

Thames Centre MUNICIPAL UPDATE

WWW.THAMESCENTRE.ON.CA



Welcome to the Municipality of Thames Centre's fourth issue of our quarterly newsletter. An excellent tool for communicating vital and timely news and updates and other significant information from all of our departments, directly to our community, all in one release.

In This Edition

- FlightExec Expansion Starts
- Saved By The Beep!
- Reminders/Important Dates
- Coming Events
- Middlesex Connect
- Hwy 401 & Dorchester Road Bridge Replacement
- Plus so much more.....



Subscribe to get information directly to your inbox

The Municipality of Thames Centre has recently added a [subscription function](#) to their website.

Through this feature residents can subscribe to receive emails related to a variety of topics:

- Alerts – emergency notifications and service disruptions
- News/Announcements – information from the Municipality such as quarterly newsletters, Council highlights, and public service announcements
- Events – list of upcoming events within Thames Centre
- Employment Opportunities – job postings for the Municipality of Thames Centre

Residents can choose which topic to receive emails on and can subscribe at any time.



Lottery Licensing in Thames Centre

The Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO) authorizes the Municipality of Thames Centre to issue lottery licences. The Municipality ensures that the conduct of all licensed lottery events meets all legal requirements.

What is a lottery?

A lottery exists if money is paid or some other consideration is given for a chance to win a prize. Only groups that have applied for and received eligibility from the Municipality of Thames Centre can run these lotteries and gaming activities. Each lottery must include a prize, a chance to win the prize, and a fee.

Types of Lottery Licences:

- Raffles (prize draws, 50/50 draws)
- Bingos
- Break-Open Tickets (Nevada Tickets)

All other types of lottery licenses are issued by the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario.

Is my organization eligible?

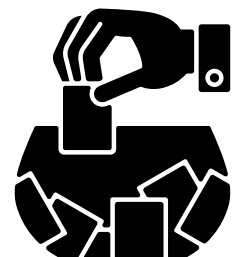
Your Organization may be eligible if it:

- Has a purpose to provide charitable services to the residents of Ontario for:
 - Relief of poverty
 - Advancement of education
 - Advancement of religion
 - Other charitable purposes beneficial to the community
- Has carried out activities consistent with its charitable purpose for at least one year
- Is located in Ontario
- Is a non-profit

Private functions or individuals raising funds for personal reasons are not eligible for lottery licences, even if the person plans to donate the funds to a charity. Private functions that cannot receive a lottery licence include the following, but are not limited to stag and does, corporate functions or birthday parties.

Questions?

Contact Sara Henshaw, Lottery Licensing Officer
shenshaw@thamescentre.on.ca | 519-268-7334 ext. 239



