

NOTEWORTHY

IN NORWICH

A COMMUNITY NEWS PUBLICATION

The Election Is Coming July 1st editorial by Vic Whitcroft

Get used to me talking about the arrival of our next chance to say I'm happy with how things are, or, it's time for a change.

If you happen to be unsure of the importance of your vote, ask yourself this simple question. Do we need change at city hall? If your answer was yes, don't expect someone else to make that change for you. Every vote counts, including yours.

Having said that be sure to gather as much information you can about all candidates you have in you ward, then make an informed decision who it is that best represents your concerns.

How can we get the needed information? Listen to the candidates who knock on your door. What better time to have a conversation with your next potential representative, one on one? Attend all candidate meetings, read all literature published by the person who is looking for the job of councillor of your ward.

Remember too, that these people work for you, you're not simply electing someone, you are hiring them. Unlike a conventional job however, once hired you have no ability to let them go until four years have passed. Choose wisely!

Keep in mind the election is just that, an election. It is not name recognition, or a popularity contest. Just because you have heard a candidates name before or the guy or girl running is a friend, should not automatically guarantee you will vote for them. Be well informed.

So from now until the **Monday, October 26, 2026** election, I will be covering much of the news regarding said election and interviewing as many people who have put their name forward for a position on council as I can.

Remember, become knowledgeable about candidates, then vote for the best person for the job.

The Winner Is

James Van Lagen. James found the [NWN] in Strange Facts on page two. Look for the next [NWN] in the July 29th issue. There were many replies, James' was received first.

Ontario Raising Speed Limits

KING CITY — The Ontario government is raising the speed limit from 100 km/hour to 110 km/hour on an additional 938 kilometres of provincial highways. The change builds on the safe and successful increase to speeds on 10 sections of provincial highways in 2024 and six sections of provincial highways in 2022, aligning with posted speed limits in other jurisdictions across Canada. Currently, 873 kilometres of provincial highways are posted at 110 km/hour. Once

in effect, nearly 89 per cent of the province's highway network will have a posted speed limit of 110 km/hour, up from 43 per cent today.

“Under the leadership of Premier Ford, our government is helping get drivers where they're going faster and safely,” said Prabmeet Sarkaria, Minister of Transportation. “We're going to keep supporting commuters, workers and businesses by investing in our \$31 billion plan to build and expand roads and

highways, so we can get people and goods moving across Ontario and keep workers on the job.”

Starting June 26, the province will begin increasing the speed limit to 110 km/hour on sections of Highways 401 and 416 in eastern Ontario, followed by sections on other highways, including the Queen Elizabeth Way (QEW) and Highways 400, 401, 402, 403, 416 and 417. With this new speed limit in place, drivers travelling from Sarnia to Toronto could save

nearly 20 minutes, while those travelling from Toronto to Ottawa could save nearly half an hour.

Speed limit increases are only implemented on highways that have been designed and engineered to safely accommodate higher speeds, following rigorous technical reviews and any necessary infrastructure improvements. Most of Ontario’s freeway network was originally designed to safely accommodate a posted speed of 110 km/hour. Sourced from Provincial website

School’s Out For Summer

These recently dismissed students, off for the summer seem to be finding activities to keep them busy. Both involve water!



June Pride

As June ends, so ends another pride month. The Justice, Equity Diversity and Inclusion Alliance (JEDI Alliance) managed to host many events with the help of other organizations.

As usual flags were stolen and flag pole vandalized, some costing private individuals money while much of the theft and damaged comes out of the tax payers wallets.

I would suggest the highlight within Norwich was the JEDI organized “No Way Norwich March.” The march began at Emily Stow Public School to Stover Street, left on Carmen Street, right on Pitcher Street to Main where the march turned right going to Main and Stover. Crossing over Main the group then marched to the United Church where cold water and washrooms were made available.

Special thanks to ESPS, Oxford Pride, Gunns Hill Cheese, NUC and the OPP. The OPP for increased patrols including officers walking the beat late at night.



