

NOTEWORTHY

IN NORWICH

A COMMUNITY NEWS PUBLICATION

Couwenberg After Mayor's Seat

I sat down with Adrian Couwenberg to discuss his election bid. As Councillor of Ward four, covering Oxford Centre and the north end of the township. In preparation for this interview both candidates were given the questions in advance. By the time this is released Adrians video interview will have already been shown on Youtube.

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

A "I ask the tough questions, I do my research, I make financial decisions based on numbers."

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

A "There's been quite a few, we changed some by-laws, we introduced the road conversion program". I put a motion forward, we just introduced the general ledger.

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 Permits and development charges, for the most part I think we are moving in the right direction.

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

A Cameras, if they are set up correctly they work well. Then Doug Ford came in and stopped that program.

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 It should be satisfactory. I think one week is enough.

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 Most definitely, it's tough, we can have our police presence but it's a very tough situation.

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

A You know yourself, if the police go this way they can go that way.

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 We are not welcoming, everyone is tired of nobody working with them to get to the end result.

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 That goes back to your last question. They're all businesses, we can't scare them away.

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

A The BIA is run separate from the township. I do agree that it should be expanded.

Provincial funding supports launch of the "Oxford Handcrafted Trail"

Follow the *Oxford Handcrafted Trail* this fall to discover local artisans, handmade products, and creative experiences

The *Oxford Handcrafted Trail* connects visitors with Oxford County's handcrafted products and celebrates the region's diverse maker community. Visitors can meet artisans, explore studios and shops, and gain first-hand experience in the handmade arts.

The new tourism trail aims to build rural tourism with authentic inventory. The initiative is appealing to people who appreciate the handmade arts, those that are curious, and makers themselves who want to learn and connect with the community.

The Oxford Handcrafted Trail offers three unique ways to explore:

- Explore by medium: Follow themed routes for crafts like textiles, woodwork, and culinary arts.
- Explore by neighbourhood: Visit nearby handcrafted experiences.
- Handcraft your own adventure: Find hands-on stops at studios, shops, galleries, museums, and culinary destinations.

Handcrafted Routes advances recommendations in the 5-Year Tourism Plan by promoting environmental sustainability, supporting experiential tourism training, expanding shoulder-season tourism products and partnerships, and celebrating sustainable practices.

This project was funded in part by the Ontario Ministry of Rural Affairs. The Ontario government is providing \$32,000 in Rural Ontario Development Program (ROD) funding to support Oxford Tourism's launch of the *Oxford Handcrafted Trail*. The ROD Program offers cost-share funding for projects that help rural communities attract and retain businesses and jobs while strengthening regional partnerships. ROD funding covers half of the \$64,000 Oxford Handcrafted Trail investment, with Oxford County and the Province of Ontario each contributing \$32,000.

Quick facts

- Handcrafted arts include items made by hand or with tools and machinery that require creativity and artistic design, such as pottery, woodworking, metalwork, sewing, fibre arts, soap making, restoration, stonework, paper arts, culinary arts, floral design, and visual arts.
- Oxford's Handcrafted Stories shares the stories of Oxford County's handcraft culture that is woven from generations of skill, creativity, and collaboration.
- Handcrafted events offers hands-on events, workshops and experiences hosted by Oxford makes and storytellers along the Oxford Handcrafted Trail.

Temporary closure of Oxford Road 19 bridge in Otterville

The final full-day bridge closure for construction project is expected to take place on September 28

The Oxford Road 19 bridge, located between Church Street and Bullock Street in Otterville, will close in both directions on September 28, 2026, to facilitate Stage 2 girder installation in Norwich Township. This is the final of four one-day closures to facilitate Stage 1 and 2 girder removal and installation in support of the bridge rehabilitation project.

All traffic is required to follow the detour route using Dover Street, Cornell Road and Middletown Line. This section of Oxford Road 19 will be closed to all traffic as traffic will be unable to cross the bridge.

Bridge reconstruction began in May and is expected to be completed in December 2026. Please note that construction schedules are weather dependent and subject to change based on site conditions, contractor availability and other factors.



Advanced poles

Saturday October 17, 2026 at 9:00

Voting day

Monday October 26, 2026.

