

# NOTEWORTHY

## IN NORWICH

A COMMUNITY NEWS PUBLICATION

### Neighbour Helping Neighbour

The Norwich United Church Camp found themselves in need of some neighbourly assistance. Below, Suzanne Crosby explains what came of the situation.

#### **Truly Thankful** by Suzanne Crosby

I am truly thankful to live in this amazing community of Norwich where neighbours and friends always come to the rescue when needed most.

This past week has been quite an adventure for the NUC Summer Camp! On Friday, after that torrential downpour, we had a flooded camp area in the lower hall of the United Church. We needed space to continue our camp activities while the clean up took place and that's when the community stepped up!

We would like to give a big Thank You to the Norwich and District Museum and the Norwich Legion Branch 190 for providing space that allowed us to continue running our camp. We really appreciate this generosity.

Our community is better because of organizations and thoughtful people like this!

## Gear Adds Name For A Run At Council

Shawn Gear has entered the race for a seat on council. Gear, the incumbent stands unopposed thus far.

| Office              | Candidate's Name  | Qualifying Address                            | Contact Information                                                                                                |
|---------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mayor               | Jim Palmer        | 793466<br>Slant Rd.,<br>Norwich               | Home: 519-468-6215<br>Cell: 519-550-1771                                                                           |
|                     | Adrian Couwenberg | 713967<br>Middletown<br>Line,<br>Burgessville | Cell: 519-643-8988<br><a href="mailto:acouwenberg@execulink.com">acouwenberg@execulink.com</a>                     |
|                     |                   |                                               |                                                                                                                    |
| Councillor - Ward 1 | Marius Kerkhoff   | 165421<br>New Road,<br>Otterville             | Cell: 519-532-3995<br><a href="mailto:Marius.Kerkhoff@outlook.com">Marius.Kerkhoff@outlook.com</a>                 |
|                     |                   |                                               |                                                                                                                    |
| Councillor - Ward 2 | Lynne DePlancke   | 82 Stover<br>Street<br>North,<br>Norwich      | Home: 519-468-6728<br>Cell: 519-535-1995<br><a href="mailto:lynnedeplancke@gmail.com">lynnedeplancke@gmail.com</a> |
|                     |                   |                                               |                                                                                                                    |

|                                     |               |                                              |                                                                                              |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Councill<br/>or -<br/>Ward 3</b> | Shawn<br>Gear | 675 Main<br>St.,<br>Burgessville             | Cell: 519-983-9854<br><a href="mailto:Sgear1@live.ca">Sgear1@live.ca</a>                     |
|                                     |               |                                              |                                                                                              |
| <b>Councill<br/>or -<br/>Ward 4</b> | Karl<br>Toews | 534100<br>Cedar Line,<br>Norwich<br>Township | Cell: 226-883-0575<br><a href="mailto:KarlToewsWard4@gmail.com">KarlToewsWard4@gmail.com</a> |

## Do You Know Norwich Township

- The Norwich fire service has 72 firefighters, including 2 women.
- At one time Norwich had two railroad depots, one at the west end the other at the east end.
- Construction of the first house and first grist and saw mills on present site of Otterville, in 1808.
- The purchase of 15,000 acres of Norwich Township land at fifty cents an acre by Peter Lossing and his brother-in-law, Peter DeLong of Dutchess County, New York, in 1809, was the start of Norwich.

## Then And Now

After looking at a few old photographs of Norwich and area, I decided to recreate a few scenes from the past. These images will appear in Noteworthy from time to time. Enjoy your walk down memory lane. Yes Main Street once had angle parking, I'm old enough to remember it.



## Norwich Musical Society Band

In the village of Norwich, we have bragging rights that our township has a band which has dedicated, talented musicians, and longevity. For nearly 100 years the Norwich Musical Society Band has entertained in and around the township.

You may have been entertained by the band at concerts, parades, or social events. Over the many years they have been an organized group of musicians, many of whom have travelled to be a member of this group.

This musical group is like an umbrella in a downpour, good to have them around. Just like an umbrella they provide peace of mind and at times comfort for the soul. The Norwich Musical Society Band provides delightful, sometimes serious, sometime humorous musical entertainment. Just what one needs to lift one's spirits when feeling down.

I'm told the band started as an all boys, high school brass band, sometime in the 1930's. A short time later the band added more

instruments that included women players. Saxophones, flutes and clarinets were among the new instruments making up just part of the latest version of the Norwich Musical Society Band.

So here we have a music group approaching 100 years of existence in our township. That is quite an accomplishment in a time when volunteer groups and organizations come and go.

At this time our band is seeking new members of any age and musical talent. The leadership will work with individual players to hone your skills and bring new members along for a good fit into the band.



## **Rude Crude Canadians**

July 22/26 Editorial by Vic Whitcroft

What is happening to society in Canada? I guess to be clear it should be Rude Crude Ontarians as I have not been out of the province for some time.

In my recent travels, from Tillsonburg to Niagara On The Lake, I have noticed a trend. While doing some business at the Royal Bank in Tillsonburg, I noticed a sign at the teller's station. Only a day or two earlier at a haberdashery in Niagara On The Lake, I noticed a similar sign at the checkout.

