



TOWNSHIP OF
EAST ZORRA-
TAVISTOCK

Taxes Due

The first Instalment of taxes is due February 27th. If you did not receive a tax bill, contact the Township Office. Failure to receive a tax bill does not exempt you from payment of your taxes.

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Garbage/Recycling Calendars

The County of Oxford will be mailing your new Waste and Recycling Calendars in the month of March. If you do not receive one, you may visit www.county.oxford.on.ca or contact the Township Office and we can mail one out to you.

Eazy Talk

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 1

FEBRUARY 2009

Volunteers in Our Community



FACT: Only one in every four people in Canada volunteer, and sadly 75% of all volunteer hours come from less than 10% of the total Canadian population.

For a community to work efficiently, it has become a necessity to rely on the assistance of volunteers. Volunteering is about giving your time to partake in activities that benefit others. When you volunteer, you have the opportunity to meet new people and learn more about the dynamics of the organization or group. You may even see things from a different angle allowing you to reassess some of your preconceived ideas and views.

Why do people volunteer?

To meet new people, to say thank-you, to support a specific cause, to give back to a cause that helped them in the past, to gain experience, to lower stress and because they have the time and want to!!

Many of our local organizations and committees in the Innerkip, Hickson and Tavistock areas need your help! No matter what your age, your community would appreciate any time you may be able to offer. Some organizations require more of a time commitment than others. In particular, the Hickson and Innerkip Recreation Committees are currently looking for new members. For contact information for these organizations and many others, you may visit our website or contact the Township Office.

Hickson Ball Registration		Innerkip Ball Registration		Tavistock Ball Registration	
Feb 28th	10 am - 2 pm	Feb 28th	11 am - 3 pm	Feb 28th	9 am - 2 pm
Mar 7th	10 am - 2 pm	Mar 3rd	7 pm - 9 pm	Mar 4th	6 pm - 8 pm
At Oxford Agropro		At Innerkip Firehall		At the Tavistock Arena	

Tree Planting Program

Trees have been purchased for the 2009 roadside planting program. Most will be used in the area of 2008 construction however, if you are interested in having trees planted along your property line in the future, please contact the office to have your name placed on a list.

The Township is considering a program for ratepayers to purchase trees, at cost, to plant anywhere on their property. Currently, a six foot, bare root, whip costs approximately \$15-\$20. It is anticipated that a certain number of trees would be offered on a specific date to the residents of East Zorra-Tavistock on a first come, first served basis.

In order to gauge uptake on a tree program, we need input from the residents. Orders would have to be placed in November in order to hold a "Shade Day" during Arbour Week in April 2010. Please contact the office to let us know if you would be interested in taking part.

Shovelling for Safety

With record amounts of snowfall this winter, it seems that shovelling has become part of our daily routine. Navigating snow filled sidewalks and walking on roadways does not need to be a part of that routine.



To help keep our community safe the Township is requesting that all property owners please ensure that sidewalks be cleared off on a regular basis. 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.

Our office has received complaints primarily in the villages of Innerkip and Tavistock. We are asking the general public to please help in ensuring everyone's safety by keeping sidewalks cleared so that no one has to walk on a roadway and possibly endanger themselves and others. If you have difficulty finding the time, or you are unable to keep your sidewalk clear, perhaps a family member or neighbour may be able to assist you. On the flip side, if you are able to be of assistance, why not offer your help to someone in need?

We would also like to remind owners that motorized vehicles (eg. snowmobiles) are not to be driven along any sidewalk. This creates a hazard for pedestrians as well as leading to snow falling back into someone's laneway, sidewalk or onto the roadways.

