



TOWNSHIP OF
EAST ZORRA-
TAVISTOCK

EaZy Talk

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

APRIL 2005

TAKE NOTE:

- Did you test your smoke detector on the 1st day of Daylights Savings? If not, do it now!



- 2nd Tax Instalment due May 31st
- Large Waste Item Collection June 6 - 10
- NEW! Summer Ice at Tavistock Arena starting July 23rd! Call 655-2102 for more information

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Survival Kit	2
Defibrillators	2
Summer Storms	2
Message from the Mayor	3
Yard Waste	3
Where is this?	3
Contacts	4
Calendar	4
FAQ	4

First Edition of EaZy Talk

Welcome to the first edition of the EaZy Talk Newsletter. This quarterly newsletter is being published by the Township of East Zorra-Tavistock and mailed to each household and business in the Township. It will also be made available at other public locations, like libraries.

Across Ontario, regular communication and public education is a mandatory requirement for the local Fire Department and Emergency Preparedness Programs. At East Zorra-Tavistock, we believe that regular communica-

...communication is the key to effective and efficient delivery of services and programs.

tion is the key to effective and efficient delivery of all of our services and programs.

Staff and Council are excited about this Newsletter. We hope you will find the information useful and relevant to your interaction with us. As with anything new, we would appreciate receiving your feedback. Is the newsletter easy to read? Does it contain valuable content? What would you like to see in it? If you have any comments, please let us know. Simply phone, email or drop by the office.

Emergency Preparedness Week

May 1 - 7, 2005

**Prepare Now!
Learn How!**

The Township of East Zorra-Tavistock, in partnership with Emergency Management Ontario, is pleased to announce that the week of **May 1 - 7, 2005** is **Emergency Preparedness Week**.

The theme this year is **Prepare Now! Learn How!** In keeping with this year's theme, Township officials will be visiting local schools to discuss how students can help their families by making sure they have an emergency survival kit in their home. Township personnel are also available for presentations to local organizations to discuss emergency preparation and survival kits. Please contact the Township office to arrange a date.

Every municipality, regardless of size or

location, is vulnerable to emergencies. In East Zorra-Tavistock, severe storms, tornadoes, sudden release of chemicals, and major transportation accidents are examples of possible emergencies we could face.

Your personal planning and well-prepared local emergency services make all the difference when it comes to handling these emergency situations.

For more information on preparing a survival kit for your household, please see page 2 of this newsletter. Further information is also available in the Township Personal Preparedness Guide available from the Township Office and on the Emergency Preparedness Week website: www.epweek.ca

Zoll AED Plus Defibrillator



When an emergency strikes...are you prepared?

Emergency Survival Kit

- flashlight
- battery operated radio
- spare batteries
- first-aid kit
- candles and matches/lighter
- extra fuel for generators
- extra car keys and cash
- copies of important documents and identification for each family member
- Non-perishable food and bottled water
- clothing and footwear (one change of clothes per person)
- blankets or sleeping bags (one blanket or sleeping bag per person)
- toilet paper and other personal hygiene supplies (soap, toothbrush, etc)
- medication
- pet food
- backpack/duffel bag (or something to carry the emergency survival kit, in case you have to evacuate)
- whistle (in case you need to attract someone's attention)
- playing cards, games, colouring books, crayons



Fundraising Purchases Defibrillators

The Township of East Zorra-Tavistock Fire Department recently acquired 3 Zoll AED Plus Defibrillator Units for the Hickson, Innerkip and Tavistock Fire Stations. These units represent an investment of approximately \$12,000. The funds required for this purchase were raised by the volunteer firefighters from across the Township. In addition to providing

defibrillation, these units provide assistance to the rescuer on CPR activity and other vital statistics. These units are endorsed by local hospitals and are compatible with equipment used by the Oxford County EMS. The Township is grateful for the initiative and fundraising undertaken by the local firefighters to improve the level of service to Township residents.

Severe Storms

Now that the snow and winter blizzards are behind us, we want to remind everyone that the spring and summer seasons can often produce severe storms, sometimes escalating to tornadoes. These can cause damage to property and threaten lives.

The tornado season in Ontario is from April 1st - September 30th, with the greatest likelihood of occurrence during May through August. Tornadoes are produced during intense thunderstorm activity, and are most likely to occur during the warmest part of the day, usually between 1 and 7 pm. During the storm season, there is an average of 1 tornado every 10 days somewhere in the province.

In Ontario, we experience an average of 25 tornadoes a year. This represents over 50% of all those reported in Canada. The majority occur in the southwestern part of the province, but tornadoes have been reported throughout Ontario. Fortunately, 90% of Ontario's tornadoes are considered "weak". Even so, a disastrous tornado is expected to occur somewhere in the province about every 4 years.

Tornado damage is produced by the combined effects of incredibly high wind speeds and very low pressures within the tornado "vortex" (spiral). Beyond the immediate damage produced by the high winds, considerable damage is caused by debris "missiles" hurled by the wind.

Residents are encouraged to listen for weather warnings from Environment Canada during unstable weather conditions.

Types of Warnings

Severe Thunderstorm Warning:

Issued as an alert that severe thunderstorms are imminent in the warning area. Storms can be in progress or are expected to occur within two hours.

Tornado Warning: Issued as an alert that a tornado is occurring and will strike within the warning area. Watch the weather closely. You may have to seek shelter immediately.

Hail: While hail may or may not precede a tornado, it often appears near tornado formation areas. Once large hail starts to fall, assume a tornado is nearby and seek a sturdy shelter immediately. Once sheltered, remain protected until well after the hail has stopped and the storm has passed.

