

Zorra Township UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Regular Council Meetings

Nov 7, 9:30 a.m AJ BAKER PUBLIC SCHOOL

Nov 21, 6:30 p.m Township Municipal Office

*Nov 27, 9:30 a.m Budget Meeting – Township Municipal Office

NOTICES & ANNOUNCEMENTS: WORKSHOPS!

Local Food Workshop Join Oxford Fresh to discuss market readiness for rural businesses serving up local food. Get tips on how you can make your business more welcoming to first time visitors. Learn about current market trends and how more people are interested in where their food comes from.

Nov 8, 7-9pm Harrington Hall Nov 9, 2-4pm Embro-Zorra Community Centre

Zero Waste Meetings, Festivals and Events Workshop Learn to create zero waste meetings, conventions, special events & minimize your event's carbon footprint. Nov 23, 2-4pm (Meetings & Event Venues) Quality Hotel, Woodstock Nov 23, 7-9pm (Festivals & Events) Quality Hotel, Woodstock For more information and to register for the above visit the Township website at

www.zorra.on.ca

Township of Zorra Hunting Regulations *Sunday Gun Hunting in the Township of Zorra is prohibited. For further information visit the Ministry of Natural Resources website: www.mnr.gov.on.ca

*In accordance with Township By-law #43-09, Municipal licenses are not required for hunting rabbit & pheasant in the Township of Zorra.

By-law Enforcement Department WINTER PARKING Please be advised that the winter parking restrictions will be enforced starting November 15, 2015 until March 31, 2016. For snow removal purposes, parking is not permitted on any road or street from 1am-8am 7 days a week during this period.

Tax Department Pre-Authorized Payment Plan

Why not pay your taxes over 10 or 12 months, rather than 4? Contact Kelly at 519-485-1112 ext 222 or khall@zorra.on.ca. Visit our website and get your authorization form in to the office by the end of Dec to ensure for enrolment for 2018.

Any other tax questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Township of Zorra 274620 27th Line, P .O. Box 306 Ingersoll, ON N5C 3K5 519-485-2490

or Toll Free 1-888-699-3868 Website: www.zorra.on.ca Email: zorra@zorra.on.ca

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Zorra Township News from your 4 ward councillors

COUNCIL NEWS from MARCUS RYAN - November

I'm submitting this column on Oct 20 after spending the morning at the Township's Volunteer & Senior Appreciation Breakfast at the Embro Zorra Community Centre. It's an inspiring event: you're surrounded by "doers", people who roll up their sleeves & get involved, do their part. This year was another record turnout. Last night I hosted another Ward 3 Public Meeting in Chalmers Church in Kintore. Over 15 people attended & stayed for over 2 hours with comments, questions & ideas. I hope

they found it as useful as I did. I have to do more of these events as it's a great way to have really wide ranging & in depth discussions about the issues that people really want to talk about. On Sat, Nov 4, 10am-2pm Chalmers Church is hosting an "Olde Fashioned Christmas Bazaar". This was a great event last year! An excellent source for locally crafted Christmas presents! 2018 Budget... at the Nov 7 Council meeting, staff will be presenting the Zorra portion of the results of the County wide budget survey. So far there has been little effort by the provincial government to put all the information on High Speed Rail (HSR) in one place for people to access, and that's where Zorra steps in. Staff have put together a website that intends to compile all of the official provincial information that's available (it's not a lot so far...) in one place so we can all have access to it. <http://www.zorra.on.ca/Our-Township/High-Speed-Rail> The Township is hosting 2 workshops to try to come up with a "Made in Zorra" promotion to help Zorra farm gate businesses. Participation from those business is essential to this being successful. Come & tell us how you think it should work! Nov 8, 7-9pm in Harrington Hall, and Nov 9, 2-4 in the Embro Zorra Community Centre. The Ministry of Education has released some proposed policy changes to address rural school closures: both the Pupil Accommodation Review Guideline (PARG) and Community Planning & Partnerships Guideline (CPPG). The Community Schools Alliance has already been in communication with the Ministry about the planned consultation for these charges & is reviewing them. I've been working on this for quite a while. In order to preserve good working relationships with some Ministry staff I've been reluctant to talk much about it, but rest assured that the Community Schools Alliance has been a big part of making both the closure moratorium & this policy review, happen. If you're interested in what this means or where things go from here, please attend the 2017 Ontario Rural Education Symposium hosted by the Zorra Local School Committee in Embro Nov 25, 9am-2pm in the Embro Zorra Community Centre with lunch provided. There will be a keynote speaker & panel discussions, as well as time for individual Q&A, and round table discussion with experts in the field. Come join us! onruraleducation.com,edu.gov.on.ca/eng/policyfunding/review_guide.html MOE policies. Township Recreation Staff are exploring the idea of offering some new programming including a variety of classes & maybe birthday packages. In order to do this they are looking for people interested in being instructors to teach these courses. Reminder: Pickle Ball at AJ Baker 1st Thursday of each month! As always you can contact me on any issues at: Marcus Ryan Councillor Ward 3, Mobile: 519-301-1634, mryan@zorra.on.ca FB: Marcus Ryan - Zorra, Twitter: @marcusryanzorra

