

NOTEWORTHY

IN NORWICH

A COMMUNITY SPECIAL NEWS PUBLICATION

Collision On Hwy 59 Claims Lives



OPP Sgt. Ed Sanchuk reports from the scene of a fatal crash in Norwich Township on March 31, 2026. (Source: OPP)

On Tuesday, March 31, 2026, at approximately 3:00 p.m., a two vehicle collision was reported to first responders. Oxford County OPP, Township of Norwich Fire Services from station #2 and EMS from Oxford County were summoned to the corner of Highway 59 at Quaker Street, where a transport truck and an SUV collided.

As a result of the collision 3 occupants of the SUV were pronounced deceased at the scene, while two other occupant of the SUV were transported to hospital in serious, life threatening condition, one was flown out by Ornge medivac helicopter, the other by land ambulance. The driver of the transport was not injured.

It has been reported the driver of the SUV was a 39 year old from Cambridge, the other two occupants deceased at the scene were a 17 year old and a 13 year old from Tillsonburg. Two other people in the SUV remain in life threatening condition in hospital.

The road was closed for several hours while members of the West Region OPP Traffic Incident Management and Enforcement Team continued to investigate the collision.

OPP Sgt. Ed Sanchuk was sure to thank all who stopped to assist the victims of this horrific collision, Norwich Fire Services and all EMS who attended the scene.

Expect Delays

As sure as summer rolls around, so does construction. The Township of Norwich will have plenty of detours and traffic delays to deal with during the summer of 2026.

As has been reported Burgessville will be undergoing an urbanization, it was announced the project will be underway from spring until fall and will very likely create a nuisance for anyone travelling through Burgessville this summer.

Highway 59 in Norwich will undergo a total bridge replacement which will result in a road closure for the duration of the project.

At the same time Otterville will experience bridge rehab on county road 19 also known as Main Street west, with delays expected. Have a safe and happy driving experience in the township this summer.

Brock Street West Construction

At a “town hall style information session,” officials from the township unveiled the proposed planned construction that will see Brock Street west within the Village of Norwich reconstructed.

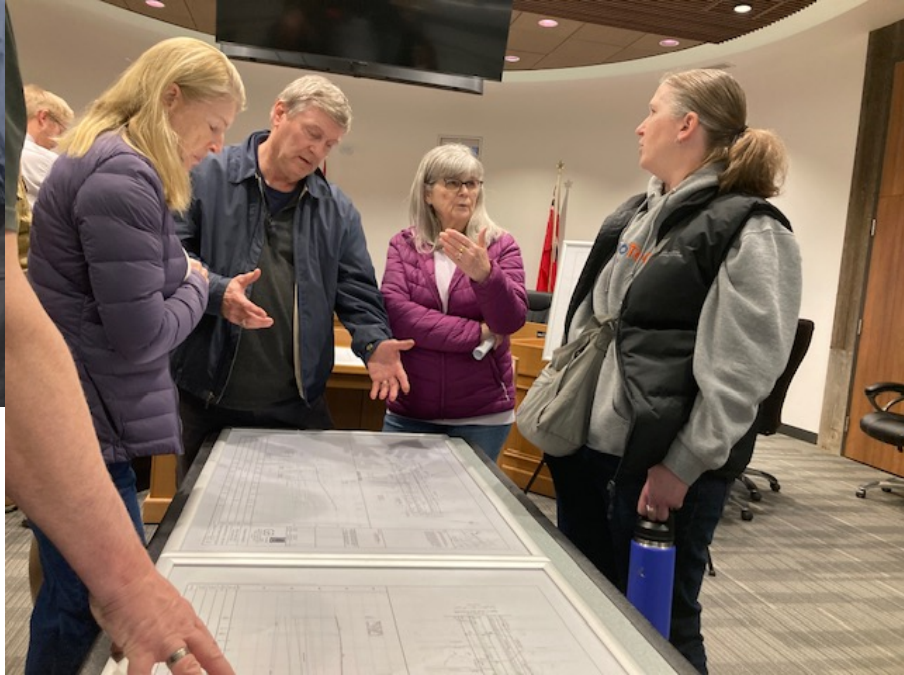
This is going to be a joint venture with Township of Norwich and the County of Oxford. County involvement is due to water mains and sanitary sewer infrastructure. GEI Consultants were also on hand to answer questions pertaining to the project

Time lines for this project have yet to be decided as there may be some tweaking of the plan based on the results of tonight’s comments. Both the township and county would like to put out for tenders as soon as possible.

