



TOWNSHIP OF
EAST ZORRA-
TAVISTOCK

Eazy Talk

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 1

FEBRUARY 2008

Interim Taxes

Interim tax bills were mailed at the end of January. If you did not receive a bill, please contact the office or email bjunker@twp.ezt.on.ca. **Taxes are due February 29th and May 30th.**



Be sure to change your clocks and batteries in your smoke detectors on March 9th.

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2008 Budget

Township Council has started working on the 2008 Budget and Capital Forecast. Over the next several meetings, Council will be reviewing the budget documents in greater detail and providing direction on priorities for expenditures. The Budget process is a public one and Council encourages residents to provide their comments. The main forum for Public Comment is the Public Meeting that Council must hold for the Budget. Prior to the Public Meeting, residents can view the budget online, contact a Councillor, submit a written comment or email their comments to 2008budget@twp.ezt.on.ca

Following is the Budget timeline that Council has established:

- **January 16** - Regular Council Meeting - Approve Budget Timeline, Consider several Budget Context Issues
- **January 29** - Budget Meeting - First Drafts/Preliminary Information, Review Gravel Road Improvement Strategy, Determine Mill Project
- **February 6** - Regular Council Meeting - Additional Budget Discussions - Pass By-law Re: Mill project
- **February 20** - Regular Council Meeting - Additional Budget Discussions
- **Early March** - Police Budget (based on past years timing)
- **March 19** - Regular Council Meeting - Detailed Review of the Budget and direction on what to present at the Budget and User Fee Public Meeting in April
- **April 2** - Budget Public Meeting - Approval in principle subject to comments from the Public Meeting.



Spring Thaw Safety

Most of you are hoping that Spring is just around the corner. With warmer weather comes melting ice and snow on local rivers. Combined with rainfall, these conditions can result in swift currents and higher water levels in the rivers around us.

We encourage parents to educate children about the dangers associated with rivers and ponds at this time of year, and supervise them closely while outdoors near any waterways. Ice "shelves" and snowbanks can form on the river's edge and then drop off abruptly into the water. Individuals should also be aware of the dangers of breaking ice, swift currents, and cold water temperatures during a spring thaw and need to be reminded to stay clear of riverbanks.

For our area, the UTRCA (www.thamesriver.on.ca) and the GRCA (www.grandriver.ca) websites include the latest flood warning bulletins and also contain information on river safety. When Flood Warnings are issued by a Conversation Authority,



Controlled Burns

Please remember our guidelines if you are going to have a controlled burn. You must call in to the Township Office and provide us with the following information:

- Name as well as who is supervising the fire if it is different from yourself
- 911 Location Number
- Contact number (cell phone if you have one)
- Location of the burn ie field, burn pit, distance from buildings etc.
- Material that you are burning
- Type of extinguishment you have available in case of need.

After this information is collected from you, the office then notifies the Oxford Community Police (OCPS) to inform them in case they receive calls from the Public.

Please be aware that if conditions are not favourable on the day that you wish to have your controlled burn (high winds, dry summer conditions, too late in the day when starting the fire), permission may be denied and the burn will have to be done at another time. At times throughout the summer months there may be a need to put in place an Open Air Burning Ban. These will be posted on our website at www.twp.ezt.on.ca.

If you wish to burn on a weekend, please contact the office on the Friday prior to the weekend with the information and we will call it in to the OCPS ahead of time.

**Please note that if you have a controlled burn without notifying the office and one of the Fire Departments is called out, you may be charged for the call.

Spring Thaw Safety

cont'd from Page

the Township will add them to the "What's New" section on our website and send them out on our "Keep Me Informed" service.

On another note, we would like to remind residents abutting the newly constructed swales behind Westwood Avenue and Janelle Drive in Tavistock to keep them clear of debris particularly in the Spring when they are most likely to have water flowing through them. Please report any obstructions to the Township.

Let's have a Safe Spring!

Firefighter Service Awards



Long-Time Firefighter Service Awards

"The Fire Services Long Service Medal" is an expression of public appreciation for the dedication and hard work of members of the Ontario Fire Services, and is awarded to firefighters who have served for 25 years. This past year, our departments had several individuals who achieved this milestone.

The Township also saw 4 other individuals reach highlights in their service with Kevin Ward and Rick Fishback in Hickson serving for 20 years, and Boyd Elliott serving for 20 years on the Innerkip Department. Finally, Chief Clare Brenner was presented with a 35 year service award for his dedication to the Tavistock Department.

On the Innerkip Fire Department, Chief Phil Buzzell and firefighter Jon Rowe were awarded these medals for their service.

Together, these firefighters have provided over 220 years worth of service to this Township - a remarkable achievement. We also would also like to thank Boyd and wish him all the best in his retirement from the Innerkip Department.

In Hickson, Deputy Chief Ben Fallowfield, Captain Bill Ferguson and firefighter Fred Chilvers also reached this milestone.

Congratulations to all!

New Equipment at the Firehalls

The East Zorra-Tavistock Fire Department added several new pieces of equipment to its inventory during 2007.

stations, helping to reduce exposure to toxic gases and other hazardous situations for our firefighters in emergency situations.

Hickson received a new 3000 gallon tanker truck last February, allowing them to respond to an emergency with over 4000 gallons of water on all their trucks.

