



TOWNSHIP OF
EAST ZORRA-
TAVISTOCK

EaZy Talk

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IS YOUR FAMILY
PREPARED?
getprepared.ca

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Smoke Alarm Safety 2
- Winter Safety 2
- Christmas Holiday Information 3
- Be Prepared For Winter Storms 3
- Holiday Season Fire Safety 4
- Property Tax Information 4
- Message from the Mayor 5
- Tavistock Flood Prevention Update Con't. 5
- Library News 5
- Winter Parking and Snow Removal 6
- Council, Office and Facility Contacts 6

Municipal Election News

The 2006 Municipal Election has wrapped up and Councillors will be taking office in December. The Council for the 2006-2010 Term has the five incumbent Councillors returning, plus two new Councillors. Council size was increased for this term from 5 members to 7 members.

Mayor Don McKay, Deputy Mayor Maureen Ralph and Ward 2 Councillor Don MacDonald were acclaimed. Ward 1 (Tavistock) will be represented by new-comer Clive Lawry and veteran Dave Oliphant. Ward 3 (south of the Braemar Sideroad) had similar results with the two seats being filled by newcomer Jeremy Smith and veteran Betty Yeoman.

Contact information for your Councillors, as always, is on the back page of EaZy Talk.

Even without a race for all positions, the election this year was filled with much more

drama and suspense than normal. Both ward elections had very close races that resulted in recounts.

The recount for Ward 3 confirmed Betty Yeoman's election over Les Hanenburg. The Ward 1 recount reduced the one vote lead Dave Oliphant held to a tie vote with Linda Fulton. According to the Municipal Election Act a tie on a recount is determined by lot. In accordance with the Act and in the presence of the candidates, scrutineers and recount election workers, the Clerk placed both names in a hat and drew Dave Oliphant's name.

Following an uncertain and hectic post election period, Council will be getting down to business in December. High on the priority list will be continued work on Tavistock Drainage, the 2007 Budget, development opportunities and many more pressing concerns.

Tavistock Flood Prevention Update

Work on investigating and improving drainage in Tavistock continues to be a high priority for the Township.

Work has started on a "Swale & Berm" Drainage System behind the houses on the west side of Janelle Drive. This system is meant to control the overland flow of water coming from the west directing it to the street and existing drainage systems.

RJ Burnside has developed preliminary plans for the Westwood Avenue area and will be meeting with affected land owners.

On October 17th, Dietrich Engineering presented preliminary plans for the Tavistock Municipal Drain 2006 at a Public Meeting at the Tavistock Memorial Hall. Based on feedback from that meeting and from affected property

owners, the plans have been "fine-tuned" and a final report is being prepared. This report will be considered by Council at a Special Council Meeting to be held **Wednesday, January 10, 2007 at the Tavistock Memorial Hall at 7 pm.** All property owners in the drainage area will be receiving a Drainage Report shortly and are encouraged to attend the Special Council Meeting.

The first phase of the Master Drainage Plan is nearing completion and RJ Burnside will be presenting that report to Council shortly. Once the Phase I Report is submitted, Council will be in a much better position to determine what the next steps need to be.

Cont'd on Page 5

New Township Fire Chief

Council and staff members welcome Scott Alexander as the new Township Fire Chief.



With many years of experience as a Volunteer Firefighter with the Hickson Department, we know Scott will do an excellent job in serving our Township. Any inquiries may be made at the Township Office at 519.462.2697 or email salexander@twp.ezt.on.ca

Great Christmas Gift Ideas!



Looking for a novel, yet practical gift to give this holiday season? Your fire department suggests smoke alarms, carbon monoxide detectors, portable fire extinguishers or second floor escape ladders. What better way to show you care than to give a gift to save a life. Other ideas for those difficult to buy for people include vehicle safety kits, first aid kit, home emergency kit, wind-up flashlight /radio or "Call for Help" car flag.

Is Your Heating System Healthy?

