely move along on its own, given time.
- If you have a raccoon that is hanging around and not moving on from your property, you will need to contact a pest control company to have it removed. The municipality does not remove raccoons (or skunks, etc.) from private property.
- The Humane Society will pick up injured wildlife from private properties and there is no fee for this service.

To help keep your kids and pets safe:

- Don't encourage raccoons to visit your yard. Don't leave any food out, and keep your recycling and waste containers secure until your collection day.
- Talk to your children and tell them not to approach wild animals.
- Walk your dog on a leash, and make sure to check for raccoons before you let your pets outside in your yard.
- As raccoons may carry distemper, make sure that your pets have been vaccinated against the disease.

## 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](http://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.

## Pro Fleet Woodstock

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# Finance Department 2023 BUDGET

## Tax Department

### PRE-AUTHORIZED PAYMENT PLAN FOR YOUR TAXES

Sign up now for the quarterly, 10 or 12-month Pre-Authorized Payment Plan for 2023.

If you are interested in enrolling in this payment plan for 2023, you can find an authorization form on our website at [www.zorra.ca](http://www.zorra.ca) or call Lynda at 519-485-2490 ext 7222. Applications need to be submitted as soon as possible to ensure enrolment for 2023.

If you are currently enrolled in the pre-authorized payment plan, you DO NOT have to re-apply each year, only if there is a change with the account. We require 30 days notice of change.

### 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.

<p><b>22-12-07</b></p> <p><b>December 7, 2022</b> Council meeting- 9:00 a.m. 2023 Preliminary Budget Highlights: 2023 levy requirement/ 10 year capital plans / departmental summaries / capital budget/ operating budget</p>	<p><b>22-12-21</b></p> <p><b>December 21, 2022</b> Council meeting- 4:00 p.m. Departmental presentations of Capital projects / strategies / 10-year capital plans. Capital discussion &amp; levy requirement</p>	<p><b>2023-01</b></p> <p><b>January 2023 (date to be set)</b> Council Meeting. Continued Departmental Operating Budget summaries -highlighting changes, increases, etc.</p>	<p><b>2023-02</b></p> <p><b>February 2023 (date to be set)</b> Council Meeting Consideration of overall 2023 Budget and Levy requirements discussion</p>	<p><b>2023-02</b></p> <p><b>February, 2023 (date to be set)</b> Council Meeting Adoption of Operating and Capital Budget and Budget Adoption By-law.</p>	<p><b>2023-04</b></p> <p><b>April 2023 (date to be set)</b> Council Meeting - 9:00 a.m. Tax Rating By-law Approval (Pending School Board and Oxford County final rates).</p>
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Visit our website for Budget meeting dates

### WHEN WILL MY 2023 TAX BILL BE MAILED?

Tax bills will be mailed the first week of February, with due dates of February 28 and May 31, 2023. Tax bills will be mailed the first week of February, with due dates of Feb. 28 and May 31st. Final tax notices will be processed in July with due dates of Aug. 31 and Oct. 31st.

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

Lynda Thornton, Tax Collector/Deputy Treasurer  
519-485-2490 x 7222 | [lthornton@zorra.ca](mailto:lthornton@zorra.ca)

## Zorra Committees ZORRA MULTI-USE COURTS COMMITTEE

The Zorra Multi-Use Courts Committee is working towards bringing multi-use courts to Thamesford. The ZMCC is comprised of six community members – Andrew Goodwin, Brenda Carnahan, Julie Riley, Libby Wilkinson, Kate Lockhart, and Rebecca Ruddy – as well as Councillor Katie Grigg.

The committee has been working hard to fundraise for the multi-use courts. Some of the fundraisers they have undertaken include: pickleball tournaments, beach volleyball tournament, selling Cinnabon, Christmas craft market, etc.

The Zorra community has also been *doing their part* to help fundraise for the multi-use courts project. Doris Weir Photography and Tru Elegance Photography donated 50% of the proceeds they raised from their fall photoshoots to the ZMCC. Also, the Thamesford Area Minor Hockey Association hosted a power skating fundraiser in the fall with all proceeds going to the ZMCC. A big shout out to residents and organizations like this for doing their part to help get us one step closer to our goal!



October 15, 2022 pickleball tournament at the Thamesford District Recreation Centre. A photo of the tournament participants and Coach Pickle!



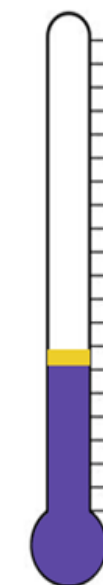
The Zorra Multi-Use Courts Committee sign at the Thamesford beach volleyball tournament this past summer. Make sure to keep an eye out for this sign at ZMCC fundraising events!

The ZMCC needs to fundraise approximately \$186,000.00 for the multi-use courts in Thamesford. The Township has also committed approximately \$79,000.00 to the project (once the remaining funds have been raised by the committee). As of November 2, 2022, the committee and community has fundraised \$6,928.24 towards the project.

**\$266,500 Goal**

### Fundraising Update

(As of November 2, 2022)



- The Township has committed \$79,950 to the project\*
- The community has donated \$6,928.24

\*Once the remaining funds (\$186,550) have been raised



Some volunteers and participants at the Thamesford Area Minor Hockey Association power skating fundraiser.

