NOTEWORTHY
IN NORWICH
A COMMUNITY NEWS PUBLICATION

Your Council

The ballots are counted and the voters voices have come through loud and clear. Here is the results!

Mayor: Couwenberg **2732 Win**

Palmer 1114

Ward one: **Kerkhoff 595 Win**

King 559

Ward two: **DePlancke 517 Win**

Thompson 512

Ward three Gear acclaimed

Ward four Hird 276

Toews 500 Win



Marius Kerkhoff verifies the final vote count making him the newly elected councillor for Ward One.

Roy King and Marius Kerkhoff congratulate each other on a great effort by both candidates, looking to represent Ward One.



Letters to the Editor

Private Rights, Public Responsibilities:

A Norwich Conversation & A Local Perspective

By: Kalia V.

Dear Editor:

In this piece, I would like explore how Norwich can navigate the balance between private rights and public responsibilities, including the role of local government in identity based events, how public symbols such as flags should be handled, how residents can respond peacefully to viewpoints they disagree with, and why property damage and conflict only escalate issues rather than resolve them.

I understand that this is a sensitive topic where most people share a different view from the next person, but I simply would like to raise polite awareness of these subjects. This is simply an opinion based off of reasons including conversations I've had with multiple political candidates and leaders I have inquired on like matters.

Firstly, along with multiple political persons who have answered me on this subject, the government should not really be getting involved in or running identity-based events, or raising non-national flags outside government buildings, etc., (unless it is on the community flagpole that people can legally ask to put a certain pre-approved flag up on) because it is important that the government remain neutral, if anything, for the sake of supporting each and every citizen. I also hope that people involved in the property damage to places, typically involved in identity related areas, should realize that you put the meaning and value into what you see/experience. If a person puts flags or other objects on their property, then that is their

right, it's their property. If someone disagrees with the cause, there is no reason for them to take it out on others, they could simply ignore what the other person put on their property, and just go about their day, or take the block around if they really have a beef with that sort of thing. Some people get upset that there is so much media coverage on these subjects, but if they want the subject to cool down, people should leave it be, instead of making things worse, and it will blow over. Trying to get rid of the things forcefully only brings it up in community conversations and the media even more, giving more publicity and more problems that the government has to get involved in, and threatens the physical safety and safety of rights for everyone in the community. If someone want things to calm down and normalize, then stop making it politically important.

That is my message to the community of the Township of Norwich. Reminder: this is simply my humble opinion that I wish to express in a respectful way and abides to my wonderful Canadian rights to freely express my beliefs and opinions, including with others who may choose to see value in what I have expressed.

Thank you.

Resources for Seniors in Oxford

Across the Township of Norwich and around Oxford County, many provincially sanctioned organizations stand ready to provide assistance to senior citizens. The organizations seem endless. It is important the aged population knows where to access resources, and how to use them.

A good starting point is the Multi Service Centre in Tillsonburg. Located at 96 Tillson Avenue, they provide services like foot care, transportation, assisted living, home care and meals on wheels. They also organize age friendly health and wellness events in various locations nearby.

Today for example the Multi Service Centre hosted an “Age Friendly Health and Wellness day” at the Tillsonburg Seniors Centre. This event saw other organizations providing information on resources for seniors. The other organizations included the VON, Tillsonburg Fire Department, the OPP, United Way, Victoria’s Quilts, Connect hearing and Shoppers Drug Mart.

In addition to all this, there was seminars by the Tillsonburg Fire Department about the dos and don’ts when using the 911 emergency number and changes that happened October 14, 2026 and what to expect once you have reached 911. Another speaker was yours truly sharing tips and techniques on dos and don’t behind the wheel once you have reached your golden years. This was the second time I have been privileged to present this information.

Norwich Township can find information on aging well by contacting the Multi Service Centre as well.

The Multi-Service Centre is a charitable organization providing excellence in employment, literacy and home support services to

Oxford, Norfolk and Elgin communities through partnerships and innovation that allow others to embrace their personal independence.



Tillsonburg Fire Department, volunteer fire fighter Jennifer spoke about the use and [NWN] sometimes misuse of the 911 system.

Safety Strategies

Jennifer spoke about the importance of smoke and CO detectors, why we need them and where they should be situated. Aside from the legal requirements of these detectors, she stressed the testing intervals and lifespan that should be followed.

Jennifer went on to say people are unable to smell smoke when they are sleeping, if a person is a sound sleeper they may not hear the scream of a smoke or CO alarm, therefore technology has provided alternatives.

Alternative methods of waking a sound sleeper may include a strobe light, emitting bright flashes of light, a chemical spray that can be detected while one sleeps or possibly a bed shaker that literally shakes your bed when smoke is detected.

