

NOTEWORTHY

IN NORWICH

A COMMUNITY NEWS PUBLICATION

Oxford County Water Conservation Program

Oxford County residents are reminded that outdoor watering restrictions are in effect from May 1 to September 30.

Under the County's water conservation by-law, residents may use sprinklers or hose to water their lawns and gardens every other day depending on house address number.

- Residences with an **odd-numbered** house address may water on odd days of the month (1, 3, 5, etc.) between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m., or between 6:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.
- Residences with an **even-numbered** house address may water on even days of the month (2, 4, 6, etc.) between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m., or between 6:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.

Businesses and commercial properties follow the same schedule for odd and even day watering, but between the hours of 8:00 to 10:00 a.m. or 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Residents who would like to request an exemption to the schedule, for instance to fill a swimming pool or for recently installed landscaping, can contact Oxford County for more information at 519-539-9800 or water@oxfordcounty.ca.

Lawn watering is one of the biggest users of municipal water in our communities. Last year in Oxford County, water consumption increased by as much as 51% in the summer months.

Oxford County's water conservation program helps conserve the County's groundwater supply during summer months, when water use is high. The County's water supply relies entirely on groundwater, which takes longer to replenish and is more vulnerable to over-use than municipal water from other sources, like lakes. Conserving outdoor water use, including how often we water our lawns and gardens, helps care for this valuable resource.

Non-compliance with the by-law may result in reduced water pressure to the home for repeat offences, with a fine to restore water pressure to normal after a 24-hour waiting period.

The water conservation program is in effect for all Oxford County residents serviced by municipal water: Beachville, Bright, Brownsville, Dereham Centre, Drumbo, Princeton, Embro, Hickson, Ingersoll, Innerkip, Lakeside, Mount Elgin, Norwich, Otterville, Springford, Sweaburg, Plattsville, Tavistock, Thamesford, Tillsonburg and Woodstock.

For more information about the water conservation program visit www.oxfordcounty.ca/waterconservation

Smart watering tips

- Overwatering your lawn can be harmful to its health. A thorough watering once a week will prevent excessive moisture and encourage deep, healthy roots. A layer of mulch also helps keep moisture in your garden soil and around tree roots.
- Hand-watering from a rain barrel is an environmentally friendly way to water grass and gardens using natural rainwater. Rain barrels should be screened to prevent mosquitoes from breeding. You can purchase a rain barrel from Oxford County by calling 519-539-9800 or toll-free at 1-866-537-7778.

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- Avoid watering during the midday sun and wind. Watering early in the morning is best for your lawn and gardens and will limit evaporation.

The Winner Is

The [NWN] winner is Lis Stone. She found the hidden symbol on page 13, and was the first to report it.

Lunch And Learn At NDHS

The featured speaker at the Norwich District Historical Society's lunch and learn was a photographer well known to Woodstock Camera Club. Brian Thompson, from the Brant club spoke about all things train, including where to best capture great images of what has been a passion for Brian for many years.

Brian spoke to a group of about 40 intent listeners and made his



presentation interesting, funny at times, and in such a way that generated questions at the end of his lecture. Although Brian indicated he is a train guy through and through, he included some

aircraft, cars and even some pinup girls and wild life, no, no not the pinup girls, actual wild life.

Cheap Entertainment

After ample time with construction details posted at each entrance to the town, advising of pending bridge work, many drivers of large trucks never got the message.

Each day from early Spring, trucks from Scotts, Delhi have come through with green bags of mulch. Needless to say County Road 59 is the most direct route to highways 401 or 403. Not just one company delivering Scotts' products, several different trucking companies are in and out of that plant daily.

These trucks and others that use the route through Norwich is what gives the entertainment a comical factor. Comical only to the observer, I'm sure the driver is put out at his not realizing the detour had started, at the constant construction they encounter on their jobs, and likely embarrassed at the eyes on his or her performance while

trying to get out of the mess they have got themselves into.

On day three of the road closure, things have calmed down after most drivers have noted to self the road is closed and to avoid the area.

Until now however, if you sat at main corner or at the arena, it was laughable at the number of trucks twisting and turning to do a 180 and go back the way they came. Or backing up through the intersection, red light and all, anyway no matter how you look at it, we are all stuck with the situation until fall assuming the crews stay on schedule.