Make sure to check out the **ZORRA MULTI-USE COURTS COMMITTEE** on Facebook for updates on the ZMCC and their fundraising initiatives! And keep an eye out for the ZMCC's mascot "Coach Pickle" at upcoming fundraiser events!

# Recreation Department

## WINTER SKATING CALENDAR 2022-2023

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

### Public Skating

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

### Parent & Tot Skate

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

### Adult Skate

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

### Shinny

Non-competitive 'pick-up' hockey for all ages and abilities. Skaters will play cooperatively with small nets and no goalies. Required equipment: skates, helmet, stick and hockey gloves.  
(\$5.00/person or \$12.00/family)

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

October 3, 2022 to March 31, 2023

## PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES WINTER – 2022/2023

### Open Walking Track (FREE!)

The large halls in Zorra are a perfect place to walk! These indoor areas provide protection from the elements in a safe and climate controlled environment. This trial program will run all winter. Come out and get some exercise with us!

FREE

1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Thamesford District Recreation Centre  
Tuesdays & Thursdays

Embros Zorra Community Centre  
Mondays & Wednesdays

### Pickleball

Come out and play the fastest rising sport in North America! A great low-impact activity for players of all ages and abilities. Beginners welcome! \$3.00 per person

Thamesford District Recreation Centre  
Wednesdays: 6:00 p.m. – 9:00p.m.

Tuesdays & Thursdays: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

### Carpet Bowling

An indoor variation of Lawn Bowling. Carpet bowling is played on a long 'felt' carpet where players roll balls as close to the target ball as possible. Similar to Bocce, Carpet Bowling is game of skill that is enjoyed by all! \$3.00 per person.

Thamesford District Recreation Centre  
Wednesdays: 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

# FREE HOLIDAY PUBLIC SKATING!

2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

## EMBRO

## THAMESFORD

**December 4**

(available for sponsorship!)

Thamesford Lawn Bowling Legacy Fund at Oxford Community Foundation

**December 11**

Your Oxford Connection  
The Mortgage Centre Hometown Connection

Thamesford Lawn Bowling Legacy Fund at Oxford Community Foundation

**December 18**

(available for sponsorship!)

Thamesford Lawn Bowling Legacy Fund at Oxford Community Foundation

**December 24**

Knox United Church

Coopers Custom Exteriors

**December 27**

(available for sponsorship!)

Zorra Fire & Emergency Services

**December 28**

McFarlan Rowlands Insurance

McFarlan Rowlands Insurance

**December 29**

Zorra Caledonian Society

Alison Porter - Century 21 Real Estate

**December 30**

Happy Hills Campground and Resort

Embros Minor Baseball Association

**December 31**

Zorra Fire & Emergency Services

Kurt Sawyer Insurance

More Public Skating also available every day from January 2 to 6!



**SHINNY:**

Every Day 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

R.R. #3 Embro, Ontario N0J 1J0  
Bus: (519) 475-4471  
Fax: (519) 475-4155  
thebakers@happyhills.com  
www.happyhills.com

**Elaine & John Baker**

**HAPPY HILLS RESORT**

**Highland Park Mobile Homes**  
Travel Trailers ~ Park Models ~ Sun Rooms

*Brock & Visser*

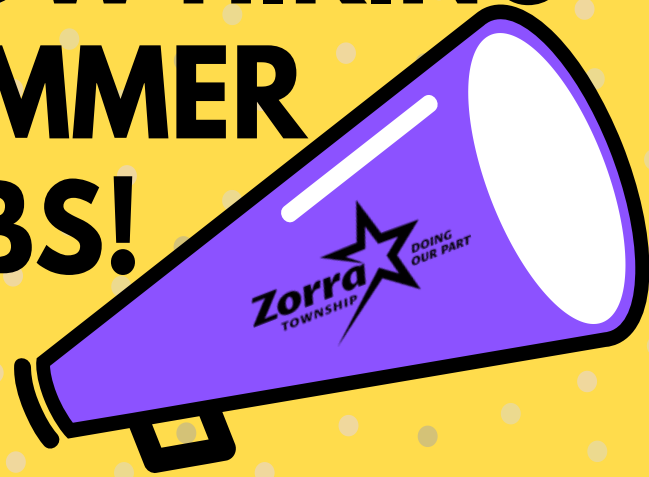
**FUNERAL HOME**  
Thamesford Chapel Ltd.

"Every life is worth remembering,  
every family deserves our very best"

**Bill Friesen**  
Please feel free to contact us 24 hours a day.

177 Dundas St. W., P. O. Box 152 THAMESFORD, ON N0M 2M0  
Phone: (519) 285-2427 Fax: (519) 295-0103

# TOWNSHIP OF ZORRA NOW HIRING SUMMER JOBS!



**FULL & PART TIME POSITIONS  
AVAILABLE!**

Positions available  
include:

**Camp Leader**  
(Thamesford &/or Embro)

**Lifeguard/Swim Instructor**  
(Thamesford)

Applicant must be 16 years of  
age and will have obtained First  
Aid & CPR training prior to the  
start of employment

Not old Enough? Gain  
experience as a volunteer  
and train to become a  
future Camp Leader!

