



TOWNSHIP OF
EAST ZORRA-
TAVISTOCK

Eazy Talk

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 2

MAY 2008

Property Taxes
Next instalment is due
May 30th.

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Tip from Environment Canada

Lightning
Safety -
Learn the
'30-30'
Rule



- Take appropriate shelter when you can count 30 seconds or less between lightning and thunder.
- Remain sheltered for 30 minutes after the last thunder.

www.weatheroffice.gc.ca

2008 Budget

The 2008 Budget has been approved by Council. This year's Township tax levy is up 4.96% compared to 2007. When the Township, County and Education Levys are combined, the Total Tax Rate increase is 2.44% over 2007. The following example illustrates the total property taxes on an average residential property. The Township's portion is further broken down based on the 2008 budget.

2008 Average Residential Property Tax Bill (\$151,809 RT Assessment)

County	\$805.93
Education	\$400.78
Township	<u>\$700.14</u>
Total	\$1,906.85

**2.44% Increase
Over 2007**



Breakdown of Township Portion

Public Works & Roads	\$244.72
Oxford Community Police Service	\$198.84
Fire Department	\$75.43
Administration	\$76.42
Parks & Recreation Facilities	\$23.53
Council	\$19.51
Tavistock Drainage	\$34.43
Building Department	\$12.29
Protective Services	\$9.52
Miscellaneous	\$5.45
Tavistock & District Recreation Centre	<u>\$0.00</u>

Total Township Portion \$700.14

For the residential property class, 42% of your tax dollars go to the County of Oxford, 37% are used by the Township and 21% are transferred to School Boards.

The Township's Total Budget for 2008 is \$7,864,710. Of this amount \$2,988,332 comes from General Revenues, User Fees & Reserves, \$1,925,701 from General and Specific Grants and \$2,950,677 from Taxation. Public Works is the largest expenditure comprising 43% of the total budget. This is followed by Police at 17% then Fire Department at 8%. Major capital projects this year include:

- William Street, 13th Line, Maplewood Reconstruction \$500,000
- 15th Line Base Improvements \$450,000
- Tavistock Drainage Projects \$285,000
- Reserve for Innerkip Streets \$400,000
- Tavistock Park Improvements \$199,000

More details on the Township's 2008 Budget are available at the Township Office or can viewed on the Township website.

The total tax levy from the Township is \$9,069,960. This levy comes from the following property classes:

- Residential 56%
- Commercial 15%
- Farmland 12%
- Pipeline 10%
- Industrial 5%
- Multi-residential 2%

Fireworks Safety

Backyard or neighbourhood fireworks displays can be extremely hazardous.

To minimize the risk of fire and burn injury, the fire departments recommend attending public fireworks displays hosted by responsible organizations in your area. If you choose to have family fireworks or an informal neighbourhood display, follow these safety tips:

- Appoint a responsible person to be in charge.
- Read and follow the label directions on fireworks' packaging.
- Always keep a water hose or pail of water close by when discharging fireworks.
- Discharge fireworks well away from combustible materials such as buildings, trees and dry grass.
- Keep onlookers a safe distance away, upwind from the area where fireworks are discharged.
- Light one firework at a time - never light a firework in your hand or re-light dud fireworks.
- Discharge fireworks only if wind conditions do not create a safety hazard.
- Keep sparklers away from children - as the sparkler wire remains hot for some minutes after burnout, it should be immediately soaked in water to avoid injury.
- If someone gets burnt, run cool water over the burn for 3-5 minutes.

Information provided by the Office of the Fire Marshal.

www.ofm.gov.on.ca

Is Your Home Safe?

With the shocking rash of fatal fires that have occurred in Ontario this winter, I am appealing to every resident of East Zorra-Tavistock to drop what they're doing and test every smoke alarm in their home. Right now! If you don't have a working smoke alarm on every storey and outside all sleeping areas, find your coat and shoes and out you go to buy some and install them as soon as you get home. If ever there was a time to take immediate action for the safety of your family, this is it!

Tragedies such as these are the reason the fire service takes smoke alarms so seriously and I cannot overstate their importance. The law requires one on every storey and outside all sleeping areas; however, this is just the minimum requirement. The more smoke alarms you have, the sooner you are alerted to fire and the greater your chances of surviving. For added protection, install smoke alarms inside every bedroom. You may also want to consider investing in inter-connected smoke alarms. This may seem a bit extreme, but believe me, if a

fire were to occur in your home in the middle of the night and you had no way to reach your children through the wall of smoke and fire, no number of smoke alarms would seem too many.

Another message I want to pass on to all residents is to take a few minutes to plan and practice a home fire escape plan with your family. When the smoke alarm sounds, everyone must know what to do.

It is so sad that it takes the occurrence of senseless deaths for people to take notice, but you're listening now. Please, don't think about it - just do it. Every storey. Outside sleeping areas. Practice your escape plan. It's such a small cost and effort for a huge investment in your family's safety.

Township Fire Chief,
Scott Alexander



“Shelter in Place”

This year we are promoting “**Shelter in Place**”, a preventative action designed to protect the public against chemical releases or warn of impending severe weather (tornado).

So, what is “**Shelter in Place**”? It is the command given to the public and it means to go inside the nearest shelter and close all windows and doors and tune into local radio stations for further instructions. In some instances you may be requested to shut off all ventilation and heating systems.