What we know thus far, sidewalks will be installed on the north side of the road. Some water mains will be installed while others may be replace. In

speaking with Brandon Murphy and Kevin Lukawiecki from Oxford County they relayed the “new sanitary will be upgraded from 100mm lines to 150mm lines.” Larger line obviously allows greater flow volume.

When I spoke to Ken Farkas from the township he verified “the sidewalk will be on the north side,” “the tender should be let soon.” Ken also told me “he has been getting positive feedback from the Brock Street residents at the meeting.” The feedback Ken is getting included comments like “its about time,” and “it will be a good improvement”. I spoke with a couple who live on the north side of the street, they were upbeat about the project and suggested, “it has to get worse, before it can be better”.



Brock Street residents ask county and township officials questions regarding the project. Some talked among themselves as they decipher the plans.

Social Media Is At It Again Editorial by Vic Whitcroft

As in any tragic or spectacular event, people take to Facebook or other social media platforms to express their knee-jerk reactions, post tragedy.

The recent and tragic, fatal collision north of Norwich on March 31, 2026 is an example of how this plays out. Emotions run high, fingers are pointed, often at local government and change is demanded. Changes called for on social media after this collision included, an all way stop be installed, a beacon be included as an addition to stop signs, sand left over from winter be swept up. As it happens sweeping was taking place on 59 that day, although I'm not sure that intersection had been swept by the time the collision happened.

A few years ago a fatal collision happened west of Norwich, at the Newark corner. That corner of County Road 13 and 18 is equipped with an all way stop and a red beacon light facing all directions.

Norwich Township's recent history saw a car load of young

people from outside the area, involved in a fatal collision in Otterville. At that time people from around the township called for the road to be reconstructed, as a life saving measure.

I suspect when one gets down to the root cause of many of these fatal collisions, several are due to distracted driving.

What is distracted driving? Eating, drinking, the radio (tune it before you start to drive.) A car full of people, children who act up take the driver's attention away from the task of driving. Additionally and likely most common and most deadly, talking or texting while driving. Remember, hands free driving does not mean risk free driving! A driver cannot concentrate on driving while texting and vice versa.

At the end of the day, once this quiets down, social media posts will slow until the next time something tragic happens.

Here's a knee-jerk reaction for everyone to think about. Let the provincial government start a

program of retesting all drivers.
I'll go first!

Meanwhile our deepest
condolences to all involved.

Related Story Daniel G Wiest

I'm shaking my head in disbelief
that I even have to share this
message that just arrived from
the police with you.

ROAD CLOSED MEANS... ROAD CLOSED

While OPP members were
investigating the FATAL
COLLISION in Oxford County
last night – a collision that took
the lives of three members of our
community - they had to divert
their time, resources and
concentration on addressing
**MOTORISTS WHO WERE
IGNORING THE ROAD
CLOSED SIGNS** and driving
around them.

This selfish behaviour is not only
illegal, it is unsafe for everyone
at the scene. It also interferes
with the integrity of the
investigation.

Motorists can receive a \$110
PON (ticket) with 3 demerit
points. PLEASE... respect those
ROAD CLOSED signs.

Daniel G. Wiest, Owner &
Publisher
Dan Wiest Around The
Community



Do not go around this sign.

Oxford County to host public information meeting for Oxford Road 59 bridge reconstruction in Norwich

Oxford County is hosting a public information meeting to share plans for bridge rehabilitation work on the Oxford Road 59 (Stover Street South) bridge, just south of Tidey Street, in the Village of Norwich.

