

A YEAR IN REVIEW

VIC WHITCROFT

Here are some excerpts published in the 2024 issues of Noteworthy in Norwich. Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

January 2024

“As the day lengthens, so the cold strengthens”

In the Middle Ages in Europe Knights would renew their vow to chivalry on the last day of the year. The days are lengthening, there is a sense of hope and rebirth, could these ideas from the past be the reason we now make New Years Resolutions?

February 2024

HEARTWARMING MOMENTS ANON CONTRIBUTORS

“When we first moved to Norwich, we didn't know anyone. Our first night here, as we had finished uploading the last truck load, the people from across the street came with a card, bottle of wine and garbage tags. It was the smallest of gestures, practical and kind.

March 2024

Community Flagpole Installed

After much controversy and what many in the township felt was unjust as some residents called it, a bigoted by-law, the community flagpole is being erected. This is a compromise between two vehemently opposed sides of the issue of LGBTQIA rights, stemming from Norwich Township Council voting in favour of not allowing any flag except federal, provincial or township flag to fly on any township property.

April 2024

Dollarama Has Balls

Opening day was Sunday, April 28, as

expected there was a large turnout of local residents eager to patronize the brand new facility located on the North side of Main Street, next to the Post Office. This much anticipated store seemed to take an eternity to come to fruition, finally seeing shoppers file through the doors for bargains and to get a general idea of what Dollarama offers for sale.

May 2024

Norwich Firefighter Training Facility

You may have noticed the Township of Norwich fire training facility located on Airport Road at the rear of the township office. Although somewhat hard to see, due to its black painted exterior, this “smoke tower/training facility” has been located there for some time.

June 2024

Proposed Boundary Changes In Ward Four

On the afternoon of June 27, 2024, council members and municipal staff from Norwich Township, City of Woodstock and Oxford County held an information session at the Oxford Centre Hall to explain the proposed boundary adjustments that will impact Ward 4 in our township.

July 2024

NORWICH'S TIPTOES BALLETT

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.

August 2024

End of Summer thoughts

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. 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.

September 2024

Noteworthy in Lincoln?

Last year, our Welcome to Norwich sign disappeared from Highway 59, on the way into town from the north. It had obviously been torn down, with remnants of the sign still clinging to the post. Despite this act of vandalism against government property, no police report was filed.

October 2024

Norwich BIA Second Fall Festival

The Norwich Business Improvement Association held its second annual Fall Festival on October 19th. The day started foggy, but by 9 a.m., the skies were clear; Main Street was open for business. Vendors sold handmade soaps, hand-carved toys for children and freshly baked goods along with Tupperware and Epicure products. Main Street hosted a funnel cake food truck.

November 2024

Norwich Remembers

On the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month each year we pause to remember and pay tribute to those who fought to defend our freedoms, as well as veterans who served in peacetime, prepared to oppose any enemy should the need arise.

OPEN EDITORIAL

VIC WHITCROFT

At the Nov 12, 2024, council meeting, Councillor Toews expressed the following statement.

“First of all, I do support additional money for the Children’s Aid Society, but as I alluded to when we talked about the Otterville pool, we need to be taking a holistic approach for the welfare of our young people. And, I do want to say publicly and on the record, that in my opinion both our federal government and provincial government over the last decade have made catastrophic decisions as regard to our young people. The legalization of marijuana is one example, the decision by federal prosecutors not to prosecute possession of small amounts of hard drugs, the sex education curriculum that was instituted by the Kathleen Wynne government, and continued by the Doug Ford government, a curriculum that was designed by a fellow named

Benjamin Levin who was sentenced to three years jail for making child pornography. Sounds crazy but Google Benjamin Levin, Kathleen Wynne and you’ll see what I’m talking about. And anyone who is reading this part of our agenda should be disturbed and saddened. It’s an extremely sad state of affairs. Also as probably many of us know, I’m sorry to say this but I feel bound to, the teen suicide rates are at an all time high, so all of this is cold comfort to the children who are in crisis now and I would say as part of these catastrophic decisions, oh, and we do have drag queens reading stories for our children in our libraries and Warden Ryan has shown up at those events in support of them. So, I certainly support additional funding in this way, but that’s the situation we’re in.”

These statements are his opinion, and he

is free to express them. In Canada, we as a free society we have the privilege of speaking as we wish. Although the good councillor’s ideals do not always align with mine, I support his ability to convey them.

What has me wondering however, is the time and place he chose to bring his opinions forward? Is a small town council meeting the place to go on a rant he had obviously written out in advance? Is this a carry over from Toews’ bid in the 2022 provincial election as a candidate for the Ontario Party, where he was critical of the Trudeau and Ford governments?

I’m of the opinion Karl is a good councillor and represents Ward One and the Township of Norwich in a positive way. But, and you knew there was a but coming, he should leave his diatribes at home when he is at council.



Birthstone for January is the garnet and the Birth Flowers are carnations and snowdrops. The first full moon of 2025 is on January the 13th.

January is Buy Nothing New Month, Veganuary, and National Hobby Month’

Other notable days in January are:

1st – New Year’s Day (Did you make New Years Resolutions?)