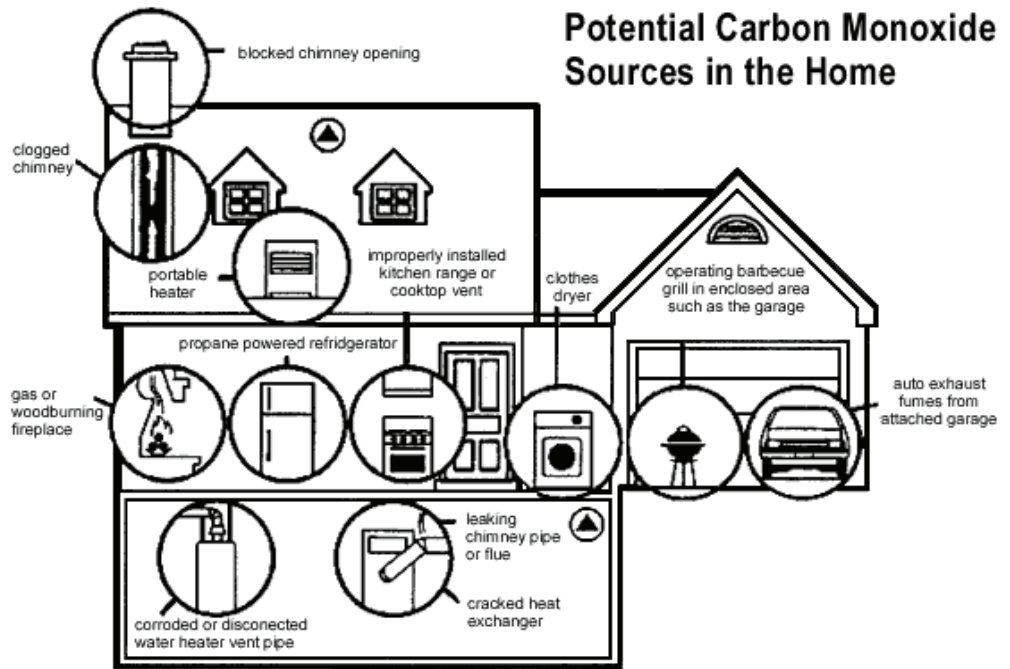
Thank you to all who continue to create a safe environment for our pedestrians.

Check Your Vents

Due to the recent large accumulation of snow, the Fire Department is strongly recommending that residents ensure that all outside vents are not blocked by snow or ice.

The Fire Department urges all residents to install a Carbon Monoxide Detector in their homes and businesses.

If your CO detector sounds do NOT assume it to be a false alarm. Open all doors and windows to ventilate the home. If you cannot find the problem and the alarm continues, contact the fire department. If there is a strong smell of natural gas in your home, evacuate immediately, leaving the door open, and contact your local gas utility.



Road Crew - Years of Service

The Township recently celebrated another member of the Road Department reaching 25 years of Service. **Mike Kaufman** started with Township Road Department in February of 1984 and received his gold watch to recognize his 25 years of service. Presenting the watch, Mayor Don McKay commented that Mike was the "Rookie of the Crew" being the last one to receive his watch. Mike expressed his thoughts on the many changes that he has seen through the years.



"The 100 year old road crew".....

Collectively, the four equipment operators in the Road Department have 112 years of service with the Township. This is certainly quite an accomplishment.

Mike Kaufman, Jeff Rudy, Dennis Holst, Don Munroe

Message from the Mayor



Grandparenting, the love of my life! I am still relatively new to the grandparent role with only one grandchild 20 months old, however it is changing my life. The long forgotten art of play has been brought back to life. The simplicity, the excitement, the spontaneous pleasure of play is a powerful force in human development. Playing with a child reminds you that it is not about the rules. It is not about winning. It is about the delight of participating with enthusiasm. Play gives courage and confidence. It gives opportunity to invent, to analyse, to innovate, to socialize, to plan, and to solve problems. These are the same skills we as adults need every day. I encourage everyone to take time to play. It will be good for your children, for your grandchildren and for the child in all of us. To further explore this topic I suggest you read Kevin Carroll's book, "The Red Rubber Ball at Work."

Community Challenge to play.....