Finally, the Township has purchased an air-fill station for the firefighters' breathing apparatus helping to provide them with a continuous and reliable air supply. These all combine to not only increase the safety of our firefighters, but also add to the safety and protection of our Township residents.

Newer technology has allowed the Tavistock and Innerkip Stations to add thermal imaging cameras to their list of equipment, saving valuable time when searching for victims in fires. We've also placed new gas monitors in service for our



Message from the Mayor



In 1999 the Provincial government regulated every municipality to provide police service and to pay the cost of the service. Prior to 1999, the Township of East Zorra-Tavistock (EZT) had its own force in Tavistock (costing approximately \$300,000 or \$130 per person) and received OPP service for the rest of the Municipality (at no extra cost to the Municipality). In 1999 EZT entered into a partnership with Blandford-Blenheim, Norwich and the City of Woodstock to form the Oxford Community Police Service (OCPS). It has been a unified force serving the entire area with each partner paying according to a formula weighted according to population, households and assessment. In 2000 EZT's cost was \$812,000 or \$116 per person. In 2007 our share was \$1,302,000 or \$186 per person.

With two of the partners giving notice to exit the existing Agreement, EZT Council must again determine how best to provide policing for our community. Presently, we are getting proposals from the OPP as well as having talks with the City of

Woodstock as to a possible contract or partnership opportunity. This challenge is similar to other responsibilities we have as Council. Each year we wrestle with the appropriate service levels for our fire services, our roads and our recreation services, etc. We try to balance this with the costs to deliver the service and how it affects the overall property tax burden. Our fire services are second to none. Our arena is a model of excellence and efficiency. Our parks continue to be home for many provincial championship teams. Our roads.....well let's just say they need more money, therein lies the balancing act with service and taxes.

It would be my goal to provide a police service that would have Officers committed to active enforcement of the law; that would be actively engaged with our local community, and proactively encourage and protect our youth through their formative years.

I would welcome your comments on this very important decision facing our Council.

Load Restrictions on Township Roads

Load Restrictions on Township roadways take effect March 1st and run until the end of April. In accordance with By-Law #2005-46, during this time, most vehicles are restricted to 5 tonnes for each axle. Fuel and feed trucks are limited to 7.5 tonnes per axle and milk trucks are exempt. The reason for the load restriction is to minimize the deterioration of the road during the spring thaw. Equipment exceeding the weight restriction causes extensive damage to the roads, resulting in very high maintenance costs and increased liability. Although farm equipment is not included in this by-law, we request local farmers to consider spring thaw conditions when scheduling movement of commodities, machinery etc. This will help us to preserve "your" Township roads.

Canine Control

Canine control service is provided to Township residents by Hillside Kennels, including By-law Enforcement pertaining to dogs running-at-large and barking/nuisance complaints. All requests for pickup of dogs must be authorized by Township staff. Please ensure that you put your dog tag on your pet. These tags are numbered and the Township maintains a list of the tags cross referenced by owner. This permits the Township to contact a dog's owner should a dog be found or captured.



The Dog License Fees cover:

- Sale of the Tags
- Preparation of the tag/owner list
- Enforcement of the animal control by-laws (dogs running at large, dogs barking)
- Pays the animal collection contractor for picking up stray dogs, boarding, euthanasia, etc
- Pays livestock claims for livestock killed or injured by dogs

Since the first week of January, our Dog Licensing Officer, Angela Seamone has been busy issuing dog licenses to the residents of East Zorra-Tavistock. If you have not had a visit and purchased a dog tag for this year 2008, you can buy them at the Township Office in Hickson or Hillside Kennels located at #766038 Twp Road #5, Innerkip.



The Township's Dog License fees are set to cover the direct program costs and do not cover other Township operations. Since the dog license fees cover all costs for the program, Township tax dollars are not used to subsidize the Canine Control Program.

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.

Ice Storm Anniversary: Emergency Planning Reminder

Many of you will recall the severe ice storm that hit Eastern Ontario and other regions of the country 10 years ago. It was the worst natural disaster to hit Canada in recent memory.

It became quite apparent how a disaster of such magnitude affected residents and personal property, disrupted businesses and damaged public infrastructure. Many, many residents faced a lack of food and essential supplies, flooded basements and roads slick with ice; fallen utility poles and transmission towers. Power outages in some regions of the province lasted as long as a month.

The ice storm of January 1998 severely tested the contingency plans of communities in Eastern Ontario. Ten years later, all Ontario ministries and municipalities are required by legislation to have an emergency management program. It is to include a contingency plan, staff trained to handle emergencies, an annual exercise and public education.

'No community, or individual would like to be caught unprepared in the proverbial eye of the storm'.

Who does what in an Emergency?

When it comes to managing emergencies, we all have a role to play:

- **Individuals** take steps ahead of time to prepare themselves and their families for emergencies. You should be prepared to take care of yourself and your family for a minimum of 72 hours during an emergency.

Different levels of government respond progressively as an emergency escalates and their resources are needed:

- **Fire, police and ambulance** are the first to respond to local emergencies. Each municipality has a community emergency manager who also works with the first responders and other agencies to help manage the emergency.
- **Every province and territory** has an emergency management organization (EMO), which manages large-scale emergencies and provides assistance to municipal or community response teams as required.
- **Federal departments and agencies** support provincial or territorial EMOs as requested. They also manage emergencies that involve areas of federal jurisdiction.

72
Hours

Be Prepared - Have your Emergency Kit stocked and available in case of need

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