



# What's Happening in Oxford?

## The Wild Blueberry Capital of Canada

### March 2020 Update

**Welcome all newcomers to Oxford.** Whether you're here for the friendly atmosphere or the wild blueberries, we're glad you're putting down roots in our town.

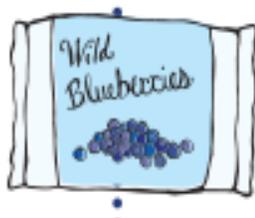
In March we celebrate International Women's Day, the luck of the Irish, Pie, school break, Nutrition month (think wild blueberries), another time change (spring ahead on March 8!) and so much more. Here in Oxford, some of our friendly folks are still enjoying winter, while others can't wait for Spring.

Sunset Thrift Store & Café is supporting Oxford's **International Women's Day Celebration** by selling tickets on a basket of "treasures" with proceeds benefitting the *Girls World* camp held in Oxford each summer. The draw will take place at the March 7 (2-4 p.m.) event in the Capitol Theatre. Everyone is welcome to attend the entertainment that will feature music, dance, poetry and guest speaker, Rayliene Thompson, sharing her experiences as a fire fighter.

**Oxford Area Skating Club presents: Magic on Ice** at 6:00 pm on March 12. Come out to the arena and enjoy an evening of talented local skaters. Donations accepted at the door.

March's bi-weekly **Jam Nights at the Capitol Theatre** are March 13 and 27. The Main Street Music Society is to be commended for the ongoing success of these events and for booking a good variety of other entertainment into our historic theatre. In addition, it's worth a visit just to see the old pressed-tin tile interior.

Around the world, **Pi (Pie) Day** is celebrated on March 14th (3.14). Pi (aka 3.14...) Day honors the mathematical constant "pi". Because the concept of "pi" may be difficult to comprehend, a simpler, more delicious way to honor its significance is "pie". If you are from Wild Blueberry country, it's *Wild Blueberry Pie*! Be prepared for this March 14: full size pie, pie by the slice, hand pie, it all works! **Email me pictures of your Wild Blueberry Pie and I'll post them on the Town's face book page.** Be sure to include your name and share the recipe if you wish.



Flash frozen  
within 24 hours

**Wild Blueberry Nutrition Facts:** At just 80 calories per 250 ml or one-cup, tiny, potent Wild Blueberries are loaded with antioxidants and pack a serious nutritional punch for every calorie consumed. They are naturally low in fat, high in fiber (16% of your daily value) and have no added sugar, sodium or refined starches. Wild Blueberries are also an excellent source of manganese, which is important for bone development. All of this makes Wild Blueberries a naturally nutrient-rich choice—a food that adds important dietary nutrients without adding a lot of extra "empty" calories.

Source: <http://www.wildblueberries.com/health-research/antioxidants/>

Oxford's Recreation & Leisure Services' Director, Corey Skinner, has an amazing line up of events planned for **March Break** so be sure the young people in your lives take them in. There are indoor and outside activities including Oxford Library and Adventure Therapy Project family friendly events.

Not sure what **The Adventure Therapy Project** is? This local organization was *designed to promote the mental, emotional and physical health benefits of getting outside and chasing adventure* and is a great benefit to our area.

Watch for Corey's new trail map signage, "walk-the-block" signage, and other active transportation initiatives. They are going to be great additions to our community.

Keep in mind that the **Crossing Guard** is not on duty during March Break, other school holidays and weekends. Please always drive safely, and take extra care when approaching crosswalks and intersections.

**Everyone Deserves a Warm Home: Home Warming Program** representative will be at the Oxford Library March 25, 7:00-8:00 pm. This program offers no-charge energy assessments and free home upgrades to eligible Nova Scotians. Find out if you're eligible or ask questions at an information session. Application forms and information pamphlets are also available at the Town Hall.