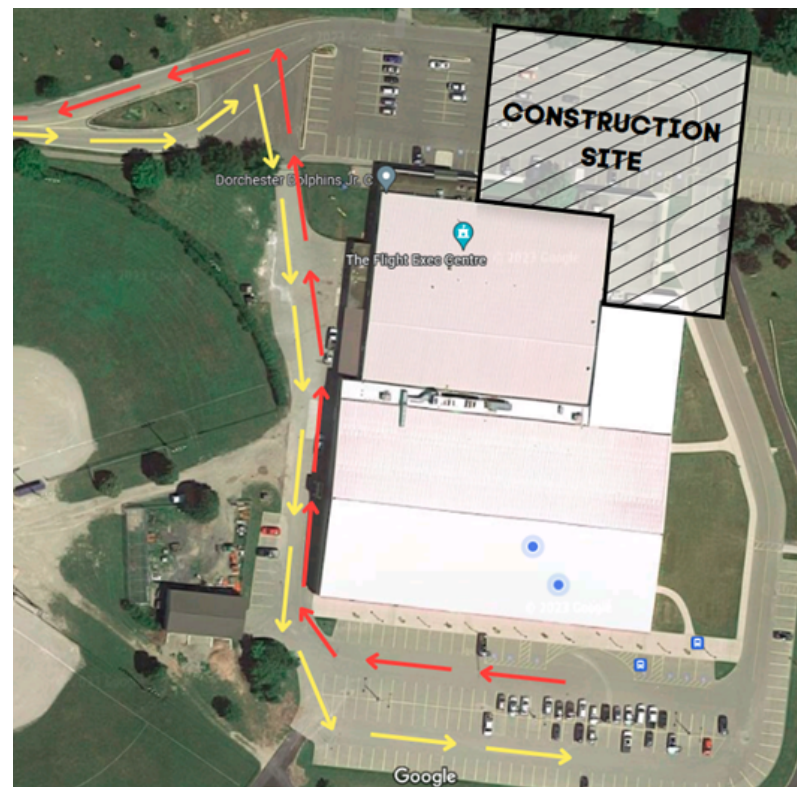
FlightExec Centre Expansion Project

Construction is now set to begin in September. This project will result in a greatly enlarged Lions Senior Centre (with 3 program rooms), the space used by V.O.N. will be twice the size of their current area (with two respite rooms added and an enlarged Adult Day Program room to accommodate more people) and the auditorium will be moved to a new location and enlarged as well. The Lions Senior Centre will share a new kitchen with the auditorium and will share a courtyard with the V.O.N. To view the floor plan see the website:

www.thamescentre.on.ca/flightexec-centre-expansion

Changes to be aware of once construction begins:

1. All Lions Senior Centre programs and events are being run out of different locations, with no further access to the existing Lions Senior Centre (as it is in the process of being demolished and then rebuilt). Karen & Kayla's office space has been temporarily relocated to the administration office found via the south entrance to the FlightExec Centre.
2. VON programming has temporarily relocated to the second floor, on the north side of the FlightExec Centre, accessed via the entrance with the signage "Auditorium, North Rink – CANUSA."
3. Parking and driving routes around the FlightExec Centre are impacted during construction, as shown on the map.



The Playroom Experiment - now at FlightExec Centre

The Municipality was pleased to enter into a trial agreement with Mike Primeau, to bring "The Playroom Experiment" to the FlightExec Centre. A special thank you to the Smith family, who agreed to allow their room to be used for this initiative (located beside the walking track on the second level).

It is a free, inclusive, and fun outlet for pinball, board games, video games, and more. Stay informed about a promising year ahead by visiting playroomexperiment.org and joining their Facebook group at facebook.com/playroomexperiment for frequent updates.

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ICE TIME – Our APC rink opened and was in use as of August 14th while the CANUSA rink will be up and ready to rent for September 9th. Visit our website to book or contact Tori or Abby at 519-268-7334 ext 701 or email recreation@thamescentre.on.ca

Community Services & Facilities Master Plan Update -

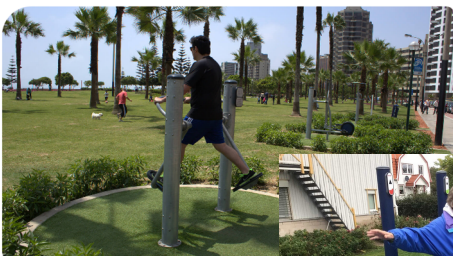
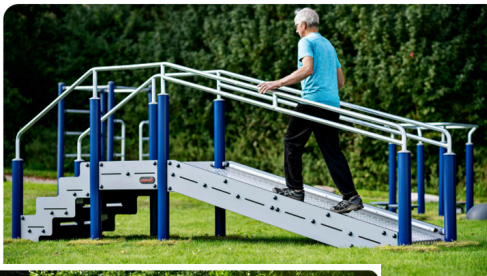
Work continues on updating this department's Master Plan. The end result will be a clear, innovative and flexible planning document to be used by the Municipality to guide department initiatives for the next 10 years. Community input is paramount for a successful Plan, with the final opportunity for public input coming soon. The draft Master Plan will be posted on our website and social media around September 11th. The final Master Plan is then scheduled to be presented to Council, for their approval, at the September 25th meeting.