Protect your family against fire and deadly carbon monoxide. Have your heating system examined annually by a qualified service technician. Your furnace, fireplace or woodstove need yearly check-ups to ensure they operate safely and efficiently. Heating appliances should be cleaned and inspected annually to prevent fires and deadly carbon monoxide gas in your home.



Don't be a Statistic This Holiday

Every year in Ontario, people die in fires that could have been prevented. These fires occur in homes and communities just like ours. Tragically, in many of these fatal fires, there is no smoke alarm warning to alert the occupants and give them the precious seconds they need to safely escape.

As Fire Chief of the Township of East Zorra-Tavistock, I am very disturbed by these facts because I know that most home fires can be prevented by taking care when cooking, smoking, using candles or heating your home. I also know most of those lives could have been saved if the homeowners had installed smoke alarms in their homes and kept them in good working order. The Township of East Zorra-Tavistock will do everything within our power to prevent a fire tragedy from happening.

I would encourage all residents of our community to make sure they have working smoke alarms on every storey of their homes **including basements** and outside

all sleeping areas. **This is the law in Ontario and the fire department will be enforcing it.**

For homeowners, tenants and individual landlords, non-compliance with the Fire Code smoke alarm requirements will result in a ticket for \$235 or a fine up to \$50,000. Compare this with the cost of a smoke alarm, which can cost as little as \$10.

When someone dies in a fire, it is a tremendous loss to the family, the fire department and the entire community. I never want to read in the pages of the newspaper about one of our residents dying in a fire. Protect yourself and your family by installing the required number of smoke alarms, testing them every month and replacing the batteries twice a year.

Anyone that may have questions about smoke alarms or other fire safety issues are welcome to contact Fire Chief, Scott Alexander at 519.462.2697.

Winter Safety

With the winter season upon us, here are some basic safety tips that will help ensure you and your family have a fun and safe winter.

Use Caution Near Ice: Although it is tempting to skate on a frozen pond, it's important that the ice is thick enough. Never assume that the pond/lake will freeze uniformly. Avoid dark ice or honeycombed ice (ice that has air bubbles or snow crystals trapped in it), which is weaker and may break even under a child's weight. Ice on moving water, such as rivers and streams, is never safe. If someone falls through the ice, it's important to act quickly. Call "911". Don't go out on the ice after them. Stay anchored on dry land and try to reach the person with a branch, rope or other sturdy item. Throw something that will float to them. Tell the person in the water to spread their arms and hands out on the unbroken ice and kick their feet to help them keep their head above water and conserve energy.

Sled Safely: Sledding is a great way to have fun in the snow, but being safe is essential. Choose a hill away from trees, rocks and obstacles. Make sure there is no street traffic

or frozen water anywhere near the bottom of the sledding hill; a sled may not always come to a stop exactly where you want. You should never ride on a sled that is being pulled by a car or snowmobile and remember to always sled while sitting up with feet forward. Lying down increases the chance of head injuries. It is also advisable to have your child wear a helmet while sledding.

Keep Clear of Snowblowers: Teach children that only adults should use snowblowers. Children can be injured or killed by being caught in snowblowing machines. Never try to clear snow or debris from the machine while it is still running. Always stop the engine first. Never leave the machine running in an enclosed area. Carbon monoxide poisoning from leaving the engine running in an area such as a garage can cause death.

Snowbank Safety: Despite the fun of building snowforts in large snowbanks, remind children of the danger associated with snowplows, as well as the danger of their structures collapsing.

Christmas Holiday Information

The Hickson Municipal office will close on Friday December 22 at 4:30 pm and reopen Tuesday January 2, 2007 at 8:30 am. This closure includes General Administration, Building Department, Roads Administration and Fire Administration. Emergency Services and Road Maintenance operations are not affected by this closure.

Real Christmas trees can be dropped off until January 28, 2007 at the Hickson Park, Innerkip Park, and Tavistock Park to be mulched. Please remove all decorations and plastic bags used to transport trees.

