



TOWNSHIP OF  
EAST ZORRA-  
TAVISTOCK

# EaZy Talk

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 2

MAY 2012

## Tax Instalment

Just a friendly reminder that the 2nd instalment of interim taxes is due on May 31st. If you do not have your tax bill that was mailed at the end of January, please contact the Township Office.

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Stop....Stoop.... Scoop** 2
- No Smoking By-law** 2
- Firefighter Service Awards** 2
- 2012 Public Works Projects** 2
- Message from the Mayor** 3
- Bicycle Safety** 3
- Profiling our OPP Officers** 4
- Contact Information** 4

"Too many people think the grass is greener on the other side of the fence when they ought to water the grass they are standing on."

Amar Dave

## 2012 Township Budget

The 2012 Budget has been approved by Council. This year's Township tax levy is \$3,472,684. This is an increase of 3.81% over 2011. When combined with the County and Education levies, the increase for the average residential property owner works out to 1.91%. This amount can be highly variable depending on whether your assessment has changed from 2011.

The 2012 Budget maintains programs and services at a consistent level with prior years. Capital project expenditures are up significantly from 2011, but through the use of reserves, net expenditures remain stable and consistent with prior years.

The breakdown below gives an overview of where your tax dollars go and how the Township uses its share. More budget details can be found on the Township website.



Residential	\$2,396,641
Farmland	\$399,485
Commercial	\$321,470
Industrial	\$133,598
Pipeline	<u>\$221,489</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,472,684</b>

### 2012 Average Residential Property Tax Bill (\$229,021 RT Assessment)

County	\$1,058.17	
Education	\$506.14	
Township	<u>\$1,005.55</u>	>>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,569.86</b>	

1.91% Increase over the 2011 Average Residential Property

For the residential property class, 41% of your tax dollars go to the County of Oxford, 39% are used by the Township and 20% are transferred to the School Boards.

### Breakdown of Township Portion

Public Works & Roads	\$402.19
Police (OPP Contract)	\$232.20
Fire Department	\$134.39
Administration	\$119.35
Parks & Recreation Facilities	\$37.83
Council	\$25.75
Tavistock Drainage	\$19.22
Building Department	\$13.49
Protective Services (CEMC, By-law)	\$9.99
Miscellaneous	\$11.14
Tavistock & District Recreation Centre	<u>\$0.00</u>
<b>Total Township Portion</b>	<b>\$1,005.55</b>

Upcoming meetings and events can be viewed on the Township website at [www.ezt.ca](http://www.ezt.ca)

## STOP.....STOOP .....SCOOP

Dogs may be “Man’s Best Friend”; however, we also need to ensure they’re friends of our community and environment. When your dog defecates on a lawn or sidewalk, it creates a nuisance for everyone. Not only does it make an unsightly mess, it can also create an environmental and health concern.

If you are out walking your dog, please make sure it is leashed and always carry plastic bags to pick up after your animal. Dispose of the bags in an appropriate manner; do not leave them laying about or “beside” a disposal bin. Please be a responsible dog owner.

## “NO SMOKING” BY-LAW

Council has passed By-law #2012-15 to prohibit smoking at various Township Facilities. Effective immediately, there is No Smoking within 9 metres of entrances to Township Facilities. In 2013, the Smoking Ban will extend to Township Sports Fields, Playgrounds and other areas.

Education about the new By-law will be taking place over the Summer of 2012. It is hoped that people using the Township facilities respect the By-law and voluntarily comply; however, there are provisions for enforcement, if needed.

Staff will be placing signs at facility entrances to inform people of where the By-law applies. Promotion and education about the By-law will also take place over the summer. When approving the By-law, Council also endorsed Implementation/Enforcement Guidelines. Further information is available on our website.

# Firefighter Service Awards

The Township of East Zorra-Tavistock Fire Department recently honoured several of its members for years of commitment to the Fire Service. In a ceremony held at the Craigowan Golf and Country Club on March 29th, EZT Mayor Don McKay and Fire Protection Advisor for the Office of the Ontario Fire Marshal, Rick Finnemore, presented the Federal 20 Year Fire Services Exemplary Service Medal to several past and present members of the East Zorra-Tavistock Fire Department. A special presentation was made to retiring Hickson District Chief & Deputy Township Chief, Sherman Kropf, who retired after 42 years of service to the Township.

**Back Row** - Rick Finnemore, Tavistock Deputy Chief, Dan Brenneman (ret), Tavistock Firefighter, Darrell Brenneman, Innerkip Captain, Boyd Elliott (ret), Tavistock Captain Bill Schumm, East Zorra-Tavistock Chief Scott Alexander.