Community Services & Facilities Master Plan

Public Open Houses for Draft Master Plan

- Wednesday Sept 13 - 6 to 8 pm @ FlightExec Centre (Auditorium)
- Thursday Sept 14 - 6 to 8 pm @ Thorndale Lions Community Centre



Update on Phase 2 of our Inclusive Park

The Dorchester Dream Park Committee has successfully raised over \$150,000 in donations and grant funds to fully cover all costs of Phase 2 of the Inclusive Park. This second phase will focus on an outdoor exercise area for adults/seniors, located adjacent to the inclusive playground. The completion date for this project is not yet finalized, however it is likely to be in the spring of 2024 since installation of rubber ground cover is not recommended once the weather becomes cooler.



Victus Academy – now at the FlightExec Centre

We are pleased to welcome Victus Academy to our facility. This elite hockey school will have their first class of students taking their academic classes, on-ice training and off-ice conditioning at the FlightExec Centre for the September 2023 to June 2024 school year.

Lions Senior Centre

Joining is easy and only
\$25.00 for the year.

Open to members 50 years or over.

For more information, contact the Senior
Centre
519-287-7334.

Karen ext. 708 or Kayla ext. 728



Membership - There are many benefits to becoming a member of the Lions Senior Centre. The amount and variety of programs and activities offered is amazing! Becoming a member provides you with discounts on programs in Thorndale & Dorchester as well as on bus trips. Members also receive a free newsletter every two months and have the option to sign-up for a weekly e-newsletter which includes details on all the coming activities. Joining is easy and is only \$25.00 for the year.

Programs - There are a wide variety of programs available in Thorndale and Dorchester including: Memoir Writing (NEW), quilting, WOW meditation Tai Chi, chair yoga, shuffleboard, Pilates, mat yoga, pickleball, pole walking, Drumfit, WOW bingo, floor Kurling, line dancing, art/painting lessons, craft workshops, carpet bowling, men's & women's coffee hour, Zumba, indoor kite flying, choir practice, euchre, bid euchre, bridge, cribbage, iPad lessons, computer help, women's drumming circle, cookie decorating, monthly hot meals, guest speakers/workshops, movie afternoons, book club, ArtYourService, and more! Register for your favourites today by stopping in to visit or calling Karen & Kayla.

DONT
FORGET!



Reminder – Get your Dog Tags

- All dogs in the municipality must have a valid license (dog tag) and wear their dog tag.
- Tags are issued for the lifetime of your dog at no charge to you. (Replacement tags are \$10.00 each)
- Persons who fail to purchase a dog license (tag) are eligible to be fined under the Provincial Offences Act.

Learn More

[thamescentre.on.ca/services/residents/law-enforcement](https://www.thamescentre.on.ca/services/residents/law-enforcement)

2023 FINAL PROPERTY TAX BILLS - REMINDER

Final property tax bills were mailed/emailed the first week of August. The 1st installment was due August 30, 2023. The final installment is due October 30, 2023.

It is important to keep this tax bill for future reference if needed for income tax purposes, mortgage companies, realtors or appraisers as it shows the total taxes billed for the year.

If you have not received your bill, please contact the municipal office by phone at 519-268-7334. You can also reach us by email at inquiries@thamescentre.on.ca

Please note, failure to receive a tax bill does not absolve the property owner from any taxes due or from penalty/interest charges for late payments.

SUPPLEMENTARY TAX BILLS

Supplementary tax bills for new or recently renovated properties, or properties that have changed in use, were mailed in August 2023. Due dates for the Supplementary Bills are September 28, 2023, and November 29, 2023.

Reminder

If you are currently enrolled in the *Monthly/Installment Pre-Authorization Payment Plan*, the amount(s) owing for Supplementary Bills are NOT included in your monthly/installment withdrawal and must be paid by the due dates indicated.

Learn more at: [thamescentre.on.ca/taxes](https://www.thamescentre.on.ca/taxes)



Discover Middlesex County Connect: Your Community's Transit Service

Are you in search of an affordable and convenient transportation option? Look no further because Middlesex County Connect is here to meet your needs! Bid farewell to transportation hassles and say hello to savings with the pocket-friendly \$5.00 one-way fare. But wait, there's more – students can now enjoy additional savings by purchasing a discounted 30-day student pass through the County Connect app.