Tavistock residents should note the following change in the garbage and recycling schedule. Recycling will be picked up on Tuesday December 26 (Boxing Day); however, garbage collection will be on Wednesday December 27. All other areas will be on their regular schedule. Please have your garbage and/or recycling out to the curb by 7:00 am. Please remember that wrapping paper and gift boxes are recyclable!

Tavistock & District Recreation Centre will be closed as follows:

December 24 @ 4 pm
 December 25-26 All day
 December 31 @ 4 pm
 January 1, 2007 All day

Free Holiday Public Skate

December 27	1:00 pm-3:00 pm	(Tim Hortons)
December 29	1:00 pm-3:00 pm	(Tim Hortons)
January 2	12:30 pm-2:30 pm	(Tim Hortons)
January 3	1:30 pm-3:00 pm	(Zehr Automotive)
January 5	1:00 pm-3:00 pm	(Tim Hortons)



Be Prepared for Winter Storms

Old Man Winter is nearly here! Here are just a few reminders of some of the weather conditions that could be headed our way over the next several months:

SNOW SQUALLS are formed when cold air picks up moisture off the open water and becomes unstable. Snow squalls or lake effect snow squalls may make it look like it is snowing out of a blue sky. As the air moves inland, snow squalls can dump heavy snow over a small area in a few hours. As the winds shift, snowfall moves over other areas. Lake effect snow bands can be very persistent and last as long as 48 hours. The combination of heavy snow and gusty winds can cause localized blizzard-like conditions. A frontal snow squall can occur with the passage of a cold front. It is marked by a sudden onset of strong winds with heavy snow that reduce visibilities to near zero in blowing snow. **Snow Squall Warnings** will be issued to the lee of the Great Lakes when 15 cm or more of snow is expected to fall within 12 hours, or the visibility is likely to be near zero for at least four hours because of falling and blowing snow.

A heavy snowfall can paralyze a community and leave residents stranded. It can collapse power lines and knock down trees. A **Winter Storm Warning** will alert you that combination of hazardous winter conditions are occurring or expected to develop shortly. A **Snowfall Warning** is issued when hazardous amounts are expected to fall over a 12 or 24 hour period and in some regions a **Winter**



Storm Watch may give advance notification to a warning.

BLIZZARDS come in on a wave of cold arctic air, bringing snow, bitter cold, high winds and poor visibility in blowing snow. While these conditions must last for at least six hours to be designated a blizzard, they may last for several days.

FREEZING RAIN occurs when the air in an upper air layer has above-freezing temperature, while the temperatures at the surface are below freezing. The snow that falls melts in the warmer layer and as a result, it is rain not snow that lands on the surface. Since the temperature is below 0°C, raindrops freeze in contact and turn into a smooth layer of ice spreading on the ground or any other object like trees or power lines. More slippery than snow, freezing rain is tough and clings to everything it touches. A little of it is dangerous, a lot can be catastrophic (remember the 1998 ice storm in eastern Ontario and Quebec?)

When freezing rain, heavy snow, snow squalls or a blizzard is forecast, leave your radio on to stay informed of the situation and hear updated forecasts. Also, make sure your 72 Hour Emergency Kit is well stocked.

Holiday Season Fire Safety

According to statistics from the Ontario Fire Marshall's Office, the number of fires and fire deaths typically rises sharply during the holiday season. The social events of the season with family and friends can mean an increase in cooking activity, which is the leading cause of home fires. Increased alcohol consumption is also a contributing factor in many of Ontario's fire deaths. Add candles, holiday decorations and heating equipment to the mix and the potential for disaster is great.

Since 1980, the fire death rate in Ontario has dropped by more than 60%; however, the holiday season remains a perilous time of year. You can protect your home and family from fire with these simple, common sense safety tips from the Ontario Fire Marshall's Office.

Cooking: Look while you cook; unattended cooking is the leading cause of kitchen fires. Wear tight-fitting or rolled-up sleeves when cooking and keep all combustible materials a safe distance from the stove.

