

**TOWNSHIP OF
EAST ZORRA-
TAVISTOCK**

Eazy Talk

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 1

FEBRUARY 2010

Tax Instalment

Just a friendly reminder that the 1st instalment of interim taxes is due on February 26th. If you do not have your tax bill that was mailed at the end of January, please contact the Township Office.

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Upcoming events and meetings can be viewed on the Township website at www.twp.ezt.on.ca

OPP Welcome

I would like to start out by introducing myself to the residents of East Zorra-Tavistock. My name is Jack Goodlett, and I am the Detachment Commander of the Oxford County OPP. I was born and raised within Oxford County, and have completed 35 years of service with the OPP.

The Oxford County OPP Detachment consists of 102 sworn officers, 1 cadet, 3 court officers, 8 clerical support and 36 auxiliary officers. On October 19 2009 the Oxford County OPP assumed the policing duties within EZT. The patrol officers for EZT start and end their shifts at the Firehall in Tavistock which is one of five "reporting locations" we have within Oxford County to better serve our communities. The officers will receive their assignments, briefings and go on patrol from this location, returning either to do reports or see a member of the public. A citizen who has attended this reporting location to report a crime or other matter will normally find that the doors will be locked as the officer is on patrol within EZT. The complainant simply has to pick up an external "OPP Emergency Phone" by the front door and they will automatically be connected to our communications centre for assistance. The nature of the complaint will be recorded and an officer assigned to investigate. The assigned officer may return to the office, meet the complainant at another location or call the complainant for more information in an effort to resolve the situation. A complainant can also call 1-888-310-1122 or in the case of an emergency, dial "911" from their homes, businesses or cell phones to obtain Oxford County OPP assistance.

The OPP believes strongly in "Community Policing" that is working together with the community we serve, identifying problems and coming up with solutions. One problem that has been identified in EZT is that some people are not immediately calling the police when they see suspicious activity, crime or traffic problems. As an example, one call we just received was from a person who saw people going into vehicles late at night within their neighbourhood but didn't report it until the next morning! Calling immediately gives the police the best chance of catching and identifying those that choose to break the law. This also tells the criminal that they are within a community that is proactive in looking for anti-social behaviour and that the residents will immediately report unlawful or suspicious activity to the police thus raising the chances of the criminal being caught.

Another major problem that has been identified is the leaving of property within plain view in unlocked vehicles. Criminals are simply walking through our neighbourhoods "shopping" for items to steal. Most of the time the criminal simply walks up your driveway, opens the vehicle door and takes what is readily available to them. The available properties include car keys, house keys, purses, wallets, money, electronics, luggage, golf clubs and tools. The best way to stop this type of theft is to eliminate the "opportunity". This means locking your vehicle and not leaving valuables in plain sight. Eliminate the "opportunity" - you eliminate the crime.



**Inspector Jack Goodlett
Detachment Commander
Oxford County OPP**

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Nominations for the 2010 Election

2010 is a Municipal Election year. Monday October 25th, 2010 is Voting Day. Nominations are now being accepted for Mayor, Deputy Mayor, two Councillors from Ward 1 (Tavistock), one Councillor from Ward 2 (north of the Braemar Sideroad) and two Councillors for Ward 3 (south of Braemar Sideroad).

If you are interested in serving on Council, you may contact the Township Office for a nomination form and additional details, such as meeting frequency, responsibilities and expectations for the position. The filing fee is \$100 for Councillor or Deputy Mayor, and \$200 for Mayor. The deadline for nominations is Friday September 10, 2010 at 2:00 p.m. You can stay updated by visiting our website.

Retirement Date - Chief Building Official

After 35 years of service with the Township of East Zorra-Tavistock, Chief Building Official and Drainage Superintendent Jim Harmer has announced his retirement as of April 30, 2010.

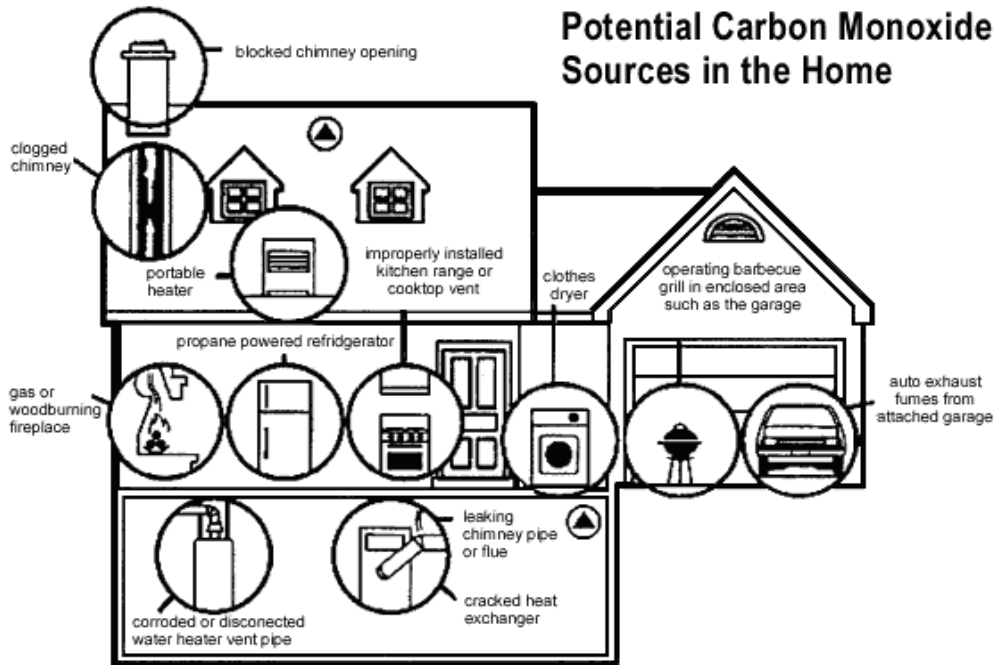
In addition to working for the Township, Jim has been involved with the community in many aspects. He has connected with the majority of EZT residents through his work and community involvement.

