



TOWNSHIP OF
EAST ZORRA-
TAVISTOCK

EaZy Talk

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3

NOVEMBER 2005

TAKE NOTE:

- Tax Instalments
February 28th
May 31st

HOLIDAY SAFETY

- Never leave candles unattended
- Do not put candles on or near a tree
- Be sure to select a fresh tree and ensure it is well watered
- Do not place your tree close to a heat source
- Don't overload your electrical system
- Maintain your holiday lights
- Do not leave holiday lights on unattended

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New Staff At Hickson Office

Over the course of 2005 you may have noticed some staff changes at the Hickson Municipal Office.



Stacey Wilker joined the Township in March. Stacey is responsible for customer service and many financial functions, including accounts payable, revenue management and payroll.

Tricia Johnson joined the Township in September. In addition to front-line customer service, Tricia looks after the Township's records, website, information systems and this newsletter.



We welcome both Stacey and Tricia to the office. While they already know many residents of the Township, please be sure to say "Hi" the next time you are in.

Christmas Holiday Information

The Hickson Municipal Office will close on Friday, December 23 at 4:30 p.m. and re-open Monday, January 2, 2006 at 8:30 a.m.

Christmas Tree Recycling Program



Real Christmas trees can be dropped off until January 20, 2006 at the Hickson Park, Innerkip Park, and Tavistock Park to be mulched. Please remove all decorations and plastic bags used to transport trees.

Waste Collection Schedule Changes

There will be no change to the waste collection schedule. Please have your garbage and/or recycling out to the curb by 7:00 a.m. on your regularly scheduled day.

*Remember— wrapping paper and gift boxes are recyclable!



Tavistock & District Recreation Centre Holiday Schedule

Closed

December 24 @ 4 p.m.
December 25-26 All Day
December 31 @ 4 p.m.
January 1, 2006 All Day

Free Holiday Skating Sponsored by Tim Hortons

| | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Wed. Dec. 28th | 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. |
| Fri. Dec. 30th | 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. |
| Mon. Jan 2nd | 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. |
| Fri. Jan 6th | 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. |

Book the Upper Hall in conjunction with one of our regular or free public skating dates and include skating with your Christmas or family gathering!



Fire Safety-A Powerful Lesson



November 8th marked a sad anniversary for the residents of West Lincoln Township. This date represents one of the most devastating fires in Ontario in recent history. On this day in 2004, the Woerlen family, with the exception of the father, died in a tragic house fire that took the lives of a pregnant mother and her seven children.

The Township of East Zorra-Tavistock Fire Department urges everyone to make sure that there are working smoke alarms in your home. There should be at least one

smoke alarm on each level and batteries should be changed twice a year.

If your smoke alarm is over 10 years old please replace it with a new one. House fires account for 73% of the total number of fire deaths, with the young and the elderly being the most vulnerable. Review your fire safety plan with everyone in the home. Remember, in most fires you only have 30 seconds to get out safely!

Let's learn from this tragedy and let it serve as a reminder of the power of fire and its devastating effects.

~with files from the Stratford Beacon Herald

Highlights of Road Fines:

- Parking in a Fire Route...\$300
- Parking over the time limit.....\$50
- Littering.....\$50
- Stopping in a "No Stopping" Area.....\$50
- Illegally parked or stopped in a designated disabled person parking area.....\$300
- Parked illegally in a Snow Route.....\$50
- Parking where prohibited by a sign.....\$50
- Driving across a road ditch.....\$50
- Pushing snow or ice on or across a highway.....\$50
- Unauthorized removal, cutting or injury of a tree on a highway.....\$50

The complete by-law and fine schedule is available on the Township website or from the Township Office.

Winter Reminders

Shoveling Your Sidewalk

Keeping your sidewalk clear of snow and ice is greatly appreciated by the Township. Many people rely on the sidewalks to get to work or school. While it is not mandatory that all sidewalks be cleared, the following areas in Tavistock are regulated and must be cleared by 10:00 a.m. and maintained until 6:00 p.m.

Sidewalks along: Woodstock Street, Maria Street & Hope Street



Pushing Snow Onto Roads

We ask all residents to remember that pushing snow and ice out onto roadways can create many hazards. Frozen snow piles can cause extensive damage to snow removal equipment and injury to the operators. It greatly increases the chance of traffic accidents and causes drifting in the area. Snow piles can also create drainage obstructions in the spring which may lead to flooding. Thank-you for your co-operation. This will help us provide safe and reliable service!

Winter Parking

Just a friendly reminder that from November 1, 2005 through April 15, 2006, there is no overnight parking permitted in Tavistock or Innerkip. Between the hours of 1:30 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. it is important that our roadways remain clear to allow for safe and effective winter control activities.

Snowplow vs. Mailbox

All mailboxes must be mounted on a steel or wooden post at a height of 107 cm (42") from the road. A wooden post should be a maximum of 150mm diameter and a steel post 75mm diameter. It should be installed so that the opening of the mailbox is at the outside edge of the shoulder of the road.

The Township will not be responsible for damage to any mailbox:

- Installed improperly
- If struck by snow or ice during snow removal operations
- Buried in a snow bank

Snowbank Safety

Please don't allow children to play in snow banks along the road. Equipment operators may not be able to see them. Also, if they are playing in a snow fort, they may get buried or the entrance closed in if the snowbanks collapse.



