

NOTEWORTHY

IN NORWICH

A COMMUNITY NEWS PUBLICATION

Palmer Seeks Re-Election as Mayor

I sat down with Mayor Palmer to discuss his re-election bid. As most should realize sitting on council is a demanding job with a steep learning curve. If elected Jim will have that behind him. His opponent also has one term on council to his credit, as Councillor of Ward four, Oxford Centre and the north end of the township. In preparation for this interview both Jim and Adrian were given the questions in advance.

Q What do you feel will make you a better mayor than your opponent?

A There is much more than chairing four meetings per month, this includes such things as participating in committees and local events.

Q What do you feel is your greatest accomplishment from your present position on council, in this term?

A Community flag pole, this lets outside groups feel welcome.

Q What do you see as the greatest problem facing the next council? In terms of unfinished business or a pending, new business yet to be dealt with.

A The Safe and Well Plan was approved by the county and by seven of the eight lower tier municipalities, Norwich failed to accept it by a vote of three against and two for.

Q In your opinion, what is the number one best traffic calming device the township may implement?

A The best device we have are actual speed signs that indicate, speed, they also collect data, such as actual speeds, time of day and number of vehicles.

Q Are you satisfied that the community flag pole has answered the need for the one week in June it flies the Pride Flag?

A They have answered the need partly, everyone should accept it for one week a year in June.

Q Is recent crimes (June 2026) against the LGBTQ, (stolen flags, damage to the flag pole at Emily Stowe, as well as vandalism at Gunns Hill Cheese, a hate crime in your mind?

A A hate crime is very hard to label. The OPP did not consider the removal of the flags and destruction of property a hate crime.

Q Hate crime or not, how would you propose to put an end to such crime each June?

A I doubt if it is possible, to some it is a game of catch me if you can.

Q A person has a delegation before council, wanting to build a new house. Said person vows to bulldoze the smaller house on the property. You grant permission, then rather than bulldoze he turns into a Granny Flat. What do you do as Mayor?

A You follow the procedures the township have for situations like this building permit etc. If the home owner changes from what was expected legal options can be initiated.

Q There are many derelict building in the township, what is the protocol for these eyesores? Would you be willing to lend a beautify Norwich Township initiative if elected?

A The proper way to deal with delict building is for someone to make a complaint. The owner does have property rights that should not be infringed upon.

Q Are you in favour of expanding the BIA boundaries to include the proposed spa where the old library was?

A I think it should be possible, they are not far from Shoppers.

The full unedited interview will appear on Youtube Thursday Sept 17th.

Did You Know

- Every Tuesday morning you can have a coffee, cookie and conversation at the Norwich Museum** from 9:30 until 11:30?
- Every Wednesday morning you can do it again? This time coffee is served at the South Norwich Historical Society Train Station, rear entrance.
- Every Tuesday morning moms with little ones In strollers leave from the Little Town Cafe, weather permitting then walk around the village?
- Advanced voting can be done on October 17, 2026, starting at 9AM. 53 Stover Street South, Norwich Community Centre.
- Voting day is October 26th, watch for voting location announcements.

**** *Moving to Norwich United Church once the floor is replaced watch for notification.***

Marius Kerkhoff Wishes to Represent Ward One

Q Why have you chosen to run for council?

A Marius said he is looking to bring reason to the council in that he advocates for a “sober second thought” in decision making.

Q What is your background, schooling, career etc?

A I grew up in a small BC town, then moved to Ontario when I was 22. I got into policing in 2006 and I was policing until 2019.

Q Do you feel your representation is more for your ward or the township as a whole?

A “My heart’s in Otterville, I love Otterville.’ ‘Reality is representation is for the entire Norwich Township”.

Q Are you one to speak your mind and not simply follow the crowd?

A “I can assure you of that.’ ‘I’m always will to listen to good advise and good direction”.

Q Where do you stand on the LGBTQ situation? Do you believe the crimes from last June were hate crimes?

A “I’m of the opinion that it should be Federal, Provincial and Municipal flags on public property, full stop.’ ‘I don’t know what the definition of a hate crime is”.

Q Are you in favour of the Oxford Safe & Well Plan, voted down by the present council?

A “I think there is a good point that Karl made in there, that it should not be discriminatory toward anyone”.

Q Are you in favour of hiring more people to eliminate the township out sourcing work?

A “It comes down to mathematics, in my opinion’. ‘If it makes sense to do it all in house, absolutely let’s do that.’ ‘If it doesn’t then we can’t”.

Q What are your thoughts on the present number of policing hours we pay for from the OPP?

A “I don’t think it’s great.’ ‘There is absolutely no control of the costs from a township prospective against the big municipal government and I’d love to see an alternative”.

Q What do you think is the number 1 traffic calming measure the township should implement to help slow down vehicles around the community?