If you get a chance over the next couple of months, take a minute to give Jim a pat on the back for his many years of service and wish him well in his retirement. Watch the newspapers for further information regarding a Public Open House.

Check Your Vents

Once again, the Fire Department is strongly recommending that residents ensure that all outside vents are not blocked by snow or ice. All residents are encouraged to install a carbon monoxide detector in their homes and businesses. If your CO detector sounds do not assume it to be a

false alarm. Open all doors and windows to ventilate the home. If you cannot find the problem and the alarm continues, contact the fire department. If there is a strong smell of natural gas in your home, evacuate immediately, leaving the door open, and contact your local gas utility.



Waste Diversion Updates

Towards the end of March the County of Oxford will be mailing the new 2010/2011 Waste Diversion Calendar which will go to every household in EZT. If you do not receive your calendar, please contact the Township Office or the County of Oxford. Most of the programs continue to be the same however, there are a few changes that you will see in the calendar. Listed below are a few of the "Special Collection Events":

Scrap Metal Collection	April 24	Public Works Shed - Tavistock
Household Hazardous Waste	May 1	GM Parking Lot - Woodstock
White Goods Collection	May 29	GM Parking Lot - Woodstock
Electronics Collection	May 29	GM Parking Lot - Woodstock
Large Article Collection	Week of May 10 - May 14	

Changes at the Landfill for 2010/2011

Construction & Demolition Depot - Effective Feb 1

Electronic Waste Depot - Effective April 1

Household Hazardous Waste Depot - Extended hours

****See your Waste Diversion Calendar for details****

Also, bag tags increase to \$1.50 - Effective May 1

Message from the Mayor



Dr. Joe Schwartz in his book “An Apple A Day”, gives us an opportunity to understand the science of food and food additives. Many of us grew up with simple food choice decisions. We could eat the three meals a day placed before us by our mothers or we could go hungry. Today however, more people need to make more choices more often about the food they eat. How important are these choices? Dr. Schwartz writes, “What we call life is really the result of astonishingly complex molecular activity that goes on in every cell in our body every second of every day. And where do the molecules that engage in these intricate gymnastics come from? One way or another, they come from the food we eat.”

Our mothers and grandmothers may not have been trained scientists or nutritionists; however, their choices served us well. They served us mostly local whole foods. They encouraged us to exercise our bodies and our minds. They also taught us to appreciate the love of family and friends. We will do well to build a health care plan around these fundamentals. My mother also told me to practice what you preach, so I am going for a walk with an apple in hand to reflect on the many blessings of living in EZT.

Thank-you to the volunteers in Innerkip for hosting the first Santa Claus Parade. Also, thank-you to the ‘Spark The Spirit’ volunteers for making the Olympic Torch Run a great success in Tavistock. Great job!

Public Works Advisories

Load Restriction

Load Restrictions on Township roadways take effect March 1st and run until the end of April. In accordance with By-Law #2005-46, during this time, most vehicles are restricted to 5 tonnes for each axle. Fuel and feed trucks are limited to 7.5 tonnes per axle and milk trucks are exempt. The reason for the load restriction is to minimize the deterioration of the road during the spring thaw. Equipment exceeding the weight restriction causes extensive damage to the roads, resulting in very high maintenance costs and increased liability. Although farm equipment is not included in this by-law, we request local farmers to consider spring thaw conditions when scheduling movement of commodities, machinery etc. This will help us to preserve “your” Township roads.

