

NORWICH FESTIVAL FILLS THE SENSES VIC WHITCROFT

It was quite a weekend in Norwich! One's senses were tickled by the smells, sights and sounds of the day.

The smell on main street treated our olfactory senses to the aroma of fresh perked coffee from one vendor, while at the other end of the street a variety of food trucks offering food typical of a street festival, along with it came the many delicious smells associated with foods from different regions, representing Mexico to India.

As Friday became Saturday there was a shift, the festival expanded from main street to the museum, legion and Emily Stowe schoolyard. At each location and in between you might see vintage tractors or cars, the sight of which were candy for the eyes. Other delightful sights one might see, mom dad and a toddler taking in junior's first street festival. People casually strolling along with a soft drink or an ice cream cone, also so

soft but not intentionally.

Back on Main Street distant music could be heard, a natural draw for people to migrate to the south end of town where the legion hosted several live bands throughout the day. The outdoor music at the legion was, on occasion, overpowered by a high performance car doing burnouts. It was not known if he was part of the car show at ESPS. One gentleman standing beside me commented, "A high performance car, driven by a driver with a low performance brain". Vendors displaying their wares, groups, clubs and associations had volunteers attending booths, while some booths gave away ice cream and other handouts. As one made his way along the street you could hear snippets of conversations none of which made sense due to the short duration as they passed each other. Norwich Fire Services displayed fire apparatus and it appeared everyone was

having a great time.

One lady I spoke to suggested the theme needed to be changed. She went on to say she expected to see vendors and downtown merchants dressed in attire from an earlier period.

The weekend was reminiscent of wonderful outdoor festivals from the past. Additional smells of smoke from a hardwood fire, hamburgers and hot dogs cooking on the grill as onions fried to adorn those burgers and dogs. A light breeze kept the temperature tolerable while the sun peeked through intermittent clouds.

The organizers of the event as a whole, along with those who planned each of the off street events, must be commended for the hard work that went into putting this festival on. Volunteers need recognition too for their hard work along with those who attended the many venues at this year's festival. Well done everyone!

AUGUST

BREATH THE SWEETNESS THAT HOVERS IN AUGUST – DENISE LEVERTOV

DATES IN AUGUST

IMMUNIZATION MONTH, DON'T BE A BULLY MONTH, ROAD VICTIM MONTH

1– LAMMAS DAY, YORKSHIRE DAY

3. FOOD DAY CANADA

8– INTERNATIONAL CAT DAY

9– INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE WORLD'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY, NATIONAL PEACEKEEPERS DAY

A QUESTION FROM THE MAYOR VIC WHITCROFT

On Saturday, June 29, 2024, I had an opportunity to speak with Jim Palmer. While chatting about local politics and issues concerning Norwich, Jim asked me a question. I usually have a quick answer, this question however has me stumped. Now almost a week later I am perplexed as I seek an answer to Jim's question. His query was simple enough, which makes one think, a simple question would have a simple answer. Not so! I should be qualified to answer, being a life-long resident of Norwich however, I'm still trying to wrap my head around all of the nuances required to do justice to his question. The question was "Is Norwich better now, or when you were a kid?" A short answer is "It depends' ". It depends, does not quite measure up to such a thought provoking question.

Without a doubt services offered by the township are far and away better now. At no time in the past have we had such a well equipped fire service, consisting of well trained volunteers. The same can be said about our works department staff and equipment, our parks and recreation staff and modern facilities would have been the envy of the squad of ice cleaners, or should I say shovel pushers from the forties and fifties. Our downtown is thriving with almost every storefront occupied. The township council has been pared down to just five elected representatives, in the early to mid seventies when regional government was mandated, each ward had two councillors,

we had a councillor at large as well as a mayor. I see all of these things as good. A building boom has been ongoing for several years adding to the tax base, increasing revenue, which should increase the size or reserves in the budget. Just a few positive observations through my adult eyes.