Oxford's Royal Canadian Legion, Branch #36, is hosting a **Mega Bingo** on Sunday, March 29, beginning at 1:00 p.m., with doors opening at 11:30 a.m. This is an important fundraiser for the Legion to maintain their building, used for various community functions, and to support services provided to veterans and the community at large. For example, every Friday evening is Community Social Night beginning at 7:30 p.m. Legion membership is not required for this drop-in event.

The 2020 **Oxford Poetry Festival (April 25/26)** is offering something for everyone, even those who aren't quite sure they enjoy poetry. For example, you'll get a taste of local history along with a delicious meal if you take in the Breakfast event the morning of April 25. That afternoon you can listen to a little or a lot of poetry by dropping in to one or more of the participating businesses during the free Down Town Poetry event. Saturday ends with a Coffee House featuring several folk music entertainers and delicious treats. The Poetry Café caps off the 2-day event on Sunday. This year a unique door prize will be offered. The week leading up to the Festival will again feature children's poetry – keep your ears and eyes open for more details or follow the Oxford Poetry At Large face book page.

**Bakers, crafters, businesses, community groups, and other Oxford & area residents** are encouraged to start planning to participate in **Oxford's Wild Blueberry Harvest Festival**, August 16-22. *Some things to think about:* Tourists want to buy homemade wild blueberry items like pies, Oxley (giant blueberry) stuffies and other blueberry treats and crafts. How could you or your group respond? Maybe your group wants to make a giant wild blueberry pie (and sell it by the slice). That would grab attention and has been successful in other places! What about yard sales, community picnics, wild blueberry pancake breakfasts, luncheons or suppers? The possibilities are endless. It's time to put on your thinking caps so you'll have plans in place in time to get optimum promotion for your event. The Regional Festival organization requires the Town to submit a list of community-sponsored, wild blueberry-themed events in June for the regional advertising they assist with. Want to chat about your ideas? Call the Town's Community Economic Development Officer (902 447-2250) (Email: [rpatriquin@oxfordns.ca](mailto:rpatriquin@oxfordns.ca)).

**"It takes a community to raise a Wild Blueberry Harvest Festival"**



### **Police Service Review Update:**

Just over a year ago, the Town of Oxford Council started a **police service review**. This was based on the increasing costs of policing for the Town, and was done together with the County of Cumberland, Provincial Department of Justice and the RCMP. Significant work to analyze the current staffing and call volumes, along with the costs and services that are included with the RCMP Contract, was completed through the Police Services Review Committee, which consisted of members of Town Council, Oxford Police Advisory Board, citizen appointees, and a representative from the Department of Justice. The review was determined by a specific process that was required by the Department of Justice. The Review Committee met very regularly and held discussions on high level service options with both the RCMP and the Town of Amherst Police Department. A public meeting was also held to hear concerns, issues, and feedback from the community. Through this review, the County of Cumberland identified a preferred option from the report presented by the RCMP which reduced the overall number of RCMP members by three within the district, which included reducing the policing coverage in Oxford by half a full-time equivalent member. Based on all the information gathered and considered, the recommendation from the Police Services Advisory Committee to Town Council was to proceed with the RCMP option that Cumberland County had chosen. It was clear that the community felt strongly about having the RCMP remain as the police service provider in our community. Council's primary task was to ensure that appropriate levels of policing are in place, at the same time as ensuring affordability for this small community. As a result, Town Council accepted the recommendation from the Committee and now both Cumberland County and the Town of Oxford will jointly apply to have the changes implemented. This request must have the approval of the Provincial Minister of Justice. This is anticipated to see a savings of approximately \$80,000 per year for Oxford. Council and the Police Advisory Board will continue to monitor and evaluate the policing service to ensure that our community remains the safe and friendly place that we currently have and provide policing in a financially responsible manner.

To keep up on what's happening in Oxford, be sure to check out the printed monthly **Community Calendar**. If you don't received one in the mail, drop into the Town Hall for a copy or check it out at the Oxford Library. It is also on the Town website under the menu item, "Calendars" where you will also find **Community Events** calendars showing events in current and upcoming months.

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