

Noteworthy In Norwich

SEPT 30TH
2025

Community News, Commentary and Concerns

VOLUME 2
ISSUE 11

QUERY FOR OXFORD COUNTY

JENNIFER WILD

The Township of Norwich held a full meeting on Tuesday, Sept 23rd. On the agenda for discussion was a motion put forward by Councilor Toews concerning a resolution passed by Oxford County, almost eight years ago.

This resolution stated that Oxford County would join the FCM-ICLEI Partners for Climate Protection Program. This program had set out five specific milestones for Oxford County to hit within 10 years of joining said program, along with reporting on progress every two years. The motion referenced the increase in taxes put on the Norwich Township, seemingly drawing a parallel between the large increase in taxes and the county's goals for the Climate Protection Program

Councilor Toews motion asked that Norwich Township Council, as single corporation, request that Oxford County, as a separate corporation, release specific information to the general public within 60 days. The information requested focuses on the financial aspect of Oxford County pursuing the goals laid out in the Climate Protection Program. Specifically, if Oxford County has completed a GHG inventory, forecast, reduction target, created a local action plan, request for a copy of the progress reports for the Partners for Climate Protection, a summary of costs asso-

ciated with the Climate Protection Program, and finally a forecast for additional costs related to the Climate Protection Program. The full motion can be found on the Township of Norwich's website.

Mayor Palmer declared the motion not within the jurisdiction of the council, under procedure bylaw section 10.6.6. on the grounds that a township councilor cannot ask questions of the county by way of a township motion. Mayor Palmer went on to explain that "A township councilor may apply as a general citizen for a delegation to hear their request from the county".

Councilor Toews appealed this decision, triggering a discussion between the councilors and mayor. Councilor De Planke made several points worth considering. The information requested is available on the county website, with a breakdown of the county's budget for each year. She continued to break down the budget for 2024, as an example of the information available through the county website.

Through the breakdown of the budget, it was clear that higher tax came from the increased demand for affordable housing, homelessness response, the need for increased paramedic services in response to the rapid growth experienced by Oxford

County.

If this motion goes ahead, one has to wonder at the expense of this audit, spanning 2017-2025. If the concern is a mismanagement of tax dollars, would this not be a waste of said tax dollars, when this information is already released with every year's budget?

As the Township is trying to step outside the bounds of its jurisdiction, Oxford County has no obligation to respond. This would appear, however, as an attempt to avoid scrutiny over a contentious topic, climate change. Transparency should be required of each level of the government, but Oxford County hasn't been hiding its finance. If Oxford County agrees to this request, it opens the door for other municipalities to go outside the bounds of what they can and cannot do. By-laws are in place to guide the conduct of each governing body, something that is in the best interest of everyone. Let's hope that this does not trigger a breakdown of respect for the by-laws we operate under

The motion was carried, with Toews, Gear and Couwenberg voting in favour, and Councilor De Planke and Mayor Palmer against. If this request is put forward to Oxford County, what will the response be? I will keep an eye on the Oxford County agenda to be sure.

WIDESPREAD DROUGHT CONDITIONS

VIC WHITCROFT

When I was a kid, it was not uncommon while exploring in and around the Otter Creek to come home with what we referred to as a soaker. You know, when you missed the rock you were trying to step on. The result might be stepping into water covering your shoe or possibly up to your knee. Further north, toward Quaker Street, there were holes deep enough to swim in.

Once the dam was built, this all changed. A guy and his buddies could raft or canoe from Brock Street to Quaker Street; it was loads of fun. Today, in 2025, after looking at the creek, you would be hard-pressed to get a soaker even if you missed the stepping stones one might use to cross the creek. Water levels are precariously low.

It has been reported that residents along the Grand River in

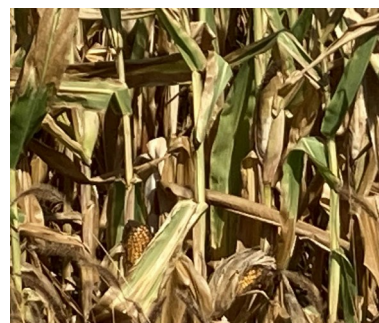


Haldimand, Norfolk, Brant and Six Nations are advised to reduce water usage due to severe drought conditions.

Just from looking at creeks, irrigation ponds and corn crops indication point to Oxford County experiencing drought conditions as well. It is important to have water reserves during times of drought. One major fire could require more water than the township has, thus the need for water to spare.

Everyone can do their part

though. Use water sparingly, avoid washing your car, lawn watering and hosing off the driveway. Additionally, don't be careless with fire. Backyard fires and smoking are risky behaviours in dry conditions like we are encountering at this time.



TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION IN NORWICH

VIC WHITCROFT



A small group of locals attended the Every Child Matters flag-raising on Sept. 30th to commemorate Canada's National Day of Reconciliation at the community flagpole.



PALMER ANNOUNCES INTENTIONS

VIC WHITCROFT

Mayor Jim Palmer has made his intentions known for the upcoming election. At an unrelated meeting on September 25, with Jim in attendance, Mayor Palmer made his announcement. His intentions were stated at the end of the meeting,

attended by twelve people.

As the election approaches, we will provide more coverage on the issues, the candidates, and polling locations.

One candidate on the ballot for mayor will be Jim Palmer, as he is running for re-election. There is no current information on whether the Councilors for wards 1-4 will be returning for re-election.

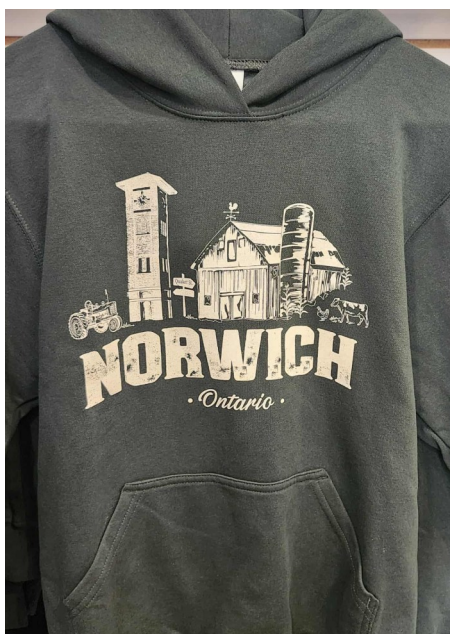


THE HEN HOUSE, GET YOUR MERCH

JENNIFER WILD

These days, swag and logoed merchandise is available for any number of events and businesses. Its time to get in style Norwich, we have joined the club.

Earlier this summer, I had the opportunity to visit The Hen House on Stover St. Upon entry, I was greeted by tasteful displays of locally made products, ranging from soaps and candles, to hand-made floral bookmarks and jewelry. If you haven't gotten your swag yet, get out to the Hen House and represent your township!



THE FACTS ACCORDING TO ARPAN

SEPTEMBER EDITORIAL VIC WHITCROFT

Arpan's facts could very well be true, I'm too overwhelmed by political BS in Canada and the USA to care much anymore. When trying to fact check the numbers, they are laid out in a different format making it near impossible to compare without a deep dive. Here are Arpan's numbers.

Here are the facts:

Homicides are up 29%.

Total sexual assaults are up 76%.

Total firearms crime is up 131%.

Extortion is up 330%.

Theft of a motor vehicle is up

*25%. (source Arpan Patel)
Canada's homicide rate was 2.01 per 100,000 population in 2020, increasing to 2.27 per 100,000 population in 2022 according to Statistics Canada. The rate has been rising since 2014, reaching its highest level in 30 years in 2022. (source internet)*

With Poilievre wanting to be just like Trump when he grows up, every day crime and government corruption is apt to increase in Canada, as it has in just eight months in the US. Some have commented that Poilievre stole his seat by coercing Damien Kurek

resign so the "axe the tax" poet could win the riding and his seat in parliament.

So take this for what it's worth. I'm too tired to fact check and research the never ending nonsense called politics.

Just so everyone is in the loop, this is my last submission to Noteworthy in Norwich. I know some are saddened by this news while most will be delighted, I'm sure. I have given Jennifer my notice and will no longer be part of this great local news platform.

UPDATE ON THE NOTEWORTHY

JENNIFER WILD

Today I write this piece with a weight on my shoulders. Vic's contribution to the Noteworthy will be sorely missed, by myself and our readers.

I remember my first meeting with Vic, over two years ago. We sat down at his kitchen table, and I pitched him my idea. His enthusiasm for this endeavor was instant, and absolute. Our goal from the get-go was to bring local news to the township, to bring the community together while we were experiencing such division. While I stood on one side of the fence, others stood on the other; however I felt, I didn't want this to be a one sided conversation. Everyone in Norwich has a voice, and the right to use it; this newsletter was to be a platform for those voices, within the bounds of what was appropriate for publication.

As many of you know, I have finished my BA, and am on the hunt for work. This is an exciting time and one that brings anxiety. The job market isn't exactly hopping for new grads, so keep your ears open and fingers crossed for me!

