



**TOWNSHIP OF
EAST ZORRA-
TAVISTOCK**

EaZy Talk

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 3

AUGUST 2011

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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Every minute you spend in planning saves 10 minutes in execution; this gives you a 1,000 percent "Return on Energy"

Innerkip Sewer Connections

The Innerkip Sewer Project is virtually complete with only some pumping station work remaining. Commissioning of the system is anticipated for August 29th and most residents will be able to connect after this date. There will be some residents; however, who will be required to wait until some small pumps are installed in September.

An information package from the County, explaining the process necessary for connections, will be delivered to each residence within the next couple of weeks. If you do not receive one of these packages by mid September, please contact the County of Oxford at 519-539-9800. A building permit will be required from the Township and will be available at the Township Office. Council has approved issuing these permits at no cost to residents.

Yard Waste Depots

The Township, on behalf of the County, continues to provide Brush, Leaf and Yard Waste depots in Hickson, Tavistock and Innerkip. The depot currently located at the Innerkip Park will be moving to a new location in Innerkip in mid September. Once this move has taken place, signs will be posted at the current site indicating the new location. If you have any questions regarding these depots, please contact the Township Office. Just a reminder to continue to use these depots in an appropriate manner so they are a service the Township and County can continue to provide to all residents.

Tavistock Construction Update

The following information provided by the County of Oxford is a tentative schedule for work being completed in Tavistock:

- Work on Decew, Wellington, Maria and Hendershot streets is ongoing and is approximately 70% complete. Completion of this area to base asphalt is anticipated to be August 26th.
- Work at the main intersection is anticipated to begin in the last week of August and should take approximately 1 1/2 weeks.
- Work will then proceed North on Woodstock Street to Jacob Street in early September.
- This construction project is scheduled to be completed by the end of October.
- The new pumping station at Wellington Street has been completed and is operational.
- The lagoon work is progressing well with the new cell being 75% complete and the sand filter 60% complete. Commissioning of the system is scheduled for the end of September.

If you have any further questions regarding this construction occurring in Tavistock, please contact Project Manager, Peter Winn from the County of Oxford at 1-866-537-7778 Ext. 3194.

Student Accommodation Fire Safety

Is your son/daughter attending college or university this fall? There are many issues to take into consideration when it comes to finding a safe place to stay.

- ♦ Are there “working” smoke alarms on every storey and outside of sleeping areas?
- ♦ Are there safe ways to exit the house in case of an emergency - all windows and doors should open fully and easily.
- ♦ Are there enough electrical outlets? If extension cords cannot be avoided, use ULC or CSA multi-outlet power bars with surge protection and circuit breaker.
- ♦ Outlets in bathrooms or within one metre of the kitchen sink should be the GFCI type.
- ♦ If the building is fuel fired (natural gas, oil, propane or wood), is there a carbon monoxide alarm?
- ♦ Has the landlord ensured the property complies with Building and Fire Codes?
- ♦ At times, landlords will install bars on windows as a security measure. This could prevent students from escaping in an emergency situation. These bars should be equipped on the inside with a quick opening device that requires no tools or key ensuring they can be removed easily and quickly.
- ♦ Have a talk with your son/daughter about fire hazards such as candles, smoking, cooking, space heaters and ensure they have a fire escape plan. Discuss safety if having a social gathering in the building.

For further information, visit www.ezt.ca and follow the link under Protective Services.

Tavistock Fire-100th Anniversary

On Saturday September 24th, come out and join members of the Tavistock Fire Department as they celebrate their “100th Anniversary and Community Day” at the Tavistock Fire Hall and Optimist Park. From 11:00 am to 3:00 pm, this will be a day packed full of many activities and fun for the entire family. Listed below are details of the many things going on:

- ♦ 5km fun run/walk - Registration at 9:15 am at the Optimist Park. The run begins at 10:00 am and finishes by 11:00 am.
- ♦ Tour the firehall; meet members of the Tavistock Volunteer Fire Department
- ♦ Winner of the Kids poster competition will be announced
- ♦ Antique trucks and equipment onsite for viewing
- ♦ Firefighter challenges and displays
- ♦ Events and activities for kids of all ages
- ♦ Event prizes
- ♦ Lunch and drinks will be provided and served from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm.

For further information, you can visit the Tavistock Fire Department website at www.tavifirefighters.webs.com.

Set aside the date and plan to come out to this event; meet the volunteer firefighters and show your appreciation for all that they do for our community.



The Flashing Green Light

All drivers in Ontario are familiar with the emergency red flashing lights and sirens on police cars, ambulances and fire trucks and know they are required by law to pull to the right and stop when they see or hear them coming. Not everyone is aware of the Volunteer Firefighter’s “Green Flashing Light”.

The Township’s volunteer fire departments located in Hickson, Innerkip and Tavistock rely on individuals who work at other jobs/careers and they are not at the firehall 24/7 as is the case with larger centres. If a 9-1-1 call is placed, it goes to the dispatch station in Woodstock and a page is sent out to the firefighters via a pager that is carried by each of them. These firefighters may be at their regular job, at a family event or at home sleeping in the middle of the night. Upon receiving the page from dispatch, each firefighter is required to respond to the firehall to get the equipment and trucks needed to deal with the situation. Each firefighter responds to the firehall in their own vehicle. Depending on the situation,

there will often be some vehicles traveling directly to the scene as opposed to the firehall. To help the public identify these firefighters responding in their own vehicles, the Ministry of Transportation amended the Highway Traffic Act to allow volunteer firefighters responding to emergencies to use a light that flashes green. These personal vehicles are equipped with a “flashing green light” and is a way of letting the public know that this person is a firefighter and that they are responding to an emergency situation. The green light does not give any special privilege to disobey highway and traffic laws. The flashing green lights are a part of the department’s emergency operating procedures and with the public’s cooperation, they can be very effective in keeping response times down.