Visit [www.zorra.ca](http://www.zorra.ca) or email  
[sstarchuck@zorrra.ca](mailto:ssstarchuck@zorrra.ca)  
for more information

TOWNSHIP OF ZORRA

# MARCH BREAK CAMP!

March 13 - 17, 2023  
Full Day Camp for kids age 4 - 11 years

**LOCATED IN EMBRO &  
THAMESFORD!**

Games - SKATING  
Crafts - SPECIAL GUESTS

REGISTRATION OPENS IN JANUARY!  
[www.zorra.ca](http://www.zorra.ca)

# THE ELECTION RESULTS ARE IN...

Percentage of  
Electors that voted

**22.5%**

The Township of Zorra staff would like to  
thank all the candidates for running for the  
upcoming term of office/school board trustee  
positions as well as the Zorra residents who  
voted. Thank you for doing your part and  
participating in our electoral process!

**Thames Valley District School Board**  
Leeanne Hopkins, David Edward Cripps

**London District Catholic School Board**  
Mary Holmes



## Ward 1 Councillor

Candidate	Votes
Emily Moitoso	118
Kevin Stewart	241

## Ward 4 Councillor

Candidate	Votes
Crystal Finch	394
Steve MacDonald	137

*Note: Ward 2 and Ward 3 Councillors and the Mayor were acclaimed*

# 2022-2026 ZORRA TOWNSHIP COUNCIL

The Township of Zorra staff would like to extend a warm welcome to our  
new Council! The new Council was sworn in to office on November 15, 2022,  
at the Inaugural Council meeting. The video of the Inaugural meeting is on  
the Township's YouTube page.



Ward 1  
**Kevin Stewart**



Ward 2  
**Katie Grigg**



Mayor  
**Marcus Ryan**



Ward 3  
**Paul Mitchell**



Ward 4  
**Crystal Finch**

# 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**  
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 9:00 a.m. and the third WEDNESDAY of the month at 6:00 p.m.

December 7 at 9:00a.m.  
December 21 at 4:00p.m.

Follow the Township of Zorra on Facebook and Twitter and Instagram



## Employees

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

*Deputy 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: jsmdonald@oxfordcounty.ca

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

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

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

*Customer Services Representative*  
Michelle McLellan  
Email: mmclellan@zorra.ca  
Phone: 519-485-2490 ext. 7221

**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* - Jenna Gallman  
Phone: 519-485-2490 Ext. 7237  
Email: jgallman@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 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 Option 4, then 1  
Email: booking@zorra.ca

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

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

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

# Community Contact Listing

## Minor Sports

Embro:  
Embro Minor Hockey Assoc. 519-475-6515  
Zorra Skating Club 519-281-1402  
www.zorraskatingclub.ca

Embro Minor Ball Association 519-475-4012  
Embro Minor Soccer Association embrosoccer@gmail.com  
www.embrosoccer.ca

Kintore Minor Soccer  
Kate Henderson 519-320-8660

Thamesford:  
Thamesford Minor Hockey Assoc. 519-285-3796  
Thamesford Jr. PJHL Hockey Club 519-285-3618  
Thamesford Minor Baseball tmbapresident@gmail.com  
www.thamesfordminorbaseball.ca  
Thamesford Minor Soccer 519-670-7002  
Thamesford NBC 519-639-4507  
Thamesford Rec. Men's Slow Pitch 226-926-9016  
West Oxford Girls Hockey Assoc. 519-852-4509

## Schools (Elementary)

Embro  
Zorra Highland Public School 519-475-4121

Kintore  
A.J. Baker Public School 519-283-1098

Thamesford  
Thamesford Public School 519-285-2043

Roch Carrier French Immersion 519-537-7321  
John Knox Christian School 519-539-1492

## School Boards

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

## Service Clubs & Community Groups

Embro & Zorra Agricultural Society  
Nicole Barndt 519-533-2208

Embro Highland Games/  
Zorra Caledonian Society 519-475-4451

Thamesford Lion's Club  
Barb Corrin 226-751-5828

Thamesford Scouts  
Jackie Van Daele 519-283-6159

Kintore Optimist Club 519-283-6321  
Harrington & Area Community Association  
Michael Kukhta 905-599-2151

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 - Rebecca Garrod 519-535-9198  
Canadian Blood Services 888-236-6283  
Canadian Cancer Society 888-939-3333  
Canadian Red Cross 519-539-0265  
Children's Aid Society, Oxford County 519-539-6176  
Crime Stoppers 800-222-TIPS  
Cuckoos Nest Folk Music 519-473-2099  
Embro West Zorra History Book  
Helen Brenneman 519-535-4728

Embro Library 519-475-4172  
Fanshawe Pioneer Village 519-457-1296  
Girl Guides - Thamesford 519-285-1126  
Harrington Public Library 519-475-6909  
Hardeman, Ernie, MPP. 519-537-5222  
Horticultural Society (Ingersoll) 519-485-1808  
Ingersoll Choral Society 519-285-2825  
Ingersoll Creative Arts Centre 519-485-4691  
Ingersoll Services for Seniors 519-485-3869  
Ingersoll Theatre of Performing Arts 519-485-3070  
Lawn Bowling Embro 519-475-4729  
MacKenzie, Dave MP 519-421-7608

