



TOWNSHIP OF
EAST ZORRA-
TAVISTOCK

EaZy Talk

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 2

MAY 2011

Tax Instalment

Just a friendly reminder that the 2nd instalment of interim taxes is due on May 31st. 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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Have you purchased your Dog Tag?

Another reminder that you must purchase your 2011 dog tags from the Township Office by May 31, 2011. Tags have been available for sale since January 1, 2011. If you no longer have a dog, please contact the office and we will remove your name from our records.

25th Edition of EaZy Talk

In April 2005, the very first edition of the EaZy Talk Newsletter was delivered to each household and business in East Zorra-Tavistock. Over the past several years, you may have noticed copies of the newsletter in one of the local libraries or various other public locations throughout the Township.

More and more, it has become very important to deliver information to Township residents, property owners and businesses. As quoted in the very first newsletter, **'regular communication is the key to effective and efficient delivery of all our services and programs'**.

We have received very positive feedback from various individuals about the content provided in the newsletter. Whether it is general information about Emergency Preparedness or Fire Safety or perhaps an update on the Election or Budget. Maybe it's a reminder from the Public Works or Building Department. Some great photographic skills have also been displayed from many Township

residents in our "Photo Contests". As well, the Mayor's 'words of wisdom' in every edition always provides good food for thought for all.

Whatever information you may come across in the newsletter, Staff and Council believe this form of communication continues to be a very effective way to 'get the news out there'.

In addition to the quarterly newsletter, don't forget to visit our website at www.twp.ezt.on.ca also providing valuable up-to-date information. If you have an email account, subscribing to the "Keep Me Informed" service will bring the latest updates right to your inbox.

What feedback can you provide?

Would you like to see different content? Is the newsletter easy to read? These were questions to you 25 editions ago. Any comments are always appreciated. Contact our office or send us an email with your thoughts on the EaZy Talk newsletter.

Community Safety Committee in EZT

Interested residents from the Township have recently formed a Community Safety Committee. With support from the OPP, this Committee is comprised of a wide representation geographically; a range of ages, as well as various backgrounds and perspectives. The Inaugural Meeting was held on January 25, 2011 at the Hickson Fire Hall. A Mission Statement is currently under development. The primary focus of this committee will be to provide educational opportunities to all residents of all ages.

Safety covers many areas of our everyday activities and is a concern for many of our residents. One of the first events the committee has organized is a Drug Awareness event for Parents and Grandparents. Bicycle safety and activities to keep young people involved and active are also topics under discussion. The committee welcomes any member of the public to attend our meetings and/or become a member. For more information please contact Shirley Hanlon (Chair) at 519-655-2471 or Annie Rowland (Secretary) at 519-655-3575.

Emergency Preparedness Week Poster Contest

Each year during Emergency Preparedness Week in Ontario, the Township's Community Emergency Management Coordinator visits the Grade 5 classrooms and speaks with the students about emergency preparedness and what they can do to help their families during an emergency. This year, in addition to these visits, the Township also sponsored a poster contest for these students. There were 3 winners chosen from each school and prizes were awarded to the winners. Winners received items that can be used during an emergency, such as crank radios and shake flashlights.

The posters that were created were an amazing showcase of information and talent. It made judging the top 3 posters a very difficult task. The winners of the contest are as follows:

Hickson Public School

1st place: Laura Witmer, Katerina Dyck Steinmann & Emily Schwartzentruber

2nd place: Jordan Byerlay

Tavistock Public School

1st place: Sarah Danen

2nd place: Josh Kimpel

3rd place: Katie DeVouge

Tollgate F.I. Public School

1st place: Leia Coltart

2nd place: Isabelle Segui

3rd place: Olivia Dale & Penny Haloulou

Visit our website to view photos of our winners and posters at www.twp.ezt.on.ca.

Barbecue Safety

Barbecue season is here! Here are a few tips to ensure a cleaner, safer barbecue that cooks great food.

Inspect your Barbecue....

This should be done at the beginning of the season and anytime you need to change the propane tank.

