

TOWNSHIP OF
EAST ZORRA-
TAVISTOCK

Eazy Talk

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 3

AUGUST 2010

Tax Payment Due

Just a friendly reminder that the 1st instalment of final taxes is due on August 31st. If you do not have the tax bill that was mailed at the end of July, please contact the Township Office.

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Collection Events

Just a reminder to check your Waste and Recycling calendars for upcoming dates for collection of Household Hazardous Waste, Scrap Metal and White Goods. This information is also available on our website and extra calendars can be obtained at the Township Office.

2010 Municipal Election

VOTE BY MAIL

For the 2010 election, East Zorra-Tavistock electors will be voting from the convenience of their own homes. Voter's kits will be mailed to your homes the week of September 28th, and will include a sheet of voting instructions; a Declaration Form to be signed by the elector; a ballot with a secrecy envelope; and a return envelope into which the sealed secrecy envelope and signed Declaration Form are to be placed.

Upon receipt of the Voting Kit, each voter should follow the instructions provided in the Voting Kit exactly. The instructions require the voter to:

1. Complete the ballot;
2. Insert the ballot into the envelope marked Ballot Secrecy Envelope;
3. **SEAL** the Ballot Secrecy Envelope;
4. Complete and sign the Voter Declaration Form. If a voter requires assistance in voting, they can make their mark (ie. an "x") on the signature line and have a witness sign in the signature area of the Voter Declaration Form;
5. Place the completed Voter Declaration Form and the **SEALED** Ballot Secrecy Envelope into the yellow prepaid business reply envelope;
6. Seal the yellow prepaid business reply envelope; and
7. Mail the yellow prepaid business reply envelope by October 16, 2010 or deliver it to the Municipal Office no later than 8:00 p.m. on October 25, 2010. Instructions are very easy to follow, with a final check list on the outside of the return envelope.

Mail-Back Date: Voters will have approximately two weeks to mark their ballot, as Voter's Kits will be mailed on September 28. **You must have the return envelope in the mail no later than October 16th for it to be in our office by October 25th.**

As an alternative, for those people not comfortable with putting their completed ballot in the mail, we will be accepting them every day of the voting period (September 28 - October 25) at the Township Office, so you are welcome to drop off your sealed return envelope prior to the close of voting at 8:00 p.m. on October 25th. Envelopes will be accepted during regular office hours, or by dropping them at any time into the secured drop box accessed from the mail slot by the front door. Remember that if you are using this method of returning your ballot, you must still seal your ballot in the Secrecy Envelope, complete the Declaration Form, and put both pieces in the yellow return envelope.

COMPOSITE BALLOT

For the 2010 election, East Zorra-Tavistock voters will be using a composite ballot for the first time. A composite ballot is a single sheet of paper which shows individual sections for each separate office for which you are eligible to vote. You will vote for each office based on the instructions provided by clearly marking an "X" in the box beside the name of the candidate of your choice. This is the same procedure we followed in prior elections, except at that time there were separate ballots for each office.

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2010 Township Emergency Preparedness Guide

The 2010 Township Emergency Preparedness Guide has now been mailed out to all homes and businesses throughout East Zorra-Tavistock.

If you have not received your copy, there are copies available at the municipal office in Hickson or at your local library. We encourage all our residents to take the time to read the booklet in order to help prepare and protect your family in the event of an emergency.

Photo Contest

Once again, the Township is going to run a photo contest. If you remember back to last years contest, we requested photos of "Scenery in our Township". These photos are showcased on our website as well as in the office on our digital photo frame, for all EZT residents to witness what a beautiful and interesting community we reside in.

This next photo contest is open to any photos relating in any way to our Township whether it be an event that has taken place, a shot of the hot days of summer or the blustery days of winter. We appreciate any photos you may be able to provide for the contest and add to our showcase.