Whether you are catching Route 1, which connects Lucan to London with stops in Ilderton and Arva, or hopping on Route 2, linking Woodstock, Ingersoll, Putnam, Dorchester, and London – we've got your journey covered!

Middlesex County Connect is more than just a ride; it's your reliable companion for all your transportation needs. You could be an employee heading to work, a resident exploring the city or town, or just in need of a reliable ride – Middlesex County Connect has got your back. All the buses are fully accessible and bike-friendly.

Ready to Get Rolling? 🚌 Let Middlesex County Connect take you where you need to go while keeping your wallet happy. 🗺️ For all the details, visit middlesex.ca/ct



**MIDDLESEX COUNTY CONNECT - YOUR COMMUNITY'S TRANSIT SERVICE
CONNECTING PEOPLE, PLACES, & EXPERIENCES**

middlesex.ca/ct

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Thursday Sept. 28, 2023 is Ontario's First Test Your Smoke Alarm Day

All Ontarians are encouraged to learn more about smoke alarms, fire safety, and home fire escape planning, which could save you and your loved ones. Most importantly, we want you to test your smoke alarms!

Having working smoke alarms won't just save your life - it's the law.

Every home in Ontario is required by law to have working smoke alarms on every storey and outside all sleeping areas. For added protection, install working smoke alarms in every bedroom.

For more information on Smoke Alarms and the Saved by the Beep campaign see our website:
www.thamescentre.on.ca/fire



TEST YOUR
SMOKE ALARM
DAY

#SavedByTheBeep

beep
beep
beep

SAVED BY THE BEEP

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2023



www.TestYourSmokeAlarmDay.ca



New Director of Fire and Emergency Services/Fire Chief Nick Dorken

Council introduced Nick Dorken as the new Director of Fire and Emergency Services/Fire Chief for the Municipality of Thames Centre, effective July 24, 2023. Chief Dorken brings nearly 20 years of experience in both Professional and Volunteer Fire setting.

It's Time to Fall Back!

**Just a friendly reminder to turn your clocks back one hour
on Saturday November 4, 2023**

This is also a great time to change the batteries in your smoke
alarms and carbon monoxide (C.O.) alarms!



Every Second Counts!



ontario.ca/firemarshal



Flashing Green Lights

The Thames Centre Fire Department are comprised entirely of volunteers. As such, volunteers may not necessarily be close to the fire hall when they are paged to an emergency. Our volunteers rely on the use of flashing green lights on their personal vehicles to respond quickly to an emergency. Firefighters may be driving to the fire hall to respond in a fire truck to the emergency or driving their personal vehicles directly to an emergency scene.

The purpose of the flashing green light is to inform other motorists that a firefighter is enroute to an emergency call. To help support our volunteers you are encouraged to (if safe to do so) yield the right-of-way by slowing down and pulling over to let firefighters pass by.

While it is the law to pull over and slow down safely for emergency vehicles with flashing "RED" lights (such as fire trucks, police, and EMS) it is not the law to do so for volunteer firefighters operating green lights. Flashing green lights do not give a volunteer firefighter exemptions from, the Highway Traffic Act. Yielding to the right-of-way of a firefighter with flashing green light is a COURTESY and will allow the firefighter to get to an emergency call faster.

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Highway 401 & Dorchester Road Bridge Replacement and Interchange Improvements - Spring 2024

The Ministry of Transportation has advised that beginning in Spring of 2024, the Dorchester Road 401 Overpass and Highway 401 On/Off Ramps will be fully closed for the demolition and reconstruction of the Dorchester Road Overpass and interchange improvements. For more information please see the website: www.hwy401dorchester.com

