

MARCH-APRIL 2021 COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

OXFORD, NS, WILD BLUEBERRY CAPITAL OF CANADA



Help buy new books and furniture for the new Oxford Library

In April, the Oxford Library is going to be moving from the satellite location in the Medical Centre to the old Oxford Journal building on Rideau St. and your help is needed to buy new books and furniture.

Make a donation online: [Oxford Library Donation](#) or in person at any **Cumberland Public Libraries locations.**

PLEASE NOTE: there is no library collection at the Oxford Satellite location—library materials must be ordered and an appoint must be made for pick up.

902-447-2440,
oxford@cumberlandpubliclibraries.ca

When you donate online you will receive your receipt immediately, it's very quick and easy to do!

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The Walking Club still meets every Monday, 6 pm, at the Gazebo.

Beautification and Streetscaping Grants for Main/Water Street - Facing Businesses in Oxford

Are you considering improvements to your storefronts or do you own a building that has a storefront you'd like to freshen up? Would you be considering such improvements if there was financial assistance?

The Town has secured a grant of \$17,500 through the province's Beautification and Streetscaping Program that will allow Water and Main Street-facing businesses and/or commercial property owners to apply for limited matching funds to improve business facades and other curb appeal areas of their property. You may want to improve accessibility, replace awnings and signage, paint facades, plant shrubs, etc.

Approved projects will be eligible to receive up to 50% of their improvement costs to a maximum of \$4000.00 per grant. All projects will be considered on a first come, first served basis. **Funded projects must be completed by June 30, 2021.**

The Beautification and Streetscaping Program falls under the NS Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing (DMAH). The purpose is to improve business area streetscapes to attract tourists and support our economy. The DMAH requires municipalities receiving these grants to

partner with a body corporate to administer funds to businesses. The Amherst Chamber of Commerce has agreed to partner with the Town of Oxford to administer and manage the project. **Please see the grant package for contact information.**

The Grant Application Package may be found at:

<https://www.town.oxford.ns.ca/> and <https://amherstchambers.ca/>



Civic Signs: Important!!

Canada Post has asked us to remind the public of the importance of having the blue civic address signs at the end of your driveways. This is what Emergency Responders use to locate your home and what Canada Post and Courier Services use to deliver your parcels.

If you don't have a sign, contact the Municipality of Cumberland to get one:

Email: info@cumberlandcounty.ns.ca
Phone: (902) 667-2313

Town of Oxford landowners that don't know their civic number may call the Town Hall at 902-447-2170 or email General Inquiries at: info@oxfordns.ca.

International Women's Day, March 8

Staying safe for family, friends and community is top of mind for many these days and in that light the **Oxford Celebrates International Women's Day Committee** has decided to forgo holding the annual concert of celebration this year. Instead, they encourage people to take a moment to reflect on some of the 2021 IWD themes and celebrate in a way that is meaningful to you. Check out their Facebook page and the website below for more information on IWD 2021. The Committee thanks you for your past support and looks forward to gathering in celebration in 2022.

<https://oxfordcelebrates.weebly.com>

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Oxford Arena Schedule

Please see the Oxford Area Lions Club Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/oxfordarealions>

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Jam Night is Back at the Capitol Theatre

February 26, March 12 and continuing every second week until further notice.

<https://www.facebook.com/mainstreetoxfordns>



Friday Night Social: 7:30 pm, weekly at Oxford Legion Branch # 36. "Here for the Community". All Welcome to Drop-In for Fun Darts, Pool, Socializing, Canteen, etc. Legion membership NOT required.

All COVID Rules Apply



Wild Blueberry Capital Town Council Meetings

Your Town Council regularly meets the first and third Mondays each month at 6:00 p.m. If a meeting falls on a holiday, it is typically rescheduled on the Tuesday. Other special meetings may be scheduled as required. Meetings are advertised in advance on the Town's Official Facebook page and most meetings are streamed live on this Facebook page. Approved meeting Minutes are posted on the Town website (choose "Town Hall" on the main page menu).

Welcome New Town Councillors
Crystal McNutt and Arnold MacDonald.

Oxford Residents Welcomed to Join

Pugwash Ground Search and Rescue is a volunteer run organization that serves all of Cumberland County in the event a person becomes lost or missing in our vast tracks of wilderness. The group also provides mutual aid to search teams all across Nova Scotia when called upon by the Provincial Emergency Management Office. We are currently welcoming new members of all skill levels and backgrounds in the Oxford area to help fill many roles within the group. We meet monthly at our headquarters on King Street in Pugwash (or online during Covid-19) and provide training in map reading, compass navigation, GPS and search techniques. If you are interested in joining a great group of outdoorsy people, please reach out to pugwash_gsar@hotmail.com.

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COVID-19 – Don't Let Down Your Guard!

Stay safe, wear masks as required, stay six feet/two meters apart, and please keep washing your hands! Follow all Public Health guidelines. For more information: <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/alerts-notices/>

YOUR INVITATION to Awaken Your Springtime Poet

The Oxford Poetry Festival is going virtual this year and will feature Local Talent! THAT COULD BE YOU!

For COVID reasons the *Oxford Poetry Committee* has been forced to skip usual festivities again this year but is actively planning to return to a full-blown post-pandemic festival for 2022.

In the meantime, the *Committee* is working to organize a COVID-safe Facebook program to take place throughout this April (National Poetry Month).

This is your invitation to submit your own poetry to help us celebrate.
Submission Deadline: **March 15, 2021**

Guidelines to submit poetry:

- This event is open to people of all ages living in Oxford and surrounding area of Cumberland County, NS. We want to showcase local talent!
- Submissions must be your own work.
- Each person may submit **up to two poems** for consideration.
- You must submit your poetry by email to rpatriquin@oxfordns.ca. Unfortunately, we are unable to accept submissions by other means.

- Please be aware that not all submissions will appear on the *Poetry at Large* Facebook page.
- Submissions must be typed, single spaced, and submitted in PDF form.
- By submitting your poem, you give the *Oxford Poetry Committee* permission to post it on the *Poetry at Large* and *Town of Oxford Official* Facebook pages.
- Each piece of poetry you submit must include your first and last name and the community in which you live (Oxford, Collingwood, Pugwash, etc.)
- If you wish you may include one or two brief sentences about yourself that we will share if your work is chosen for the *Poetry at Large* Facebook page.
- Recommended topics: Although you may submit a poem of your choice, we are specifically interested in works that are uplifting and hopeful.

We can't wait to hear from you!

Enter to Win a Wild Blueberry Poetry Month Basket

Like, share, and comment on the Poetry At Large Facebook page during April 2021- Poetry Month- and you could be the lucky winner. Watch for details.
<https://www.facebook.com/PoetryAtLargeOxford>