

Noteworthy In Norwich

Jan 31, 2025

Volume 2
Issue 8

Community News, Commentary and Concerns

DOWNTOWN PROPERTY OPTIONS

VIC WHITCROFT

The Jan. 14 council meeting began on time at nine am, discussing the many items on the agenda. Mayor Palmer noted the recently installed pedestrian crossover was established at the expense of several parking spots in the area of Main Street west between John and Pitcher streets. This writing is about one such item of interest to townsfolk, parking, which you are encouraged to contact your ward councillor should you have concerns or suggestions.

The following text is the motion, filed by Mayor

Palmer.

Notice of Motion

That Council request a staff report regarding initiating a study to consider the options and/or benefits to purchasing or leasing the property located at the southwest corner of Main Street West and Pitcher Street in the Village of Norwich. The property consists of three properties, identified as: 55 Main Street West, 59 Main Street West and 26 Front Street. Consideration could be given to options for utilizing the lands for: parking for local businesses, a central commons area, a place with benches, a farmers market or possibly food trucks.

After putting forth the motion, Mayor Palmer went on to say, "So this is an opportunity, a once in a lifetime opportunity for council to increase the parking area in the village". "So for us, I believe we should at least investigate what it would take to make that into a parking lot". "So I'm asking for support of council, just to talk about this at a later time".

Mayor Palmer's motion was accepted and will be open for consideration at a later date.

THE FEBRUARY HUSH

BY
THOMAS WENTWORTH
HIGGINSON

Snow o'er the darkening moorlands,
Flakes fill the quiet air;
Drifts in the forest hollows,
And a soft mask everywhere.
The nearest twig on the pine-tree
Looks blue through the whitening
sky,
And the clinging beech-leaves rustle
Though never a wind goes by.
But there's red on the wildrose
berries,
And red in the lovely glow
On the cheeks of the child beside
me,
That once were pale, like snow.

FEBRUARY

E.A WILD

February is named after the Latin word Februum, which means purification. February was added to the Roman calendar in 713 BC. When Julius Caesar remade the Roman calendar, the month was assigned 28 days in normal years and 29 in leap years.

February's birth flowers are Violets, irises and primroses. The birth stone is Amethyst. The full moon is on the 12th and is called the "snow moon" or "hunger moon".

February is Black History month, also Heart Health Month*

Noteworthy days in February:

2nd World Wetlands Day

7th Wear Red Day (raise awareness for Heart and cardiovascular diseases)

11th International Day for Women and Girls in Science

15th National Fleg Day in Canada

17th Random Acts of Kindness Day

20th –World Day of Social Justice

21st Mental Health Nurses Day



At the Museum

Vic Whitcroft



The most recent Lunch and Learn at NDHS proved to be very interesting. Otterville resident Kerrie Gill talked about the topic of “Quakerism Today” and the customs from current Friends Meetings throughout Canada. Yes, that’s right, Quakers still have a presence around the world and right here in Norwich Township.

Sparta Ontario has a meeting house that has been used for many years. A vintage structure (circa 1865) with a simple interior consisting of benches, plain fixtures and a movable wall used to divide the room if required.

Many readers may know that the Norwich Museum building and grounds was

once a Friends Meeting House. Occasionally the NDHS building is utilized for Quaker half year meetings that revolve from one location to another.

The next Lunch and Learn, on Wed Fed 12th at 11AM will cover “Black History Month”.

STORY TIME

VIC WHITCROFT

Having just come through the Christmas season, seeing all the kids' faces light up when they saw old St Nick, as most clamoured to sit on his knee. I say most because some freaked out not wanting much to do with the fat old guy, dressed in red, white beard blowing in the breeze. Once in a while Mrs Claus would help Santa as he entertained these kids and listened to their special requests as to what they wanted for Christmas.

Throughout the year this scene may repeat, this time with the Easter bunny, or perhaps a Sesame Street character, or other trending toys or movie characters dressed in funny cos-

tumes, somewhat like the tall stilt man who walks Main Street each year during Nostalgia Days.

This happens again for some teenagers with rock group costumes. I may be telling my age here but Alice Cooper, David Bowie and Kiss come to mind. Rockers taking the stage dressed in what some would find outlandish costumes as their on stage persona draws crowds to the show. Batman, Superman, Beetlejuice, perhaps some WWE wrestlers in character, draw the approval of kids and adults alike.

The children who enjoy the costumes and having their picture taken with Santa

don't know what is real or what is not. Movies such as Mrs Doubtfire, Tootsie, and Armed and Dangerous featuring Canadian John Candy for example all depict men dressed in drag. Young viewers of these movies don't know or don't care as long as they are entertained.

