



TOWNSHIP OF
EAST ZORRA-
TAVISTOCK

Eazy Talk

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 1

FEBRUARY 2011

Tax Instalment

Just a friendly reminder that the 1st instalment of interim taxes is due on February 28th. If you do not have your tax bill that was mailed at the end of January, please contact the Township Office.

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Waste Management Calendars

The Waste Management Calendars will be mailed within the next month. These calendars are a very useful resource for all residents outlining "Special Event" dates as well as providing information for your garbage and recycling needs.

2011 Township Budget

Township Council has started working on the 2011 Budget and Capital Forecast. Over the next several meetings, Council will be reviewing the budget documents and providing direction on priorities for expenditures. The Budget process is a public one and Council encourages residents to provide their comments. The main opportunities for public participation in the budget include, speaking with a Councillor (contacts are on the back page), send in written comments (2011budget@twp.ezt.on.ca), make an appointment to address Council at a regular meeting or attend the Public Budget Meeting. All budget documents are posted on the Township's website and are available prior to Council meetings. Following is a tentative timeline for the 2011 Budget process.

- February 16 Council Meeting - First Look at Capital Projects
- March 3 Council Meeting - First Look at Combined 2011 Operating and Capital, plus User Fees
- March 16 Council Meeting - Additional Review and direction for the Budget Public Meeting
- April 6 Council Meeting - Budget and User Fees Public Meeting - Council direction on Budget
- May - Pass 2011 Budget, Tax Rates and User Fees By-law

For more information, budget documents or any changes to the timeline, be sure to check the Township's website at <http://www.twp.ezt.on.ca/information/budget/2011/default.asp>

Last year, \$9,545,088 was raised through property taxes, of which \$3,224,807 was for Township purposes. \$3,591,950 went to the County and \$2,728,331 went to School Boards. The typical residence paid about \$2,448 in property taxes last year. Of that amount, \$924 is used by the Township to provide the following services: Roads, Police, Fire, Parks, Recreation, Drainage, Building and Protective Services. The balance or \$1,524 goes to the County and School Boards for their services and programs.

From the Building Department

During this winter wonderland of weather, you've probably noticed icicles forming on the eaves and random ice patches under the downspouts.

Be aware of this icicle formation on roofs and eaves

Icicles are created when built up snow on roofs start to melt. As we all know, water runs downhill, so naturally the water will travel to the lowest point it can get to. When the water gets to the edge of the roof, it hits the ice cold air as it tries to travel to the ground level. The exposure to the cold air causes the

liquid to freeze, and eventually creates the "pretty" icicle formations you see on buildings in the winter months. As pretty as the icicles seem, they are a nuisance to the building's roof shingles and are an indication that "ice dams" have formed. "Ice dams" are the large mass of ice that collects on the lower edge of the roof or in the gutters. As more melting snow or rain runs down the roof, it meets this mass of ice and backs up, sometimes under the shingles and into the attic or the house. Ice damming usually occurs with a significant depth

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Spring Thaw Safety

Spring will be arriving soon! Although the melting of ice and snow seems like something to celebrate, residents need to be cautious when it comes to warm weather. With the spring comes the thawing of water in a variety of outdoor locations. Warmer temperatures cause ponds, rivers and lakes to swell and the ice cover to weaken. The spring thaw brings serious dangers related to exposure to frigid water and the potential for drowning. In particular, young children do not have the ability to assess or understand the dangers related to weakening ice. Rivers, lakes, ponds, lagoons and even ditches become very high risk areas.

As the spring thaw begins, keep children away from these areas. Teaching children about the dangers of the spring thaw and appropriate safety precautions are important measures to take but do not take the place of supervision.

Be aware of any flood advisories in your area. We have two Conservation Authorities within the Township - the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority and the Grand River Conservation Authority which provide up-to-date information and are great resources for EZT residents. For more information, visit:
www.thamesriver.ca



www.grandriver.ca



Baseball Registration Dates

The following is a list of upcoming softball registration dates:

Hickson

- ♦ February 26 10 am - 2 pm
 - ♦ March 5 10 am - 2 pm
- Registration will take place at Oxford Agropro. Proof of age is required.

