

Noteworthy In Norwich

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Community News, Commentary and Concerns

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NEW RULES FOR MAIN STREET VIC WHITCROFT

As a retired subject matter specialist of workplace and driving legislation, Canada Labour Code part 2, Occupational Health and Safety Act Ontario, and Highway Traffic Act Ontario, as they relate to the transportation sector. I find it frustrating yet comical to see how people are dealing with the new parking regulations and crossover on Main Street.

It is understandable when something new is introduced into the

driving scene, it takes time to adapt and become familiar with what is new. It has been my observation over several days and evenings, most violations are not deliberate, rather because of a lack of knowledge. Drivers see a parking spot open and park there without reading the signs to verify it is legal to park there. They see flashing lights on either side of the road and don't know how to react.

There was a push

for this new crossover, and an accessible parking spot. Now that we have it, it is more important than ever to understand what is required of drivers and pedestrians, now we are leading up to when Emilie Stowe opens its doors in September.

Please make an effort, pedestrian or driver alike to become informed in order to keep everyone safe on Main Street.

SEPTMEBER

First week - Zero Waste Week
Second Week— Mennonite Heritage Week
Fourth week – Gender Equality week
Last Sunday of the Month – World Rivers Day
2nd –Lbour Day
4th -First day of school
5th -International Day of Charity / Amazon Rainforest Day
7th -International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies, International bacon day
8th -Grandparents Day, Literacy Day
Sept 13 -Roald Dahl Day, National Bald is Beautiful Day
16th -International Day of Preservation of the Ozone Layer
18th World Water Monitoring Day
21st Zero Emissions Day / International Day of Peace
22nd Car-free Day
23rd International Day of Sign Language
26th World Environmental Health, International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons
30th National Day For Truth and Reconciliation – Orange Shirt Day

SOMETHING TOLD THE WILD GEESE

Something told the wild geese
It was time to go
Though the fields lay golden
Something whispered, "Snow"
Leaves were Green and Stirring,
Berries, luster-glossed
But beneath warm feathers
Something cautioned, "Frost"
All the sagging orchards
Steamed with amber spice,
But each wild breast stiffened
At remembered ice,
Something told the wild geese
It was time to fly
Summer sun was on their wings

THREE CAR PILEUP ON MAIN STREET VIC WHITCROFT

On August 12th at around 7PM a three car collision occurred on Main Street in front of the Bank of Montreal. A west bound pickup truck collided with a west bound car pulling away from a parking spot, after which the pickup truck collided with a van parked in front of the bank.



Two OPP Officers arrived to investigate the collision, as well as a tow truck being dispatched to tow at least one of the vehicles away. No injuries were reported at the time of the crash,



EMS and Fire did not respond.

On another traffic related note, at the same time the collision was tying up traffic and being investigated, I personally saw three drivers fail to stop for the recently installed Pedestrian Crossover. When pedestrians have activated the flashing light and are using the crossover, drivers must stop until the pedestrian has crossed. See an excerpt from the HTA below.

PEDESTRIAN CROSSOVER

DUTIES OF DRIVER

140 (1) When a pedestrian is crossing on the roadway within a pedestrian crossover, the driver of a vehicle approaching the crossover,

- (a) shall stop before entering the crossover;
- (b) shall not overtake another vehicle already stopped at the crossover; and
- (c) shall not proceed into the crossover until the pedestrian is no longer on the roadway. 2015, c. 14, s. 39 (1).

DUTY OF PEDESTRIAN

(4) No pedestrian shall leave the curb or other place of safety at a pedestrian crossover and walk, run or move into the path of a vehicle that is so close that it is impracticable for the driver of the vehicle to comply with subsection (1). 2015, c. 14, s. 39 (2).

DO YOU DRIVE YOUR CAR OR SIMPLY AIM IT

VIC WHITCROFT

Did you know, if you fail to stop for pedestrians at the “crossover” in Norwich by the post office, the fine is \$300.00?

What is the difference? The crossover in Otterville is within a “community safety zone”.

crosswalk? The fine?

\$85.00

Did you know, if a pedestrian fails to use a crosswalk or crossover the fine is \$35.00

Did you know, if you fail to stop for pedestrians at the crosswalk in Otterville the fine is \$600.00?