Alcohol: Cooking or smoking while under the influence of alcohol can be deadly. Keep a close eye on any drinkers in your household and make sure all cigarettes are properly extinguished and the stove is off before going to bed.

Candles: Keep candles in a sturdy holder away from children, pets and combustible materials. Snuff them out before leaving the room.

Christmas trees: Buy a fresh tree and keep the base

of the trunk in water at all times. Discard any broken or frayed sets of light. Lit candles should **never** be placed on or near the Christmas tree. When the tree starts to dry out, it's time to throw it away.

Space heaters: Keep portable heaters at least one metre away from anything that can burn including you. Don't use your heaters to dry shoes or clothes.

Heating appliances: Remember to have your furnace inspected each year by a licensed technician. Your chimney should also be cleaned and inspected annually to prevent problems that may cause a build-up of carbon monoxide. A carbon monoxide alarm will alert you to the presence of this deadly gas.

Smoke alarms: It is the law in Ontario to have working smoke alarms. The fire service recommends you install one on every level of your home and outside all sleeping areas. Test your alarms regularly and change the batteries at least twice a year (daylight savings time is a great time to remind yourself to do this).

Home Escape Plan: If a fire does occur in your home, everyone must get out as quickly as possible. Develop a fire escape plan and practice it with your entire family.



Property Tax Information

Pre-authorized Payment Plan for Property Taxes

Sign up now for automatic withdrawal. Two plans are available - 10 payment plan, or have the actual tax instalments withdrawn on the due date. Call the office for more information or application forms (also available on our website www.twp.ezt.on.ca). Applications must be submitted as soon as possible to ensure enrolment for January 2007.

Vacancy Rebate Program for Commercial & Industrial Property Owners

If your commercial or industrial property was vacant for a period of 90 days or more during 2006, you are eligible for a vacancy rebate. Application and qualification criteria can be obtained from the Township Office or can be found on our website at www.twp.ezt.on.ca. Deadline for filing for 2006 is February 28, 2007.

On-line Property Tax Payments

Online or telephone banking is available for making tax payments, including monthly, arrears or regular instalments. All banks accept the Township of East Zorra-Tavistock as a client. The account number required is the roll number shown on your tax bill. Please contact your bank for further instructions.

Cash, Cheque, Debit, Pre-authorized, On-line, Telephone, Money Order

The Township accepts payments in a wide variety of forms and is constantly reviewing new options as they become available. At the Township Office payments are accepted by Cash, Debit, Cheque or Money Order. Tax payments can be made at the Township Office and by Pre-authorized Payment, On-line and Telephone Banking and at the CIBC Tavistock Branch. Payments for Facility Rentals are made directly to the Facility Managers and must be made by Cash or Cheque. We currently do not accept Credit Cards, PayPal or Email Fund Transfers.

Message From The Mayor



I would like to take this opportunity to say it has been a great honor to serve as your Mayor for the past three years. It has been a challenge to balance increased service demands and the tax burden on properties. It has been a pleasure to make so many new friends and be provided with advice on practical and affordable local solutions to some problems. It has been a privilege to represent East Zorra-Tavistock. I speak with pride about our community and its tremendous work ethic, its strong sports tradition of hockey and softball, its incredibly dedicated group of volunteers, its committed faith community and its dedication to keeping our environment clean and sustainable.

Looking ahead to the next four year term I will continue to need your support and encouragement to face the known

and unknown challenges. I know we are committed to finishing the master drainage plan for Tavistock and doing the required drainage improvements. How to finance it, who pays for what and for how long are just a few of the outstanding questions for us to work through. I know we will see opportunities for residential growth in Innerkip as the Toyota impact ripples though the County. How will we provide the waste water services, when will they be built, and how big will we build them are serious questions we will have to deal with. I also know there is potential for economic development in Tavistock. The two big issues related to this are having permit ready land and a ready labor force. Wouldn't it be great to land two hundred new jobs? What a great future for our young people or young families wanting to move back!