Tavistock

At the time of publication, registration

dates for Tavistock have taken place. If you require information on how to still register, contact Dave Bailey at 519-655-6809.

Innerkip

- ♦ February 26 11 am - 3 pm
 - ♦ March 1 7 pm - 9 pm
- Registration will take place at the Innerkip Firehall. Proof of age is required. Registration forms available at www.innerkipminorball.com

Purchased Your Dog Tag?

Have you purchased your 2011 Dog Tag? At a cost of \$20, a tag is required for each dog you own. If you no longer own a dog, please advise the Township Office so we can update our records. Tags are available at the following locations until March 31, 2011.

- ♦ **Hickson:** Township Office, 90 Loveys St. E.
- ♦ **Innerkip:** Corner Farm Market, 206 Blandford St.
- ♦ **Tavistock:** Yantzi's Feed & Seed, 65 Woodstock St. N.
Zehr's Home Hardware, 24 Woodstock St. S.

The Canine Control program is a 'User Pay' program, funded from dog tag sales, not property taxes. The Township only picks up stray dogs under this program; it does not pick up stray cats and other animals that may be a nuisance. One of the most important reasons for buying a tag and making sure it is on your dog's collar is to re-unite a dog with its owner.

Book your Special Event

The Township is very fortunate to have venues available for holding your next special event. If you personally do not have an upcoming event for such a facility, be sure to let your family, friends and neighbours know their options right here in EZT!

Tavistock and District Recreation Centre

Located at 1 Adam St. in Tavistock, there are several options open if you are seeking a venue in Tavistock:

- Memorial Hall** - 321 person capacity, air conditioned and wheelchair accessible
 - Upper Memorial Hall** - 85 person capacity, air conditioned
 - Arena Board Room** - 28 person capacity, air conditioned
 - Arena Upper Hall** - 120 person capacity, air conditioned and wheelchair accessible
 - Arena Floor** (no ice) - 1400 person capacity and wheelchair accessible
 - Curling Club Floor** - 445 person capacity (summer only)
 - Queens Park** - large with mature trees, 2 pavilions, ball diamond and soccer field
- For more information regarding fees, contact Facility Manager, Ken Wettlaufer at 519-655-2102 or kwettlaufer@twp.ezt.on.ca

Innerkip Community Centre

Located on the outskirts of Innerkip at #695566 Oxford Road 5, this facility has a capacity for 236 people and is air conditioned. For more information, you may contact Facility Manager, Barb Kelso at 519-469-3449.

Message from the Mayor



I attended an Accomodation Review Committee (ARC) meeting in Norwich recently to hear discussion around the possible closure of three local elementary schools and bringing the students together in the old Norwich high school. It would appear to some that this would be economically efficient and ensure better learning outcomes.

However, most in attendance did not agree and spoke of the significant benefit of small elementary schools in local communities. I came away with a renewed sense of how important a local community is to all of us in rural Ontario. Your local community is a very complex organism. It is more than just the sum of its residents. The businesses and services, the clubs and organizations, the churches and schools all play an interactive role in the health and vitality of our local community. None of our communities are the same today as they were twenty years ago. Some have lost the gas station, some have lost the post office, some have lost a store or a business and yet each one still desperately wants to hang on to

their local identity. Many want to talk about the good old days and if only this or that hadn't happened our community would be better off.

Tomorrow things could get worse or perhaps they could get better. I am excited to hear about the Innerkip Lion's Club initiative, Imagine Innerkip! I am excited to hear about plans for a new pavilion in Queens Park. It is awesome to see so many of our kids skating in Hickson and Innerkip. It is awesome to see so many people out walking and enjoying their community. Each week there are open invitations to attend an anniversary or a birthday. Our service clubs and churches continue to sponsor community activities and we are in the middle of some exciting local hockey playoffs. I cannot turn the clock back or force a business to stay open or demand a government to do a certain thing. I can; however, fully participate in the wonderful things we have going on in our local communities and encourage each one to do the same. Today is a good day to visit a neighbour, attend an event, visit the library, support your local business and be a part of growing a better tomorrow in our local community!

