

Voters to select new name

Free Press Woodstock Bureau

KINTORE — Four Oxford County municipalities will have new names Oct. 7.

Residents of Embro, West Zorra Township, East Nissouri Township and North Ox-

ford Township will pick from the names East Nizorra, Thames or Zorra.

The name will be selected in a ballot of voters when the new municipal council, representatives for Oxford County council and school boards are elected.

Gordon L. Gregory, East Nissouri clerk-treasurer, said the names were suggested at a meeting of the Reeves and deputy Reeves of the existing municipalities.

The mayor and deputy mayor will serve on both the municipal and county councils.

Nine others are to be elected from wards including two in existing North Oxford Township to be ward 1 and two from Thamesford, Ward 2.

One each will be elected from ward 3, the south half of East Nissouri Township including lots 1 to 18; ward 4, the north half of East Nissouri; ward 5, West Zorra Township from lot 22 to the north boundary; ward 6, Embro; and ward 7, West Zorra Township, between lots 1 and 21.

The electorate, in the area described by

some residents as the great north west will also elect two trustees for Oxford County board of education and one for the separate school board with East Zorra-Tavistock.

Zorra Forever!

The Name Chosen Recently Came Originally From Spain

That's what the Kitchener-Waterloo Record had to say about the choice of name voted recently for one of Oxford County's new municipalities. The Record points out that as well as choosing the shortest name of the three possibilities, the voters opted to preserve a traditional link with the history of the area. The Zorra Caledonian Games, held annually at Embro for the past 37 years, have associated Zorra in the public mind with kilted bagpipers. The Scottish tradition is authentic; Embro is an archaic contraction of Edinburgh, and both West Zorra and East Nissouri were pioneered by Scottish immigrants, largely from Sutherlandshire.

Curiously, although Zorra is associated in Ontario history with immigration from Scotland you will search the map of Scotland in vain to find a place called Zorra. We have place names in this area brought from Scotland - Ayr, New Dundee, Amurlee, Innerkip - but Zorra does not belong among them.

Sir John Colborne was lieutenant-governor of Upper Canada, 1828-36, when names had to be found for scores of newly surveyed townships about to be opened for settlement. As a British army officer in the Napoleonic wars, Sir John had had years of service in Spain, and like any soldier on foreign

service had acquired some of the local language.

When he ran short of other ideas for township names, Sir John whimsically turned to Spanish for at least three. As a result we have Lobo (wolf) in Middlesex County) Mono (monkey) in Dufferin; and Zorra (vixen or female fox) in Oxford.

With the Canadian talent for cultural density we have taken a bit of Spanish and modified it to a word that will be preserved on the map as a reminder of Scottish origins, declares the Record in conclusion.