With Vic stepping down, I have feelings about the future of the Noteworthy. The Noteworthy owes a lot of its success to the efforts of Vic, he was able to attend events I could not make, and had connections in the community I do not have, as a relatively newcomer to Norwich. Without his efforts, the Noteworthy may not be sustainable.

This publication is done entirely voluntarily, I get nothing from this besides the joy of writing and providing a service to the community. Nor-

wich, as a community, was not difficult to fall in love with. Every store you enter has a friendly face to greet you, the support for our young athletes is amazing, and the kindness this community is capable of showing to those struggling is something I haven't seen before. I want to keep writing about all the things that happen here. There will always be negative news and controversial topics but open and honest discourse is needed.

The invitation for submissions, open editorials, opinion pieces is open to all, and will remain open for as long as this publication is running.



Upcoming Events

JOIN US FOR A

PORK SCHNITZEL & CABBAGE ROLLS

& ALL THE FIXINGS + DESSERT

WHILE SUPPLIES LAST
DINE IN OR TAKE OUT AVAILABLE



\$20/person
5 & Under Free
Cash only

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3RD
5PM-6:30PM

Follow us on
Facebook for Event
Updates

Legion 
BRANCH 190, NORWICH



Norwich Legion
presents

CORNHOLE

STARTING OCTOBER 7TH
**WEDNESDAY
NIGHTS**

6:30 PM SIGN UPS START
7:00 PM BAGS FLY

BLIND DRAW

NEW PLAYERS
ALWAYS WELCOME

\$5.00 ENTRY FEE
\$\$ PRIZES AWARDED NIGHTLY



Legion 
BRANCH 190, NORWICH



Legion 
BRANCH 190, NORWICH

MEAT DRAWS

2025-2026



Mark Your Calendars:

- ✓ October 18
- ✓ November 15
- ✓ December 20
- ✓ January 17
- ✓ February 21
- ✓ April 18
- ✓ May 16

**2:00PM
to
5:00PM**



Bring your toonies &
try your chances at
the wheel!

Follow us on
Facebook for Event
Updates





Upcoming Events

*Halloween at
Norwich Booseum*

TUESDAY 28TH OCTOBER 7 PM
SPOOKY MUSIC WITH THE NORWICH BAND

FRIDAY 31ST OCTOBER FROM 4:30 PM
TRICK OR TREAT AT THE MUSEUM
FEATURING OUR HAUNTED SALTBOX HOUSE!

FREE EVENTS!
DONATIONS TO NORWICH & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY ARE ALWAYS WELCOMED!



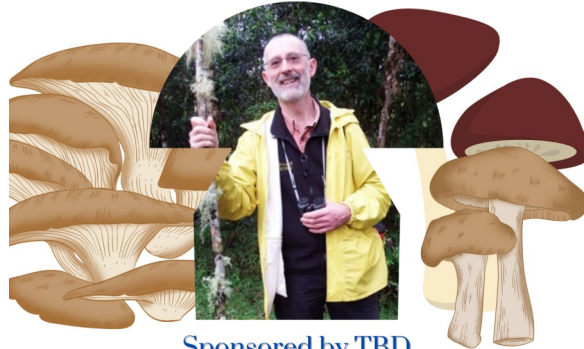
AT NORWICH MUSEUM
89 STOVER STREET NORTH, NORWICH ON

Lunch & Learn

at the Norwich Museum

What Are Mushrooms, and What Do They Do?

With Dr Greg Thorn



Sponsored by TBD

Wednesday 8th October 2025 at 11am

Dr Greg Thorn is a faculty member of the Department of Biology, University of Western Ontario. His research is focused on the ecology and diversity of fungi. He teaches courses on Biodiversity, Plant Evolution, Field Botany, and Mycology, and is the Curator of the Dr. Laurie L. Consaul Herbarium (UWO).



ALL WELCOME!
Free Admission!
Donations Gratefully Received!
Contact the Museum to reserve your place:
norwichdhs@execulink.com
(519) 863-3101
f @NorwichDHS

Norwich & District Historical Society presents

Heritage Dinner & Silent Auction 2025



With a presentation by Dr P. Whitney Lackenbauer

In support of the Norwich Museum and Archives



October 25th, 2025 | 5-9 PM at Oxford Centre Community Hall
Tickets \$50.00 | Includes a three-course meal and a drink
Catered by Jordan's Divine Dish Catering
For tickets contact Norwich Museum
(519) 863-3101 | norwichdhs@execulink.com
89 Stover St N Norwich, ON



KEEP UP-TO-DATE WITH LOCAL HISTORY

SIGN UP TO OUR NEWSLETTER



SCAN ME!