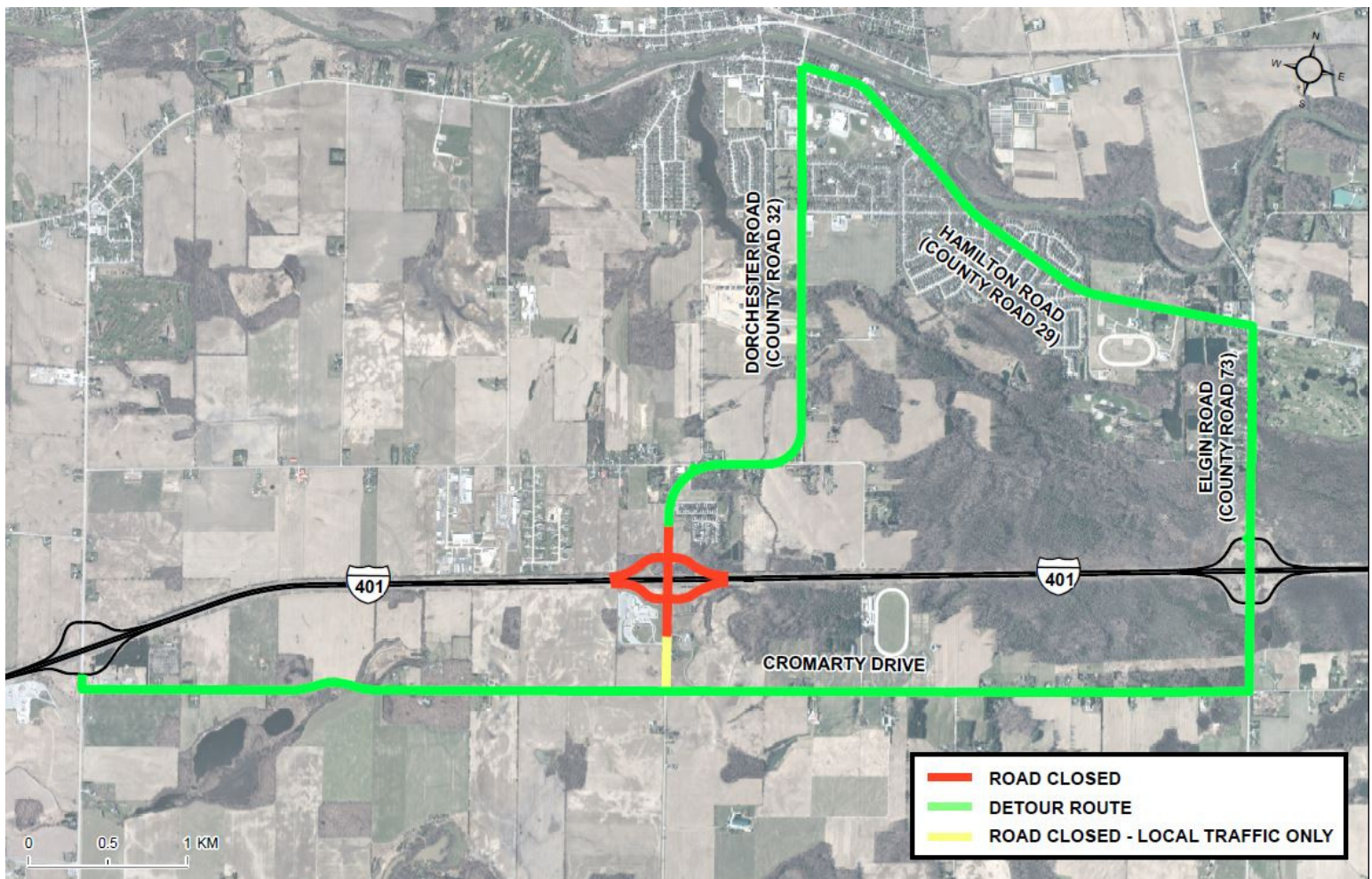
Project Contacts

Sign up for email communications about this project at Hwy401Dorchester@dillon.ca

Project Details

- Dorchester Road 401 Overpass will be fully closed during the construction period - Spring 2024 to Summer 2025.
- Dorchester Road traffic will be rerouted during the closure via Hamilton Road, Elgin Road and Cromarty Drive (see maps below for routes).
- Temporary Traffic Signals will be installed at Elgin Road 401 ramp terminals and Elgin Road and Cromarty Drive intersection.
- The On and Off ramps at Dorchester Road to Highway 401 eastbound and westbound will be closed.