North Embro Cemetery  
Darwin Cooper 519-475-4530  
Ontario Early Years Programs 800-539-9800  
OPP 800-265-7191  
Oxford County Jr. Farmers 519-469-3281  
Oxford County Federation of Agriculture 519-852-8856  
Oxford District Women's Institute 519-475-4502  
South West Community Care Access Centre 519-539-1284  
info-woodstock@sw.ccac-ont.ca

Thamesford Block Parents 519-285-1126  
Thamesford Business Association 519-285-3249  
Thamesford Public Library 519-285-3219  
Thamesford Snowmobile Club

Harold Hacon (trails) 519-461-0855  
David Blight (President) 519-432-2729  
Thistle Theatre - 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

# 2018-2022 Council Achievements

Visit the Township website to view the entire document at [www.zorra.ca](http://www.zorra.ca)



Mayor Marcus Ryan  
 Ward 1 Councillor Ron Forbes  
 Ward 2 Councillor Katie Grigg  
 Ward 3 Councillor Paul Mitchell  
 Ward 4 Councillor Steve MacDonald

Thanks to the 2018-2022 Zorra Council for an incredible term of office!



Happy Holidays!

**We shop insurance for you.**  
 162 Dundas St., Thamesford  
 519-679-5440 • [www.mcfarlanrowlands.com](http://www.mcfarlanrowlands.com)

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



## Cozy Throughout the County: Experiences, Eats, & Explorations for a Winter Well-Spent in Oxford

Get cozy throughout the county with these wonderful winter adventures. Experience something different: a new brew from Kintore, a winter walk on the trails, or explore a new corner of Oxford County. Consider a Soap & Solace Experience at Wild Comfort, Coffee Roasting Lab at Early Bird Coffee, or Goat Cuddles at Udderly Ridiculous Farm Life.

Want to stay in? Cozy up in local attire from Bear and Fox or Thames River Clothing with the comforting aroma of a locally made candle. Bring the beauty of the Garden in Harrington home with their flower subscription service.

Enjoy some eats together: Meet friends for breakfast or grab tickets for Embro Fair's annual Dinner Theatre. Bring Oxford Fresh to the table with a map to find local farms featuring seasonal produce, maple syrups, and more including the brand new Golspie Dairy.

## DISCOVER YOUR OXFORD COUNTY LIBRARY



**Brainfuse** is an online homework help resource for students in grades K-12. Offering help with math, reading, science, social studies, history, geography and language arts, the resources uses professional tutors who communicate with students using an interactive whiteboard to write, draw, and copy/paste text or images relating to homework problems. Brainfuse also has practice tests, support for adult learners, writing assistance, skills building and more!



**STEM Village** is an online education solution designed to inspire, enable, and guide K-12 students to develop STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) skills and passions, and to pursue high-demand STEM careers. Students discover real-world application of STEM skills in fascinating topics like robotics, 3D printing, artificial intelligence, space exploration, climate change, and much more!



**World Book Online** is a suite of e-learning resources designed for all ages and abilities with articles, videos, games and activities, eBooks, research guides and more.

Access these resources with your library card number and PIN from [www.ocl.net](http://www.ocl.net)  
 Forget your PIN? Contact your local library or email [myaccount@ocl.net](mailto:myaccount@ocl.net)

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



# WE'RE LOOKING FOR YOUTH VOLUNTEERS!

ARE YOU 15-29 YEARS OLD AND LIVE IN OXFORD COUNTY? ARE YOU INTERESTED IN HELPING OTHER YOUTH IN YOUR COMMUNITY?



RECEIVE GIFT CARDS FOR EVERY MEETING YOU ATTEND AND HAVE THE CHANCE TO NETWORK WITH COMMUNITY LEADERS

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE:

- Guiding the creation of community-based projects to improve graduation rates in Oxford
- Working together with community partners and leaders
- Attend Youth Council meetings

SECURED AND TRUSTED TRANSPORTATION CAN BE PROVIDED FOR INDIVIDUALS RESIDING OUTSIDE OF THE WOODSTOCK AREA.

IF INTERESTED, PLEASE EMAIL A LETTER OF INTEREST INCLUDING YOUR AGE, ADDRESS, AND CONTACT INFORMATION (AND RESUME IF YOU HAVE ONE) TO:

JODIE KONIOR | PROJECT COORDINATOR - CBYF  
JODIE.KONIOR@SPCOXFORD.CA

## We would love to hear from YOU!!!

If you have a story, pictures or ANYTHING that you would like to share about your community please contact Karen Martin at kmartin@zorranow.ca or 519-485-2490 ext. 7228 to have it appear in an upcoming Zorra Now Edition.



## WHERE DOES IT GO?

How to safely dispose of household hazardous waste

Safe disposal of hazardous waste helps to protect you, waste collectors, and the environment.

This is because hazardous materials can pose a variety of risks, from skin damage on contact to ground water and soil contamination. Flammable hazardous materials like propane tanks and batteries have also been known to cause fires when they are compressed in collection vehicles or at waste management facilities.