- ◆ Spray soapy water on the connections and supply lines. If you see bubbles, turn off the tank and try re-connecting. If it still bubbles, then gas is still leaking. Shut off the tank and replace the leaky parts.
- ◆ Time to trade your propane cylinder? Propane tanks must be inspected and re-qualified or replaced every 10 years in Canada. A date stamp on the collar of the cylinder indicates when it was last qualified. Even if your tank is not at the 10 year limitation, it should be inspected closely for any damage or rusting. Always store tanks outside in a well ventilated area.
- ◆ Remove the grates and lava rocks and check the burner. On inspection, if it visually looks good then fire it up and make sure there is an even flame throughout. If not, replace it. Most burners only last 1 or 2 seasons, depending on the quality of the BBQ and how much use it receives. Since the lava rocks are out, why not clean out all the ash and grease that's accumulated at the bottom of the barbecue. While you're cleaning, check for rust and any sign of deterioration.
- ◆ Don't forget to check and clean out the venturi tubes that deliver the gas to the burner. If they get plugged, the gas will get diverted elsewhere and could pose a hazard.

When you Barbecue....

- ◆ Make sure the barbecue is **at least 5'** from the house or any other material that could catch fire.
- ◆ Only open your propane tank a 1/4 to 1/2 turn. That's all the gas your barbecue needs to operate and if you have a problem it's much easier to shut off.
- ◆ Unless you're keen on joining the space program, always open the barbecue lid prior to lighting it. If it doesn't fire up the first time you try it, shut it down and try again in 5 minutes.
- ◆ Stay with the barbecue until you're finished and the tank is turned off.
- ◆ Ensure the barbecue is in a safe place where kids and pets won't touch or bump into it.
- ◆ If you use a barbecue lighter, make sure you don't leave it lying around where the kids can access it. It won't take long for them to figure out how to use it.
- ◆ When you are finished, ensure the barbecue is shut off, as well as the propane tank.

A few tips for Charcoal Grillers.....

- ◆ Never use gasoline to get the coals going. Instead, use charcoal lighting fluid.
- ◆ Let the lighter fluid soak into the coals for a minute or so before lighting it. That gives the explosive vapours a chance to dissipate.
- ◆ Stand back from the coals when you ignite them and make sure you didn't accidentally spill fluid on yourself or any of the surrounding area.
- ◆ Before you light the coals, make sure the lighter fluid is at a safe distance away from the fire.
- ◆ If the coals start to die out, don't spray lighter fluid on the hot coals - this could create explosive results.
- ◆ Always extinguish the coals when finished barbecuing. A safe way to do it - wearing oven mitts, take the coals out of the barbecue with tongs and submerge them in a metal pail of water.



Message from the Mayor



June is Senior's Month! Are you a senior? My answer to this question is simple, "Is there a discount being offered?" It is easy to look at others and clearly define them as a 'Senior' or not; however, it is more difficult to evaluate ourselves. Please, do not let the definition stop you from enjoying being a senior. Proverbs talks about grey hair being a crown!

enthusiasm and sincerity. Proverbs 15:30 says, "A cheerful look brings joy to the heart". A simple smile can say so much.

Our challenge as a community is to recognize that some seniors are in need of assistance. The physical challenges associated with aging are obvious, but the unseen social and mental challenges are just as important. There are many government programs to help our seniors; however, there is no better help than a neighbour that cares. It is great to hear the many testimonies from people that are reassured that the neighbours keep a watch out for their mom or dad. This community is a great place to call home because people care for each other.

Our community is blessed to have so many seniors in our midst. We have young and old seniors. We have rich and poor seniors. We have seniors who travel the world and we have seniors who enjoy staying at home. This range and diversity provides us with great opportunities and also significant challenges. Our seniors are our best community volunteers. Many are blessed with a measure of wealth, wisdom and time to invest in our community groups. Our seniors are the core group in many of our rural churches. Their generous giving and faithful attendance keep the doors open and the light shining bright. Our seniors have built the fabric of East Zorra-Tavistock and in many ways continue to provide the operating energy. I trust we take the time to show our appreciation with

With June being Senior's Month, the tradition in East Zorra-Tavistock is to celebrate with a Senior's Picnic. It will be held Wednesday, June 15th at the Memorial Hall in Tavistock. Entertainment begins at 2 pm and the great picnic lunch begins at 3 pm. If you are a senior by whatever definition you choose, this event is for you. If you are not a senior, please feel free to come and honour our seniors with your presence and encouragement.