Did you know, a bicycle rider must walk their bike through the crossover or

BUSINESS HIGHLIGHTS

Norwich has a consignment store! In case you didn't see it on Facebook, the Norwich Consignment is now open. The owner, Melissa Harris has created a page dedicated to her shop, and has over 7000 items up for sale!! This is great for those wanting to sell on their gently used items, or those looking for a great deal on something special for a first day back to school!! I have attached the open house flier to this issue, and wish Melissa the best of luck with this business venture!



Norwich is lucky to have several home daycares in town, with some wonderful ladies running them. One such daycare is the Learning Nest Preschool. Tammy Hamilton Feyen is a dedicated caregiver, committed to providing excellent care and educating through play. Registration for the fall is open.

QUIZ ANSWERS

- 1 Sputnik Space mission, launched October 4, 1957 at 7:28 p.m.
- 2 JFK Casket passed John, John on funeral parade route
- 3 Canadian flag
- 4 Charles de Gaulle
- 5 Bricklin Cars

END OF SUMMER THOUGHTS

J.WILD

As summer 2024 comes to a close, and thoughts of school are here it's a good time to reflect on what the warm weather brought us. A good chunk of this issue has focused on driving and road safety. As I drove through town this summer, I saw many kids playing, full of joy in the hot sun, not a care in the world. As I was driving however, there were numerous instances of children running into the street as cars were coming, refusing to get off the street, as vehicles approached. Kids and adults alike not wearing helmets while biking on the road.

This seems to be a pattern of behaviour in our little town, a disregard for rules and safety. As adults, as parents we teach our children the rules of the road, how to be safe. When we don't teach them, or fail to adhere to those rules we set them up to follow the pattern of unsafe and eventual illegal behaviour. When walking tiny tots down the street, people do not use the sidewalks available, choosing to push strollers along, not even getting to the side of the road when cars come along. I asked a mom why, when we have good sidewalks to use. She shrugged and said, its Norwich, nobody cares.

The lessons our kids learn at our side stay with them for life. As much as we might want them to stay here in our little village, chances are they wont, the big cities call. I am all

for playing hockey in the streets, biking around town with friends, but we need to teach our kids how to do it safely. We do this by showing them the right way. Respect traffic, if you see a car coming get off the road, look both ways before crossing the street, wear helmets, walk where it is safe.

Our township is home to reckless drivers, speeding, driving while under the influence, kids on dirt bikes and ATVs. We have lost children, teens and adults in senseless accidents that could be prevented. We have had delegations presented to the town council regarding road safety, and pressing concerns of residents to have them ignored, most recently one presented by the Conti family regarding Cornell road, site of numerous fatal accidents. Just this past week, a 21 year old was arrested for driving while drunk, with their license already suspended for drunk driving. A quick inspection of his social media posts indicate he is quite proud of himself, boasting about being pulled over numerous times. It makes one wonder about the state of his youth. With such little respect for the law concerning speeding, holding a li-

cense and driving while under the influence, he didn't have much for an example.

Now, I know some of you will be rolling your eyes, and saying it's a leap to draw parallels between walking on the road, and accidents such as these, but when you look at the bigger picture this is a discussion we need to have as a community, and as families to our children. Rules are not subjective, they are not suggestions, they are there to keep you safe, keep our families safe.

School starts in three days, the little ones will be crossing Main, crossing Stover on their way to Emily Stowe. Other kids will be driving to Delhi or Woodstock in vehicles of their own, or by bus. Keep and eye on the roads, stop for the red lights flashing and remember, its precious cargo on board. I don't mean to shame anyone, or call people out, just remind everyone that accidents happen, even if you are driving with good intent, those around you might not. Be an example to those around you, teach your kids these lessons, so when they leave Norwich, they leave with a healthy respect for law, and life.


Organization

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ACROSS

1. BICYCLE PART THAT'S ALSO A PAST-TENSE VERB
6. AT NO TIME
7. IT'S JUST LIKE RIDING A BIKE, FOR ONE
8. THEY'RE TYPICALLY 2-3 ON A MINI GOLF COURSE
9. LIKE A TRICKSTER

DOWN

1. LOSES IT
2. BICYCLE PART THAT SOUNDS LIKE A FLOWER PART
3. EGG-PRODUCING ORGAN
4. WHAT BREWERIES MIGHT CREATIVELY REPURPOSE AS SEATS
5. POETIC "BEFORE"

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