Stay patient, stay calm and whenever possible make way for other drivers dealing with local construction. If we look out for each other, keep tempers in check the construction will be completed in no time at all.

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A Collision Looking For A Place To Happen

June 3 editorial by Vic Whitcroft

Where the hell is John Law? OPP get off your lazy asses and patrol some of the arterial streets in Norwich. If Safety is a priority as you say it is, you're not keeping up your part of the deal! Just after ESPS let out today May 26, 2026, Pitcher Street was heavily congested with vehicles and pedestrians, including a group of perhaps 25 young students making their way to an after school program from ESPS to the United Church. These youngsters were under the watchful eye of three adult leaders. As they made their way along the sidewalk a damned fool in a pickup truck raced north on Pitcher well above the speed limit, not accounting for the legal limit or the safety of those kids.

In the past the OPP were ever present as school let out ensuring no driver had stopped

in a no stopping zone. Why did that take on such a significant role while putting kids lives in jeopardy by a carelessly speeding vehicle in a driving scenario that calls for driver caution appears to be insignificant to the OPP?

We in Norwich Township pay for your services, how about providing as least what we pay for?

Of course the traffic situation is due to the bridge construction on County Road 59 which has closed the major north, south route through the Village of Norwich.

Will it take a fatality to get your attention? Are you working on a reactive scenario rather than being proactive?

Establishing a new Homelessness Support Centre in Woodstock

At the request of Oxford County Council, the County is sharing an update on the goal to achieve “Housing for all” in our community.

Oxford County, with funding assistance from the City of Woodstock through Ontario’s Building Faster Fund, is in the process of purchasing the property at 808 Dundas Street in Woodstock, the former YMCA building, to establish a new Homelessness Support Centre. The purchase is expected to be finalized in the coming weeks, with the new facility opening in early 2028.

This is good news for our community and a fundamental step toward getting more people the support they need to get off the streets.

Working with our community partners, the building will offer emergency shelter services along with on-site supports that help people move safely inside, become stabilized, and connect to the right form of housing.

It will also be tied to the new HART Hub and Wellness Centre in Woodstock, a provincially funded facility that provides mental health and addictions support along with other services.

For several years now, homelessness has been at the top of the list when it comes to community concerns.

For this reason, finding a site for this facility has been a priority, with a number of private and publicly listed properties considered throughout this process. The purchase of the building is only a first step: there are many more decisions ahead of us. As we plan this new facility, we’ll be seeking community feedback and input into how the support centre is established and operated within the surrounding community.

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We know this is a community that cares, and that wants to see unhoused people get the support they need to live healthy, vibrant lives.

We've been excited to share this news with you. While real estate negotiations are protected under the *Municipal Act*, it was Council's direction to staff to continue to inform and engage our residents. We have been listening and we'll continue to listen.

At this stage we also want to thank the many community partners who work every day within the homelessness services system. We look forward to continuing to work together to strengthen supports for those experiencing homelessness.

In addition to hosting public information meetings to take your questions and feedback, we'll be posting updates to Speak Up, Oxford, on our websites, on social media, and through our local newspapers and radio.

Please stay tuned for more information.

Ben Addley

Chief Administrative Officer

Oxford County

Buy Ontario Act

County Council will receive an update on requirements under the new *Buy Ontario Act* next Council meeting. Effective April 13, 2026, municipalities and other public sector organizations must prioritize Ontario and Canadian goods and services when purchasing light-duty passenger fleet vehicles. Beginning on May 15, 2026, these requirements also applied to capital infrastructure projects, such as construction materials, fixtures, equipment and more. With these changes, the County will update its bid documents and procedures. The report notes that staff must also prepare for potential delays to allow for a more detailed review of bid submissions, and for potential cost increases due to domestic supply shortages.

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A statement from Warden Marcus Ryan

May 19, 2026

Accountability, transparency, and Council decisions

Today, County Council authorized an update to the community on the purchase of a property that will serve as a Homelessness Support Centre.

While we had hoped to be the first to share this news with the community, we were not. Some of you are asking why that is.

As Head of Council, I want to share my personal thoughts.

First and foremost, I want to assure all of you that County Council acted properly every step of the way. I have been a part of this particular term of Council for the past four years and I believe all members of Council are committed to, and align their actions to, openness and transparency.

Real estate transactions are legitimately discussed in closed sessions of Council under a provision of the *Municipal Act*; this is when conversations are not open to the general public. This helps us negotiate a fair price for tax dollars and it reduces legal risks for all parties involved.