A “It always is police presence”.

Q Do you have what it takes to push back on issues you feel strongly about? Even if it means you will be unpopular with constituents or fellow councillors.

A “100% at the end of the day I work for the constituents”. They entrust me to make the right decisions, at the end of the day I believe I can do that.

Q What should happen to an individual who goes to council for a new building, promising to bulldoze existing structures on the property, only to occupy the ARU with a granny flat.

A “I never built that home, it was already there.’ ‘I built a new home for ourselves, there was a small home on the property.’ During the build process the province enacted a new policy that you can actually

retain a secondary home on your property”. It is call an ARU additional residential unit

Q What is your number one goal you hope to initiate and or accomplish should you be elected?

A “I have no pie in the sky castle building ideas.’ ‘All I want to do is provide a sober second thought.’ ‘If people have ideas or concerns, I’d love to hear them, bring them forward and see if they can be resolved in a timely manner and a financially responsible manner”.

Q Are you in favour of creating by-laws that have some teeth, then having a permanent by-law officer enforce them?

A “Let’s be careful, let’s not put so many rules and regulations in place people just won’t want to come here, live here, work here”.

Q I’ve heard it said the township should yield to the county, meaning moving to a one tier government, yay or nay and why?

A “Absolutely not!’ ‘Because if we look at Norfolk County, they’re not doing well”.

Q Do you think Otterville is well serviced? Some years ago under the leadership of Martin or Doan, Otterville wanted a hall. Would you support that if it came up again?

A “I think that would be wonderful.” ‘What it come down to is dollars and cents”. It would be expensive to maintain and hard to justify.

For the complete Marius Kerkhoff interview, please go to Byler’s Banter on Youtube. You will find the in depth, unedited interview with Marius.

At The Library

The Norwich Branch of the Oxford County Library has many activities of interest. Here is a couple you may find fit your lifestyle. Call 519-863-3307 for details of programs offered at the library.

Every Tuesday:

SMART VON Exercise Class Ages 55+

11:00-12:00 VON Seated- **CURRENTLY FULL**

12:15-1:15 VON Seated & Standing

Lead by a certified VON instructor. Seniors Maintaining Active Roles Together (SMART) Bring your water and shoes

To register contact 1-888-866-7518 or visit the library.

Yarn and Yak 12:30-2:30

Bring your crafty hobbies and meet friends by the fireplace. All welcome. Stay for the entire time or drop in part way through. No registration required.

To The Editor

Hi Vic,

Interesting stuff in the issue this week! Do let your correspondent, Tim, know that a fossils etc. education program is something that we're developing at the Museum and if he would be interested in volunteering to help it run, he can get in touch.

All the best,
Matthew

A New Medical Centre

Editorial by Vic Whitcroft

Norwich Township has a fifty year old building, at full capacity, with a best before date of 2039. Before that date arrives, money will have to go into extensive repairs. A new roof is all but inevitable, widow replacement very likely, not to mention HVAC upgrades within the next 13 years. Of course I'm talking about the Medical Centre at 32 South Court St East.

The Netherlands Reform Congregation has now reach full capacity at their Bethany Care Home, which is a housing unit and part of the NRC complex at the east end of Main Street. As it happens the NRC property butts up to the Medical Centre property, meaning there is an opportunity for a mutually acceptable agreement of great benefit to both parties.

Although the details are somewhat complex, with a few wrinkles to be worked out, on the surface this appears to be a win, win. Looking into the initial workings of the proposed agreement, both parties will come out the other side with

what is needed and everyone ends up happy.

Not so fast there bud! There will no doubt be a handful of dissenters, for no other reason than this agreement is being made with the NRC. A point of view such as this is completely unacceptable, and has what could set the town back, costing tax payers a great deal of money in the long run.

The prevailing us against them mindset must end! I personally can recognize a good deal when I see one. Just because this contract involves the NRC, some townsfolk will automatically write it off as a bad thing to do. If this is the way you think, give your head a shake.

The proposed building that will house the medical centre will be far larger than what we have now, it will avoid costly upgrades for years to come, at a fraction of the cost if the township started from square one. Additionally, it will be fully owned by the township and fully

controlled as our present facility is, by the township.

It has been reported, proposed growth of the township population will require more doctors and support staff. More money being spent to enlarge an already aging building. I'm of the opinion this proposal has come along at a perfect time, a nice little windfall for the township.

Just to be clear, what has been reported so far, the land, the building and the fixtures will be

the property of the township. Once construction is complete the NRC will be nothing more than a neighbour, just like they are now.

If you have legitimate concerns, that you have thought through, express them to council or on social media. Please don't let the fact that this is a deal initiated by the NRC be a factor in your concern, because that would be unfounded, hingeing on hate. The last thing we need more of around here.