4th – World Braille Day

5th – National Bird Day

11th – Sir John A. MacDonald Day

15th – National Bagel Day

21st - Lincoln M. Alexander Day

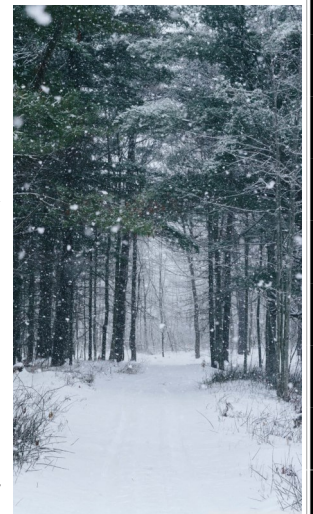
23rd National Pie Day

25th National Seed Swap Day

26th International Environmental Education Day & Clean Energy Day

27th Family Literacy Day and from January

29th to February 16th is the Chinese New Year – this year



LUNCH AND LEARN

VIC WHITCROFT

December's Lunch and Learn was presented by Bill Butt talking about turning local history into theatre productions. Bill has plenty of experience converting local historic people and events into well attended theatre productions.

Kia the Barbarian; features ghosts, wars, and true love in Taiwan, chronicles the life of George Leslie McKay. Another play based on a local to

Embroidered character features the life of Bob Hayward a farmer, musician and most notably an international superstar in the speedboat racing scene, piloting Miss Supertest.

Bill took the audience along the path of how composing a play goes from concept to stage.



SANTA AND MRS. CLAUS READ TO CHILDREN

VIC WHITCROFT

If you were lucky enough to be at the Oxford County Library, Norwich Branch on Wednesday December 11 you could have been entertained by Santa and Mrs. Claus reading Christmas stories. Or perhaps you could have joined in singing Christmas songs accompanied by Karen McSpadden on her piano. It



The Snowflake

Before I melt,
Come look at me!
This lovely icy filigree,
Of a great forest.
In one night
I make a wilderness of white;
By skyey cold of
Crystal made,
All softly, on
Your fingers laid,
I pause, that you
My beauty see;
Breathe and I vanish
instantly.

- WALTER DE LA MARE -

was a small but enthusiastic group of moms, dads and kids sitting on couches, chairs, and the floor while Santa and Mrs. Claus sat by the fireplace. Everyone had fun, and the kids seemed well behaved, undoubtedly in the hope of achieving a special status of being placed on the nice list.



SPLASHPAD BECOMES A SUPPORTIVE SPACE

VIC WHITCROFT

On Dec 12, 2024, the addition of a purple bench was unveiled at the Harold Bishop Park splash pad. The bench stands out as the only purple bench at the park. It is one of eight purple benches unveiled throughout Oxford County. Locations of other such benches include, Woodstock, Tillsonburg, Ingersoll, Blanford-Blenheim, Southwest Oxford, Zorra and East Zora-Tavistock the latter to be unveiled Friday Dec 13th in Innerkip.

So why a purple bench? The Purple Bench campaign raises awareness about gender-based violence,

offering a visible reminder of support for survivors and a call to action for communities to stand against abuse.

This is an excerpt from Barb's story from. (Silent Witness Nova Scotia)

On October 19, 1990, [Barbara Baillie](#) was killed by her husband of 25 years in Spryfield, Nova Scotia. After 30 years without their loving and caring mother, her five children continue to miss and remember Barbara.

However, over the past five

years, Barbara has been honoured differently thanks to the Baillie's starting the [Barb's Bench Project](#).

The first bench was placed in Long Lake Provincial Park in Spryfield, NS in 2015. Now there are four purple Barb's Benches in Nova Scotia.

Each of Barb's Benches features a plaque to honour Barbara Baillie. A toll-free number for those who are experiencing domestic violence to get help is also on the plaque.



TIS THE SEASON

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A small group of carollers from the Norwich United Church Choir took to the streets singing Christmas carols throughout the village. As Christmas draws closer and closer the singers spread cheer in front of many homes along their route. Pictured here are carollers singing to an audience of two in front of the triplex on the corner of Stov-



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UPDATE ON THE NOTEWORTHY IN NORWICH

Good afternoon to all our devoted readers! The holidays are over, a new semester has begun! I know some of you will have been wondering where December's issue was. Well, here it is!

I have had to take some personal time to rest, and recuperate after an incredibly stressful few months. I took some much needed time to reflect on the trajectory of my academic and writing life, and decide where my energies and passions lay.

My hope is to continue to provide this newsletter to you, as I know how much it means to many of you, and how much it means to me. I am immensely

proud of how well the Noteworthy has been received, how the efforts of Vic, Elizabeth Matthew and myself have created something special for Norwich.

I want to assure you I will continue to make every effort to keep the Noteworthy coming to you on a monthly basis, there may be smaller issues, or be a few days later than expected. For this I do apologise, I hate to disappoint or let any of you down.

I have a graduation date of Sept 2025, so my deadline is fast approaching, the coursework increased in complexity and intensity.

While I am not born and bred Norwichian, I found a home in this vil-

lage, and will continue to be a citizen to be proud of, exhibit the qualities that make Norwich so special. Enjoy your new year, I hope to see you all around town.

Jennifer Wild