Sidewalk Snow Removal

We have had a number of concerns raised since starting to plow sidewalks this year. Part of the problem in many areas, is that the sod has significantly overgrown the sidewalk. During the first year of plowing, it is unavoidable that sod will be turned up. As well, if plowing needs to take place before the ground is frozen solid, there will be more sod turned up. Township staff was expecting this to happen and will be repairing and cleaning up these areas in the spring as we do other areas damaged by our snow plows. While we understand that the overturned sod is unsightly, especially when sitting on top of white snow, the Township has implemented this program for the following reasons:

- An increase in the number of areas where sidewalks were not being cleared by residents
- An increase in the number of people having to walk out on the road where sidewalks were not cleared
- Complaints and concerns raised about the unusable state of sidewalks in the winter
- Safety concerns for children walking to school and many other people using the sidewalks for exercise or getting around town

Overall, it is believed the safety improvements the program provides outweigh the aesthetic issues that can be cleaned up and repaired in the spring.

OPP Welcome

With the increase in our patrol area, the Oxford County OPP has also been able to expand the size of our Auxiliary Unit. We are looking for dedicated civilians who would like to volunteer their time within our communities and work along side their OPP patrol officers. Being a volunteer with the OPP Auxiliary allows citizens the opportunity to experience first hand, the excitement and challenges as well as the sometimes uneventful routine in any tour of police duty. For more information on the OPP Auxiliary, I would invite those interested to visit the OPP web site at

www.opp.ca, select “Careers” and you will find more information.

On behalf of the officers and staff of the Oxford County OPP, we are looking forward to working with our partners, the citizens and the municipal government of EZT, to face the policing challenges that lay ahead of us in the future.

Inspector Jack Goodlet
Detachment Commander
Oxford County OPP

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Council

Mayor & County Councillor

Don McKay

519.532.2500

dmckay@twp.ezt.on.ca

Deputy Mayor

Maureen Ralph

519.462.2955

mralph@twp.ezt.on.ca

Councillor - Ward 1

Clive Lawry

519.655.3102

clawry@twp.ezt.on.ca

Councillor - Ward 1

Dave Oliphant

519.655.2295

doliphant@twp.ezt.on.ca

Councillor - Ward 2

Don MacDonald

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Councillor - Ward 3

Jeremy Smith

519.469.8287

jsmith@twp.ezt.on.ca

Councillor - Ward 3

Betty Yeoman

519.462.2364

byeoman@twp.ezt.on.ca

Council meetings are held on the 1st Wednesday of the month at 10:00 am and the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm. All meetings are open to the public.

Township Implements Vote by Mail

For the 2010 election, East Zorra-Tavistock electors will be voting from the convenience of their own homes. Voter turnout for the 2006 election was at an all time low of 35%. In order to encourage our residents to exercise their right to vote and cast their ballot, Council agreed to implement an alternate voting system. Voter's kits are conveniently delivered to residents' homes and busy voters will find the Vote by Mail system more convenient and less time consuming.

The Voters Kit, which will be mailed to your homes the week of September 27th, will include a sheet of voting instructions, a Declaration Form to be signed by the elector, a ballot with a secrecy envelope, and a return envelope into which the sealed secrecy envelope and signed Declaration Form are placed. Instructions are very easy to follow. You must have that return envelope in the mail no later than October 16th in order for it to be in our office by October 25th. However, for those people not comfortable with putting their completed ballot in the mail, we will be accepting them every day of the voting period (September 27-October 25) at the Township Office, so you are welcome to drop off your sealed ballot prior to the close of voting at 8:00 p.m. on October 25th. Please feel free to contact the Office for additional details about Voting by Mail. A video demonstration will be available on our website in a few months, or we will gladly do a presentation to demonstrate the proper method of handling your voters kit.

Remember to get your Dog Tag!

There is a new method for dog owners to obtain their 2010 dog tags. In past years, tags were sold by a dog licensing officer who went door-to-door selling tags. For many good reasons, Council has chosen to offer dog tags for sale through various locations in the Township. Tags are available for sale at a cost of \$20.00 per tag at the following locations:

- Hickson Township Office, 90 Loveys St. E.
- Innerkip Corner Farm Market, 206 Blandford St.
- Tavistock Yantzi's Feed & Seed, 65 Woodstock St. N.
Zehr's Home Hardware, 24 Woodstock St. S.

Tags were available for sale January 2, 2010 and must be purchased by March 31, 2010. The proceeds from the purchase of dog tags help fund the cost of animal collection services, and the use of tags assists Township staff in contacting the owners of lost dogs.

Office and Facility Contacts

Township Office

90 Loveys Street
Box 100
Hickson ON N0J 1L0
Phone: 519.462.2697
Fax: 519.462.2961
Email: ezt@twp.ezt.on.ca
Website: www.twp.ezt.on.ca
Office Hours: Mon - Fri
8:30 - 12:00 & 1:00 - 4:30

County of Oxford

Phone: 519.539.9800
Website: www.county.oxford.on.ca

Tavistock & District Recreation Centre

Phone: 519.655.2102
Fax: 519.655.3560

Tavistock & District Memorial Hall

Phone: 519.655.9992
For Bookings: 519.655.2102

Innerkip Community Centre

Phone: 519.469.3889
For Bookings: 519.469.3449