Now let's look at our community through the eyes of a ten year old. Simple times with party lines and phones did not have dials, at least not in these parts. The year is 1961, streets had names but no street sign to direct a stranger in Norwich to his or her desired address. If a stranger stopped to ask a kid where he could find an address, his typical answer was "Who are you looking for," because we knew everyone in town and where they resided. By the way, there was never a worry about that stranger being a pervert, hell, we didn't even know what a pervert was. Our community accepted everyone regardless of rumours about sexual orientation. At the age of ten, even in small town Norwich I knew a victim of murder and the son of a lady who was murdered. Norwich was not immune from big city crime in a small town setting. Policing was better patrolled by two officers and just one patrol car. In the city one does not take notice of the installation of a new traffic light, Tim Hortons or development of infrastructure. At that time the Main Street was made of bricks, (give me some leeway on this one, I'm note 100% sure of the year), the dam had yet to be built and the main corner had a

flashing traffic beacon. Traffic stopped on Main Street and went with caution on Stover. Main corner also had a drinking fountain as did what is now Harold Bishop Park. TV's of the time got three channels, five if you were lucky, if you wanted to watch a show from Kitchener followed by a show from Erie Pennsylvania someone had to go outside and adjust the antenna to face in a different direction while someone in the house yelled that's good, no turn it back a bit.

Perhaps it is human nature to want to cling to the past, after all we have all heard the expression the good old days. For many we are living in the good old days right now, for my generation they were in the sixties, swimming in the creek, heading to the west end to watch the train and placing pennies on the track to see them flattened and to get a bag full of Black Balls at Fewster's store for ten cents. Checking under pop bottle caps looking for a prize, or just maybe cutting grass to earn money.

There you have it Jim. I'm sorry for such a wishy washy answer. I have great memories from back then, although I enjoy all of the amenities that come from progress made over the years. Needless to say, we pay for this progress just as we benefit from it.

If you have read this piece, no matter your age, ask yourself Jim's question, then let me know your answer via Facebook. Did I mention there was no home computers or internet when I was ten?

AUGUST

E.A. WILD

Birthstone— Peridot

Birth Flower— Gladiolus & Poppy

The word August comes from the Latin, consecrated or venerable. The Anglo Saxons called it “Weod Month” (Weed Month). In August the full moon falls on August 19th.

August is the time when the harvest season begins. The first of August is traditionally called Lammas Day which translates as Loaf Mass Day, when bread is made from the first of the wheat harvest and in medieval times Lammas Fairs and Pageants were held as a celebration. In the North of England, Aug 1st is Yorkshire Day and its not just those in Yorkshire celebrating. “Ex-Pats” cele-

brate all over the world, including Norwich Ontario!

In the Garden: Lawns, don’t bag or rake the grass clippings, let them lie as they decompose, they return nutrients to the soil. You don’t need to water the grass, it goes into a semi-dormant stage in July and August— as nature intended— a drier lawn is not as inviting to Japanese beetles looking to lay their eggs. By August, the beetles will have done their worst damage and are now breeding and laying eggs. Continue to check your plants a morning and evening, knocking them into a container of water to drown them. Young trees, shrubs and perennials planted in the past couple of years are particularly vulnerable to hot dry weather and need to be

thoroughly watered regularly. Also, now is a good time to check for diseased, damaged or dead wood. Prune these out now, as well as any suckers, but leave main pruning for fall or spring. Order your bulbs for October planting, for fresh veggies in late summer or fall, sow carrots, beets, turnip, radish, kale, lettuce and spinach; protecting with shade hoops if the weather is too hot and sunny.



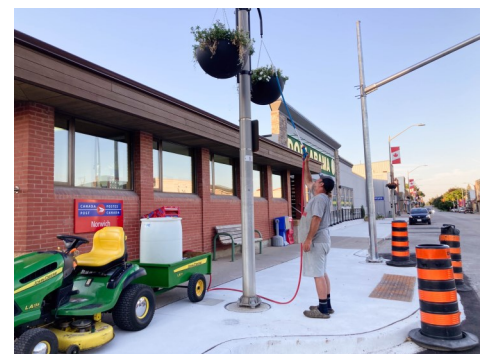
ANOTHER
NOTABLE
AUGUST
DAY, YOUR
EDITOR WAS
BORN ON
THE 14TH!

INSIDE STORY HEADLINE

New flower pots have been installed along Main Street in Norwich, replacing the bulky old cement potters that were often an unintentional target for pedestrians and parkers of cars. You may have noticed the new pots hang from lamp posts raised to a point where pedestrians, cars and vandals would have to work to reach the planters.