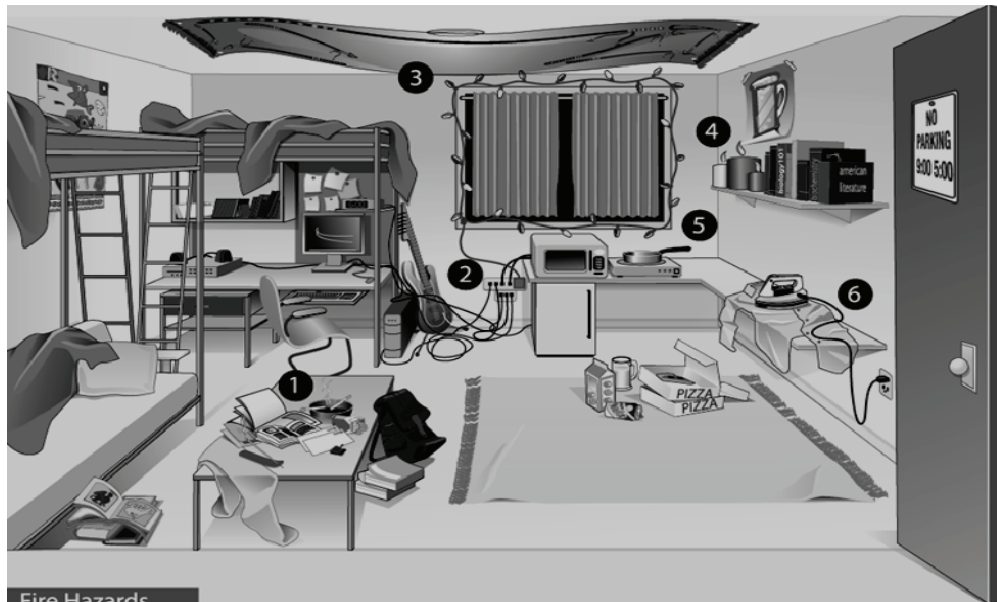
Entries can be emailed to ezt@twp.ezt.on.ca in .jpg format or drop off a 5 x 7 print at the Township Office in Hickson. Keep in mind when taking your photos that the newsletter is printed in black and white. Entries will be accepted until October 22, 2010 and the winning entry will be published in our November newsletter.

Fire Safety for Students

Whether you are moving into a college or university residence, or you have your own place to live, parents, guardians and students should take an active role in finding a safe place to live and talk about fire and life safety.

What can you do?

- ♦ If your building has a fire alarm system, become involved in fire drills. If you don't know the fire protection features in your building - ASK. Know your plan of escape.
- ♦ Test your smoke alarms at least monthly. If they don't work when you push the test button, contact your landlord or administrator immediately.
- ♦ Avoid nuisance alarms by ensuring they are not located too close to the bathroom or kitchen. Never disable a smoke alarm.
- ♦ Stay in the kitchen when cooking. If a pot catches fire, have a proper fitting lid handy to slide over the pot and turn off the stove. Distractions such as televisions, computers, facebooking and texting can lead to tragic consequences.
- ♦ Do not use candles. If required to use them, place them in a safe sturdy holder where they cannot be knocked over and extinguish them when leaving the room.
- ♦ Alcohol is a common factor in many fire fatalities involving cooking and smoking.
- ♦ Do not smoke inside. If you are smoking indoors, use sturdy ashtrays that can't be easily tipped over and ensure they are emptied into a metal container not the garbage can. Check around furniture cushions after people have been smoking.
- ♦ All small appliances should be plugged directly into an outlet. If using an extension cord, buy one that is the correct gauge for the appliance. Only approved power bars should be used for stereo equipment, computers, etc.
- ♦ Clear the clutter. Keep things that burn away from heat sources like stovetops, space heaters and electronic equipment. Tea towels and paper too close to burners can catch fire. Keep space heaters at least one metre away from bedding, furniture and curtains.
- ♦ Know your address. If calling from a traditional phone line, your address, name and phone number will be shown on the dispatcher's screen. Cell phones and newer internet based phone lines may not provide the dispatcher with your location.
- ♦ A discussion about good fire safety practices can help to ensure this exciting time in a student's life is not marred by a fire tragedy.



Fire Hazards

- | | |
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| 1. Placing lit smoking materials or incense near flammable items (paper, clothing, etc.) | 4. Lighting candles near flammable decorations |
| 2. Overloading electrical outlets | 5. Leaving cooking food unattended |
| 3. Covering lights with curtains or tapestries | 6. Ironing on flammable surfaces |

Message from the Mayor



Another term of Municipal Government is coming to an end. I look back on this last four year term and marvel at how quickly it has passed. Many great things have happened in our community during this time and most of them as a result of our local volunteers. A wise person told me when I became Mayor that the most important thing I could do was not to get in the way of our volunteers. That was the best advice I have received. It was really a very polite way of saying, "We have a great community and don't mess it up!" I must agree, we have a great community and I strongly believe it is getting better. Your staff and Council have worked hard to ensure we have the infrastructure and policies in place to encourage our local volunteers. Our residents have done the rest!