September

Regarding the intersection of 31st Line & Rd 74. The Township is waiting for OPP reports on both the recent accidents before proceeding with action. A number of low risk remedies are now in place: stop bars have been painted, oversized stop/stop-ahead signs have been installed & rumble strips have been ground in. **An overhead beacon has been ordered.** Trees on the south west corner will be removed. Sam Kirwin spoke at Council & many of you know the work he has done with his Facebook Page sharing information in the community. He delivered a petition to me before Council & I presented it. As a result of the excellent proactive work of Public Works & Sam's work, this motion passed. Thanks Sam.

I think the pendulum has swung too far in making severances too difficult & needs to swing back bit. I'm still very much in favour of protecting prime ag land, but sometimes the rules don't make sense. At the July 25 Council meeting Philip Kerr (Chair of the Harrington & Area Community Assoc) made a delegation to Council on the Harrington Dam Environmental Assessment (EA). At the same meeting Council received info from the CAO outlining the potential costs to the Township of the Harrington & Embro Dam EAs. Both EAs will next be considered by Council Sept 5 & by the UTRCA Board Sept 26. Zorra, does not own the dams, it is a question of a recommendation to the UTRCA. Are we willing

to pay the costs of anything above the recommendation of the Environmental Assessment (EA), which is removal? Extra time, consultation & formal Public Meetings were added to ensure all factors were considered. If you have more input, please do not hesitate to talk to Council.

By all accounts the Harrington 150 Heritage Festival on Aug 12 was a stunning success with larger crowds than expected & a great time had by all! This is an amazing feat for the community.

This year's Lakeside Triathlon will take place Sept 9 & 10. Watch your mailbox for the usual mail out, some of the routes have changed.

At the Aug 8 Council meeting Daniel West's delegation asking Zorra to support Elgin's resolution that the TVDSB retroactively apply the Ministry of Education's school closure Moratorium was unanimously passed by Council. The TVDSB should reconsider the closures of Sparta, New Sarum & Springfield. There's a good chance that at least one of those closures would have a different decision under the potential Funding Formula & Pupil Accommodation Review Guidelines the Ministry is working on.

From Aug 13-16 I was in Ottawa at the Assoc of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) 2017 Conference for the first time. I made the trip for a few reasons: firstly, rural issues are not decided on, in a purely rural setting, we live in a province with a variety of municipalities & I want to understand all the issues & contexts. Secondly, Zorra made a delegation to the Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry on Aggregate resources (gravel pits primarily). Councillor Doug Matheson did a great job & thanked the Minister for the increase in tonnage fees from \$0.06 to \$0.12/tonne which basically is a doubling of nothing: it covers the cost to rebuild a single kilometre of gravel road. He asked for an increase in the provincial levy for aggregate. He also asked the Ministry to better enforce Haul Routes. I think we need to explore the possibility of charging our own tonnage fees & requiring haul routes. Our residents have subsidized urban growth more than enough with damaged roads.