I have seen no big uproar about any of these examples yet, have a Drag Queen story hour and all hell breaks loose. What's the big deal? Was John Candy a groomer, I think not.

Food for thought.



UNITED CHURCH CHRISTMAS DINNER

WIC WHITCROFT

Good weather, good food and good friends made the 17 annual NUC Christmas dinner a success. An event in the church's lower level saw families, couples and individuals attend to partake in a Christmas feast.

The well attended meal served visitors from Norwich and further afield. One gentleman came from Embro to enjoy the company of others at this special Christmas dinner offering.

Back in 2007 Gary and Shirley Debus along with Larry and Nancy Anderson came up with the notion of offering a free dinner to anyone who attended on Christmas Day at noon. Since then Karen

McSpadden along with husband Dan Cohoe have taken on the task of organizing this event. On the first dinner and for a few years after the event drew 40 to 60 guests. Currently the church volunteers feed in the range of 125 hungry people.

Needless to say an event like this could not be undertaken without dedicated volunteers and donors. Meat and veggies are donated by local people and businesses, while prep work and clean up is done by church and community members.

If you attended this feast you had the option of turkey, mashed potatoes, stuffing prepared by Deborah Dufton,

gravy, Dan's special orange, butter and parsley rough-cut carrots, and squash. Diane Boyce, Shirley Miller, Deborah Dufton, Helen Davis and Karen McSpadden, baked tasty treats and pastry such as pies, tarts, Christmas baking and trifle.

Dec 25th, 2025 will see a repeat in the lower level of the church, just like the past 17 years.

Side Note; Every Tuesday morning from 9 until noon, NUC serves coffee in the church's lower level. A good place to catch up with your neighbours over a coffee and a muffin.

Inside Story Headline

Did You Know

If you innocently place your purchase of alcohol within reach of the driver, you could be charged with having alcohol readily available?

Ontario is home to five national parks: Pukaskwa, Bruce Peninsula, Georgian Bay Islands, Point Pelee, and Thousand Islands National Parks? All five are on the Great Lakes or Saint Lawrence River.

If you drive 1600 kms at 100k compared to driving at 120k you save just shy of 3 hours travel time? However,

you consume 20% more gas, risk fines and increased insurance premiums.

You must not ride a bicycle through a crosswalk or crossover?

39% of all Canadians live in

Ontario?

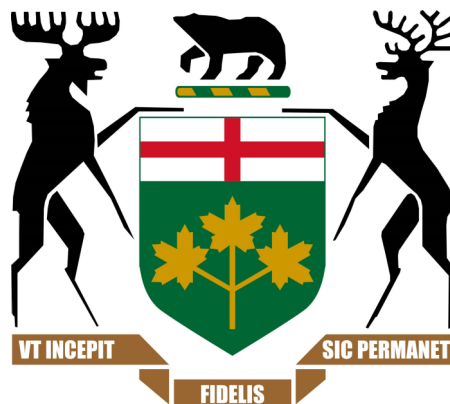
The loon is the official bird of Ontario?

There are around 250,000 lakes in Ontario, accounting for 20% of the world's freshwater?

Around 15% of the province's land is covered with water?

The landscapes of Northern Ontario inspired the Group of Seven, some of the most important painters in Canadian history?

Norwich once had a movie theatre?



To Remember Me

A Poem, By Robert N. Test

Give my sight to the man
who has never seen a sunrise,
a baby's face, or love in the eyes of a woman.

Give my heart to a person
whose own heart has caused nothing
but endless days of pain.

Give my blood to the teenager
who was pulled from the wreckage of his car,
so that he might live to see his grandchildren play.

Give my kidneys to one who depends
on a machine to exist from week to week.

Take my bones, every muscle,
every fibre and nerve in my body
and find a way to make a crippled child walk.

If you must bury something,
let it be my faults, my weaknesses,
and all prejudice against my fellow man.

Give my sins to the devil.
Give my soul to God.
If, by chance, you wish to remember me,
do it with a kind deed or word
to someone who needs you.
If you do all I have asked, I will live forever.

Announcement

Hey everyone, first of all I want to say thank you so much for all of the love and support you have shown the Noteworthy over the last year and a half. It is with a heavy heart I have decided for the next few months, Vic Whitcroft will run the Noteworthy while I focus on school. It has become increasingly difficult to manage my schoolwork, the kids, and this passion project. I have absolute faith that Vic will do a fantastic job, his efforts have been invaluable. I will be back

Jennifer Wild