Members of the public who would like to learn more about the project are invited to attend the meeting to view plans and speak to Public Works Engineering staff and the consultant design team.

Thursday, April 16, 2026

Drop-in from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Norwich Community Centre, 2nd Floor (Optimist Hall)
53 Stover Street South, Norwich

Reconstruction work on the bridge includes full removal and replacement of the entire bridge superstructure, including the deck and girders, which will close the bridge crossing to vehicle and pedestrian traffic for the duration of the project. Construction is expected to begin in early May and is anticipated to be completed in October 2026.

During construction:

- Oxford Road 59 from Front Street to Carman Street will be closed to through traffic. Road access between Main Street and Airport Road will be limited to local residents, businesses and emergency services.
- Two detour routes will be in place for non-local traffic: Detour 1 will route northbound and southbound traffic to Airport Road, Base Line and Norwich Road. Detour 2 will route southbound traffic approaching easterly on Norwich Road to Middletown Line and Airport Road.
- A detour route will be in place for pedestrians, cyclists and local traffic using Carman Street, Pitcher Street and Main Street West.



RESIDENT NOTICE

April 1, 2026

Public information centre

Oxford Road 59 (Stover Street South) bridge rehabilitation, Norwich – Spring 2026

About this project



Oxford County is beginning bridge rehabilitation work on Oxford Road 59 (Stover Street South) bridge, located just south of Tidey Street in the Village of Norwich. The work includes full removal and replacement of the entire bridge superstructure, including the deck and girders (abutments to remain).

During construction, Oxford Road 59 from Front Street to Carman Street will be closed to all through traffic, as there will be no vehicle or pedestrian access to the bridge crossing for the duration of the project.

Construction work is tentatively scheduled to begin in early May 2026, and is expected to be completed in October 2026. Please note that construction schedules are weather dependent and subject to change based on site conditions, contractor availability and other operational demands.

Public Information Centre

A Public Information Centre (PIC) will be held to allow the public to view plans and discuss the project with Oxford County Public Works Engineering staff and the consultant design team.

-  Thursday, April 16, 2026 | Drop in: 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
-  Norwich Community Centre, 2nd Floor (Optimist Hall)
53 Stover Street South, Norwich

Public Information Centre

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Thursday, April 16, 2026
5:00 – 7:00 p.m.



Questions?

Andrew Stewart, P.Eng.
Project Engineer
Oxford County
astewart@oxfordcounty.ca
519-539-9800, ext. 3118

Continued on reverse >

www.oxfordcounty.ca



How will the project impact me?

Traffic control

During construction, Oxford Road 59 (Stover Street South) from Front Street to Carman Street, will be closed. Access between Main Street and Airport Road will be limited to local residents, businesses and emergency services as traffic will be unable to cross the bridge, located just south of Tidey Street, for the duration of construction.

Two detour routes will be in place for non-local traffic:

Detour 1: Northbound and southbound traffic will be detoured to Airport Road, Base Line and Norwich Road

Detour 2: Southbound traffic approaching easterly on Norwich Road will be detoured via Middletown Line and Airport Road

A detour route will be in place for pedestrians, cyclists and local traffic only:

Pedestrian/Cyclist detour: Carman Street, Pitcher Street and Main Street West

Access to local businesses

Oxford County is committed to working with the community to ensure access to local businesses is maintained throughout the construction period.

If you are a business owner or operator with questions about access to your business at any time, please contact Public Works at 519-539-9800, ext. 3900, or publicworks@oxfordcounty.ca.