A member of County Council recently questioned the actions of Council over this process.

The Councillor stated that they were very concerned as an elected official. I couldn't agree more: voting one way and saying the opposite is very concerning.

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On April 28, this member of Council voted in public, in open session, to go into closed session to consider purchasing the former YMCA property for use as the Homelessness Support Centre.

Then, on the same day, the Councillor voted, again in public in open session, to adopt the recommendations in report HS (CS) 2026-02 to purchase the former YMCA property for use as the Homelessness Support Centre.

Council is here to make the tough decisions on the tough issues and be accountable. I have great respect for this Councillor and every single member of Council, and I believe without doubt that all of us are working to serve in this way.

Sometimes being on Council is easy: going to meetings and cutting ribbons and getting credit for spending other people's money.

But sometimes it's hard, and you have to make tough choices that not everyone will like, then stand by them on behalf of the greater good of your community.

Homelessness is one of the most important and challenging issues this term of Council has faced.

It affects us all: people who have resorted to sleeping in ravines; businesses that have tenants sleeping in their doorways; and those among us who are desperate to see their family or friends get the help they need to lead a better life.

For years, the community has been asking for better services to move people out of homelessness and County Council has been asking staff to develop a plan and make it happen.

We need to take this problem seriously, make tough choices, and stand by them. That's the job the public expects us to do.

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And that's what this Council intends to do: remain focused on addressing the issues of encampments, homelessness, and housing for all Oxford residents.

*Warden Marcus Ryan
Oxford County*

June Is Pride Month

Pictured below, the pride flag is raised on the Norwich Community Flag Pole, where it will fly for one week.

Pride flags were raised at many local and county properties around Oxford County.



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Shop Local

Remember during the construction to support Home Hardware & Jordan's Restaurant, south of the bridge and Little Bones north of the bridge.

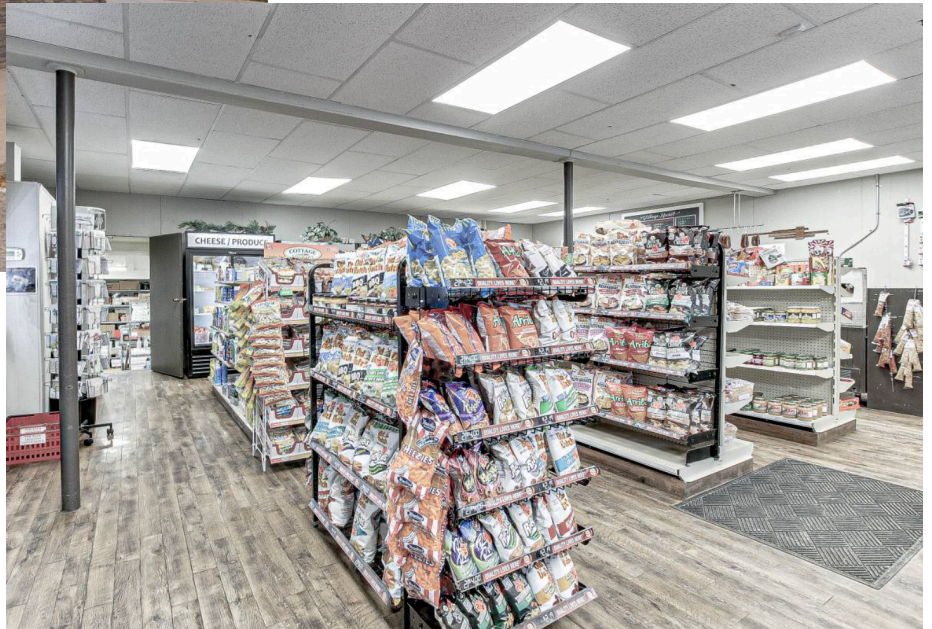


Shop Local

Support businesses effected by area construction!

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The Village Market



Located in Downtown Burgessville. We are open during construction drop in.

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Norwich Home Hardware Building Centre



We remain open
during bridge construction

**Check out our lawn & garden
supplies**

17 Stover Street South, Norwich Ontario
(519) 863-2055

Monday to Friday 8am to 530pm Saturday 8am to 4pm

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Little Bones Grill



Hungry for good food? Little Bones Grill, is just north east of the bridge.

Open during construction