Otterville Bridge Construction Closure

September 28th final road closure for bridge rehabilitation



Explore Tillsonburg's British Home Children History

Tillsonburg honours the legacy of British Home Children through exhibition, digital archive and Recognition Day illumination

Annandale National Historic Site (NHS) and Museum, the Town of Tillsonburg, and Oxford County Archives are honouring the legacy of the British Home Children program. Created for British Home Child Day on September 28, the exhibition tells the stories of children who came to the area to work on farms and in domestic service.

According to Home Children Canada, more than 100,000 children were sent from the United Kingdom to Canada through child migration programs between 1869 and 1948. Many came from families facing poverty or other hardships and were placed in homes and on farms across the country. In Tillsonburg and the surrounding area, they became part of the community and its history. Some found supportive homes, while others endured hardship, exploitation, and abuse.

Annandale NHS is hosting an exhibition that uses photographs, historical records, and family stories to highlight the experiences and contributions of several British Home Children in Tillsonburg and the surrounding area. Oxford County Archives also offers the exhibition online, Tillsonburg's British Home Children virtual exhibit, at www.oxfordcounty.ca/archives. The exhibition is not a complete history of every British Home Child who settled in the area. Because of the stigma historically associated with being a British Home Child, many experiences were never shared.

As part of the Town's recognition of British Home Child Day, the Rotary Clock Tower will be illuminated yellow on September 28. The colour yellow represents the sunflower, the official flower associated with British Home Children. As a symbol of resilience, the sunflower honours the lives, contributions, and lasting legacies of the children who came to

Canada and helped shape communities across the country, including many in the Tillsonburg area.

Residents are encouraged to visit the exhibition at Annandale NHS, 30 Tillson Avenue, Tillsonburg, through October 31, 2026, or explore the online exhibition at www.oxfordcounty.ca/archives.

What You Should Know

- To learn more about the British Home Children program, attend the *From Hardship to Hope: The Story of the British Home Children*, a special presentation at the Annandale National Historic Site and Museum on Saturday, September 19, at 2:00 p.m.
- Annandale NHS and Oxford County Archives are seeking more stories about British Home Children who lived in the area. Descendants are invited to share stories and information about local Home Children using the [British Home Children Stories](#) online form.
- The Town of Tillsonburg and Annandale NHS are grateful to the families who contributed stories, photographs, and research to the exhibition, including the Lucas/Crossett family and the Newman/Helsdon family. Special thanks are also extended to Home Children Canada for its ongoing work to preserve, research, and share the history of British Home Children.

Source County of Oxford

National Day for Truth & Reconciliation

Flag raising at the community flag pole 53 Stover Street S Norwich, on Tuesday, September 29 at 10AM.

Why attend? The importance of understanding the reason behind the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation goes far beyond simply knowing the date or attending a single event. It suggests Canadians stop and consider the long and painful history that Indigenous people have endured. Without that understanding, the day risks becoming symbolic, rather than meaningful.

By learning about the abuses of residential schools and their lasting impact on families and communities, people can begin to see why reconciliation must be more than a gesture. It's about recognizing those truths and listening to Indigenous people with respect. When non-Indigenous people take the time to understand that history, it lays the groundwork for more honest conversations and partnerships.

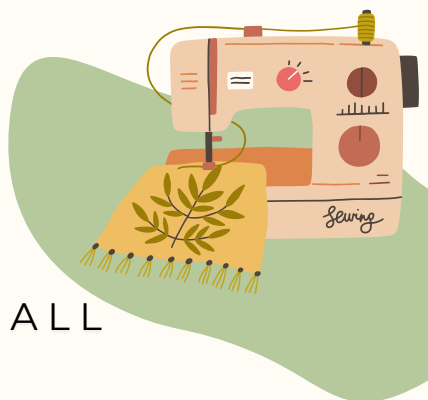
It also helps shift reconciliation from just a concept. It becomes a responsibility for all Canadians.



At the library

Quilting Basics

RETURNING THIS FALL



4 Week Quilting Class
at the Norwich Public Library
All skill levels welcome



Interested?