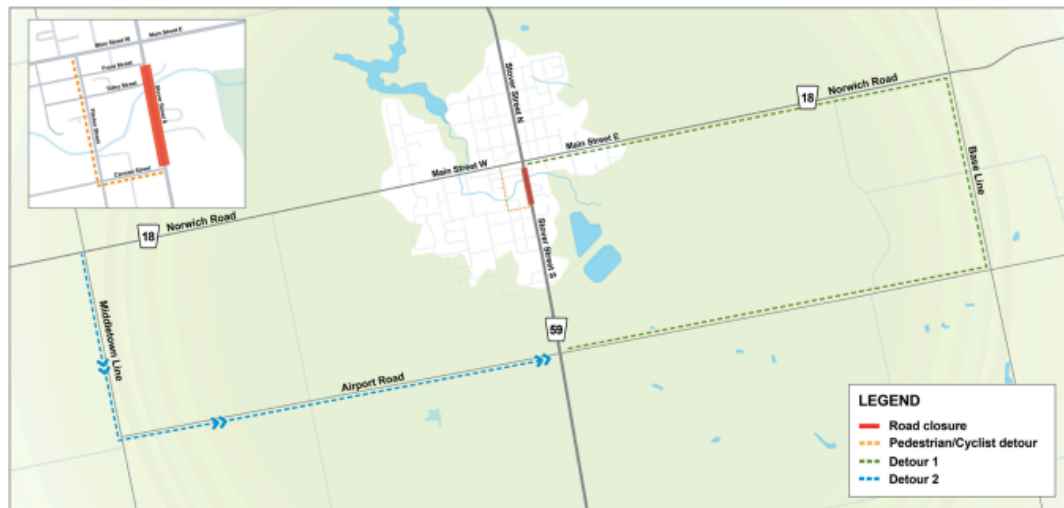
Garbage and recycling

Access for waste collection is expected to be affected during construction. The contractor will collect affected homeowner containers and take them to a central location for collection. Property owners are asked to mark garbage and recycling containers with their house number so they can be returned to the correct property. Please continue to have your regular household waste and recyclables on the roadside by 7:00 a.m. on your regular pick-up day.

Safety

Please help keep our community and workers safe: respect work zones, obey traffic signs, and maintain a safe distance from equipment and vehicles entering and leaving the site.

Construction map



Lesson Not Learned Editorial by Vic Whitcroft

On a Wednesday near the end of March I witnessed an OPP officer stop a young lad on a quad. It appeared the officer was giving the quad operator a stern warning about what is and isn't allowed on the streets and sidewalks within the township. Then being very generous the officer cut the kid some slack and allowed him to take the quad home. This young lad rode the machine south on the sidewalk as the officer drove north.

Some would say hats off to the officer for providing an educational component to the stop, in the hope the quad driver would have learned not to repeat this infraction.

Despite the nice officer letting the kid go, his nice gesture was all for naught, as the following Saturday the same kid, same helmet and same quad is back on the street and arena parking lot.

The Highway Traffic Act States the office may charge, it does not say the office must charge, therefore letting this driver go with a warning is okay. Letting him drive home however, risks a great deal of liability in the event of a collision on the young man's way home.

In the not too distant past Norwich experienced a fatal crash involving a quad. Given the numerous quads and dirt bikes on the streets at any time of the night or day, the fear is this scenario will be repeated.

The old saying comes to mind, "nice guys finish last". The officer trying to be nice finished last with the likelihood of the quad driver and his friends talking about what a sucker that cop was.

An excerpt of the local by-law is below

Prohibitions

3. No Person shall operate an Off-Road Vehicle on a Highway or part of a Highway.
4. No Person shall operate an Off-Road Vehicle on an Unopened Road Allowance or part of an Unopened Road Allowance.
5. No Person shall operate an Off-Road Vehicle on any Township Public Property.

Township of Norwich prohibits off road vehicles on township streets and property.

An Extra Unscheduled Noteworthy

Due to the unfortunate circumstances this week in Norwich, as well as other time sensitive noteworthy events happening in the area, I have issued this extra issue.

Please note there is not a [NWN] in this issue.

You will note this issue is about traffic or traffic related issues that will have an impact on area traffic patterns and detours in the coming months.

Please Note

Imagine driving while blinded by a blizzard or a wind driven rain storm, that is essentially what you are doing when you drive while distracted. Put away any and all distractions then you can focus all your effort to the task of driving.