Oxford County Council approves Climate Action Plan *Submitted by County of Oxford*

A roadmap for climate adaptation, community resilience and sustainability

Oxford County Council has approved a new Climate Action Plan that sets a five-year roadmap to help the community adapt to the local impacts of climate change and strengthen long-term resilience.

The plan focuses on climate adaptation, preparedness and sustainability, with actions aimed at reducing risks to residents, infrastructure, the local economy and the natural environment.

Informed in part by The 2026 Oxford County Local Climate Hazard Assessment, the plan addresses the most significant climate-related risks facing southwestern Ontario, including extreme heat and heavy precipitation, which are already occurring and expected to worsen. The plan also aligns with the Oxford County Community Safety and Well-being Plan and Southwestern Public Health.

Key themes include heat response strategies, flood resilience, water conservation and air quality management. Implementation will be supported by external funding opportunities, community engagement and ongoing evaluation to keep actions feasible, effective and responsive to changing needs.

The Climate Action Plan supports Oxford County's 2023-2026 Strategic Plan, including its commitment to enhancing environmental stability through climate change mitigation, adaptation and the preservation of the natural environment.

The Climate Action Plan aims to foster a culture of preparedness, resilience, and sustainability through comprehensive, adaptable initiatives that address climate risks and community needs over the next five years. Learn more at www.oxfordcounty.ca/publications

Marcus Ryan, Warden, Oxford County commented

“As Warden of Oxford County, I am proud that one of the three pillars of our 2023–2026 Strategic Plan is a commitment to environmental sustainability, with a strong focus on climate mitigation and adaptation. Our Climate Action Plan reflects that commitment through broad, interdisciplinary initiatives developed in collaboration with community stakeholders. By acting now, rather than waiting to react, we are taking meaningful steps to build a more sustainable and resilient future for Oxford County.

“Oxford County is already experiencing the impacts of climate change, including extreme heat, heavier precipitation, and increasingly frequent freeze-thaw cycles. Under both moderate and high-emissions scenarios, these pressures are expected to intensify. That is why our Climate Action Plan is rooted in proactive leadership. Preparing today, reducing risks where we can, and working together to protect the well-being of our communities for years to come.”

Quick facts

- The 2023-2026 Strategic Plan emphasizes environmental sustainability, climate change mitigation, and adaptation. During engagement activities for the creation of the Strategic Plan, 80% of participants said they valued protecting natural assets, managing growth, enhancing safety, and improving healthcare access.
- The Climate, Community and you survey in 2025 received nearly 700 responses from community members. 71.1% of survey respondents said they were very worried about climate change, 66% feel governments have not taken climate change seriously enough and 22% of respondents felt their household was not prepared for a weather-related emergency.

- Oxford County has a strong track record of climate action, including the 100 Percent Renewable Energy Plan, Zero Waste Plan, Renewable Energy Action Plan, 2022-2032, Fleet Management Plan (2025), and the 2017 launch of Canada’s first Compressed Natural Gas (CNG)-powered tandem axle snow plows.

Election 2026

This is what we know to date!

Office	Candidate's Name	Qualifying Address	Contact Information
Mayor	Jim Palmer	793466 Slant Rd., Norwich	Home: 519-468-6215 Cell: 519-550-1771
	Adrian Couwenberg	713967 Middletown Line, Burgessville	Cell: 519-643-8988 acouwenberg@execulink.com
Councillor - Ward 1			
Councillor - Ward 2	Lynne DePlancke	82 Stover Street North, Norwich	Home: 519-468-6728 Cell: 519-535-1995 lynnedeplancke@gmail.com

Councillor - Ward 3			
Councillor - Ward 4	Karl Toews	534100 Cedar Line, Norwich Township	Cell: 226-883-0575 KarlToewsWard4@gmail.com

If you have ever thought of putting your name in for council, you have until August 21, 2026 by 2 PM to register.

If you are planning on voting, check to make sure you are on the voter's list. You can verify this at the township office on Airport Road.