### Know what it is

Automotive fluids, batteries, fluorescent lights, fuel, household cleaners, expired medicines and prescriptions, mercury thermostats, paints and solvents, propane tanks and syringes are all considered hazardous waste.

You can find a list of hazardous waste items and the "Where does it go" tool at [www.wasteline.ca](http://www.wasteline.ca).

Tip! Check your items for these symbols.



### Know where it goes

Some empty hazardous waste containers can safely be disposed of in your blue box (recycling), such as emptied aerosol cans and empty metal paint cans with the lid off (empty plastic paint cans should go in the garbage).

Other residential household hazardous waste items should be brought to one of the County's two hazardous waste depots, free of charge:

**Oxford County Waste Management Facility**  
384060 Salford Road, Salford

**City of Woodstock EnviroDepot**  
944 James Street, Woodstock

## 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



## Thamesford Lions Club

### Thamesford Lions Community Events

#### "Catch The Ace" Progressive Raffle

Weekly Prize Draws - jackpot grows each week  
Ace is not found

8PM Tuesday evenings streamed LIVE on Facebook

Tickets can be purchased in Thamesford from:  
Dewy's Auto • Village Catering & Deli • JC Graphics  
Mc Farlan Rowlands Insurance • Shell Gas Station

Tickets can be purchased in Embro from: Highland Restaurant

Contact: Lion Tony, 519-285-3618

#### Lunch With Santa

Saturday, Nov 26, 2022

11AM - 3:30PM - Beaty Room at the Thamesford Library

Contact: Lion Barb, email: barbcorrin@gmail.com

#### Smoked Pork Chop Takeout BBQ

Saturday, Nov 26, 2022 4:30 - 6PM - Beaty Room at the  
Thamesford Library

Contact: Lion Ron, 519-285-3795

#### Christmas Caroling Showcase

Saturday, Dec 3, 2022

6PM - Lighting of the Lights @ Lions South Park  
6:30PM - Show starts @ Thamesford Recreation Centre

Contact: Lion Jim, email: jrkeron5461@rogers.com

#### Family Day Event

Monday, Feb 20, 2023

Free Public Skating 2-4pm. Lunch and additional activities in  
the hall - Thamesford District Recreation Centre

Contact: Lion Mike, email: mike.anderson141210@gmail.com

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



## TROJANS NEWS

At the time of this writing, the Trojans are on the road to another successful season of P.J.H.L. Jr. hockey. The coaching staff under the direction of John Calderozzi has produced another very competitive team.

As it has been in other seasons the race to the top is very close with maybe 1 point difference between the top four teams but the season is still young and in our division; the Yeck division, competition is fierce. Every team, whether it is in the top of the standings or at the bottom is up to the task of competing and this means everyone must come to play or be beaten on the score board. It matters not which team comes to town, the fans in the stands can witness an entertaining game of hockey in their local arena.

The Trojans have again been successful with fund raising. The Rib and Brisket comedy night in June and the golf tournament in August were well attended and we thank everyone for their participation. I am overwhelmed by the support that we have received for team sponsorship, year after year many of our sponsors generously contribute to the continuance of your local team and this year we have several new sponsors; this is encouraging. The Thamesford Trojans cannot thank them enough for their support. Pick up a Trojans program at any home game and you will be pleased to see our sponsors listed. It's a great looking program and all those listed within are deserving of your consideration when you need assistance.

Come out to a game, most home games are Friday nights at 7:30, dress warm it can be cold but the excitement will help take the chill away. Admission is \$10 adult, \$8 student, \$6 child. Look for other promotions on line or in the Village Voice throughout the season. You can also follow the PJHL standings and game nights at PJHL On.: There is another PJHL: Pacific Jr. hockey league: don't be confused. We are The Provincial Jr. Hockey League and proud to be a part of it.

The players like to hear you cheering from the stands and as a community we can be proud of them.

I hope to see you at the game, keep your stick on the ice.

Tony Redix  
President, Thamesford Trojans Hockey Club

*Allison Lupton*

"Words of Love - a fourth full-length album bursting with history, a stellar touring band and Allison's voice - "as clear as a country stream" - is sure to quench your musical thirst."  
*Tom Allen, Writer, Musician, Broadcaster for CBC Music*

**Allison Lupton Band**  
Sunday, March 23, 2023 at 2pm  
Harrington Hall, 539 Victoria St. Harrington  
Tickets: \$30 (advance only) at [www.eztix.com/alb](http://www.eztix.com/alb)  
or 519-536-0955  
Coffee, tea, dessert 50/50 draw

Remember when  
pac-man was  
released? We do.

Yes, we're *that* old.

JC Graphics has been  
providing excellent quality  
print & promotions  
since 1980.

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Your friendly neighbourhood printer.

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**25%**  
off all in stock  
items until  
December 24<sup>th</sup>

**Mike's  
Custom  
Jewellery**

*Great News! The tradition continues!*

Mike would like to welcome his son Alex to the business.  
We will continue to provide the excellent quality and  
service you expect from Mike's Custom Jewellery.