On December 27th 2009, our Municipality will be fortunate enough to be along the path of the Olympic Torch Relay. While it travels along Hwy 59 North and onward through Tavistock, many will be able to participate in this great event. I believe this could provide us, as a community, the opportunity to come together to witness the Olympic Torch and from there, have an afternoon of fun and play. We need your help to make it happen. Think about it. Talk about it.



If anyone in the community whether it be individuals or a group, has any suggestions and/or are willing to assist with such an event, please contact me with your thoughts. This could be a great community opportunity for the residents of our Township.

Proposed Ward Boundary Changes

Township Council is considering some minor changes to the Ward Structure for the next municipal election in 2010. The proposal being considered would separate Ward 3 into two wards. One part would comprise the rural area, while the other would comprise the Village of Innerkip. Residents are encouraged to contact their Councillor with any comments or concerns you may have on these proposed changes prior to the May 6th Council Meeting.

Tavistock Drain Disconnect Program - Update

In the spring of 2008, Council approved the Tavistock Drainage Disconnect Program. The program was rolled out in June of 2008 and was to run until December 31st 2008. While uptake of the program has been good, there are likely many residents that may still be able to utilize the program. To permit more time for applications and encourage new disconnects in the spring and summer of 2009, this program has been extended until September 2009.

This program will pay 50%, up to \$1,500 for storm sewer disconnects and improvements to the sanitary sewer connections. Full program details and the application form are available by contacting the Township Office or visiting our website. A question and answer document has also been created to answer questions about the program and provide additional information on Tavistock Drainage.

Deadline for Assessment Appeals - March 31, 2009

NEW Beginning in 2009, all assessment appeals must be submitted to MPAC prior to March 31st, 2009. The Request for Reconsideration (RFR), which is free of charge, is now the mandatory first step for appealing an assessment in the residential, farm and managed forest tax classes, while business classes still have the option of appealing directly to the Assessment Review Board upon payment of the filing fee (\$150.00 per roll number). More information and appeal forms are available from MPAC, from the Municipal Office, or on-line at www.mpac.ca or www.twp.ezt.on.ca.

If you intend to appeal your assessment, the Township recommends that you check the property class on your assessment notice to ensure you are submitting the appeal in the correct manner. If you do not submit your appeal prior to March 31, 2009, you will have to wait until 2010 to contest the value placed on your property.

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

Council

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Councillor - Ward 3

Betty Yeoman

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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.

Public Works Advisories

Snow on Roadways

We would like to take this opportunity to address the ongoing issue of residents pushing snow onto roadways. The problem becomes more predominant with the increased amounts of snow in recent years. Firstly, we would like to thank those who refrain from this practice. Not having snow pushed onto roadways make them much safer and allows the Public Works Department to work in a safer and more efficient manner. Pushing snow onto the roadway was a direct cause of a motor vehicle accident that caused extensive damage to two vehicles. Also, Public Works staff has been required to make special trips to various roads in the Township to load or remove snow blown or pushed onto the driving lanes of the road from driveways. This in turn leads to increased taxes for all residents.

Staff realize the recent snowfalls have created some challenges for snow removal and storage; however, snow removal from private property needs to be done in a safe and responsible manner. We ask for all residents cooperation in this matter and would remind them that pushing snow onto any roadway is in contravention of the Township By-laws and the Highway Traffic Act. Those in violation can be subject to significant penalties. We thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Load Restriction

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.

Waste Management

The County of Oxford recently advertised the opening of the Municipal Hazardous or Special Waste Permanent depot. To avoid long wait times during the Spring and Summer seasons, you may take your items to the Oxford County Landfill, 384060 Salford Road on Saturdays from 8:00 am - 4:00 pm. Please note that only waste from residential sources will be accepted at this time.

On April 25th you will be able to purchase composters, rain barrels and blue boxes at the Innerkip Community Centre from 8:00 am - 1:00 pm. Supplies will be limited and 'cash only' will be accepted. Other special collection events will be posted in your calendars as well as on our website. For further details, you may contact the Oxford County Public Works Department at 519.539.9800 Ext. 3114.

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