Daytime Road Closures/Detour Routes

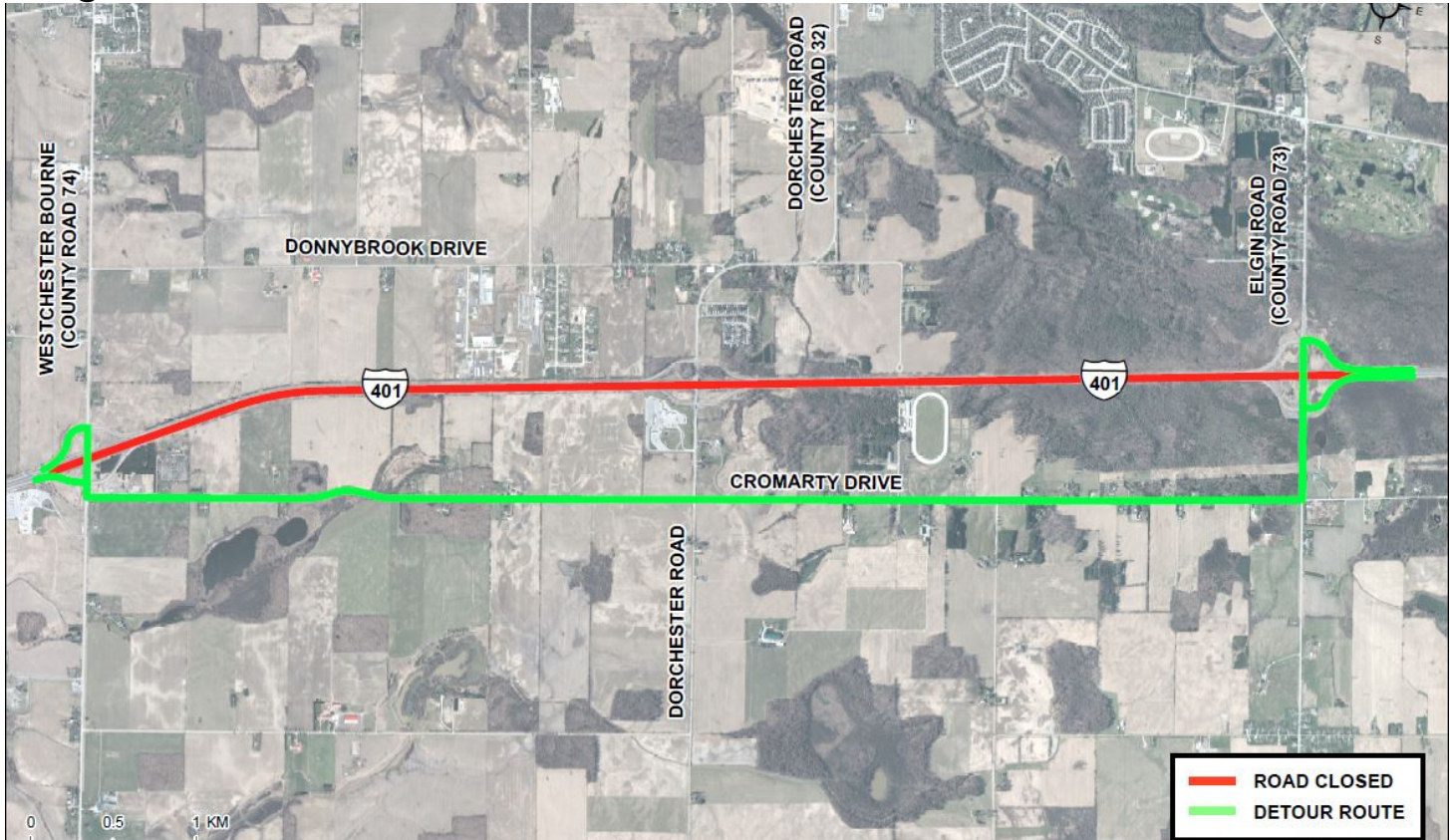


Dorchester Road 401 Overpass Demolition – Spring 2024 Continued

Highway 401 Night time Closures from Westchester Bourne to Elgin Road

- Spring 2024 – Highway 401 closed overnight
- Summer 2024 – Eastbound and Westbound closed on alternating nights
- Highway 401 traffic will be rerouted during the closure (see maps below for routes)