**Front Row** - Hickson Captain, Kevin Ward, Tavistock Firefighter Phil Bowman (ret), Tavistock Deputy Chief, Dale Smythe, Hickson District Chief, Sherman Kropf (ret), Innerkip Captain, Yvon Gigault. **Absent** - Tavistock Firefighter, Mike Kaufman (ret), Tavistock Captain Maury Sauder and Hickson Firefighter Rick Fishback.



## 2012 Public Works Projects

The following is a summary of Public Works Projects anticipated for 2012:

- ◆ Reconstruction and hard topping of Strathallan Road and the Cassel Sideroad from Hwy 59 to the 11th Line. Base work will be completed on the 18th Line South from Oxford Road 29 to the Braemar Sideroad. These projects will also include some culvert, ditch work, and a slight widening of the driving surface.
- ◆ Surface treatment of the 13th Line from Oxford Road 33 for 2 km South.
- ◆ Reconstruction of Decew and Maria Streets in Tavistock. Work will include new storm sewer, waterlines in areas, new sidewalks, a parking area on Maria Street and new driving surfaces.
- ◆ Reconstruction of Centennial Drive in conjunction with development in the area. Work will include curb, base asphalt and some sidewalk.
- ◆ Construction of storm water management ponds in the northwest area near Janelle Drive. These ponds will be constructed to hold back water entering the village from the west and then releasing it at a controlled rate.
- ◆ Replacement of sidewalks on the south side of Hope Street East from Fuhr to Minerva in conjunction with the County’s project.
- ◆ Construction of a new Public Works Shop in Tavistock.

## Message from the Mayor



What story would you tell if given the opportunity to say a few words about your community. As your Mayor I am given this opportunity quite often. I love to tell the story about East Zorra-Tavistock being part of Oxford County, 'The Dairy Capital of Canada'! Dairy products are a foundation for healthy, wholesome nutrition. While many will suggest taking out the butterfat, my grandma knew the best energy drink for young people is whole milk! For awesome flavour and texture grandma always used whole dairy products to serve her family as part of every hearty meal. The dairy farm families have a work ethic second to none. Every minor sports coach wants the hard working farm kids on their team. Every manufacturer is looking for young people with farm experience on their resume. It is more than just learning to work hard. It is the discipline of being on time every day, the stamina to finish every shift and the resourcefulness when things go wrong. Creativity and innovation are skills developed out of necessity. Anyone working with livestock and machinery 365 days a year will experience problems and break downs that require

decisions to be made quickly and economically. "Work hard to be lazy," was one of my dad's favourite lines. He wanted us to learn the importance of thinking before acting and that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. This is my story about our community and I am proud to call it my home and raise my family here.

Jonah Lehrer in his book "Imagine, How Creativity Works" states the most important mental ability we possess is the ability to imagine. So go ahead and try it. Imagine standing in front of the crowd and telling your story about your Community. Share it with someone or write it out and send it to me. Our community needs each one of us to become an ambassador and talk about the positive things we enjoy. Imagine living in a community where everyone has a good news story to tell. Imagine how great our community can become. Imagine; it is a mental ability that needs to be practiced before it is perfected.

Enjoy the many opportunities to gather together as family, friends and neighbours during the summer of 2012.

## Bicycle Safety

In its continued efforts to keep members of the community safe, the Oxford County OPP offers these reminders to cyclists of the following bicycle safety rules:

