

Noteworthy In Norwich

Community News, Commentary and Concerns

WELCOME TO NORWICH

VIC WHITCROFT

Perhaps the headline should be "Thank you for choosing Norwich". The FCRV International Camping Club rolled into the Norwich Community Centre on Monday, June 9th. It was clear from my first contact that this is a fun-loving group. A camper with the handle "Bullwinkle" directed me to where my contact could be found, however, not before having a little fun as he spun a yarn or two, including making sure I knew his wife was the boss. I believe he called her "the one who must be obeyed".

So why "thank you for choosing Norwich"? For somewhere around 26 or so years, this group has chosen Norwich to set up camp. In that time, they have boosted our economy by countless thousands of dollars. Last year's event saw the group spend around \$12,000.00 within the town-

ship. Each shopper gets a receipt for their purchase, then drops it into a box at the campsite. At that point, all receipts are added up and then put into a drum for a chance to win a prize from the FCRV event planners.

Chapters that attended this camp outing included Four Ts, if you are wondering that stands for "Tent Toters and Trail Trotters," "The Meanders," "The Tri County Travellers," among others. Including a couple from another organization who were in Norwich for the fifth year in a row. Walter and Gerda Meixner, who are part of the "Explorer RV Club". This nice couple manage to get to at least "one rally per month from May through September," with their 5th wheel trailer. This lifestyle must keep people young. Walter is 83, Gerda is 80, neither looks their age.

When asked why pick Norwich as a destination, Lew Acre, Provincial President, simply stated, "people are friendly". At this time, Lew is also the interim Regional Director for the "Family Campers and RV'ers", which takes in most of the territory from Ontario to the east coast.

What is the appeal of operating a recreational vehicle to rally destinations near and far? Sharon Sandau suggested that people become "a family amongst friends". When her boys were young, they wanted a pool, but when faced with the dilemma, pool or RV, but not both, they opted for an RV. Now, as adults, her sons have friends made years ago at rallies and campsites who they keep in touch with to this day.

Lynn Lock and Lynn Acre made it clear that

THE HISTORY OF CAMPVENTION

VIC WHITCROFT

The first "Campvention" was held in 1961 in Lake of the Ozarks, Missouri, with 272 families in attendance. The attendance grew to 1,120 families in 1962. The largest Campvention was held in Indiana in 1972 with 7,842 families attending. The Campvention became our "Annual Meeting," where a membership meeting is held each year. In the beginning, states/provinces bid on hosting the Campvention each year, but in 1998, because of decreasing membership and not having enough workers for the event, a regional rotation was implemented. Since then, the

different regions, which include several states/provinces, host the event each year. Along with the annual meeting, there are lots of hospitalities hosted by different states/provinces, planned seminars, projects or craft sales, Protestant and Jewish church services, Miss FCRV Teen Queen Contest, commercial sales, teen and youth activities, adult activities, conservation and wildlife displays, conservation contests, chapter scrapbook contests, chapter and state/provincial newsletter contests, indoor and outdoor

games, great nightly entertainment, and on the last day, the campvention parade takes place, featuring walking units, the FCRV band, and beautiful amateur made floats. Campventions have enjoyable fun and activities for every member of the family.

The National Retiree Rally was started in 1972, with the first one held in Harlington, Texas. All members over the age of 50 are welcome to attend a rally. Along with lots of activities, good entertainment and catered meals, Continued on next page

is the International King and Queen Contest. The annual rally rotates among the southern states of Florida, Alabama, Louisiana, Texas and Arizona.

Along with the annual Campvention and Retiree Rally, each state/province has one or two "statewide" or "provincial" campouts each year, regional campouts once a year, and your local chapters camp together at least once a month.

In 1993, NCHA adopted the trade name

FCRV (Family Campers & RVers) to better describe our organization. Source FCRV website.

If you have made it this far in the article, you may think this is just for old people. Not so, the national website shows activities for Adults, Retirees, Teens and Youth.

Throughout our visit today, it was

brought up several times that FCRV is looking for new members. If you have an RV or are considering getting one, you may want to look into the benefits of membership. I hung around with these folks for just a couple of hours today, and I can tell you there is no better group to be found. So much so that I intend to attend many of the planned events throughout the week.

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

VIC WHITCROFT



Terry Scott from the Canadian Harvard Aircraft Association presented a multimedia lecture highlighting this local organization's 40-year presence in Oxford County. First in Woodstock, then moving the operation to the Tillsonburg Airport, where they had room to grow. Grow they did! The best way to learn more about CHAA is to

visit Tillsonburg Airport on a Tuesday or Saturday to experience the sights, sounds, and smells, not to mention the yellow that is the predominant colour around the hangars on the east side of the aerodrome.

Last month, Terry was the featured speaker at the NDHS Lunch and Learn program. Terry made quite

an impact and was sought out to represent CHAA at the Retirees' Rally. Terry's background in broadcasting, and his passion for Harvard make him the perfect spokesman for CHAA. If you would like thrill of a Harvard Experience, call 519-842-9922 or check out CHAA's website at www.harvards.com

JONNY & THE SHENANIGANS

VIC WHITCROFT

Wednesday night's entertainment was a crowd pleaser. Of course, with a name like "Johnny & The Shenanigans," there was bound to be some mischief; no disappointment there, the trio provided plenty of laughs along the way.

