



TOWNSHIP OF
EAST ZORRA-
TAVISTOCK

*Merry
Christmas
From Council
and Staff*



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**Are you looking
for great Christmas
ideas?**



Visit www.weconserve.ca/lightenup/gizmos.html for gifts that are energy efficient, natural and durable.

Eazy Talk

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 4

NOVEMBER 2008

Winter Parking & Snow Removal

Once again, it is that time of year when we remind all residents of East Zorra-Tavistock of some of our Winter policies.

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.

There are several areas in Tavistock where residents and businesses must clear snow and ice from the sidewalk. By-law #2005-46 states in part that sidewalks on Hope St., Maria St. and Woodstock St. 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 6:00 pm. 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 onto 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. 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 chance 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.

Rural High Speed Internet Survey

The County of Oxford is investigating rural high speed internet availability to determine whether an application should be made to the Rural Connections Broadband Program. More information about this program is available from www.ontario.ca/rural.

In order to determine the level of rural high speed internet availability, local Internet Service Providers are being consulted, but it is also important to get the real "in the field" information. The short questionnaire on the back of this section would greatly assist the County in determining the actual level of high speed internet availability. There are several options to help with this investigation.

Complete the questionnaire on the back of this section and return by one of the following methods.

- * Mail to the Township Office
- * Drop it off at the Township Office, Tavistock Library, Tavistock Arena or the Innerkip Library
- * Call the Township Office
- * Visit www.oxfordcounty.ca/highspeedsurvey

**Watch the
Holiday
Spirits**



With the festive season upon us, take the time to realize the many hazards that may occur with the mix of alcohol and fire.

- * Many fire deaths are caused by people attempting to cook or smoke while under the influence of alcohol.
- * 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.
- * Cigarettes can smoulder among upholstery cushions for hours before igniting. Check sofas and chairs for cigarettes that may have fallen between the cushions.
- * Install smoke alarms on every storey and outside sleeping areas. If occupants smoke in the bedrooms, install smoke alarms inside the bedrooms as well.
- * Test smoke alarms every month and replace the batteries twice a year.

Learn Not to Burn Presentation

'Learn from our mistakes' was the theme in a public presentation held on Tuesday October 21st in Tavistock. Approximately 120 people came out to hear burn survivors talk about their accident, recovery and the lasting impact on their lives. Three speakers shared their stories and there was a recurring theme expressing their deep appreciation for the doctors and nurses of the London Health Sciences Burn Unit.

Burn reconstruction surgeon, Dr. Christopher Scilley, took the audience through the journey of what happens when a burn victim arrives at the hospital. After initial treatment in the Emergency Room, the patient is then transferred to the Burn Unit, stabilized and then begins hydrotherapy. This process involves immersing the patient in a warm water tank to clean burns and help to loosen the limbs for physiotherapy. If the burns begin to heal after 3 weeks then skin grafting is usually not needed. Unfortunately, in many cases, this does not happen and the long and arduous process of skin grafting must begin.

Dr. Scilley also thanked firefighters everywhere for their efforts in getting burn victims to them as quickly and efficiently as they do. Without the timely care and compassion from these first responders, many burn victims would not make it to the Burn Unit at all.

Earlier in the day, local fire prevention officers visited four area schools with

members of the Burn Unit and another burn survivor. The group was well received in all the schools and the message of prevention was heard by over 300 Grade 7 & 8 students and their teachers. The schools' sessions were geared towards warning the kids of the risks associated with fire and how many "stunts" glorified in the movies and on the internet can lead to devastating accidents that could impact the rest of their lives. The speaker for these sessions shared his story of regret and remorse for the incident that has left him permanently disfigured.

This event was planned by the East Zorra-Tavistock Fire Prevention Committee and was intended not only for awareness and prevention but also a chance to raise funds (in excess of \$3000 was raised) for the Burn Unit. Most people do not realize that burn patients are usually in the hospital for an extended period of time and as such have financial needs that are sometimes difficult to meet. Should you wish to donate towards this worthy cause please contact London Health Sciences Centre at 519.685.8500.



911 Address: _____

If Yes,

Dial Up or High Speed?

If High Speed, please indicate the speed, if possible:

512kb 1mb 1.5 mb other _____

Service Provider and Plan Name _____

Current Monthly Fee \$ _____

Other Comments _____

Do you have Internet Access? Yes No

If No,

Have you tried to obtain High Speed service? Yes No

If High Speed service was available, would you be Interested? Yes No

What would you consider a reasonable monthly cost? \$ _____



Message from the Mayor



“Be careful what you wish for” is an often used phrase to describe why hard times need to occur before good times. In my May message, I talked about growing a stronger local economy. Today we find ourselves in very difficult global economic times. Is this the wake-up call we all need to help us get back to growing our local

economy? It is interesting to watch people’s reactions to these tough economic times. Some are just stressed out and predict the end of the world but most continue to enjoy each day and adjust their lives accordingly. In order to save time and money people are driving less distance and less frequently whenever possible. People are eating out less and entertaining

more in their own homes. People are renovating and repairing in order to make things last longer. Many of these adjustments in our daily lives have had very positive impacts locally. Many of us are reaching out to family, neighbours and friends to make our dollars stretch further. Strong social reliance always leads to strong economic prosperity.