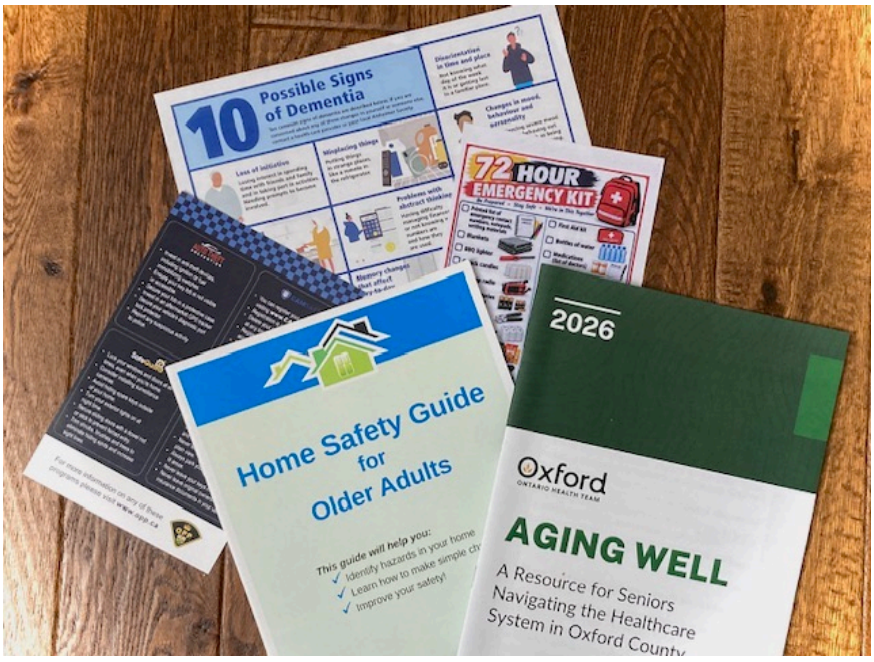
Testing of these devices should be done on a monthly basis, keeping in mind the useful time is ten years for most models. Check the instruction that is included with the detector.

Opening Statement

Tillsonburg Mayor Deb Gilvesy welcomed all vendors and guests to the “Age Friendly Health and Wellness Day” to open the event. If you get a chance to attend one of these events, I suggest its worth the time and travel to gain knowledge of what senior citizens have access to.

If a senior or a family member can find just one helpful resource to make life more comfortable for a loved one, while taking some of the pressure off themselves, it will have been worth your time.

A sampling of resources available from government and other agencies.



Withdrawal Editorial by Vic Whitcroft

I don't know about you however, with all the interviews, and reporting on candidates, as well as the moving toward the election in general, I expect I will be suffering from election withdrawal. I think it is safe to say each of the candidates will be dealing with at least some withdrawal also.

Everyone went out knocking on doors, talking to people and put forth an effort vowing to do their best if elected.

Of course this remains to be seen, until the tough issues are put forth in the council chambers. The provincial mandated health and wellness plan, our proposed new medical centre and other as yet unforeseen issues, lingering just out of council's sight will show if the choices made by voters were correct.

The community should be proud of the work each of these candidates put into their campaigns and support the newly elected councillors, regardless if your guy got elected or not.

The community should be ashamed at the poor voter turn out. How complacent can people be, so uncaring about what takes place in their own back yard.

I do not want my government to tell me what to do however, a knee-jerk reaction at this point says perhaps voting should be mandatory. If people are too lazy to get off their asses and go vote, sorry about their luck.

Maybe they're right, voting requires some research and informed decision making. If voting is too much of a challenge, becoming informed would be out of the question.

Don't Fall Behind on Emergency Preparedness

Oxford County is reminding everyone about their initiative, **“Set Your Clocks, Check Your Stocks”** campaign for everyone to refresh emergency supplies during the time change. Time change is an ideal moment to ensure your emergency supply kit is ready at a moment's notice.

The coming months can bring unpredictable emergencies, including ice storms and power outages. When preparing an emergency kit, use 72 hours as a minimum requirement. Think beyond that. Assess your family's special needs, medications, food allergies, and location. Consider the vulnerability of those around you, as first responders may need to assist others in your community first.

Consider the following when you *Set Your Clocks and Check Your Stocks* this weekend:

- Ensure your emergency preparedness kit has enough food, water, and supplies for at least three days
- Regularly check for missing essentials in your kit, such as medications
- Toss out expired items and update your first aid supplies
- Keep important documents, like identification and emergency contacts, up to date
- Make sure to account for any new family members or pets
- Customize your kit to ensure that everyone in your family has all the essentials to be comfortable

Source County of Oxford

Burgessville Fire Causes Significant Damage

Monday Oct 26, Burgessville Station 3 fire crew was dispatched to a house fire at 2 McNab Street. Due to the nature of the fire, a full station response from station 4 Oxford Centre with station 2 tanker assist from Norwich.

No further details available at this time.

Thank You

A big thank you to everyone who put their name into the ring for a run at a council seat. Win or lose you all deserve recognition, without people like you, those willing to take on the responsibility of running local government, all levels of our government would be nothing. Well done all!

Boo

If you happen to be one of the many who did not vote. Shame on you.