

Mayor's Blog - October 2016

October 6

I hope by now everyone has heard that this year's Volunteer Breakfast will be held at the Thamesford Community Centre on Friday, October 21 from 8-10 a.m. We are inviting everyone who has ever volunteered - that must include just about every resident! Please contact the Township Office so we have some idea of numbers - but if you decide at the last moment come anyway. Take out will also be available for those not able to stay.

Seniors' programming in Thamesford is under review. We are hoping the end result will be improvement in programmes now offered in the area and the introduction of new programmes suggested by you. For information contact Stephanie Starchuck through the Office 519-485-2490.

I want to remind you again that the Woodland Conservation Bylaw is under review. Public participation will be critical in making changes that are more helpful to the community. Watch for information about public meetings and plan to attend.

The Zero Waste committee continues to formulate plans encouraging the reduction of waste in Oxford County. We have asked for the money in the Landfill Reserve fund to be released to fund this work. I was really surprised to read comments from a person supposedly in opposition of the proposed landfill criticizing us because we had no plans to rebuild this fund. Why would we when we are in opposition to all landfills and have no intention of replacing the Salford site once it is filled? Our plan is to reduce waste as much as possible giving our landfill many more years of future use so that we have time to consider the many proposed methods of dealing with waste disposal that are being brought forth by so many. I have often felt a little uncomfortable opposing the landfill proposal before us while County Council continued to put tax money into a reserve for a future landfill. I am against all landfills - not just this present proposal.

Plans are underway to erect more Historical Settlement signs. The County has asked we not erect them on county roads this year as they are reviewing their "sign policies". I would be very disappointed if they stopped this project as it is well supported by Tourism Oxford. Additions are to be made to the signs including information regarding network connections to information re each settlement. Residents are asked to review the information and send any additional information, pictures, etc. they have that we might copy onto the website.

October 7

Once again a tour of Embro and Mackay historical sites occurred when two busloads of Taiwanese stopped here as part of a trip from Toronto. I don't think we realize just how important our community is to their culture and I believe it is a connection that is growing every year.

One of my plans for the Township Office is to find a spot for local artists to display their work. We have so many talented people who create fine work locally and I think they should be recognized. Mary Ann Murphy of Creative Connections was able to meet with me and plans are underway. If you would like to display your work or if you know someone who should please contact me. This might turn out to be a great way to do some of your Christmas shopping. I

know some of you cringe at the thought of my mentioning the up-coming season but I heard Christmas music on my radio just last week.

Meetings continue about the future of the Harrington and Embro dams. It is hard for me to believe the hundreds of thousands of dollars consultants say need to be spent on these two structures or they will have to be demolished. Hopefully we will find a reasonable solution to save them.

October 25

The Volunteer breakfast was well attended - and enjoyed by those who came. The committee in charge did a wonderful job of decorating. It was so impressive they were asked to leave it up to be enjoyed by those attending the Trojans Alumni event that weekend. Already plans are being made so that next year's breakfast will be even more useful to organizations in Zorra.

I attended the Agricultural Society Award's Night in Embro. It occurred to me that this could easily have been turned into a Zero Waste Event. They were using dishes and cutlery that were washed; after I left they pulled most of the paper placemats, decorations, napkins, etc. out of the garbage and put them into the recycling bins---and then took the food scraps home. Believe me at a pot luck in Zorra there is little left on most plates. Mission accomplished. I encourage other groups to try the challenge. I think soon Zero Waste will be part of advertising for many events. It means a great deal to many individuals and is certainly a responsible way to plan events.