Public Works Department Updates

9-1-1 Signs and Posts

Particularly after the winter months, it is time to take a look at your 9-1-1 sign and reassess its condition. Each property owner is responsible for the maintenance of the civic address (9-1-1) sign placed on their property. In case of damage to the plate or the post, repairs must be done promptly, and at the owners' expense. Otherwise, township employees will do the work, and all costs incurred will be billed to the property owner. Prices are as follows:

- ◆ 9-1-1 Sign \$84
(new install by the Township including the hardware)
- ◆ Blade & Hardware only \$32
- ◆ Post & Cap only \$16

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 preserve your Township roads.

Tire Stewardship Program

The tire recycling program at the Hickson Roadshop has been quite popular and remains busy throughout the winter months. In 2010 the depot received just over 1,600 used tires, representing three quarters of the year as we did not open the depot until May of 2010. The cost to operate the program is very minimal. Another encouraging benefit of the program is that staff has noticed a significant reduction in the number of tires dumped along the roadsides.

Your used tires may be dropped off at the Hickson Roadshop located at the front of the yard. There is no charge for this service and tires of all kinds may be dropped off as long as they are off the rim and are limited to 10 per truckload for the resident. If you have larger volumes, you do have the option to take them to the Salford Landfill at no cost.



Council

Mayor & County Councillor

Don McKay

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dmckay@twp.ezt.on.ca

Deputy Mayor

Maureen Ralph

519.462.2955

mralph@twp.ezt.on.ca

Councillor - Ward 1

Linda Fulton

519.655.3004

lfulton@twp.ezt.on.ca

Councillor - Ward 1

Clive Lawry

519.655.3102 or 519.655.3490

clawry@twp.ezt.on.ca

Councillor - Ward 2

Don MacDonald

519.462.2672

dmacdonald@twp.ezt.on.ca

Councillor - Ward 3

Don Lazenby

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dlazenby@twp.ezt.on.ca

Councillor - Ward 3

Jeremy Smith

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jsmith@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.

Connect to High-Speed Internet

There have been many residents and businesses throughout the County of Oxford requesting faster, more reliable internet service. In June of 2009 the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) announced that the County of Oxford would be 1 of 14 municipalities to receive broadband funding from the Rural Connections Program. The availability of nearly \$1 million as a 1/3 contribution from the province enabled the County to select Execulink Telecom's proposal in March of 2010 to develop and build the infrastructure and services to bring high-speed broadband internet to all parts of the County. Once the project is completed, this network infrastructure will be owned and operated by Execulink.

Construction began in October 2010 and to this point has been progressing very well. The residents and businesses of East Zorra-Tavistock can expect to have access to these services in the next couple of months. Each taxpayer would have received a brochure with their interim tax bill in January outlining the "High-speed Internet Service" details. There will be two seminars offered in Innerkip and Tavistock closer to the "going live" date. These will be announced on the local radio stations, posted in several areas around the Township as well as listed on the various websites (www.twp.ezt.on.ca; www.ruraloxfordconnections.ca; www.execulink.ca). Representatives from the County of Oxford, OMAFRA and Execulink will be presenting the seminars and will be available to answer any questions residents or businesses may have about the service.

Building Department ...Cont'd from page 1

of snow on the roof. If the attic temperature is above freezing, it warms the roof sheathing which melts the snow lying on the shingles. This water runs down the roof until it meets the roof overhang, which is not warmed by the attic and will be at the temperature of the surrounding air. If the air and the overhang are below freezing, then the water will freeze on the roof surface and start the ice dam. If this happens it could cause shingle uplift and possibly damage the shingles or in worst cases,

create water leaks inside the house. Prevention is the best practice. Proper insulation and ventilation in the roof is the key. Stop the ice formation by stopping the heat escaping from the house through the roof. Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) has useful guidelines for homeowners to reference. Check their website at www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca for more information about general maintenance and repair that can help keep your home in tip-top shape.

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