These signs said something to the effect, rude, crude, obnoxious behaviour will not be tolerated.

I didn't think a bank or a hat shop would have to deal with ill mannered patrons. I know food service staff encounter rude people while serving customers. How ever naive I may be, I thought Tim Hortons and Circle K type stores was the only victims of rudeness.

How does this behaviour grow roots and take hold of

populations of "nice people" like Canadians?

Perhaps an influence from TV or video games. Could be they learn this from peers and family, or maybe it is because it goes unchecked. If a guy goes to Circle K acting like a tough guy, they refuse to serve him, resulting in him going without beer for the night, he may learn the proper way to treat store staff and others.

Responsibilities and consequences, act like a responsible and polite person or pay the consequences.

An episode of the TV program Seinfeld comes to mind. "No Soup For You", maybe this would be an appropriate way to handle rowdy customers.

In closing, the best bet is to treat others the way you would like to be treated. For some it will make their day, not to mention surprise and shock them.

## **Township Council Review**

### **Committee of Adjustment**

Committee of adjustment, chaired by Ward 4 Councillor Couwenberg discussed an application for a minor variance submitted by Stubbe's Property Development Inc. of Harley On.

The requested minor variance was to allow for an extra studio apartment in each of the two six story buildings being planned. The applicant is proposing to decrease the width of the studio apartment units to accommodate a smaller unit footprint.

In the end the motion was carried 4 to 1. Ward 1 councillor Toews opposed the motion and indicated he thought a couple of 6 story building would deteriorate the appeal of our quaint village.

One citizen commented on the situation, sharing his concern that drainage, he thought was problematic. Council assured him they would speak to his concerns, although at this time, the topic was a minor variance and had nothing to do with drainage.

### **Tenders**

Ken Farkas reported, as per the 2026 capital budget, staff tendered for the conversion of Beaconsfield and Substation Road, from Highway 59 to Middletown Line.

The tender is for both roads to be converted from gravel surface to a hard surface. "This includes two tenders, which we are recommending for approval today."

One is for the reconstruction or the dig out portion of the road, the other is for the double surface treatment hard surface.

For the reconstruction portion of the tender. Of the four bids received, the lowest was South Brant Excavating at \$1,383,912.00. Farkas pointed out this amount is the total should 100% of the road bed has to be removed and replaced. The goal is to reuse as much gravel as

possible, which will bring down the price. “Being the lowest price and a compliant bid with good references, staff recommends awarding the tender to South Brant Excavating.”

The surface treatment tender saw two bids come in, the lowest from Walker construction at \$434,772.00. Farkas stated the township has used Walker many time and mentioned staff is recommending this tender be awarded as well.

Work on this project could start as early as August 2026. The motion carried.

### **Traffic Calming**

Many of the suggestions from township residents came in for road outside of the jurisdiction of the township.

Staff have identified that Hawtrey is a hot spot for speeding. Baseline road data shows traffic in the Hawtrey area among the worst for speeding in the township. The posted speed limit is 50kms while the average speed is reported to be 80 to 85 Kms per hour.

Middletown Line is also a high priority as many drivers speed along that road south of Burgessville.

### **Sign By-Law**

The existing signage by-law was drawn up in 1985. CAO Smith suggested it needs to be spruced up, more so now with the election coming up.

The emphasis on election signs giving candidates some guidance. As it stands now elections sign by-law has just two provisions one to do with the date they can go up, the other to do with the size these signs can be.

The by-law being drawn up will deal with size, placement, road allowances, and how to handle a contravention of the act. The proposal is that election sign cannot go up until nominations have closed, on Aug 22 for the coming election. If you have an election



sign on private property the only restriction is size. The sign must not exceed 4.7 square metres.

### **Flag Policy**

Oak's Tree of Love is a Canadian awareness and support initiative serving families affected by pregnancy loss, infant loss, stillbirth, and child loss. As part of a nationwide awareness campaign, we are working with municipalities across Canada to recognize Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Day and Month through proclamations, flag raising, and awareness initiatives. While our organization is based in Ontario, our mission is to support bereaved families and raise awareness in communities throughout the province and across Canada, including Oxford County.

This is an organization not listed as a current designated flag allowed to be raised on the community flag pole.

The motion carried in a 3 to 1 vote. Ward 4 Councillor Couwenberg was the opposing vote.

### **TNT Tractor Pull**

A conditional over ride of the noise by-law was granted so the Optimist Club of Norwich could proceed with the tractor pull, on **August 14–15, 2026** at 365701 Evergreen Street in Norwich, ON. Gates open at 5:00 PM on Friday and 9:00 AM on Saturday.

## **High Tea At Norwich Museum**

Saturday July 25, 2026 from 11:30 until 1:30

## Noticeable Progress

With the arrival of weather suitable for building, Norwich is experiencing a building boom again this year. Here we have an example of just one of the many projects underway around the township.

This building located at the corner of County Road 59 and Quaker Street, has taken shape over just a few days. It is reported to be part of the VDK Group, located just north of this site.