The 90-minute set featured Celtic music spanning from Scotland and Ireland to the East Coast of Canada. A few people from the audience made requests that proved to be crowd favourites as the lads on stage did an incredible rendition of each tune they played.

Johnny's voice is perfectly suited to

Celtic music, even when the song was not written specifically to be in the Celtic genre. "Wagon Wheel," released in a country music style by Darius Rucker, was an example of how the kilt-clad singer put it into the Celtic niche.

Johnny, along with Troy and Brett AKA the Shenanigans, played off each other to bring comedy into the act. It started out when Johnny took a dig at the audience saying the guys on the stage all had full time day jobs, unlike the retirees watching the performance, then progressed to poking fun at Ed Sheeran. Audience participation

was encouraged. It's safe to say everyone at the performance had a great time. If you want a brief look at this group playing, check out Johnny and the Shenanigans on Facebook or YouTube. So with another year come and gone, it looks like success and another year of camping to come. In 2026, should these people choose to revisit Norwich, remember this group is a huge part of the town once per year, and they want Norwich to be part of their group. All activities are open to the town's people, and you are guaranteed to have fun.

JUNE EDITORIAL

VIC WHITCROFT

What makes people hate? It would be easy to have a knee jerk reaction to vandalism, theft, arson, or perhaps trespassing on another person's property to carry out each of the examples given.

A coward or cowards under the dark of night enters private property to rip down a Pride Flag then set it ablaze.

Why?

Perhaps people hate due to inexplicable reasons. Or, could it be that they have deep seated beliefs and negative misconceptions about a person's race, nationality, or sexual orientation? It could be about fear, anger, and feelings of weakness. Hate can rear its ugly head in different ways, from biased attitudes and activities like bullying, to more extreme possibilities, like hate crimes and violence.

If one sees something that goes against their way of thinking, let it

be. When a Pride Flag is raised, if you don't like it, don't look at it, drive on by. It's not like you are being forced to salute that flag.

When a young guy in a dark coloured pickup truck repeatedly steals Pride Flags to burn, perhaps he is paranoid and deeply concerned about his own sexual preference. Embrace it, why fight it, sooner or later you will have to come out, or live a secret life.

What would make a guy shoot out the window of a vehicle at an innocent person walking down the street? Did the driver even know the passenger had a gun? At a young age of 17 years what would you have done? Panic and take off, stop and wait for the police, be a loyal friend and take off? This is not to point the finger of blame at anyone rather to get people think-

ing of how they would have handled this situation at that age.

In many cases like this it messes up a person's life, no travel outside of Canada, perhaps getting a job becomes a challenge, not to mention the legal system if caught.

U.S. Customs don't ask if you have a criminal record, they ask if you have ever been fingerprinted. Now because of a mistake made at a young age, you must lie in order to enter another country.

Hate and criminal negligence is not worth what fun you think you are having. Bad choices as a teenager will be made on a time payment plan for many years to come. Regret sets in as you watch all your friends go on an exotic vacation to Hawaii as you are left behind.

MOVIE TRIVIA

VIC WHITCROFT

- 1 From what film is the famous line "I see dead people"?
- 2 From what film is the famous line "It's not a tumour"?
- 3 From what film is the famous line "Love means never having to say you're sorry"?
- 4 From what film is the famous line "You make me want to be a better man"?
- 5 From what film is the famous line "I'm walking here! I'm walking here!?"
- 6 From what film is the famous line "Magic Mirror on the wall, who is the fairest one of all?"

- 7 From what film is the famous line "Go ahead, make my day"?
- 8 From what film is the famous line "Mama says, 'Stupid is as stupid does'"?
- 9 From what film is the famous line "I'm the king of the world!"?
- 10 From what film is the famous line "What we've got here is a failure to communicate."?
- 11 From what film is the famous line "Every time a bell rings, an angel gets his wings"?
- 12 From what film is the famous line "Mrs. Robinson, you're trying to seduce me, aren't you?"



- 13 From what film is the famous line "You can't handle the truth!"?

- 14 From what film is the famous line "I'll have what she's having."?

- 15 From what film is the famous line "Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it."?



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IT'S BEEN A WHILE!

JENNIFER

WILD

I can't believe how fast the past semester and a half has gone! It feels like just yesterday I was in a panic of how I was going to manage school, and the newsletter, on top of being a mum. This newsletter means the world to me, and I knew Vic was the ideal candidate to take over while I was busy. He did an incredible job, and has ideas for future issues!

It had been a very challenging winter semester. I was busy with a year-long research paper, mounds of books and articles surrounding me every day. You might think that researching 18th century poetry to be incredibly dull, but I truly loved it and was more than

happy with the result! 18 pages of blood sweat and tears earned me a 93% for the project. (If anyone would like to read it, I can email out a copy!)

I am now in my final semester over the summer by the end of which I will be graduating with honours. All the hard work, the love and support from friends, family, and everyone who receives this newsletter and sent encouragement from afar. I couldn't have done this without any of you.

As we dive into the heat of summer, we hope to keep you updated on all upcoming events, any

issues arising in town, and more. If there is anything you would like to see in further issues please don't hesitate to email us! This is a newsletter for the whole township, and should contain information relevant and important to everyone.

If you would like to be added to our subscription list, please email me at noteworthnorwich@gmail.com

Jennifer Wild