Redlines denote present medical centre while blue is the proposed site of the new building.

Around Oxford County

Construction Advisory

Oxford County is continuing road reconstruction work on Oxford Road 9 (Hamilton Road / King Street West) with the next phase of construction to include the intersection of Oxford Road 9 and Oxford Road 10 (Ingersoll Street South). Construction at the intersection is expected to begin the week of September 14, 2026. Please note, this date is subject to change; for the most up-to-date information, visit www.oxfordcounty.ca/IngersollOR9

Access to the intersection will be maintained for north and southbound traffic, but traffic travelling east and west will need to use the additional detour: Ingersoll Street South, Thomas Street and Whiting Street.

Construction on Oxford Road 9, from CPKC Railway west to the Town of Ingersoll boundary is still ongoing and the existing detour is still in place using Oxford Road 10 (Ingersoll Street North), Road 60, Elgin Road and Hamilton Road.

Phase 1, which included preliminary sanitary sewer work via micro tunnelling took place from November 2025 to March 2026. Phase 2, which includes sanitary sewer, water main and storm sewer replacement; full road reconstruction; traffic signals and final asphalt treatments began in March 2026 and is expected to wrap up in December 2026.

Please note that construction schedules are weather dependent and subject to change based on site conditions, contractor availability and other factors.

Woodingford Lodge celebrating Long-Term Care Community Engagement Day

This year's theme is "Stronger community ties lead to a unified voice for long-term care in Ontario"

Woodingford Lodge is inviting residents' families, community partners, local media and local dignitaries to an open house for Long-Term Care Community Engagement Day.

WHEN:	Friday, September 18, 2026: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
WHERE:	Woodingford Lodge 300 Juliana Drive, Woodstock, Ontario

Guests can meet residents, team members and volunteers; tour the site; and learn about daily life in long-term care, including programs available to current residents and those considering a move to long-term care.

Long-Term Care Community Engagement Day is recognized across Ontario, with homes opening their doors to showcase their role in the community and encourage conversations about how residents, families, staff, volunteers and community partners can work together to support quality of life in long-term care. Spearheaded by the Ontario Long Term Care Association, Long-Term Care Community Engagement Day highlights the importance of community, connection and care.

Woodingford Lodge looks forward to welcoming members of council, MPs, MPPs and local media on September 18, and sharing the people, programs and partnerships that make it an important part of Oxford County's long-term care community.

At The South Norwich Historical Society

Otterville's US Civil War Re-enactment

On Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th of September 2026, at the Otterville Station Museum and Woodlawn located at 225422 Main St. W, will once again host a US civil war re-enactment.

Camps open to the public Saturday from 10 till 4 and Sunday from 10 till 3. Skirmishes take place Saturday 2 PM and Sunday 1 PM. Other demonstrations will take place throughout the day. Saturday evening will Including a Lantern Tour at 7 PM.

South Norwich Historical Society's famous food booth will be on site all day both days!



Aging Well

A lively Birthday Party

Norwich resident, Joanne Ward was the guest of honour, marking her 80th birthday Saturday afternoon. The Legion Hall came alive with music from the 50s, 60s, and 70s, as guests dressed from each era danced and had a great time. From Poodle Skirts and Saddle shoes, bell bottom jeans and tie-die tee shirts everyone represented the era they best remember.

Joanne stays young by being actively involved in two singing groups, painting and showing and selling her artwork at events such as the Oxford Studio Tour.



Eighty is the new fifty! Looking at the activities at the birthday party, several people, advanced in years, proved they have the staying power of a younger crowd.

Happy Birthday Joanne!

Joanne Ward poses with her son and daughter

Norwich District High School Class Reunion

The NDHS graduating class of 1969 held a reunion and potluck dinner on Sunday, September 13, 2026, at Woodlawn in Otterville. Organized by Karen McSpadden, attendees included 13 classmates who were able to attend.

They came with varying life experiences from farming to foot therapy and many stories to tell. Phil Klempka came from Edmonton to reunited with former classmates.

The day included gathering and some mingling at Woodlawn, followed by a walk in Otterville park which brought back memories for many. Ball games, swimming and dances in the pavilion, among them.



Front row L - R John Palmer, Sandy Nagy, Karen McSadden, Wenda Smith (Spicer), Anne Jenkins (Bishop), Lynne Cohoe, Diane Williams (Oliver), Joan Young (Downing), Sherman Jones

Front row seated L - R Marie Lester, Phil Klemka, Frank Menich, Martin Wylie

DePlancke Looking to be Re-Elected

Q You are on the police services board, why do the police seem so reluctant to put an end to easily corrected offences?

A “It’s something I want to bring up at council because we’re getting more and more of the e bikes and the e scooters.”

Q What do you consider your biggest accomplishment past term? Either you or the council collectively.

A Building the new building, it took seven years find the right place and get it built.