Night Time Road Closures/Detour Routes



Dorchester Union Cemetery

The deadline for new foundation orders (required for all upright monuments) in the Dorchester Union Cemetery is planned for Thursday, September 14, 2023. [Order forms](#) may be found on the [website](#), to be accompanied by confirmation of a monument order.

Reminder that as per By-law [50-2022](#), the Cemetery Operator reserves the right to regulate the articles placed on lots, as well as all other activities.

Please Note: Dogs and other pets are to remain restrained by a proper leash accompanied by their owner.

Please contact Tammy Butt, Cemetery Coordinator, when in doubt or considering any changes to your plot. 519-268-7334 x227 or email: tbutt@thamescentre.on.ca

Coming Events



BridgeFest - Saturday September 9th 12 noon to 9:00 pm

BridgeFest is an annual event located on Hamilton Road between Bridge Street and Dorchester Road in Dorchester, Ontario. That portion of Hamilton Road will be closed for the duration of this event. Each year this event has grown larger and larger with 2023 being the most popular year. BridgeFest is a family fun event with live music and over 50 vendors. Come and spend the day at our fun community event!

Festival of Lights - Friday November 17th

Come out and join the festivities as our community celebrates the season together. We will have live entertainment, Santa, lots of food and beverages all while watching the first lighting of the lights!

Important Dates

Council Meetings - Meetings start at 5pm

All meetings are held at the Municipal Office (4305 Dorchester Road, Dorchester) unless otherwise stated.

- Monday September 11
- Monday September 25
- **Monday October 16 – Held at Thorndale Lions Community Centre**
- Monday October 30
- Tuesday November 14
- Monday November 27

Municipal Office Closed for Statutory/Observed Holiday

- Monday October 2
- Monday October 9
- Monday November 13

Utility and Taxes Due Date

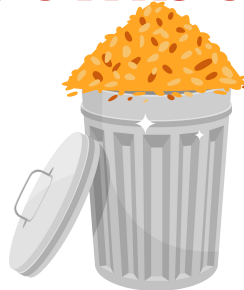
- Utility Bills :
 - September 25
 - November 27
- Final Property Tax Bills –Final Installment
 - October 30
- Supplementary Property Tax Bills
 - September 28
 - November 29

Fall Yard Waste Curbside Collection November 6 - 10, 2023



Paper Bags

OR



Reusable
Containers



WE DO NOT ACCEPT:

- Kitchen scraps
- Sod
- Rocks
- Dirt/soil
- Large branches
- Tree stumps
- Railway ties
- Painted or treated wood
- Flower pot/trays
- Animal waste



No Plastic Bags
for Yard Waste



Place Yard Waste at the curb by 7 a.m. Crews will only make one pass on each street on their designated recycling pick-up day.



WE ACCEPT:

Plant trimmings Brush Leaves
Pumpkins Grass clippings

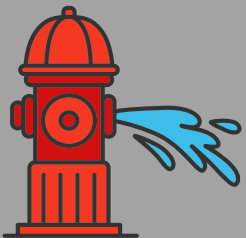


Brush must be less than 10 cm in diameter and 1 m in length. Tie in bundles with twine.



125 L
20 kg

Maximum weight per container or bundle is 20 kg, maximum size per container is 125 L.



**Fall Hydrant Flushing will take place
between October 16th and October 20th
Between 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.**

[See notice of website for more information](#)

Do not forget

**Winter Bi-Weekly Garbage
pick-up returns the Week of
November 6th**



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Together we grow.

The Council and Staff
of Thames Centre
wish everyone a very
Happy and Safe Fall
Season!



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Instagram: @ThamesCentre



Twitter: @ThamesCentre