If you see the “flashing green light”, please pull over and let them pass - the quicker they can get to the call, the quicker they can respond to the situation.

Message from the Mayor



During this summer's heat wave I came across an interesting quote, "A person's words can be life giving water, words of true wisdom are as refreshing as a bubbling brook." Most people would choose a cold beverage or a dip in the pool for refreshment on a hot summer day. Is it really possible to experience true refreshment from a person's words? Does it have to be a hot day or can these words be refreshing on any and every day? This year I have received words about new life and about death. On March 17th, I received word of the birth of a healthy grandson. On May 19th, I received word of the birth of a healthy granddaughter. What awesome news! What sustaining and refreshing words! On May 7th, I received word that my father had passed away. In this very difficult time I came to appreciate more than ever before how refreshing the words of friends and neighbours are in a time of need. There were so many people that took time to share words of encouragement, of comfort, and of compassion and I am truly grateful. Thank-you.

It is easy to realize on a hot summer day how much we need a refreshing glass of water. However, the fact is we need water each and every day. The same is true of words of encouragement. When tragedy strikes our lives, we have to rely on others to provide words to refresh our spirits. In reality we need the words of others to encourage us every day. Life provides so many challenges and opportunities each day that it would be tragic to miss them for lack of refreshment. While I welcome the refreshing words others give to me I have to look in the mirror and ask myself how often I provide refreshment to the people I meet each day. This is hard work and it requires deliberate action. I have to consider not only what to say but also what not to say.

Consider the power of your words to be life giving water to others. We may not be able to resolve terrorism or solve the US financial crisis but we can be part of building a happy, healthy, refreshing community one word at a time. Together we can refresh one another and together we can enjoy calling East Zorra-Tavistock our home!

Lock it or Lose It

The Oxford County OPP continue to receive reports of unlocked vehicles being entered in EZT in both the urban and rural areas of the Township. This includes vehicles parked in private driveways, on the street or in parking lots. Stolen items include wallets, personal identification, purses, electronics (GPS and computers), loose change, tools and sporting equipment. In some of the areas policed by the Oxford County OPP, 44% of the thefts this year are from vehicles that were unlocked or if locked had property inside that was plainly visible to the thief.

The OPP is requesting that residents speak to their neighbours, friends and relatives about the importance of locking their vehicles and not leaving valuables inside. We have some victims stating that they had "no idea this is happening" in the community, despite the numerous media releases on the subject. The Oxford County OPP is hoping this "word of mouth" approach, "neighbours talking to neighbours" will get the message across **to ALWAYS get into the habit of locking your vehicle and not leave items out in plain view.**

Tax Department Information

The Final 2011 Tax bills have been mailed to all residences in the Township. If you have not received your Tax bill, please contact the Township Office. Failure to receive a tax notice does not prevent penalty charges for late payment. Taxes are due August 31st and October 31st.

Tax payments can be made by the following methods:

- ◆ Cash, Cheque or Debit payments at the Township Office.
- ◆ Cheques can also be placed in the secure drop box located at the front of the Hickson Office.
- ◆ The CIBC branch in Tavistock will accept Tax Payments.
- ◆ On-line and telephone banking is available for making monthly, arrears or regular instalments. All banks accept the Township of East Zorra-Tavistock as a client. When asked to provide an account number this will be your tax roll number from your Tax bill.
- ◆ Pre-authorized Payment Plans are also available. You may choose the 10 month plan which is 10 withdrawals based on your yearly taxes. These payments will be taken from your account on the 15th of the month January through October. You may also choose the the 4 instalment plan with the instalments withdrawn from your account on the actual due dates of the instalments - February, May, August and October. Forms are available on our website and at the office. Any questions, please contact the office for assistance.

Council

Mayor & County Councillor

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Deputy Mayor

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Councillor - Ward 1

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Councillor - Ward 1

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Don Lazenby

519.537.3758

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Councillor - Ward 3

Jeremy Smith

519.536.6363

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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.

Frauds - Are You Ready?

The following information was a July News Release from the Ontario Provincial Police.

The phone rings and the caller advises you that you have just won a car! Or an email arrives telling you a distant relative in Europe you have never heard of has died and has left you a very large sum of money! They only need some personal information like bank account numbers, passwords, credit card numbers and "pin" numbers to complete the deal!

You have sold a car over the internet for one thousand dollars and the buyer sends a "certified" cheque for two thousand dollars, and because the buyer trusts you, just send back the extra thousand and they will be along in a few weeks to get the car.

These and many other cons are out there to separate you from your money states Staff Sgt. Tim Clark of the Oxford County OPP. "You always have to be on guard and cautious".

The OPP get calls on a weekly basis from victims who have either sent money by mail or by a "wire service" for goods that they will never see. "That certified cheque was a fake and worthless, but the money you send back is real and it was yours" said Clark. "Victims ask what they can do to protect themselves and we keep telling them to educate themselves. A good educational tool is the Canadian Anti Fraud Centre web site (formerly known as Phonebusters) at www.phonebusters.com/english/home/eng.html. This site gives you current and up to date information on the different frauds and cons happening every day in your community. Those that do not have the internet can have relatives or friends print out the information for you to read.

Is it possible that a con artist will contact you? Will you be prepared? Have you talked with your senior relatives and friends about these dangers? Have you looked at the Canadian Anti Fraud Centre crime prevention website?

These are questions you need to answer long before a criminal comes after your money. A little time spent now on "crime proofing" yourself and family may save you your life savings later.

FRAUD RECOGNIZE IT - REPORT IT - STOP IT

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@ezt.ca
Website: www.ezt.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