Thirdly, one of the main reasons I decided to run for Council was the unfinished business left from the fight to Save AJ Baker. In particular, a school closure moratorium to develop better policies & funding formula, and that on June 28 the Minister of Education announced a school closure moratorium until an "overhaul" of what she called a "flawed Pupil Accommodation Review Guideline" (I still can't believe that happened...), but that there was still more to be done. At the AMO Conference I sat down with the Education Minister. It was a much more open & positive discussion than I expected. Did you know that of all the taxes Ontarians pay (income, property, sales, etc.), only 9% goes to Municipalities? By the time you read this school will be starting so please watch out for school buses, cars dropping off and picking up, and of course our community's most precious resource: our children.

Just a thought from the last month of activity: I love the informal "meeting after the meeting" where you hang out with resident(s) to talk about issues & how to make our community better for 3 hours(!). I'm always willing to hang around after a meeting with those people.

Marcus Ryan, Councillor Ward 3, Mobile: 519-301-1634, mryan@zorra.on.ca,

FB: Marcus Ryan – Zorra

COUNCIL NEWS from MARIE KEASEY - November

This is the last month to fill your Zorra 150 Bingo card. Visit the thamesford, embro and / or Harrington Libraries, attend the Thamesford Fire Fighter Breakfast Nov 12 or take in one of the thistle theatre's performances of "Queen Millie of Galt" (Nov 17-25) at embro town Hall. Prizes will be drawn early dec.

Council held its October meetings at Zorra Highland Public school (oct 3) & Thamesford Public school (oct 17). student delegations presented to council at each of the schools. Zorra Highland informed council about their work on a community Garden, acquisition of green cones which takes food waste, their pumpkin patch & hoping for buddy benches & more trees at the school. students would like to see

an empty building used for a community café in embryo, where young people could meet for activities. And, there was an presentation about high speed rail & the concerns the students have. these concerns are shared by council.

the presentations at thamesford Public school included having drop in/pick up hockey, soccer & baseball with a fee of \$2 each time or \$10 for a season. Another delegation was for the township to consider asphalt space for such activities as road hockey, tennis, and/or basketball, with sites in thamesford & embro. the other request was to start a "Red Light Awareness" campaign so that people know there is a possible red light ahead. Almost all of the students had seen red lights being run, accidents or experienced close calls. council & staff will be considering all of the delegation requests. it was a pleasure to be in the schools & work with the students.

Many thanks to the students, school staff & parents, and township staff who worked so hard to make these meetings happen.

The last school "council" meeting will be at AJ Baker Nov 7 at 9:30am. As with all council Meetings, this is open to the public.

An update about the southwest Landfill Proposal was provided to council. the proponent is conducting field studies in accordance with the terms of reference of the required environmental Assessment. these studies should be completed by the end of 2018 & reports will be submitted to the province. A final decision by the province would likely be made in 2019 or 2020.

council approved that staff and the Water & Wheels committee submit a grant proposal to trillium Fund. A decision on the grant would happen early in 2018. in the mean time council has approved the committee to work on tender documents to be ready to move forward if successful with all the fundraising. there is still time & many opportunities to financially contribute to this exciting project. in kind contributions are also welcomed.

Please see the ad in the Village Voice. the 2018 Budget Process will begin in earnest with a **special council Meeting Nov 27 at 9:30am**. A 1st draft will be presented. A 2nd draft is anticipated in January with a public information session on Feb 13, 4-6pm. Budgets are a challenge as the Provincial Government continues to reduce its grants to rural municipalities & other costs continue to rise (such as OPP, hydro, etc.).

council will receive a draft of Phase 1 report of the Recreation Arts & culture Master Plan at the Nov 7 council Meeting. this will include a summary of the public consultations.