Monday through Friday 9:00am - 7:00pm  
For your service by appointment only

Family owned and operated  
**519-425-0670**

Serving Zorra Township and area for over 28 years • Over 40 years experience • Quality and service guaranteed

**All Mike's work is done on the premises**



# Embro & Zorra Agricultural Society

Embro & Zorra Agricultural Society would like to sincerely thank each and every person who visited the Embro Fair on Sept. 17 & 18, as well as our generous sponsors and volunteers whose tireless efforts continue to make events like these possible!

We had wonderful weather and it was so great to see so many smiling faces from the community enjoying the weekend with us. The exhibit entries were impressive as always showcasing so many amazing talents by children and adults alike. From the well-attended fall parade, to the Pumpkin Prince & Princess Competition and Field Crops Competition which both encourage the importance of agriculture in our rural and urban areas, to the local beekeeping demonstration by Earth + Honeybee, to the ever-popular Baby Show featuring over 45 babies — it was easy to see the fair theme, 'How Sweet It Is' throughout the fair! Congratulations to Pumpkin Princess Leah Cooper, Pumpkin Prince Alex Boogerd, runners up in the boys and girls categories and all the lucky pumpkin winners. Thank you to the 'Pumpkin Lady' Anne Innes for putting this on again as well as the pumpkin float in the parade! With over 100 pumpkin entries by children living in Zorra township — wow, is this ever encouraging for our youth! The Ambassador Leadership Program Competition congratulates our new Jr. Ambassador Sophie Pullen and Sr. Ambassador Lili Smith, as well as celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Ambassador Program with a fun and engaging cake decorating competition, dinner, former ambassadors from years past, MC by Doug Turvey (and his really un-bee-lievable jokes), and more. The Wing Night & children's movie night were well-attended by families in the community, many thanks also to Wing Night Food vendors who made this come together - Upper Thames Brewing Company (who also facilitated the beer tent on Sunday), Lancaster Smokehouse, Big H Food Truck, and Calmac Holsteins for your generous donation of wings! The artisan market featured many local vendors as well as community groups, thank you to all those who participated! There was always something yummy to eat thanks to our food vendors: Big H Food Truck, Mega Cone Ice Cream, Hometown Hotdogs. The horse show never disappoints, we would like to thank the sponsors again for their generosity and the livestock owners for their time and efforts in bringing these beautiful animals out to the fair. The

bouncy inflatables and kids' activities areas are always a busy place to be, so much fun to be had whether it was getting your face painted, a balloon animal made, the sandbox, farm hopper rodeo, TD Financial DIY Art Mural Wall, 4-H face signs, or Tex Rexman cowboy comedy shows (tricks, jokes, juggling, whip artistry on a hoverboard no less!) — many happy kids had lots of fun things to do! New this year was the extremely popular tractor barrel train which ran all weekend long giving free rides to all children who were eager to hop in! With the Touch-A-Truck area full with tractors, tow-trucks, fire trucks, dump trucks, a milk truck, motorcycle, monster-truck, ambulance, police car, grader, and more — it was a great addition to our fair yet again, thank you to the local businesses who helped make this happen! The non-denominational church service was a joyous part of the Sunday festivities with many in attendance, a lively band, and interesting guest speaker Raw Carrot Enterprise. Oxford 4-H Association put on a fantastic brunch on the Sunday, it is so nice to see the 'learn to do by doing' motto is still as strong as ever! Little Hobby Hill Farm petting zoo was so much fun, many photos were taken with the animals and smiles by those taking it all in. The Pet Show was a busy place with so many pets, even some dressed up in the fair theme! Another new addition this year was the 1st annual Nash Barnett Memorial Car Show with 74 classic cars, trucks, race cars, and motorcycles participating! Local band 'Highway 19' kept those toes tapping and music everyone could enjoy. Even Santa Ron and his Santa van were in attendance! It was so great to see so many vehicles attend, some from as far away as Turkey Point, Cambridge, Mitchell, and St. Thomas! We were so pleased to have Wellkin, CMHA, and OFA's Farmers Wellness Initiative join us this year, promoting mental health in agriculture awareness which is crucial in our community and a topic that is important to keep sharing. We have so much to be thankful for, and it was easy to see 'How Sweet It Is' to live in a community like ours, we hope everyone enjoyed themselves as much as the Embro & Zorra Agricultural Society did! Please watch our website [www.embrofair.com](http://www.embrofair.com) and Facebook page for updates on upcoming events like the Drive Through Fall Dinner on Oct. 22, Christmas Parade on Nov. 26, and Dinner Theatre in February-March 2023! It is true what they say, "It takes a village," and we certainly have the very best right here in ours. Thank you Embro, Zorra, and area!

## EZAS Upcoming Events:

### **EMBRO & ZORRA AG SOCIETY - SANTA CLAUS PARADE**

Embro & Zorra Agricultural Society will be putting on the second annual Santa Claus Parade on Saturday, November 26, 2022 leaving Matheson Park at 6:30p.m. and ending at the Embro Community Centre. EZAS will have a float in the parade collecting non-perishable food items from the community so bring your canned and boxed items! **NEW THIS YEAR:** Join us after the parade at the community centre hall for a meet & greet with Santa, hot chocolate and cookies! If you would like to put in a parade entry (float, vehicle, band, animals, organization, banners, farm equipment, etc.), please go to [www.embrofair.com](http://www.embrofair.com) or [embroagsociety@gmail.com](mailto:embroagsociety@gmail.com) to register your entry! We would like to thank Core Fuels for their sponsorship of the hall. Grade 8 Students from Zorra Highland Park Public School will be there serving food, and will gladly accept any donations toward their Grade 8 Graduation trip to Camp Celtic. Raffle tickets will be for sale by the students in the hall also.