It was initially reported these pots would be self watering. Not so, Brian Pitz pictured here watering the flowers, continues the task of watering as he did with the old ground level potters.

A nice addition to our Main Street decor!



INSIDE STORY HEADLINE



Caption describing picture or graphic.

This story can fit 150-200 words.

One benefit of using your newsletter as a promotional tool is that you can reuse content from other marketing materials, such as press releases, market studies, and reports.

While your main goal of distributing a newsletter might be to sell your product or service, the key to a successful newsletter is making it

This story can fit 100-150 words.

The subject matter that appears in newsletters is virtually endless. You can include stories that focus on current technologies or innovations in your field.

You may also want to note business or economic trends,

useful to your readers.

A great way to add useful content to your newsletter is to develop and write your own articles, or include a calendar of upcoming events or a special offer that promotes a new product.

You can also research articles or find "filler" articles by accessing the World Wide Web. You can write about a variety of topics but try to keep your articles short.

or make predictions for your customers or clients.

If the newsletter is distributed internally, you might comment upon new procedures or improvements to the business. Sales figures or earnings will show how your business is growing.

Much of the content you put in your newsletter can also be used for your Web site. Microsoft Publisher offers a simple way to convert your newsletter to a Web publication. So, when you're finished writing your newsletter, convert it to a Web site and post it.

Some newsletters include a column that is updated every issue, for instance, an advice column, a book review, a

letter from the president, or an editorial. You can also profile new employees or top customers or vendors.

SAFE AND WELL OXFORD RECOMMENDATION/DEI CHARTER

VIC WHITCROFT

The Township of Norwich Council hosted a delegation at the July 9th meeting presented by Mrs Marie Russell. Mrs Russell asked the council to consider not approving this charter when it came time to vote on it.

The DEI Charter seems to be a topic that has generated much interest, as many in attendance were there solely for this delegation. Many of the audience members left after Mrs Russell completed her presentation.

Mrs Russell was well spoken and

made clear points, many of her points however, were based on Republican Party views, citing examples from the United States including Texas and Florida.

Councillors Gear, Teawes and DePlancke thanked Mrs Russell for her presentation. Councillor DePlancke went on to say, "I can appreciate your comments about the United States." She then added, "We have to do what is right for the community." Ward 1 Councillor Teawes commented, "Sometimes doing the best for the

community means not sticking your nose in where it doesn't belong." Councillor Gear stated, "Many of the phone calls he received about this were from the LGBTQ community."

No vote on this topic was set for today. With today's meeting being the sole meeting in July, anyone who wishes to offer a rebuttal at the August meeting will have plenty of time to prepare and submit a delegation request.

Below is Mrs Russell's delegation.

Delegation to Norwich Council

With due respect to Chair Marcus Ryan and Co-lead, Sarah Hamulecki for their efforts and their recommendations, it is my recommendation and my hope that [Council will resist adopting the DEI Charter recommended by CSWB Oxford Steering Committee](#) - a charter that comes with hidden *Costs, Commitments and Calls to Action*.

1. There is a definite trend in governments, corporations and academia to move away from costly and controversial DEI policies and initiatives.

Recently, House Republicans in the United States have dissolved their own chambers 'Office of Diversity and Inclusion' and have proposed about 50 bills in 20 state legislatures that would restrict DEI policies. The Governors of both Florida and Texas have banned state funding from going to DEI offices and programs in colleges and universities.

Harvard also has eliminated DEI statements from its' hiring requirements, and a recent article in the National Post (June 22/2024) suggests that Canadian Academia is headed in the same direction.

On another front corporations are re-examining the efficacy of DEI initiatives. This past month we saw Tractor Supply Company – better known to us as TSC or Peavey – has just announced that they will completely eliminate its DEI roles, withdraw its carbon emission goals and stop sponsoring Pride events. (NPR/June 28, 2024). In a statement the company said "We work hard to live up to our Mission and Values every day and represent the values of the communities and customers we serve. We have heard from our customers that we have disappointed them. We have taken this feedback to heart." And, behind the scenes many companies are bracing for a wave of 'reverse discrimination' lawsuits coming against corporate DEI programing.