So here is the challenge. Shop local this Christmas. If Christmas shopping averages \$250 per person, times our 7,000 people in EZT, that is \$1,750,000! What a boost to our local economy! What a story to tell on every Christmas card - bought in support of our local community!

From my family to yours, Merry Christmas!

Reassessment Notice FAQ’s

The 2009 reassessment notices were mailed out the week of November 17, 2008. If you have any questions about the new value placed on your property, please contact MPAC (Municipal Property Assessment Corporation) at 1.877.296.6722. Perhaps the following FAQ’s will be of some assistance to you as you study your notice.

What if the general information on my assessment notice is incorrect? In order to have corrections made, you must call MPAC at the number listed on the top of your notice. They will ask you for your Roll number that is printed on the centre of the notice. All changes must be made by MPAC - Township staff cannot do this.

Cont’d on Page 4

Christmas Holiday Information

The Hickson Municipal office will close on Wednesday December 24th at 12:00 pm and reopen Monday January 5, 2009 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 at the Yard Waste Depots to be mulched. Please remove all decorations and plastic bags used to transport trees.

Garbage & Recycling over the Holiday Season

- * Dec. 23rd: collection changed to Dec. 22nd
- * Dec. 24th: collection changed to Dec. 23rd
- * Dec. 25th: collection changed to Dec. 24th
- * Jan. 1st: collection changed to Jan. 2nd

Tavistock Arena will be closed as follows:

- Dec. 24th at 4:00 pm
- Dec. 25th and 26th all day
- Dec. 31st at 4:00 pm
- Jan. 1st all day



Free Holiday Skating at Tavistock Arena:

Dec. 22nd	1 pm - 3 pm	Tim Hortons
Dec. 24th	1 pm - 3 pm	Tim Hortons
Dec. 28th	2 pm - 4 pm	Core Fuels/Red Cap Propane
Dec. 29th	1 pm - 3 pm	Tim Hortons
Dec. 31st	1 pm - 3 pm	Tim Hortons
Jan. 2nd	1 pm - 2:30 pm	Zehr Automotive

Please have your garbage and/or recycling out to the curb by 7:00 am. Remember that greeting cards, gift bags and wrapping paper are recyclable as long as it is not foil-coated.

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.

Reassessment Notice... Cont'd from page 3

How is my property assessed? Approximately 85% of your assessed value is based on five key factors - location, lot size, living area, age of the property adjusted for any major renovations or additions and the quality of construction. You will be required to speak with the staff at MPAC to determine how the criteria is applied to your property, or if you have access to the internet, you can go online at www.mpac.ca and click on the [AboutMyProperty](#) tab. A unique user ID and password are printed at the bottom of your notice. All this information is provided on that particular website.

What if I don't agree with the value placed on my property? First, ask yourself if you could have reasonably expected to sell your property for its' assessed value on January 1, 2008, the date on which the assessed value is based. Secondly, speak with the staff at MPAC. They will be able to help you understand how the increase was determined. Your 2008 Property Assessment Notice includes the average percentage change of residential properties in the municipality, so a similar property in East Zorra-Tavistock should be assessed at the same value. Alternately, if you have access to the internet, you can check to see that the information we have about your property is accurate by going to www.mpac.ca and clicking on the [AboutMyProperty](#) tab. A unique user ID and password are printed at the bottom of your assessment notice. You can compare the value on your property with up to 24 similar properties of your choice and up to 6 that have been selected by MPAC, free of charge.

How much will my taxes go up now that the value on my property has increased? Increased assessment does not necessarily mean an increase in your taxes. If the municipality experiences an overall increase in total assessment, it will require a lower tax rate to raise the same number of tax dollars, so depending on the cost of services to be delivered in the coming year, we may not experience a sizeable increase in the tax rate.

I'm a Senior. How am I going to afford any more tax increases? The Province is still offering Ontario Senior Homeowners Property Tax Grant. A brochure should be included with your assessment notice explaining the details, however, basically, based on your net income, you would be eligible for a grant up to a maximum of \$250 for 2009 and a maximum of \$500 for 2010. You will make application at the time you file your annual income tax return.

For any further information you may require, refer to the MPAC website or call 1.877.296.6722.

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

County of Oxford

Phone: 519.539.9800
Website: www.county.oxford.on.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