

NOTEWORTHY

IN NORWICH

A COMMUNITY NEWS PUBLICATION

More Construction In West End Norwich



Stubbe's Precast is making progress on the latest commercial building at the west end of Main Street. This will be the third building of its type on the property, owned by the Stubbe company.

Illegal Vehicles

And it continues. With the warmer weather arriving, however slowly that may be, we are seeing more quads, dirt bikes and e-bikes. e-scooters on our streets.

These machines create a nuisance factor, many of the dirt bike are not road worthy and very loud, and many times are being driven at high speeds. More importantly they are being operated in an extremely dangerous manner, as they are not equipped with lights, yet they can be found on streets in town well after dark.

I spoke to an OPP officer recently as well as confirming a few things related to the Highway Traffic Act regarding e-bikes and e-scooters. In Ontario operators of power assisted bicycle must be at least 16 years of age.

Drivers beware and be vigilant, these vehicles are out there and we must share the road with them, illegal or not. The legally licensed driver must have insurance, proper

documentation and a safe, roadworthy vehicle, while the other guy can seemingly ignore all the regulations.

The frustrating part is, if someone pulled out in front of a dirt bike with no lights at midnight, resulting in a fatal collision the legal driver has to cope with the aftermath for years to come.

The problem is not unique to this township, it is widespread. It has gone on so long that a culture of illegal street traffic behaviour has been created.

There are some jurisdictions where being a spectator at an illegal activity such as a burn out competition may get you in trouble. If you are filming or in some way encouraging the activity, you may have some explaining to do. Meanwhile the vehicle operator has fled the scene leaving the spectators to deal with any pending consequences.

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Township of Norwich Traffic Calming

Oxford County is implementing changes to improve road safety in the Township of Norwich.

Due to increased traffic volume across our township, Oxford County has been undertaking speed management, traffic calming, and road safety reviews. As a result, Oxford County is implementing traffic calming measures to roads in Norwich Township.

Eastwood – Oxford Road 55

Reducing posted speed limit to 70 km/h through rural settlement cluster

Installing speed feedback sign at the east 70 km/h speed zone limit

Installing speed feedback sign east of CN Rail crossing

Holbrook – Oxford Road 59

Reducing posted speed limits to 60 km/h through Holbrook

Installing speed feedback signs at the 60km/h speed zone limits

Installing new and relocating existing regulatory signs

Replacing and relocating warning signs

Installing roadway identification signs and County road route marker installations

Installing post-mounted delineators through the horizontal curve

North of Norwich – Oxford Road 59

Reducing posted speed limits to 60 km/h through the study area

Installing speed feedback signs at the 60km/h speed zone limits

Norwich – Oxford Road 18 and Oxford Road 59

Installing speed feedback signs at the west end of the 50 km/h speed zone limit

Installing flexible centreline delineators on Oxford Road 59 at the south end of the 50 km/h speed zone limit
Installing flexible centreline delineators on Oxford Road 18 at the east end of the 50 km/h speed limit and the west end of the 40 km/h school zone

Installing flexible centreline delineator on Oxford Road 18 west of Avery's Lane

Otterville – Oxford Road 19

The county will also be installing flexible centreline delineators within the village. Source Oxford County website

Driver and victim's parents charged after cyclist hit by pickup truck Illegal Vehicles Continued from page 2

The driver of a pickup truck and a 12-year-old cyclist's parents have both been charged after a crash in Waterloo.

It happened around 8:40 a.m. on Tuesday near the corner of University Avenue East and Woolwich Street.

The cyclist was taken to hospital with serious but non-life-threatening injuries.

On Thursday, the Waterloo Regional Police Service said the driver had been charged with having an object obstructing his view and turning while not in safety. Investigators don't believe speed was a factor in the crash.

Police also said the parents of the 12-year-old were charged with allowing a person under the age of 16 to use a bicycle without a proper helmet.

Source CTV KITCHENER

Spring Is Here

Birds are singing, Robins and Red Winged Black Birds have arrived, buds are starting to appear on the trees and flowers like Snowdrops are showing up in flower beds.

Looking back at our winter snowfall amounts and the mixed bag of weather we experienced since November, could leave one scratching his head.

In Southwestern Ontario during a normal winter during the last ten or twelve years, our average snowfall has been 165 centimetres or 32.4 inches. This winter however, we have been dumped on, with snowfall totals reaching 209.13 centimetres or 82.3 inches, measured locally.

Add to this the sketchy weather, like multiple days of thaw, mid winter thunder storms, and March that came in like a meek little lamb, what can we expect next.