“As for the unknown challenges, Let's face them together... tomorrow”

Tavistock Flood Prevention Update continued from Page 1

Uptake on the “Weather Tracking” Program has been disappointing. To date there are only a handful of volunteers recording rainfall information in Tavistock and surrounding area. While rainfall data does not change the past events, it is valuable information to evaluate whether the drainage system improvements are making a difference. It will also be

valuable information to help determine future design standards.

More information on Tavistock Flood Prevention and the Working Group is available on the Township website at: www.twp.ezt.on.ca/tfpwg

Library News



Innerkip Library

The Public Library is located in the Innerkip Community Centre.

Hours: Tuesday 5:00 pm-8:00 pm
 Wednesday 2:00 pm-5:00 pm
 Thursday 5:00 pm-8:00 pm
 Saturday 10:00 am-1:00 pm

Children's story hour, a program of stories, songs, finger plays and crafts, runs Wednesday mornings from 10:30 am-11:30 am. Any questions, please contact Louise Ross at 519.469.3824.

Tavistock Library

The Tavistock Public Library is located at 31 Maria St. in Tavistock.

Hours: Tuesday 10:00 am-8:00 pm
 Wednesday 10:00 am-5:00 pm
 Thursday 10:00 am-8:00 pm
 Friday 10:00 am-2:00 pm
 Saturday 10:00 am-2:00 pm

Currently, the library is in between programs. Any questions, please contact Deb Schurink at 519.655.3013 or email dschurink@ocl.net.

Hickson Library

Committee members hope to increase library usage by incorporating more programs for children and adults of all ages. Gwen King (activity co-ordinator) is keen about organizing such activities as story time for tots, seasonal crafts, book chats over coffee and 'learn how to and about' sessions. The library committee is looking for interested, reliable people to add to our volunteer list. Secondary school students could use library volunteer time as community service hours.

Volunteers assist patrons with computer usage, direct patrons to material within the library and return borrowed material to the appropriate location. Please call Heather McKim at 519.462.2048 if you wish to be added to the volunteer list.

Hours: Wednesday 3:30 pm-8:30 pm
 Saturday 1:30 pm-4:30 pm

Thanks for caring about our Community Library.



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
 519.462.2672
 dmacdonald@twp.ezt.on.ca

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.

Winter Parking & Snow Removal

There is **No Parking** on any roadway in Innerkip and Tavistock from **November 15th through April 15th from 1:30 am to 6:00 am**. If required, this time is used for snow removal operations in these areas. Fines for illegal parking are \$50.

There are several areas in Tavistock where residents and businesses must clear snow and ice from the sidewalk. By-law #16-91 states in part that sidewalks on Hope St., Maria St. and Woodstock Street shall be cleared of snow and ice prior to 10:00 am every day except Sundays and Statutory Holidays, and as often as necessary to keep the sidewalks cleared of snow and ice between the hours of 10:00 am and 6:00pm. While these areas are the only regulated areas, it is appreciated when residents keep sidewalks in front of their property clear. This practice makes for a

safer walking environment for everyone; children on their way to school, seniors out for a walk, or those getting some exercise.



And finally, please **do not push snow or ice on the road or sidewalk** when clearing your driveway. This applies everywhere, in town and in the rural areas. This practice endangers the safety of the motoring public, as well as snow removal equipment and its operators. The fine for placing snow or ice on the road is \$50. Hazards created by pushing snow onto the road include:

- frozen snow piles can cause extensive damage to snow removal equipment and injury to the operators,
- greatly increases the chances of an accident for the motoring public
- people pushing snow onto the road could be involved in an accident
- causes increased drifting in the area
- snow piles cause drainage obstruction in the spring run-off.

We appreciate your co-operation in this matter. It will assist us greatly in providing a safe and reliable road system to our ratepayers.

Don't have a sidewalk on your side of the street? Offer to help your neighbour across the road !

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

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