Recommended Precautions

In homes: A basement offers the greatest safety. Seek shelter under sturdy furniture if possible. In homes without basements, take cover in the centre of the house on the lowest floor in a small room such as a closet or bathroom or under sturdy furniture away from outside doors and windows.

In Mobile homes: These structures are not safe in severe weather. During warnings, go to a pre-arranged substantial structure.

In Automobiles: Get out of the vehicle and into a basement, ditch or ravine - away from the vehicle.

Message From The Mayor



Let me add my welcome to this, our first newsletter. Our goal is to increase customer service through effective communication. We will provide you with information and we need your feedback to ensure communication goes both ways. Please feel free to e-mail or call the office or any of your councillors. You are also

always welcome to attend our regular council meetings. There is time before each meeting for you to share your concerns or ask questions, or just share a coffee. If you wish to address our entire council on a matter, please call the office so your issue can be added to the agenda.

Since being elected Mayor in November 2003, I have enjoyed the challenges that have come along with the office. The best part of the job is representing East Zorra-Tavistock, and being

proud of the strong community each one of you has had a part in building. Your hard work, innovation, and volunteerism make this a wonderful place to call home. The most difficult part of the job is representing you at County Council. Compare our \$5 million budget to the County's \$161 million budget and I think you can appreciate the challenge. Knowing and understanding the County services and all the Provincial regulations makes for a lot of meetings and tons of paper. Putting forward ideas that will be supported by a majority of County Councillors to improve service and reduce costs is an ongoing effort.

Thanks for the opportunity to serve you and please keep in touch,

Don McKay, Mayor

Yard & Garden Waste Program



From May - November, the Township will be providing three depots for leaves, yard & garden waste and brush. The depots will be located at:

- Public Works Yard, 158 Loveys St., Hickson
- Innerkip Park, 104 Blandford Street, Innerkip
- Public Works Yard, 18 Hendershot St., Tavistock

This program is not meant to replace your personal recycling efforts such as backyard composting and grasscycling, but to provide an additional option for those

requirements that cannot be handled on-site. As well, there will no longer be curbside brush collection. To provide further value, compost from previous years will be made available at these depots. To ensure the ongoing cost effectiveness and viability of this program, residents are encouraged to dump waste materials from the containers or bags in the designated area. Brush must not be over 4 inches in diameter or 4 feet in length.

Where Is This?

Do you know where this photo was taken? In each edition of EaZy Talk we'll publish a photo taken somewhere or at sometime in the Township. It's up to you to figure out where or when it was taken! In the following edition of EaZy Talk, we will provide the answer, along with a bit of related information. So you're probably wondering what you will win? Well, there won't be prizes, but you will get bragging rights with friends and family who didn't believe you! We are hoping people have some fun with this and learn something about the Township. Good Luck and check the next edition for the answer.

Want a better look? A larger, colour photo is available on the Township's website.



Photo Courtesy of Bob Jackson, Hickson

Contacts

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
Brenda Smythe
 519.655.2779
 bsmythe@twp.ezt.on.ca

Councillor - Ward 2
Don MacDonald
 519.462.2672
 dmacdonald@twp.ezt.on.ca

Councillor - Ward 3
Betty Yeoman
 519.462.2364
 byeoman@twp.ezt.on.ca

Council meetings are on the 1st Wednesday of the month at 10:00 a.m. and the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

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

Township Calendar

Date	Event
May 1 - 7	Emergency Preparedness Week
May 22	Hickson Fireworks - Hickson Public School (Rain date May 23)
May 23	Victoria Day - Township Office Closed
May 31	Taxes Due
June 4	World Crokinole Championship, Tavistock & District Recreation Centre
June 6 - 10	Large Item Collection Week
June 10 - 12	Great Canadian Outdoor Expo 2005
June 15	Seniors Picnic, Tavistock Memorial Hall
July 1	Canada Day - Township Office Closed
July 1 - 2	Southwestern Ontario Open Fiddle & Stepdance Championships, Tavistock & District Recreation Centre
July 1 - 3	Innerkip Lions Club - July 1st Celebration, Innerkip Park
July 15 - 17	Hickson Lions Daze, Hickson Park
July 22 - 24	Wine, Blues and All That Jazz - Birtch Farms Estate Winery
August 1	Civic Holiday - Township Office Closed
August 31	Taxes Due

Links to these and other events are available on the Township's website.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What options do I have to pay my taxes?

- A. Tax Payments can be made by:
- Cash, Cheque or Debit Payments at the Hickson Office
 - Cheques can be placed in the drop boxes at the former police office in Tavistock at 39 Woodstock Street or the Hickson Municipal Office
 - The Tavistock CIBC will accept Township Tax Payments
 - Online and Telephone Banking – the account number required is the ROLL NUMBER on your tax bill
 - Pre-authorized Payment Plans – either 4 payments on the due date or 10 monthly payments from January to October. Enrolment forms and additional information is available from the Township. You can still enroll for 2005.

Q. When do I need a Building Permit?

- A. A building permit is required for most building projects. Exceptions include cosmetic renovations under \$2,000, re-shingling, siding, decks under 2' in height and most structures under 100 sq. ft. Even if a building permit is not required, you must still comply with applicable zoning and setback provisions. You should contact the Township before starting any building project. Residents are also reminded that effective July 1, 2005 Building Plan Designers are required to be certified under the Ontario Building Code. For more information on certification, please see www.obc.mah.gov.on.ca

Q. Is there any road construction taking place in my area this year?

- A. The Township is planning to reconstruct the 16th Line between the Cassel Sideroad and the Perth-Oxford Road. Construction should start in June and be completed by September. During construction the road will be in a gravel condition. In addition to typical construction delays, there will be periodic daytime closures of the road.