2011 Township Budget

The 2011 Budget has been approved by Council. This year's Township tax levy is up 2%. When combined with the County and Education Levies, the increase for the average residential property owner works out to 1.61%. This amount can be highly variable depending on whether your assessment has changed from 2010.

The 2011 Budget maintains programs and services at a consistent level with prior years. Capital projects will be returning to more normal levels after a significant increase in 2009 & 2010 with the infrastructure stimulus programs.

The breakdown to the right gives an overview of where your tax dollars go and how the Township uses its share. More budget details can be found on the Township website.

2011 Average Residential Property Tax Bill (\$216,857 RT Assessment)

County	\$1,046.42	
Education	\$500.94	
Township	<u>\$955.03</u>	>>
Total	\$2,502.39	

1.61% Increase over the 2010 Average Residential Property (\$206,399 RT Assessment)

For the residential property class, 42% of your tax dollars go to the County of Oxford, 38% are used by the Township and 20% are transferred to the School Boards.

Breakdown of Township Portion

Public Works & Roads	\$377.31
Police (OPP Contract)	\$244.96
Fire Department	\$111.80
Administration	\$108.48
Parks & Recreation Facilities	\$34.01
Council	\$24.86
Tavistock Drainage	\$18.46
Building Department	\$17.08
Protective Services (CEMC, By-law)	\$11.90
Miscellaneous	\$6.17
Tavistock & District Recreation Centre	<u>\$0.00</u>
Total Township Portion	\$955.03

Lightning Safety

In Canada, the odds of being struck by lightning are lower than one in a million; however, each year 6 - 12 Canadians are killed by lightning and many more injured. Learn the **30-30 rule**: Take shelter when you can count 30 seconds or less between lightning and thunder. Remain sheltered for 30 minutes after the last thunder.



Council

Mayor & County Councillor

Don McKay

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Deputy Mayor

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Councillor - Ward 1

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Councillor - Ward 1

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Councillor - Ward 3

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Councillor - Ward 3

Jeremy Smith

519.536.6363

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.

Profiling our OPP Officers

Staff Sergeant Tim Clark is the Oxford County OPP Operations Manager and second in command at the Detachment. Tim oversees the shift sergeants, ensures that investigations are carried out properly and plans strategies to combat different community problems involving such areas as crime, drugs or traffic that occur within the Detachment area.

Tim was born and raised in Oxford County, attending Glendale High School in Tillsonburg. He then went on to study Law and Security at Conestoga College. Tim worked with the Tillsonburg OPP Auxiliary Police for two years before being hired in 1986. His first posting was at Newcastle, east of Toronto before being transferred to Central Patricia, now known as the Pickle Lake Detachment, in Northwestern Ontario.



In 1991, Tim transferred back to the old Tillsonburg OPP Detachment and when the OPP reorganized its detachments he was assigned to the Elgin County OPP Detachment. From there Tim moved on to the Western Region Crime Support Unit where he worked on Project Snow White, an extensive drug investigation involving the Hell's Angels.

In 2003 Tim was promoted to Detective Sergeant and was assigned to the First Nations Policing Bureau working with the Nishnawbe-Aski Police Service, flying in to remote reserves in Northern Ontario to assist with criminal investigations.

In 2005 he took over the OPP Rural & Agriculture Crime Team based in Western Region. The following year he was promoted to Staff Sergeant serving at the Norfolk OPP and the OPP West Region Drug Enforcement Section before returning to Oxford County in July 2008.

Tim has worked in many locations in the Province gaining valuable work experience and knowledge which now proves to be an important asset to our community. He has, however, always been drawn back to "home" and has always maintained a close relationship with his roots here in Oxford County. Tim has found East Zorra-Tavistock Township to be a friendly, welcoming community and he looks forward to continuing to work with the citizens, service organizations and Municipal Officials for the safety and betterment of our community.

Office and Facility Contacts

Township Office

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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