Q What is one goal you have for your next term should you be re-elected?

A I think we have to try harder and harder to get speeding under control.

Q Where do you stand on the proposal from the NRC regarding the medical centre?

A You don’t want to do a backdoor deal, we want to make it’s open and transparent.

Q Do you see a true around in the Safe & Well Oxford Plan situation?

A “I hope there is a turn around in that”.

Q How much does the township spend on grass cutting contracts each year? If that number could be reduced by hiring more employees would you make that motion?

A I don’t agree with hiring more staff.

Q Do you know where Norwich stands when compared with other townships regarding developmental charges?

A We had developmental charges but we changed some of the rates.

Q What are your thoughts on the present number of policing hours we pay for from the OPP?

A I guess you can say you get what you pay for, we pay 1.8 million including our enhancement officer.

Q Do you have what it takes to push back on issues you feel strongly about? Even if it means you will be unpopular with constituents or fellow councillors.

A “ I think if you watch the meetings I’m definitely not afraid to push back”.

Q I’ve heard it said the township should yield to the county, meaning moving to a one tier government, yay or nay and why?

A “Nay”. We have rural, we have urban, I’m afraid it’s not going to work.

Q Do you think the township hamlets are getting their fair share of services?

A We pay for services, perhaps lighting I guess in some of those smaller hamlets if they wanted it.

Q What’s happening with the trail?

A “Oh the trail, well you know, we’ve been working on this for a long time”.

Q Why are you running Lynne?

A I don't get tired of it. It's actually hard for me to watch the meetings than to be there.

Q What is a maximum tax hike you see as allowable?

A "If we can keep it under 3% that's ideal".

Q Do you believe the crimes from last June were hate crimes?

A "Yes they are!"

Please check out Byler's Banter on Youtube for full, in depth interview.

TVDSB Election in Oxford County

Thames Valley District School Board In Oxford, normally has two trustee positions to fill. This election both candidates, Benjamin Lampkin and William McKinnon have been acclaimed.

The Thames Valley District School Board has limited to no powers. Basically that of an advisory board, because it is operating under direct provincial supervision by the Ontario Ministry of Education. This stems from investigations into financial mismanagement and a growing deficit, the Ministry of Education placed TVDSB under the direct control of an appointed provincial supervisor.

Roy King Makes a Run for Ward One

Q Why have you chosen to run for council?

A I've been a resident of Otterville for 57 years. I feel I know what people of the area want and need. "I hope I can take their voices to council".

Q What is your background, schooling, career, life lessons etc?

A "I'm going to let you know right now, I'm just a high school educated.' 'I drove truck for 47 years, my wife and I we pretty well done everything on our own for what we have."

Q Do you feel your representation is more for your ward or the township as a whole?

A "Definitely for the whole township, but I have to also look after my ward".

Q Are you one to speak your mind and not simply follow the crowd?

A "I'll guarantee you they'll know who I am.' 'I'll speak my word".

Q Where do you stand on the LGBTQ situation? Do you believe the crimes from last June were hate crimes?

A I'm neutral on the whole thing, I do not believe it should be in politics.

Q Are you in favour of the Oxford Safe & Well Plan, voted down by the present council?

A I'd have to do a lot more research, but I don't understand how one township can turn it down, and the rest of the county go for it.

Q Are you in favour of hiring more people to eliminate the township out sourcing work?

A "I don't agree with hiring more staff".

Q What are your thoughts on the present number of policing hours we pay for from the OPP?

A Everyone in the southend is talking about speed and police presence. If we have more we pay more.

Q What do you think is the number 1 traffic calming measure the township should implement to help slow down vehicles around the community?

A Police presence would slow people down.

Q Do you have what it takes to push back on issues you feel strongly about? Even if it means you will be unpopular with constituents or fellow councillors.

A I have some things to bring to council in the next 6 or 7 months.

Q What should happen to an individual who goes to council for a new building, promising to bulldoze existing structures on the property, only to occupy the SRU with a granny flat.

A I have been researching this topic. If we had a full time by-law officer they should go in after to see if the building is being used as intended.

Q What is your number one goal you hope to initiate and or accomplish should you be elected?

A I would like to hold tax increases to no more than 3.5%.

Q Are you in favour of creating by-laws that have some teeth, then having a permanent by-law officer enforce them?

A Every by-law out there has teeth. I believe the by-law officer should be responding to every compliant.

Q I've heard it said the township should yield to the county, meaning moving to a one tier government, yay or nay and why?

A No, I would say no.

Q Do you think Otterville is well serviced, and other hamlets are well served ?

A I would think overall every centre is getting a good look.

As with other interviews, this interview can be seen in its entirety on Byler's Banter on Youtube.

**Meet the candidates October 5th
bring questions
Norwich Community Centre**