Additional ideas, comments or questions can be forwarded to racmp@zorra.on.ca. if you are interested in offering any activities at township Facilities such as art, crafts, exercise..., please contact stephanie starchuck (sstarchuck@zorra.on.ca).

A big thank you to everyone who worked on the Volunteer & senior Breakfast, held oct 20 in embryo. thanks to all those who contributed to the grab bags & door prizes, the decorations & yummy cookies. thank you to those who attended. Phillip Kerr led us in a professional rendition of o canada, followed up by a Happy Birthday to councillor Ron Forbes. i hope everyone who came enjoyed the food & community gathering. And thanks to all of you who volunteer in any way throughout the township who were not able to attend. Your contributions to the community is what makes it a great place to live. Watch for the 4th edition next year.

Lest we forget, there will be **Remembrance day services** in thamesford on Nov 5 and embryo & Beachville Nov 11. these are opportunities to show respect & to remember those who have served & the sacrifices that they made during the World Wars and other military conflicts. it also recognizes those who continue to serve canada in the military.

The clock goes back on Nov 5, please be even more aware of traffic & pedestrians as it gets so dark so early.

September

It is hard to believe that autumn is just around the corner. The Township's 150 Committee is planning the Oct 20 Volunteer & Senior Thank You breakfast in Embro. This free breakfast is to thank anyone in the Township who volunteers: as a driver, coach, committee members, church volunteers, school volunteers, service club volunteers... (you get the idea); all are welcome. A head's up to the Township office would be appreciated to ensure there is enough food.

Council's August meeting had a delegation from a resident who lives near Rd 31 & 74 where this year there have been 2 serious accidents. Council has supported public works in the preventative actions to bring this intersection to drivers' attention. A contract for a red/amber flashing light is in the works. All of this will improve visibility but it is a driver's responsibility to make sure that they are not distracted, stop & proceed with caution at any intersection.

Zorra is blessed with a great volunteer fire department & there will be an opportunity to explore being a part of it. Recruitment open houses will be held at the Embro Fire Station Sept 20 & in Thamesford Sept 21.

Council approved an ice rate reduction for the Thamesford Trojans & Ingersoll Minor Hockey. The consultants for the Recreation Master Plan will recommend ice rental fees, which will help set fees for the next season(s).

The Holding (H) designation for Thames Springs, Phase 5C was removed so that the developer can be issued building permits. Signage is to clearly indicate that construction vehicles use the construction road from Banner & not Seldon, nor Sloan.

In August, I attended the Association of Municipalities Ontario (AMO) in Ottawa. The Township participated in 3 delegations to Provincial Ministers: Minister of Education to request reversal of school closure decisions that were announced but not completed & to support changes to the accommodation review process & the funding of rural schools; the Minister of Natural Resources & Forestry about the still low fee for gravel tonnage & to request that haul routes be part of the licence so that the Ministry's inspectors can monitor & enforce these "approved" routes; and I was part of the County's delegation to the Minister of Municipal Affairs to support & move the Sustainability Plans for the province & County forward. Also announced was AMO's request for a 1% increase in HST to be dedicated to municipal infrastructure. There was no support for this by any of the provincial party leaders. Since there is a Provincial Election next year, you can be assured this suggestion will not be implemented.

Nonetheless, the issue of how to pay for all the infrastructure is a major one. Zorra Township alone will need an estimated \$10 million between 2018-2025 just for asphalt rehabilitation. This does not include maintenance of gravel roads, bridges, culverts, dams, etc, which costs about \$2 million per year.

Updated numbers will be brought back to Council as we start the 2018 budget process.

There are still Canada 150 events to fill in your Bingo card— the Uniondale Fire Station BBQ (7th), the Embro Fair (15-17th) & the Women's Institute Book Launch (30th) or visit Thamesford, Embro or Harrington public library, or Thamesford or Embro Community Centre.

Hope to see you at one of them.

Respectfully submitted, Marie Keasey.

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MARIE KEASEY Councillor Ward 2