### **EMBRO & ZORRA AG SOCIETY LASAGNA DINNER FUNDRAISER**

On Saturday, October 22, 2022, EZAS held their Drive-Through Lasagna Dinner Fundraiser. Many thanks to all our hard-working volunteers and organizers to help put on this great event! EZAS decided it was more important than ever to support local businesses as food suppliers for this event. This included homemade lasagna and butter tarts from Village Deli & Catering in Thamesford, cheesy garlic bread from Sassy's in Thorndale, caesar salad made by the EZAS Board of Directors and volunteers, and packaging from Stonetown Supply in St. Marys. We were so happy to see many happy faces through the meal pick-up line, and thank you to everyone who purchased tickets. Funds raised from events like these go directly back into our community to put on events like the fall and Christmas parades, Embro Fair, Progressive Ag Farm Safety Day, Dinner Theatre, the arena canteen, and support towards community partner groups. If you were not able to come pick up your Fair prizemoney from our Treasurer in the lobby at the dinner, please contact Emily at 519-697-4876 to make arrangements.

### **EMBRO & ZORRA AG SOCIETY - 2022 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & DINNER**

The Embro & Zorra Agricultural Society Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday, January 23, 2023 at the Embro Legion at 7pm. Meeting will include greetings from Zorra Township Council, OAAS District 7 News & Report, a guest speaker, - Joanne Fuller from OFA on Mental Health in Agriculture, EZAS Updates, greetings from 2022 Ambassador Lili Smith, EZAS Constitution updates, Nominations for New Directors (nominations now accepted to any board member), and a catered meal. To be eligible to vote, attendees must hold a paid 2022 EZAS membership. Meal tickets will be available by calling EZAS Secretary Nicole Barnett. For more information or to give your RSVP, please contact EZAS Secretary Nicole Barnett (519) 533-2208 or [nbarnett221@gmail.com](mailto:nbarnett221@gmail.com).

### **DINNER THEATRE BOX OFFICE**

The EZAS Dinner Theatre Box office will be open on Saturday, December 10 (8-11am) at the Embro Community Centre for tickets to the play 'Splittsville'. Show dates are: February 26, February 27, March 3,4,5, 2023.

### **MEET YOUR EZAS 2022-2023 AMBASSADOR LILI SMITH**

On September 17th, I was privileged with the opportunity to compete in the EZAS 50th Fall Fair Ambassador Program. As someone who has grown up in Oxford County, I understand the true meaning of community. Through organizations such as 4-H, I developed a passion for becoming involved within my community and building connections with others.

The opportunities that this ambassadorship provides are enormous and encourage personal development and growth. The fairboard welcomed me with open arms and supported me towards initially competing and also encouraged a huge gain of confidence and progression of my leadership abilities.

I have already been able to become more involved with the community through, preparing the lasagna drive-through meals, building connections with those attending the fair and attending EZAS meetings. However, the list does not stop there. The possibilities of this privilege are endless as I will also be granted the chance to compete at the 2023 Canadian National Exhibition and connect with my fellow competitors prior to the competition while at the OAAS convention in February.

Becoming involved with the EZAS and being named their 2022-23 Fall Fair Ambassador is a great honour and I encourage anyone to compete regardless of their confidence level.





# Oxford 4-H Club

The Oxford Cloverbud 4-H Club fourteen enthusiastic youth ages 6-8 explored what 4-H is all about with Nature Fun at Embro Pond Conservation Area, Dairy Processing at Roesbett Farm, Alternative Sports-Bowling at Ingersoll Bowling, attending Discovery Days. They also participated at the Oxford 4-H booth at the Ingersoll Harvest Festival learning about Beef By-products (like crayons, marshmallows), Pigs, Lakes & Oceans, made a wooden kit (bird feeder, sailboat, race car) supplied by Home Depot Woodstock. Then in September they learned about Snacks—and ate them too!! In October the youth did pumpkin carving, leaf art and celebrated Show Your 4-H Colours with their new green 4-H t-shirts with funds from the Pizza booth fundraiser at the Embro Truck & Tractor Pull. The year finished off with the youth receiving their award at the Oxford 4-H Awards Night in Embro. The Cloverbud 4-H Club was the recipient of the Oxford 4-H Project of the Year Award—way to go!!!

Cloverbuds is open to youth ages 6-8 by January 1st with a new curriculum each year to explore different aspects of 4-H. If you are interested in being part of the 2023 Oxford Cloverbud 4-H Club, please contact Shonna at oxfordcounty4h@gmail.com. The club is also looking for volunteers to help make it a rewarding experience for the youth.