Even the big tech companies – who were the first to initiate such policies, are slashing their DEI programs. Zoom announced it laid off its entire DEI team. Google and Meta have cut staffers and downsized programs that fall under DEI investment. And, billionaire entrepreneur Elon Musk has stated publicly that "the

point was to end discrimination not replace it with different discrimination" and he posted on X, his own social media platform that "DEI must DIE."

So that is my first concern that at a time when this whole experiment with DEI is coming to an end – this council is being promoted to sign on.

2. The "one-size-fits-all" collaborative approach taken by the eight municipalities in Oxford County.

While this may be a cost-effective way to meet the legislation mandated by the province, I fear that the uniqueness, the character, the values and the best interests of the people living in Norwich Township may not be reflected in this Charter. Especially when the verbiage in the Charter is vague, the commitments are broad, and the Calls to Action are political, costly and time consuming for staff. I don't believe that this Charter is a good fit for the people of Norwich Township.

3. The ever-increasing, top-down policies, mandates, charters, and 'best practices' that are being pushed on mayors and local councils by federal and provincial governments and their agencies.

And if government interference isn't enough... more and more we see local councils and members of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) being lobbied by powerful Action Coalitions, influential NGO's, and climate activists who promote agendas that are global in nature, and will commit municipalities to long term and costly initiatives. And once implemented these policies prove difficult to rescind.

I think that politicians need to understand that there is great concern from citizens about government overreach into the lives of Canadians. Since the Covid mandates and lock-down policies were forced on the public, a deep skepticism has developed across this country because of bad decision-making followed by bad policies that we are still feeling the devastating consequences of. So, it is imperative that local councils proceed with caution and remain focused on core municipal issues.

In this regard, I believe it is vital for Council and staff to [thoroughly consider the implications of adopting any external policy or charter, when and where there is social, political or ideological pressure to do so.](#)

SMELL OF SMOKE AT ESPS

VIC WHITCROFT

On the afternoon of July 9, Norwich fire service Station 2 responded to a fire call at Emily Stowe Public School. Being a possible structure fire Station 1,

Otterville also responded to that location. An immediate hook up to a fire hydrant in order to supply water was accomplished and a hose laid to the lad-

der truck in preparation to douse flames if needed. Apparently the alarm was turned in due to the smell of smoke in the building.



NORWICH'S TIPTOES BALLET

Tip toes ballet was created in 2021 when Johanna Oram was looking to bring more activities for children to participate in within Norwich. She inquired in a Facebook group asking if there were any ballet teachers in the area and we connected.

The Norwich Baptist church had a building (The Cornerstone, 21 Stover Street North, Norwich) that was just about perfect

for dance classes and there was already a group of interested families. We have now had three annual recitals in town held at the church and we are gearing up for a fourth this coming dance season.

The classes are very recreational by nature with class sizes kept small so there is room to cater to different dancers needs within each class. We

do some set RAD syllabus work with free movement exercises mixed in and I promote a strong understanding of technique in the classes which range from dancers ages 3 to 18 years with beginners always welcome.

Please contact Hayden Riel at tiptoesballet@gmail.com for full details



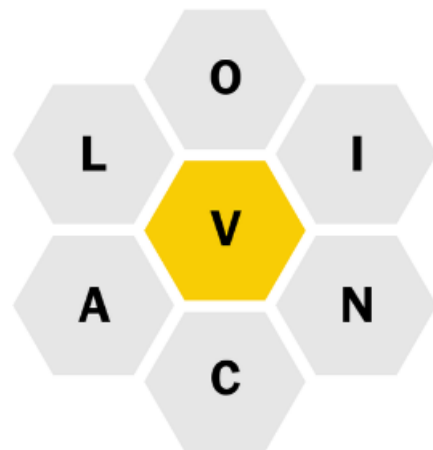
Puzzles and Quiz

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SPELLING BEE



NOSTALGIA QUIZ

Feeling a bit nostalgic after writing the "Question from the mayor" piece so give this quiz a try

A potato flew overhead October 1957

John, John saluted November 1963

George Stanley designed what for release in 1965

Who said, "Vive le Québec libre !" July 1967

What gull wing car assembled in Saint John, New Brunswick, Canada. 1974