

# Oxford Newsletter

Wild Blueberry Capital of Canada

April/May 2019



## A Message from Mayor Trish Stewart

April is Volunteer Month and what a great opportunity to help celebrate the amazing volunteers we have here in Oxford. It is my true belief that volunteers are the glue that hold our community together.

There are so many benefits of volunteering. It connects us to others. It is an opportunity to make new friends and exposes us to people with similar interests. It can help us stay physically healthy and has been shown to improve mood and reduce stress. Volunteering can also provide us with much needed career experience by teaching valuable job skills, and it also looks great on a resume (just ask any student that has applied for a scholarship!). Volunteering increases self confidence, and there is solid evidence of "the happiness effect".

These benefits spill over into the community, and we thrive...not just survive. Just look at Oxford and all the activities that are happening. Can you count the different groups and organizations that we have? There are so many. We are living proof that when people work together, things get done. And that, my friends, brings me immense pride. Pride of place, and pride of people.

On behalf of the Town, of our Council, and of our residents, we THANK YOU!

*"Volunteers don't necessarily have the time-  
they have the heart"*

## Wild Blueberry and Cream Cheese Sandwiches

A new, delicious way to enjoy Wild Blueberries  
Created by the Parkview!!

**"Poetry is a Story that is so  
good, it doesn't need  
complete sentences"**

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Oxford Poetry Festival April 27, 28

### Four Unique Events

**Saturday, April 27: *Poetry Breakfast***  
focusing on the poetry of our ancestors. Trinity  
United Church Vestry, Main St., 10-11:30 a.m.  
Please book \$10 tickets in advance (Eleanor Crowley,  
902-447-3040). Full breakfast!

***Down Town Poetry:*** Eleven local poets  
located throughout the downtown, each reading one  
or two of their own works at scheduled times (Begins  
at GJDE Enterprises Ltd, Water St.), 1- 3:30 p.m.

***Evening of Folk Music*** (Trinity United Vestry,  
7-9 p.m.) Free-will donations welcome.

**Sunday, April 28: *Poetry Café:*** National  
and international poetry award winner, Harry  
Thurston, headlines the Poetry Café, along with  
spoken word poet and social justice advocate, Ashley  
Avery. They will be joined by Bruce Graham,  
Richard Dittami and Evange Landry, the latter  
reading works of Mi'Kmaq poet, Rita Joe. Free-will  
donations welcome. Desserts for sale. Same location  
as above, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

A festival brochure will soon be available  
digitally and in print. Festival face book site:  
[www.facebook.com/PoetryAtLargeOxford/](http://www.facebook.com/PoetryAtLargeOxford/)

*Offering a variety of entertaining ways to  
experience many styles of poetry, by a wide range of  
participants, this annual festival is an important  
addition to Oxford's arts and culture scene.*

## Grade 5R OREC Poets Read Aloud

The public is welcome to attend a pre-festival  
event on Wednesday, April 24 (10 a.m.) to hear  
Grade 5R students read their own poetry. Hosted by  
the Town of Oxford in the Oxford Riverside Gallery.

**Please see the Town website's  
"Calendar" menu to keep up on  
community events.**



## Oxford Berry Bolt

The 1st Annual *Oxford Berry Bolt* will be held on May 4<sup>th</sup> offering two distances: 1 Mile and 5K - Run or Walk. All ages and abilities welcome. The 1 Mile starts at 9:30 am; the 5K at 10:00 am, allowing participants the unique option to complete both events. 1 Mile - \$15 per participant, 5K - \$20 per participant, 1 Mile and 5K combo - \$25. Registration is currently capped at 150 entries. Register early!

<https://www.facebook.com/oxfordberrbolt/>  
<https://raceroster.com/events/2019/19513/oxford-berry-bolt>

## New Billing Schedule for Property Taxes.

Reminder: Instead of one tax bill per year with the full amount due all at once, Oxford property taxes will now be billed in two installments. The first bill will be issued in April with a due date of June 1<sup>st</sup>. The second bill will be due September 30<sup>th</sup>. Details of this change were outlined in the *Town of Oxford Property Owners Notice* distributed to you in March via Canada Post. The *Tax and Water Collection Policy* and the notice are available on the Town's website ([www.town.oxford.ns.ca](http://www.town.oxford.ns.ca)) and at the Town Hall. If you have questions on the policy or your tax and water bills, please contact the Town Hall and we will be happy to answer your questions.

## Oxford Town Council Meetings

Your Council meets on the first Monday of the month as a Committee of the Whole. On the third Monday of the month they hold their regular Council meetings. Upcoming meetings will include budget discussions for the 2019-20 fiscal year. All meetings are open to the public. Once approved, meeting minutes are posted on the Town's website (open the "Town Hall" menu). This is where you will also find new Town policies and by-laws.

## Pickle Ball comes to Oxford

Beginning Wednesday, April 10 (5:45 pm, OREC gym), Pickle Ball is a popular paddle sport created for all ages and skill levels. Two or four players use solid paddles to hit a perforated **ball** over a net. The rules are simple and the game is easy for beginners to learn. **All equipment provided.**

## Wild Blueberry Harvest Festival – Planning Starts Now

“All Hands on Deck!” A community effort (individuals, organizations and businesses) will ensure a successful event. It's time for us all to start considering how to work together to create a berry wonderful Wild Blueberry Harvest Festival 2019. The more events scheduled, the more reason for people to attend, the greater the success of individual efforts and the festival overall.

WBHF 2019 takes place the week of August 18. Chat about it with your group members, employees, and friends and let us know what you're planning. Is it a Wild Blueberry bake sale, dance, blueberry pancake breakfast/supper/tea/barbq/picnic/coffee house, giant yard sale, movie in the park, music event, wild blueberry ice cream social, colouring contest, wild blueberry-inspired menu specials, festival specials at your business, blueberry facials, wild blueberry dart tournament or ball tournie, bingo, one-act blueberry-themed play?

So many ideas! Just latch on to one or two, pick a date and time and let us know. We'll put it on the festival calendar and contribute to your advertising efforts by posting it in the August calendar and on the Town's social media.

Be sure to let us know by mid-May to get it in the official regional festival calendar which has a wide reach.



**Editor:** Ruthie Patriquin  
Community Economic Development Officer (CEDO)