Some might say this was an old fashion winter. I remember winters like this, however, the weather trends have evolved

such that perhaps today's young people will look back on the winter of 25/26 as the year they remember the freak winter that brought lots of snow and rain, and fog, and winds strong enough to sweep a little old lady off her feet.

Losing A Pet

Our pets become family very quickly. From a young age they grab our hearts and hold on tight. This takes just minutes for a puppy to enter your life and win you over.

Our house feels as empty as it can get after the loss of our dog, Jacob. He was a good traveller, faithful companion and only want our friendship.

Jacob was the runt of the litter and was easy to train, he stayed with us without a leash while other, smarter dogs grew up with a sprit to run, our guy was happy just to be included as a member of whatever activity we were doing.

Each day at his ripe old age by the end of his life required a car ride, while each evening a small dish of ice cream kept him happy.

His ripe old age was 17 years and a slower pace due to ill effects of his advanced years.

We had come to the conclusion that he would have to be put down as his obvious pain was hard for him to cope with. That was not needed as his life ended peacefully and naturally.

Needless to say, we miss him and our daily activities will

change. How long it will take to get along without him, I'm not sure.

He cannot be replaced, so for now, no new pets will be welcomed into our home. I want to savour his memory not cover it up with a replacement.

As we explained to our grand children, this is the difficult part of pet ownership. As surely as we get life, we also have to deal with the inevitable, death.

Keep your loved ones close, the two legged and four legged ones. We only have so much time here, make the most of it.

My hope is any pet owner reading this will never have to deal with the loss of a pet, I know you will so show your appreciation each day.

By the way, he was a good old hound dog.

School Participation Editorial by Vic Whitcroft

As I write this I am thinking about our military services members and their efforts in world war two. Particularly the liberation of the Netherlands, and the devastating toll on our

soldiers, more than seven thousand soldiers, who gave the ultimate sacrifice to free the Dutch from Germany's stronghold on their country.

Eighty or so years ago this all happened, but without a good passing on of what was learned from the hard fought battle, there is a risk of it all being forgotten.

Needless to say this is an important topic for the Dutch, this is why each year the Dutch celebrate Canada's involvement, with the giving of thousands of tulip bulbs which can be found growing in Ottawa.

On a local note, each year the Rehoboth Cristian School as well as other local Dutch based schools teach their students they must never forget the fatal contribution made by Canadian soldiers to ensure their freedom from a Nazi agenda that included unspeakable atrocities. Image having to eat tulip bulbs in order to survive what was sure to be starvation due to a depleted food supply. Simply put it was because the enemy took over what little food the Dutch had on hand, then ate it leaving Dutch families struggling to survive.

The Norwich District Historical Society has highlighted this liberation many times. Frequently bus loads of student from Rehoboth attend the museum to participate in various learning

activities, that teach local history as well as history of events from further afield.

Due to the absence of Emily Stowe Public School students doing similar activities, I would guess the Thames Valley School Board has no interest in local, national or international history, pertaining to this conflict.

Each spring the Rehoboth school kids go around town picking up trash. They have contributed to the Norwich Art Scene with small individual murals and other works of art they post in public places for all to enjoy.

The Dutch school is teaching their students to become responsible adults who take pride in their work and where they live.

Why is it we never see ESPS students out demonstrating the same level of community involvement? Does this lack of concern stem from the Thames Valley School Board? Does the

board even know that schools exist beyond the boundaries of London.

Come on Thames Valley, once spring arrives let's see ESPS students get more involved with the community.

Can We Afford It

When someone buys a car, a house, a boat or anything else, the question always arises, can we afford it. Naturally we have to have the means by which to make the initial purchase, but there will be ongoing routine maintenance as well.

Going beyond a household purchase, businesses and municipalities must take into account the same thought process. Pave a road then think about the cost of annual repairs to said road. Build a new township office building then ask will we be able to keep it in good shape over the life of the building.

The scrolling marque at the arena put Norwich into a different time zone. It appears the time change never took place on the sign out at the street. I would estimate this has been the case for several time changes. The message on the sign is stale and the time is wrong six months of the year.

This does not reflect poorly on the arena staff. My research tells me the reason given for the signs malfunction is the township can't afford to fix it.

If it was working correctly, that sign could offer value added service to groups who rent the arena. Weddings parties might have congratulating messages for the bride and groom, service club events, dates and times could be posted, school functions taking place at the facility like the recent auction and prime rib dinner put on by ESPS. [NWN] All of these could have gained a bit more coverage if the sign was fixed.

Council accountability is important, this being an election year, if anyone in the township see something that needs attention contact your ward councillor. You just may get action on what it is that needs to be looked at.