Message From The Mayor



December 2005 marks the 30th anniversary of the Township of East Zorra-Tavistock. Oxford County was one of the first areas of the province to restructure from 18 municipalities (can you name them all?) to eight, incorporating Woodstock as part of the County for the first time. While there were

many growing pains I am confident looking back it was the right decision. That first council in 1975 included Harold Vogt as Mayor, George Wilhelm as Councillor-at-Large, Leonard Seegmiller, Donald Hartley, Ronald Hill, Martin Verkuyll, Kenneth Lichti, Robert Brodrecht, and C. J. "Hap" Steinman.

Listed below are the other councillors that have served our municipality over the years. They are listed in the order that they were first elected to Council:

Donald H. McKay, Lloyd Kinnaird, Wilfred Rosenberg, T. J. Wesley Kitching, Mervin Zehr, Glen Kitching, Doris Gladding, Nell Hostetler, James Klein, Stephen Cahill, Penny Jensen, D. E. "Ted" Killing, Bruce Burrill, David Oliphant, Betty Yeoman, Robert Rudy, Carl Nicklas, Donald E. McKay, Maureen Ralph, Les Hanenburg, Terry McArdle, Brenda Smythe and Donald MacDonald. To each of them we all say thank you! Thank you for helping shape our community into what it is today. We are proud to call East Zorra-Tavistock our home!

Winter Driving Tips



- Always pull to the right for Emergency vehicles when you hear the siren or see their lights flashing.
- Carry a Survival Kit in your car which includes booster cables, emergency flares, vehicle fluids, first aid equipment, blankets, water etc.
- Prepare for winter by getting a complete  checkup on your car in the fall.
- Make sure the wipers are in good condition and fill up on winter washer fluid.
- You may want to buy a reflective "CALL POLICE" sign for the highway which allows you to ask for assistance without leaving your vehicle. If you happen to see one of these signs call 911 and report the location.

- Keep your gas tank at least half full at all times.
- Call the MTO at 1-800-265-5407 to check weather and travel conditions before heading out.  SLOW DOWN and give yourself extra time for travel and if the weather is bad wait for it to improve.
- **Do Not** call 911 for weather and travel conditions.
- Have a cellular phone with you in case of emergencies.
- Try to keep to the main roads and adjust your speed to road and weather conditions.
- Avoid passing another vehicle when weather conditions are bad.
- Do not pass equipment involved in snow removal operations. 

Where Is This?

In this edition of EaZy Talk, the photo shows a location that most people from the Township have been by many times. In fact, some people have likely been by this location so many times, they no longer notice the structure and may have to look closely to see where it is. Good Luck!

The photo in the last edition of EaZy Talk was taken looking north along the 14th line at Lot 22. The beautiful, sunny day enhanced the well kept roadside along the 14th line. The Township greatly appreciates the effort put forward by residents in maintaining the roadsides in such a beautiful condition.



A larger, colour photo is available on the Township's website.

Answer to challenge in Mayor's Message

Township of East Zorra, Village of Tavistock, Township of Blandford, Township of Blenheim, Township of North Oxford, Township of West Oxford, Township of East Oxford, Township of East Zorra, Village of Embro, Village of West Zorra, Township of North Norwich, Township of South Norwich, Village of Norwich, Township of Dereham, Village of Beachville, Town of Tillsonburg, Town of Ingersoll, City of Woodstock

Contacts

Mayor & County Councillor

Don McKay

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Deputy Mayor

Maureen Ralph

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Councillor - Ward 1

Brenda Smythe

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Councillor - Ward 2

Don MacDonald

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Councillor - Ward 3

Betty Yeoman

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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 |
|----------------|--|
| November 26 | Tavistock Santa Claus Parade |
| Dec 24 - Jan 1 | Municipal Office Closed for Christmas Holiday |
| December 25 | Christmas Day |
| December 26 | Boxing Day |
| January 1 | New Years Day |
| January 2 | Nomination forms available for November election |
| January 20 | Last day for Christmas tree depot |
| February 14 | Valentines Day |
| February 20 | Family Day |
| February 28 | 1st Tax Instalment Due |
| March 17 | St. Patrick's Day |
| April 2 | Daylight Savings Time begins |
| April 14 | Good Friday-Municipal Office closed |

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What should I do when the streetlight in front of my house is not working?

A. Call the Township at 462-2697 to report the problem. Each streetlight has a number which is on the pole. If you could provide that number and the street when you call that's all we need. The Township will contact the company that repairs streetlights. To keep costs down, the Township relies on residents reporting non-emergency issues such as streetlight problems to us, rather than actively patrolling at night.

Q. Where do I find the Tavistock Flood Prevention Working Group website?

A. The Township has set up a web page with information relating to the July 16th, 2005 storm in Tavistock and the progress of the Working Group established by Council. The site can be accessed at: <http://www.twp.ezt.on.ca/tpwg/default.asp> As information is made available it will be posted to this webpage. Activity of the Working Group will also be documented.

Q. When is the next Municipal election and what steps do I take to become a candidate?

A. The next municipal election will be held November 13, 2006. To become a candidate simply come to the Township Office at 90 Loveys Street in Hickson and pick up a nomination form. Nomination forms are available as of January 2, 2006.

Q. What do I do if I don't agree with my new property assessment?

A. If you believe your assessed value is not accurate MPAC (Municipal Property Assessment Corporation) will review it for you. There is no fee for this review, and you can request it any time before December 5, 2005. There are 3 ways to request a review: complete a request for reconsideration form available online at www.mpac.ca; or call toll free at 1-866-296-MPAC (6722); or write a letter requesting a review of your assessment including the 19-digit roll number on your notice, your full name, address and phone number, and the reasons why you feel your assessment is incorrect.