



**TOWNSHIP OF
EAST ZORRA-
TAVISTOCK**

Eazy Talk

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 1

FEBRUARY 2013

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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A LOOK at the BUDGET

The 2013 Budget Review is underway. For more information, please visit www.ezt.ca/budget.aspx

Jacob Street Extension - Surplus Lots

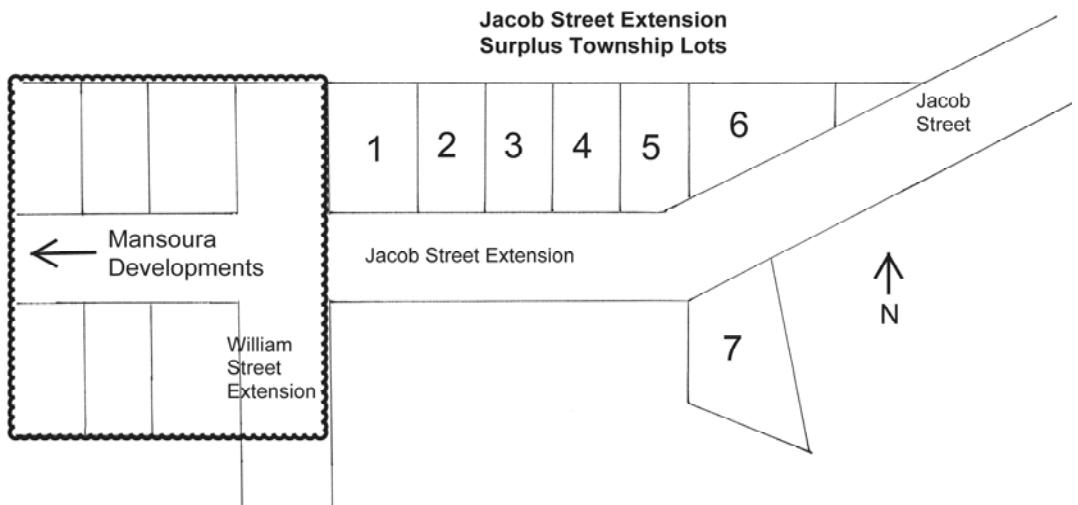
In May 2012, the Township purchased 81 Jacob St. West (the Herman Property). The main purpose was to extend Jacob St. West to William Street. This extension would provide an alternate route around the main intersection for local traffic and emergency responders.

The road configuration was designed such that surplus lots could be created and sold off to help fund the purchase cost and road construction. There will be 7 residential lots available for purchase in the spring. These lots will be fully serviced and are zoned for single family residential development.

The Township has decided to sell the lots by auction. Gerber Auctions Ltd. from Millbank has been engaged to conduct the sale. The Township reviewed a range of options to sell the lots, but believes an auction has the following benefits:

- ♦ very open and transparent process
- ♦ everyone has an opportunity to participate
- ♦ it should ensure the highest dollar value is obtained for the lots
- ♦ relatively low sales and administration costs
- ♦ a short, focused sales period

The Auction will be held onsite on April 4, 2013 at 6:00 pm weather permitting. As further details of the auction become available, the Township will be advertising, posting notices and adding them to the Township's website. If you are interested in receiving email updates about the auction as they become available, please send a message to jcarswell@ezt.ca.



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

Safe and Courteous Snowmobiling

It has not been a typical winter for the snow loving group however, there have been a few occasions where the snow has come and the snowmobilers are out in full force. Listed below are a few safety reminders:

- ♦ Obey speed limits and road/trail signs. Be careful of fences, guide wires and other objects that are difficult to spot particularly at night.
- ♦ Avoid driving on frozen lakes and rivers. If it can't be avoided, check ice conditions beforehand.
- ♦ Tell someone of your outing; never travel alone.
- ♦ Exercise caution at road and rail crossings.
- ♦ Never drive impaired. If convicted, you will lose your driving privileges for all types of vehicles.
- ♦ Never drive on private property without permission.
- ♦ Carry a survival kit, trail map and compass, matches or lighter in waterproof container, first aid kit, mechanical kit that includes spare spark plug, drive belt, screw driver, hammer and wrenches, extra ignition key, tow rope and an owner's manual.
- ♦ For more information regarding licensing, registration, insurance, speed limits, rules of the road and trail systems please visit www.mto.gov.on.ca/english/safety/topics/snowmobile.shtml

We would also like to remind you that motorized vehicles ie. snowmobiles should not be driven along any sidewalk. This creates a hazard for pedestrians and leads to snow falling back into someone's laneway, sidewalk or onto the roadway.

“Guns-N-Hoses” Update

Our first ever Guns N' Hoses community event was a great success! Thank you to our local residents and those that came from neighbouring communities to support this great cause and helped us to raise a grand total of \$3,200 for Muscular Dystrophy. Thank you also to our partners at the OPP.

It was an exciting hockey game and also a great opportunity to learn more about fire safety with the help of Molly the Fire Dog. Molly and her owner, Terry VonZuben of the Whitby Fire Service, were part of the fire education booths that were put on by the Fire Prevention Officers from the Hickson, Innerkip and Tavistock stations.



Sparky & Molly made a great team!



Innerkip Firefighters ran the popular barbeque



OPP Constable, Stacey Culbert gave a beautiful rendition of O'Canada

Deck Permits - Issued on the Spot

Beginning March 13, 2013, the Building Department will be issuing building permits for decks on the spot. A permit is required if at any point the deck surface is greater than 23 5/8" above the ground, regardless of how the deck is attached to the main unit or supported at or below grade.

The “Deck Information Package” is available on our website. Fill out the forms within the package and contact our office to schedule an appointment to meet with the Building Official, John Scherer. There is no additional fee for this service; the standard fee of \$105 applies. Any questions, please contact John Scherer at 519-462-2697 Ext 232 or email at jscherer@ezt.ca.

Purchase your 2013 Dog Tag

Please be sure to purchase your 2013 dog tag by March 31st.

Please note there will be no door-to-door sales this year however, they are available at the following locations:

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

The cost of the tags remains \$20 per dog with revenue being used to fund the cost of animal collection services in the Township.

Message from the Mayor



Recently my wife and I had the opportunity to drive to Portland, Oregon to attend a farm marketing conference. It was my first time travelling across our great continent and I would like to share a few lessons learned.

Lesson one, people and places are generally the same. Our problems and opportunities are similar. Walk into a coffee shop and the conversation is no different; heck the people even look the same. Everyone, everywhere is concerned about their economic future. Our continent was opened up by the railroads. It was further enhanced through the provincial and interstate highways to move people, goods and services and this brought prosperity to all regions. The future economic opportunities will require a new infrastructure to facilitate high speed internet connectivity. EZT will need provincial and federal government support to ensure our residents and businesses have access to the global economy. Health and education will be more dependent on this new high speed connectivity than on bricks and mortar and a warm body in the office or classroom.

The second lesson was gleaned from reading local newspapers. Apparently EZT is not the only municipality doing budget discussions. Every newspaper had front page coverage of tax increases measured by percentage increases. Zero is good and anything else is bad. Lost in the public debate are the concerns

for outcomes. Nowhere was it more frustrating than education taxes. Most states provide a base funding per student and local taxes must provide the rest. Affluent communities have new schools and great programs but small rural areas are really challenged. Self interest voting by an aging population is putting the future of young people at risk. I am thankful we live in a province with provincially funded education. However, are we investing enough of our budget to attract young families and continue to be a great place to raise a family in EZT?