Earlier this year an air siren was installed in the Tavistock Fire Hall. As many of you are aware, we did have a siren in the old firehall and some will remember hearing it activated! We are introducing the Tavistock air siren as part of the Township's Public Education program for our Emergency Management Plan.

East Zorra-Tavistock is a smaller municipality and as such our communications resources are limited. As the past has proven, the air siren is one of the best tools for quick, effective communication for a small village. If the siren is activated, follow the “**Shelter in Place**” instructions and remain inside until further notice. In Hickson, Innerkip and other areas, you may hear warning broadcasted via police or fire vehicles.

Our community is a safe place to live, but a serious incident affecting health and safety can happen anywhere at anytime. It is our intent to educate our citizens so they can protect themselves in the event of a serious incident.



Message from the Mayor



Looking back on the long cold winter helps me appreciate the joys of spring and summer. I found time to read an interesting book, "Deep Economy - The Wealth of Communities and the Durable Future" by Bill McKibben.

While I am the first to say that East Zorra-Tavistock and Oxford County have a very strong economy and are a great place to live and call home, this book made me stop to consider if it is sustainable. McKibben suggests that new research has started to show that even when economic growth makes us wealthier, the greater wealth no longer makes us happy. He advocates a need for a basic economic shift. Given all that we now know about topics ranging from molecular structure to the psychology of human satisfaction, we need to move decisively to rebuild local economies. He warns that this new focus may yield less "stuff" but produce richer relationships. The economy may grow less quickly, if at all, but it will be a durable economy able to look after us in our old age and secure a future for our children. His key question in the book is whether our economy is building

quality communities. A quality community, it turns out, is the key to physical survival in our environmental predicament and also to human satisfaction.

I would like to challenge all of us to take charge of our local economy. Its' power is not in the hands of government or the multinational stores but it is in our hands every time we spend a dollar.

Doing business locally is good for our environment.

Doing business locally is great for our economy.

Doing business locally is personally satisfying and rewarding.

Happiness can be found by tuning into local reality! I am looking forward to seeing you this summer whether it be on the street, in the store or at the park. Have a great and safe summer with your family and friends.

Waste Management Highlights

Upcoming dates to mark on your calendar:

Saturday May 24th

White Goods Collection - 944 James St. Woodstock (9:00 am - 1:00 pm)

Monday June 2nd - Friday June 6th

Large Article Collection - Remember to have all articles for collection set out by 7:00 am on the Monday morning of the collection week. **Collection vehicles will go by only once.** If material is not out, the truck will NOT return. Please note that items placed out in a garbage can/container, cardboard box or trailer/bin WILL NOT be collected.

The new Waste Management Calendars will be delivered in the next couple of months. The calendar has a 'new look' this year - here is a sneak preview of what the calendar will look like. There will be no changes with pick-up days; however, a map and schedule will be included for your convenience. There will be a few small changes with the recycling program which are outlined very well in the calendar. As usual, all "Special Events" will be listed along with acceptable/unacceptable items. Please keep your Calendar in a convenient area in your home/garage that you can refer to it for any future questions you may have.

Yard Waste Depots

Our Township currently has the convenience of 3 Yard Waste Depots located in Hickson, Innerkip and Tavistock. There continues to be an issue with the misuse of these depots. When bringing your yard waste to the depots, we would like to remind residents that the loads must be clean and segregated. Some individuals are still leaving behind items that are not acceptable. Do not leave your plastic, metal, steel, tires, cement, stones, animal waste, etc. etc.

Many residents use these depots a great deal and consider them a great benefit. If these depots cannot be used correctly, the service will no longer be available. The next time you visit, please consider your environment and others in your community. **USE THEM WISELY!**

Waste and Recycling Calendar, July 2008–March 2009



It's in You To Do

Council

Mayor & County Councillor

Don McKay

519.532.2500

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Deputy Mayor

Maureen Ralph

519.462.2955

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Councillor - Ward 1

Clive Lawry

519.655.3102

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Councillor - Ward 1

Dave Oliphant

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Councillor - Ward 2

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Councillor - Ward 3

Jeremy Smith

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Councillor - Ward 3

Betty Yeoman

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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.

Site Plan Control

In the Province of Ontario, the Planning Act authorizes municipalities to employ Site Plan Control as a land use tool to ensure safety, attractiveness and compatibility with the surrounding land.

Certain developments in the Township of East Zorra-Tavistock are regulated by Site Plan Control. By-law #2008-13, designates the whole of the Township of East Zorra-Tavistock as a site plan control area.

Development in the following zones is subject to Site Plan Control:

- Agri-Business (AB)
- Residential Type 3 (R3)
- Village (V)
- Central Commercial (CC)
- Highway Commercial (HC)

- Restricted Industrial (MR)
- General Industrial (MG)
- Institutional (I)
- Recreational (REC)

Site Plan Control applies to development in special zones where the zone symbols are followed by a dash and a number.

In order to avoid delays with your development project, you should contact the Chief Building Official before starting to determine what approvals will be required.

Information on Site Plan Control and the Township's Site Plan Control Guidelines can be found on the Township website or by contacting the Township Office.

My how things have changed....



Photo provided by: Henry Fullick & Margaret King

Council Meeting Circa 1913

E. Parker
J. Leuszler
R. Webber
G. Murray
R. Pearson
J. Anderson
A. Harwood

**Do you know
where this
meeting took
place?**

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

Tavistock & District Recreation Centre

Phone: 519.655.2102
Fax: 519.655.3560

Innerkip Community Centre

Phone: 519.469.3449

County of Oxford

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