Please contact the Norwich Branch
519 836 3307
norwichlibrary@ocl.net

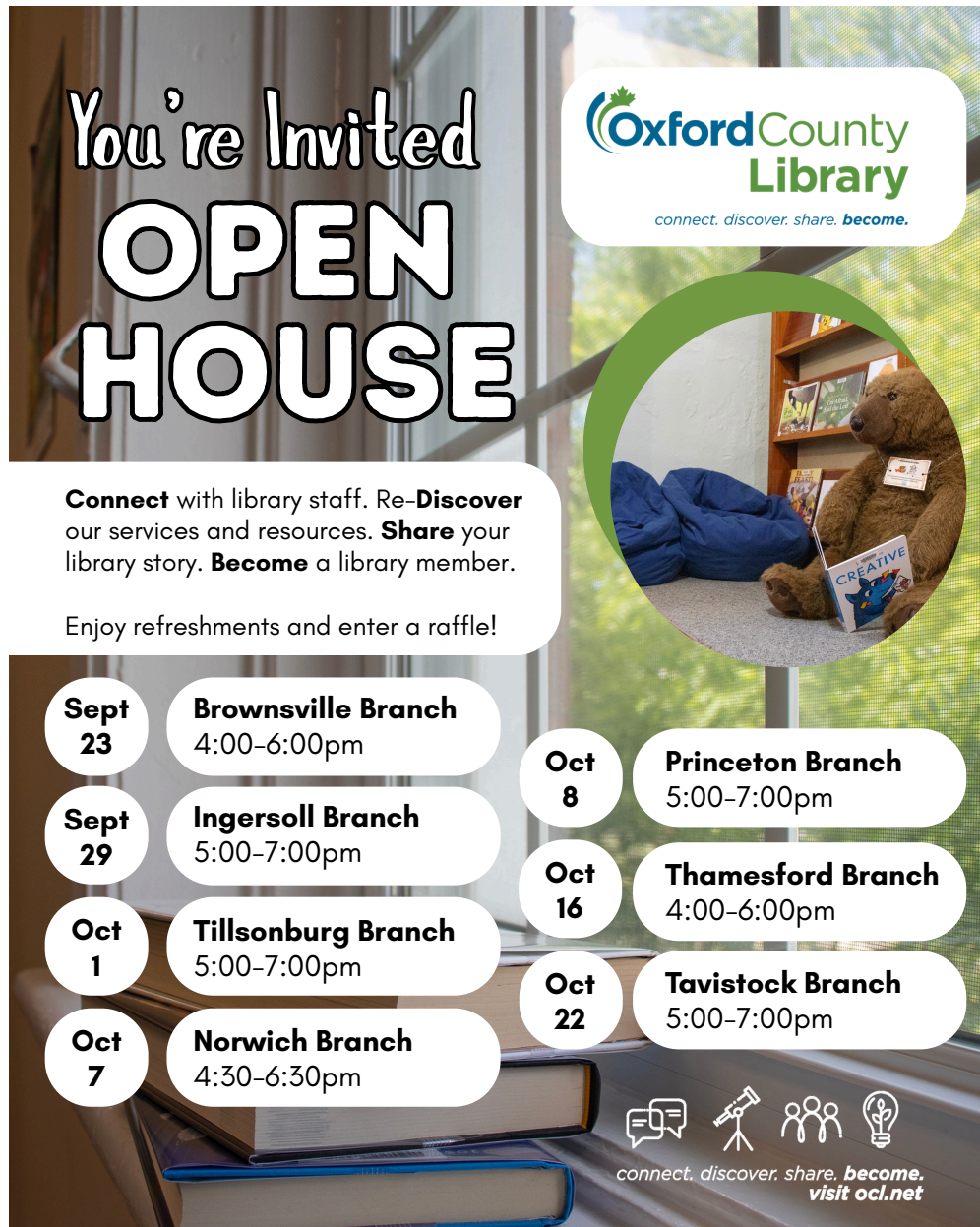
What works best for you?

Weekdays or Saturdays?

Supplies Needed:

Sewing Machine
Fabric (optional)



A graphic for an Open House event. The background is a blurred image of a library interior with bookshelves and a window. The text 'You're Invited OPEN HOUSE' is prominently displayed in the upper left. The Oxford County Library logo is in the upper right. A circular inset shows a teddy bear sitting on a blue beanbag chair, reading a book titled 'CREATIVE'. Below this, a list of dates and branch names is provided in white rounded rectangles. At the bottom right, there are icons for communication, discovery, sharing, and becoming a member, along with the library's tagline and website.