The Hickson 4-H Club did a T-shirt Quilt 4-H project this year. There were 13 youth, including 2 guys, who made a t-shirt quilt using various themes of t-shirts—farming, own sports teams, rock bands, NHL teams, places they had traveled, out grown t-shirts—but didn't want to throw out or give away. This project taught members about sewing with t-shirt material, recycling t-shirts, quilting and patience—as there were lots of steps to complete the t-shirt quilt!! The idea of doing this project came from one member who wanted to do

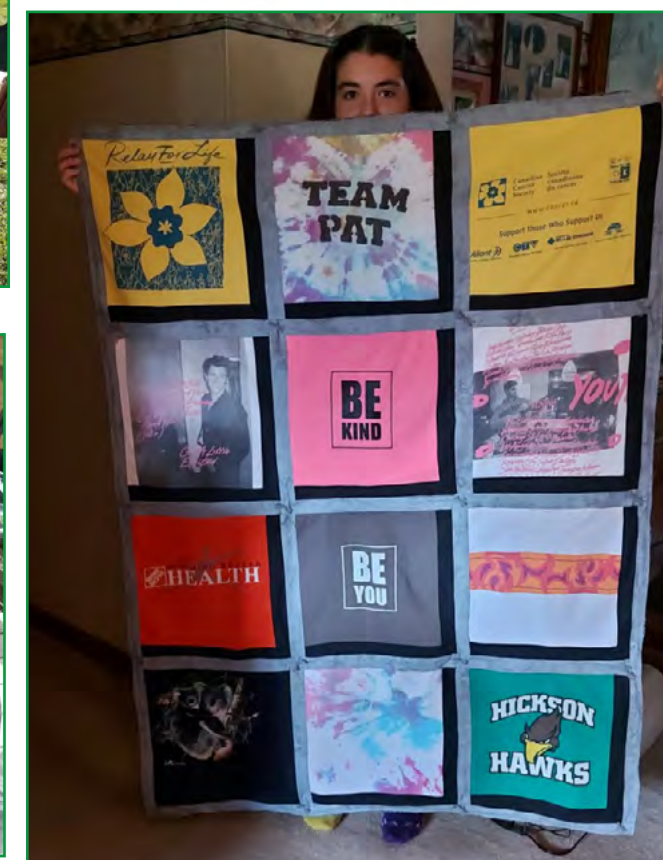
something with her memorabilia t-shirts. The club volunteer investigated the idea and came up with the project outline. 4-H can teach youth and volunteers about various topics!!

It might seem like a long time away, but March will be here and so will the 4-H Pancake Fundraiser at Jakeman's Maple Products. Looking for a Co-ordinator for this fun 'Learn to do by doing' experience by the 4-H youth. Please contact Shonna at wardshonna@hotmail.com for more information about this paid position.

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 opens Nov 16th 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 acting 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.





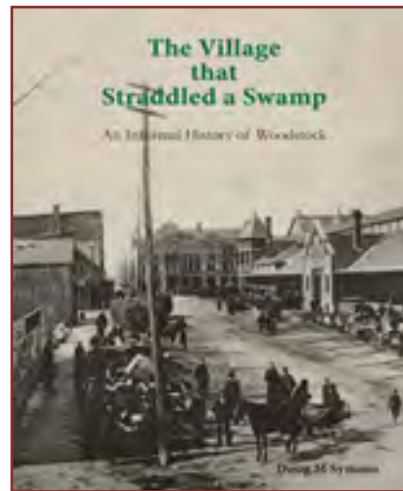
# Oxford Historical Society Events

## Wednesday, December 14, 2022: **Book Sale at the Oxford County Administration Building**

Please join us and the Archives at the Oxford County Administration Building (OCAB) for a book sale! The sale will take place from 9am – 4pm, in the main lobby.

We will be selling publications from local authors like Doug Symon's *The Village that Straddled a Swamp*. For our full publication list go to our Publications page.

OCAB is located at: 21 Reeve St. Woodstock ON N4S 3G1



## Wednesday, March 29, 2023: **Public Meeting – Speaker and topic to be announced**

All of the Society's events are free and open to the public, Society membership is not required.

Our website is [www.oxhs.ca](http://www.oxhs.ca); we can be reached by email at [info@oxhs.ca](mailto:info@oxhs.ca) or by phone at 226-242-4774.

## Wednesday, January 25, 2023: **AGM & Presentation**

Please join us for the Society's AGM, which will be held at the Woodstock Museum, NHS at 6:30pm. At this meeting the 2023 Executive will be voted in, all paying members will have a chance to vote for this year's Executive. For a complete list of our 2022 please visit our Committee Members page. If you wish to serve on the Executive Board contact the Society by January 11, 2023.

- Membership fees are due at this time.
- Annual memberships run from January to December.
- A single membership is \$25 and a family membership is \$30.

To become a member complete the Membership Form

Our speaker for tonight will be Krista Hulshof Duynisveld, presenting *Ontario Barn Preservation: Preserving Ontario's Rural History One Barn at a Time!*

### Importance of Heritage Barns

Old barns are fast disappearing from the rural landscape, and with them go important stories of our pioneering past. Architect Krista Hulshof Duynisveld outlines the work of Ontario Barn Preservation, a non-profit organization formed to promote the identification and documentation of heritage barns, other farm buildings and farm sites through photographs and cataloging. The organization also provides resources, advice, connections and services to those wishing to preserve a heritage barn.



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