- ♦ **The #1 safety rule - wear a helmet!** Your helmet should be the correct size, properly adjusted and worn on its own (no hat underneath). The edge of the helmet should be two fingers above the eyebrows, straps should meet in a "V" just below the ears, one finger should fit between the chin and the chin strap and it should not shift more than an inch in any direction. Ensure the helmet meets safety standards. Check the inside of the helmet for stickers indicating it is CAN/CSA approved. If you have a fall or drop your helmet hard enough to crack the foam - it should be replaced.
- ♦ **Ride a bike that fits.** A bike that is too big cannot be controlled properly and can be dangerous. Both feet should be flat on the ground when straddling the bike and when sitting on the seat both feet should be able to touch the ground.
- ♦ **Make your bike legal.** Cyclists under 18 **must** wear a helmet; however, they are recommended for all riders. The total fine for not wearing a helmet is \$80. A white light on the front of your bike and a red reflector on the back should be present, as well as white reflective tape on the front forks and red reflective tape on the rearstays. Your bike should also have a bell or horn. Wearing bright coloured clothing will also make you more visible.
- ♦ **Check your bike before you ride.** The **ABC Quick Check** is an easy way to remember what parts of your bike should be checked. "**A**" is for Air - check your tires; "**B**" is for Brakes and Bars, "**C**" is for Chain and Crank - check the gears to make sure the chain is on and lubricated and that the pedals spin freely backwards, "**Quick**" is for Quick Release - if your bike has quick release wheels, grab and shake the wheels to make sure they are not loose and "**Check**" is for Final Check Over.
- ♦ **Learn the Rules of the Road.** A bicycle is your first vehicle and you must follow the same rules and laws that drivers do. A couple of pointers - always use hand signals to let drivers know what you are going to do next and always look over your shoulder before you make a turn being careful not to swerve. You also need to know the road signs and always ride your bicycle near the right-hand edge of the roadway. Do not allow anything to hang down and get caught in the bicycle wheels.
- ♦ **Watch for Dangers.** Always make sure a parent or guardian knows where you are going, be careful of pedestrians on sidewalks, and always be careful at driveways for vehicles pulling out onto the road. Get off your bike and walk it when crossing a road and always ride single file. Never ride against traffic and never carry another person on your bicycle. Be wary of potholes, sewer grates, cracks, loose gravel and broken glass. Be extra careful in wet conditions and at night.

*"A cyclist must obey the same traffic laws as motor vehicles. Ride your bike defensively. Be careful and alert." says Inspector Tim Clark, Oxford County OPP Detachment Commander.*

There are many resources available to assist families in teaching young cyclists bicycle safety. The information in this article was provided by the Oxford County OPP as well as the Ministry of Transportation through the "**Young Cyclist's Guide**". A printed version of this guide is available in our office or visit our website for many more useful tips.

# Council

Mayor & County Councillor

**Don McKay**

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Deputy Mayor

**Maureen Ralph**

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Councillor - Ward 1

**Linda Fulton**

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Councillor - Ward 1

**Clive Lawry**

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Councillor - Ward 2

**Don MacDonald**

519.462.2672

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Councillor - Ward 3

**Don Lazenby**

519.537.3758

dlazenby@ezt.ca

Councillor - Ward 3

**Jeremy Smith**

519.536.6363

jsmith@ezt.ca

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

## Profiling our OPP Officers

**Mike Hanna** grew up in the County of Oxford and started his policing career as a Civilian Dispatcher at the former Woodstock Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) in March 1987. He took the required steps and was eventually recruited as a Probationary Constable in February 1989. After attending the Ontario Provincial Police Academy in Brampton and graduating from the Ontario Police College in Aylmer, Mike was posted to the Oak Ridges Detachment which moved to Aurora in June 1989.

In August 1990, Mike transferred to the Tillsonburg OPP Detachment, where he remembers learning a great deal working in the southern Townships of Malahide and Bayham of Elgin County. He also did 2 terms working on the Freeway Management Team out of the Woodstock Detachment where his career path turned to traffic investigation. From here, he completed the Level 3 Technical Traffic Collision Investigator, Hazardous Goods and Commercial Vehicle Inspection courses. He used these skills along with a Scenes of Crime course to help investigate over 150 serious fatal motor vehicle collisions over a 10 year span.

Mike transferred to the Woodstock Detachment in 1994 where he remained until its closure in 2000 and was transferred to the new Oxford County OPP in Tillsonburg. Mike was also a Coach Officer where he was proud to help educate 3 Recruit Officers into the world of policing. He may be most recognized from his 8 years as Police Coordinator with Crime Stoppers of Oxford. He credits a great deal of experience gained in community policing to working with a great partner, Bob McDonald of the Woodstock Police Service and other Board of Directors with the Crime Stoppers program.

Mike has recently returned to the "road" and has been assigned to the area of East Zorra-Tavistock. He was the successful candidate for the new position of Community Officer for the Township. He has a great deal of experience to provide to this area and is looking forward to working with the people of this very friendly community.

*"To me, there is nothing like rural policing. In most cases, if police are called, it is a very serious and stressful situation for all involved. Officers working in small communities know the importance of compassion and concern. The way I see it, a person's involvement with police should be remembered as a very professional, positive learning experience, however simple or serious it is."*

While off-duty, Mike resides in the City of Woodstock and has two adult children that he is very proud of and enjoys spending time with.



## 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@ezt.ca  
Website: www.ezt.ca  
Office Hours: Mon - Fri  
8:30 - 12:00 & 1:00 - 4:30

### County of Oxford

Phone: 519.539.9800  
Website: www.oxfordcounty.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