You're Invited OPEN HOUSE

Oxford County Library
connect. discover. share. become.

Connect with library staff. **Re-Discover** our services and resources. **Share** your library story. **Become** a library member.

Enjoy refreshments and enter a raffle!

Sept 23	Brownsville Branch 4:00–6:00pm	Oct 8	Princeton Branch 5:00–7:00pm
Sept 29	Ingersoll Branch 5:00–7:00pm	Oct 16	Thamesford Branch 4:00–6:00pm
Oct 1	Tillsonburg Branch 5:00–7:00pm	Oct 22	Tavistock Branch 5:00–7:00pm
Oct 7	Norwich Branch 4:30–6:30pm		

connect. discover. share. become.
visit ocl.net

Norwich Branch open house is scheduled for Oct 7, 2026 from 4:30-6:30

Help tell Oxford's local Climate Stories

New "Record Setting" campaign invites residents to share their experiences with extreme weather and a shifting climate

Oxford County is marking the first day of fall by launching a new storytelling project that invites residents to share their experiences with extreme weather events. Record Setting: Telling Oxford's climate stories will collect firsthand accounts and materials that show how changing conditions are affecting people's homes, health, work, and daily lives, helping document this new chapter in Oxford's history for future generations.

Extreme heat, wildfire smoke, drought, flooding and severe storms are becoming an increasingly visible part of life in Oxford County. This past summer, Oxford experienced multiple periods of extreme heat, including temperatures forecast to reach as high as 36°C, heavy rainfall and an air-quality warning caused by wildfire smoke. Behind these warnings are personal experiences: disrupted work and outdoor activities, concerns about health, crops and animals, and anxiety about what changing conditions could mean for the future. These are the stories Oxford County aims to preserve.

Submissions can document major events or everyday moments. They could include:

- Written stories or journal entries
- Photographs and videos
- Screenshots of text messages or social media posts
- Images of storm damage, flooding, wildfire smoke or items damaged by extreme heat
- Personal accounts of the worry, disruption or uncertainty caused by changing climate

Everyone is welcome to participate, with farmers, business owners, outdoor workers, emergency responders and others whose work or

daily lives are particularly affected by extreme weather encouraged to share their experiences.

Submissions will be transferred to Oxford County Archives for review and long-term preservation. They may also be shared through future educational initiatives, exhibitions or a future update to Oxford County's Climate Action Plan.

Visit Speak Up, Oxford! at www.oxfordcounty.ca/speakup to learn more and find out how to submit your climate story.

Struggling to Make Ends Meet Editorial by Vic Whitcroft

Who would have thought, we would be in this position? Sure the economy is such that a select number of people must decide, is it food, heat or tithe this month. I will be exploring this more in future issue.

The issue I wish to address will be an unpopular topic that is bound to upset some folks in the community.

Many churches that could easily seat a couple of hundred people, seem to have great difficulty attracting forty parishioners on any given Sunday. Other, evangelistic type churches, draw maximum capacity crowds.

Needless to say once the plate is passed, the full church has a full plate, while the other struggles to make ends meet.

So here is what should happen. In my opinion, I believe it is time our government started to tax churches. Certainly this would make for great hardships for churches having trouble filling pews. Other busier churches would carry on business as usual.

In my world, the tax rate would be on a revolving scale. Churches with high volumes of people would be taxed at a higher rate while the struggling churches would pay from a zero tax rate to a rate to be

determined based on affordability.

When an institution that calls itself a church requires a jet or two, or perhaps a large stadium sized building, I think taxes would be in order.

Apparently the point at which the large church vs small church is an annual income of \$80,000.00. Above this number a church is considered large, below it classifies as a small church. Small churches should be taxed at a lower rate. Churches with an annual take of less than \$40,000.00 under my plan would be totally exempt, as they are now.

I told you it would be unpopular!

“There’s no such thing as a vote that doesn’t matter”

Barack Obama

“It's not enough to just want change ... You have to go and make change by voting.”
Taylor Swift