The third lesson was that the more densely populated areas had the most user fees. The drive from Detroit and around the greater Chicago area had numerous toll roads and extra hotel taxes to help meet financial needs. A walk around their public spaces revealed a lot of litter, significant social inequities and concern for personal safety. What a delight to get to Oregon with no sales tax on anything and where it is law that all gas stations are full service. It is quickly apparent that you cannot buy a safe, clean community no matter how high your taxes and user fees. The individual citizen must participate daily in a collaborative commitment to each other in order to have their home be a part of a safe clean neighbourhood. If each neighbourhood does its part then together we enjoy a healthy prosperous community.

Having had a great vacation and experiencing so many different places I return thankful to live, work and play in EZT.

Getting to Know Our OPP Officers

Staff Sergeant John Murray was born in Toronto and raised in Brampton. He comes from a policing background as his father was a 32 year veteran when he retired as a Staff Sergeant from the Peel Regional Police. John is married and has 4 sons, a step-son and 2 step-daughters.

After leaving school, John worked in the Aircraft Industry and landscaping for several years before joining the Peel Regional Police in May of 1983. In Peel Region, John spent time in uniform patrol, traffic enforcement, street intelligence and homicide before leaving to come to the Tillsonburg Police Service in September 1989.

John remained with the Tillsonburg Police until they amalgamated into the OPP in 2000. During this time John was able to develop a strong understanding of the “business” side of policing as he was the Police Association President for 10 years and was involved in all areas of labor management and contract negotiations.

Upon amalgamation into the OPP, John began working in the criminal investigations unit in the Oxford Detachment and has been involved in a number of high profile investigations throughout the West Region. John was seconded to Elgin, Perth and Haldimand Counties during this time and was promoted as a Detective Sergeant in the Professional Standards Bureau in 2009. John remained in the Professional Standards Bureau until January 2012 when he was seconded to the Haldimand County Detachment as a Staff Sergeant (Operations Manager).

In July 2012, John successfully competed for the position of Staff Sergeant (Detachment Manager) at the Oxford County Detachment and assumed that position in August 2012. For John this was very much like coming home, as he has spent much of the past 24 years policing in the Oxford area.

While off duty, John resides in Tillsonburg and he and his wife enjoy entertaining, travelling and watching their grandchildren grow.

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

Council

Mayor & County Councillor

Don McKay

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Deputy Mayor

Maureen Ralph

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Councillor - Ward 1

Linda Fulton

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Clive Lawry

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Councillor - Ward 2

Don MacDonald

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Don Lazenby

519.537.3758

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Councillor - Ward 3

Jeremy Smith

519.536.6363

jsmith@ezt.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.

Photo Contest Winner

Thanks to everyone who entered our photo contest! There are some very talented photographers in EZT and all pictures were amazing; it was very difficult to pick a winner. Judging was done by members of our staff and the winning photo was chosen.

Our winner is Cheryl Gummerson with her photo displaying a 'snowy meandering creek'. She will receive a gift certificate to be used at a business in the Township.

Please visit our website and view all the photos that were submitted. They will also be showcased on our photo frame in the Hickson office.



Oxford County Waste Management Calendars 2013-2014

The new calendars will be delivered via Canada Post to all County households by the end of March. These calendars provide very important information; do not discard them. Refer to them for information, special events, dates, contacts etc.

If you do not receive your calendar, please contact the Township Office or the County of Oxford Waste Management Department at 519-539-9800 Ext 3128.

Did You Know.....

The Township operates a tire recycling depot at the Hickson Road Shop location. We are the only Township in Oxford County to do so and believe there are many benefits to running the program. The County accepts tires at the Salford facility; however, the location in Hickson is much more convenient for many of our ratepayers. Other benefits include a noticeable difference in the number of tires dumped on the Township roadsides, decreased fire concerns at residences as well as the financial benefits. The depot is well used and since its inception in 2010 we have recycled over 6,000 used tires, which has generated just over \$7,000 in revenue to the Township. The staff time to operate this service is minimal and the County includes the tires diverted here in their total waste diversion formula.

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.oxfordcounty.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