For a Township of seven thousand people you have pulled off some amazing activities; the Olympic Torch Run , the Gord

Marshal Memorial Ladies Fastball Tournament, the World Crokinole Tournament, the Firemen's breakfast, chicken barbeque and fish fry, the Fall Fair, the Lion's Weekends, the Sauerkraut Supper, the Championship Minor Sports Teams and the list goes on and on as a result of dedicated volunteers. The volunteers in our Nursing Homes, in our Schools and in our Local Churches all enhance the quality of life for our community. Our Legion members and volunteers help us remember the sacrifices for our freedom. Our Historical Society helps us preserve our past. Our Horticulture Society helps beautify our community. These volunteers are the reason we have such a great community to call home.

Another term of Municipal Council begins December 1, 2010. Please consider volunteering to serve your community and let your name stand for election. Nomination forms need to be completed by September 10, 2010.

2010 Municipal Election

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VOTERS LIST

September 7, 2010 is the first day that any changes can be made to the Voters List. It must be emphasized that in a Vote By Mail system, the onus is on eligible voters to ensure that their names are on the Voters List. You are welcome to contact the Township Office to check if you are on the list - in person or by calling 519-462-2697. Because we are using Vote by Mail, it is imperative that our list be as accurate as it can be, so please take the time to check the eligible voters at your residence. We are finding that in many cases, children who are no longer living at home are still listed as eligible voters in East Zorra-Tavistock. Please note that children who are students are eligible to vote at home as well as where they go to school. Your assistance in maintaining an accurate list is appreciated.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU DON'T GET A VOTING KIT IN THE MAIL

If your name is not on the Voters List when we submit it to the firm handling our Vote By Mail products on September 13th, you will not receive a voters kit in the mail. If that is the case, you will have to come into the Township Office to have your name added to the list. You will be asked to provide proof of identity and residence, or to sign a declaration that you are eligible to vote in East Zorra-Tavistock. Once your application is certified, your Voting Kit will be issued to you. A Voting Station will be set up at the office, so you will have the option of conducting your vote and dropping your sealed return envelope in the ballot box right then, or you can take the package with you and return your sealed return envelope before the close of vote at 8:00 p.m. on Voting Day. Any person who receives a Voting Kit addressed to another person should contact the Municipal Office to receive further information as **it is against the law to exercise a vote other than your OWN vote.**

Questions about the vote by mail system? Please feel free to contact the office. Information, as well as several FAQ's, have been posted on our website, and a video demonstration is available for your convenience. If requested, we will gladly do a presentation to demonstrate the proper method of handling your voters kit.

NOMINATIONS

Friday, September 10, 2010 is Nomination Day, with nominations closing at 2:00 p.m. Nominations are now being accepted for Mayor, Deputy Mayor, two Councillors from Ward 1 (Tavistock), one Councillor from Ward 2 (north of the Braemar Sideroad) and two Councillors for Ward 3 (south of Braemar Sideroad).

Time is running out! If you are interested in serving on Council, please contact the Township Office for a nomination form. The filing fee is \$100.00 for Councillor or Deputy Mayor, and \$200.00 for Mayor.

You can stay updated by visiting our website at www.twp.ezt.on.ca/election/2010/

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.

Profiling our OPP Officers

In the next several issues of the EaZy Talk newsletter, we will be profiling the OPP Officers that work in our Township.

Provincial Constable Amy Hesch is in her 18th year of policing in Oxford County. Amy began her career with the Woodstock City Police, continued with the amalgamated Oxford Community Police Service through to the transition to the Ontario Provincial Police in October 2009.

Amy's career highlights include several years as a Scenes of Crime Officer, Breathalyzer/Intoxilyzer Technician, Level II Collision Investigator and Coach Officer. She also has training and experience in DNA Collection, Health and Safety Certification, Police Complaints Resolution, platoon supervision and has recently received specialized training in Domestic Violence Investigation and Sexual Assault Investigation. Amy was also a recipient of the Crime Stoppers Officer of the Year award.

This is Amy's fourth straight year of policing in East Zorra-Tavistock Township. Amy was born into a large family and grew up in a small farming community in Woolwich Township near Elmira, Ontario. She

appreciates and can easily relate to the 'small town' environment and the closeness of the citizens in the EZT community. "It feels like home; safe, clean, slow-paced, tight-knit, and I hope to assist in keeping it that way. The local residents have been so welcoming and it's a pleasant feeling when one of them addresses me by my first name. It makes me feel like we've been accepted as part of the community, that we're not just civil servants wearing a uniform."



Amy has long-term aspirations to move on to the Crime Unit and would like to retire as a member of the Unsolved Homicide Investigation Team, reinvestigating and resolving cold case homicides.

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

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