



**TOWNSHIP OF
EAST ZORRA-
TAVISTOCK**

EaZy Talk

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 2

MAY 2013

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.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Unplanned Power Outages 2

Fire Prevention on the Farm 2

Message from the Mayor 3

"Royal Reno" Open House 3

Seeking Feedback on Community Garden 3

No Smoking Regulation Update 4

"Tavistock Public Works Shed" Open House 4

Contact Information 4

Have you purchased your Dog Tag?

Another reminder that you must purchase your 2013 dog tags from the Township Office by May 31, 2013. If you no longer have a dog, please contact the office and we will remove your name from our records.

2013 Budget Approved

Council passed the 2013 Budget at its May 1, 2013 meeting. The overall residential tax increase is 2.8% for 2013, although due to re-assessment, phase-in provisions and tax burden shifts between property classes, your actual change from 2012 could be different. Some highlights from the 2013 budget include:

- ♦ Tavistock Queen's Park Pavilion Project \$1,403,000 (includes additional components funded from CIIF Grant)
- ♦ Tavistock Fire Department Tanker Replacement \$170,000
- ♦ Surface Asphalt on Decew, Maria, Centennial, William \$75,000
- ♦ Hard-surface 18th Line (County Rd 4 - Braemar SR) & Cassell (59 - 11th) \$200,000
- ♦ Jacob Street Extension \$500,000
- ♦ Finish Northwest Stormwater Management Facility \$435,000
- ♦ James Street Innerkip \$500,000
- ♦ Additional LED Streetlights \$15,000
- ♦ Finish Tavistock Public Works Shed \$375,000
- ♦ Debt Payments for Tavistock Firehall, Innerkip Streets, LED Streetlights \$235,000
- ♦ Joint Economic Development Partnership with Norwich, Southwest Oxford & Zorra Townships \$25,000

More details on the 2013 budget can be found on the Township website at: <http://ezyt.ca/TownshipOffice/BudgetFinances/Budget/2013Budget.aspx>

Be Safe - Call Before You Dig

As the season for digging and underground work is now upon us, the Township has been receiving numerous calls about locates. Currently, the Township is in the process of becoming a member of "Ontario One Call" and would like to direct all contractors and residents to contact this service for their locates. Ontario One Call is a member-owned and directed Not-for-Profit corporation. It operates the provincial Call Before Dig service for more than 170 utility owners that operate 80% of the vital, buried infrastructure in Ontario. This is a free service to you and information is accepted by phone, fax and online from anyone planning to dig.

How Far in Advance Should You Call?

Utility members require at least 5 business days to complete their locates. Plan your project accordingly by informing at least one week before your excavation.

There are 3 easy ways to contact Ontario One Call:

Online www.on1call.com
 Fax 1-800-400-8876
 Phone 1-800-400-2255



Please note: Not all utility owners are members of Ontario One Call. You must contact all non-members directly. Refer to your utility bill if you are not sure who else you should contact.

Unplanned Power Outages

Unplanned power outages can occur at any time due to many different reasons such as weather conditions, construction damages, traffic accidents or equipment failure. Although power companies work hard to ensure these are as minimal as possible, we still need to be responsible and take precautions for extended outages. In the event of an unplanned outage, there are a few simple precautions you can take to ensure the comfort and safety of you and your family:

- ♦ Prior to calling your service provider, ensure that the cause of the problem is not your household breakers.
- ♦ Contact your Provider immediately so the company can dispatch their crew.
- ♦ Have emergency phone numbers as well as your Hydro providers' telephone number written down for easy access.

Hydro One at 1-800-434-1235 or visit their interactive power outage map at www.hydroone.com/StormCenter/ where you can get frequent updates about what's happening in your neighbourhood.

Erie Thames Power at 1-877-850-3128

- ♦ Keep an emergency kit in a hall closet filled with flashlights, batteries, candles, matches and warm blankets.
- ♦ Keep a ready supply of water bottles and dry snacks in the event of a long period power outage.
- ♦ Having a wireless radio or cell phone can provide you with news updates and a corded phone can be a worthwhile investment to ensure telephone access during a long period power outage.

Fire Prevention on the Farm

A barn fire is a farmer's worst nightmare and often, it brings significant emotional and economic damage to a farming community. Data indicates that between 2007 and 2011, barn fires in Ontario accounted for over \$175 million in property losses. There are many steps that can be taken to establish a good fire prevention plan to reduce the risk of fire on farm properties. The following information outlines simple measures to ensure farm buildings and livestock are safer from fire. These fires are largely preventable by following good fire safety practices.

- ♦ **Start with a Plan:** It is a good idea to have a plan in place in the event of a fire. If possible, make arrangements with neighbouring farmers to provide shelter for your livestock in the event you ever need to evacuate the animals from your farm.
- ♦ **No Smoking:** There should be no smoking permitted in any barn or farm buildings at any time. Strictly enforce this by posting signs and informing people who work for you or visit.
- ♦ **Practice Good Housekeeping in the Barn:** Keeping a clean organized barn is not only crucial to farm life, it is an excellent way to prevent fires. Loose hay or straw should be swept up. After using hay drops, always cover the opening with plywood or better yet, cover the plywood with flame-retardant, one-hour gypsum board.
- ♦ **Provide Adequate Ventilation:** Chemical reactions, found in baled damp hay can be cause for a barn fire. Mows of tightly packed bales do not allow this build-up of heat to dissipate. Smouldering fires can go unnoticed for some time. Spontaneous combustion can occur when the smouldering has reached a high temperature and is exposed to oxygen, resulting in a full-blown fire. Hazardous products should also be stored in well ventilated areas to reduce risk of fire.
- ♦ **Practice Electrical Safety:** Wires should be enclosed in metal or PVC conduit to protect them from exposure to weather, animals and from mechanical damage from machinery and equipment. Keep combustibles away from heating appliances and never leave them unattended. Regular cleaning of electrical appliances and equipment will prevent build-up of dirt and dust which can contribute to overheating and malfunction. A regular maintenance cycle can also identify worn or defective parts, which can be repaired or replaced before they become a problem.
- ♦ **Install and Maintain Lightning Rods and Grounding Cables:** Lightning can enter a building via metal objects such as antennas, cupolas or anything that extends upward. Lightning rods give lightning a direct path to follow to the ground, keeping your barn and the livestock inside safe. Check grounding cables frequently and repair if worn or damaged.
- ♦ **Keep Yard Areas Free of Brush and Debris:** Remove weeds and trim/prune under trees and bushes. Keep grass along a roadway closely mowed (a motorist's stray cigarette could be a source for fire). Clear immediate areas surrounding all barns and farm buildings by removing brush, debris and machinery.
- ♦ **Refuel Equipment Safely:** Refueling tractors and machinery should be done well away from Buildings so flammable vapours can dissipate. Always refuel equipment outdoors away from open flames and sparks. Make sure engines or motors are turned off and cool before refueling.
- ♦ **Install and Maintain Portable Fire Extinguishers:** Install extinguishers in your barn, tool shed and other farm buildings. You should also have fire extinguishers on all mechanical equipment/machinery. Make sure that family members and employees know the location and how to use them. Inspect your extinguishers regularly and recharge when necessary. If you have water type fire extinguishers, protect them from freezing.
- ♦ **Spread the Word:** Visit neighbouring farms and share what you know. Ask other farmers what kind of fire safety measure they have taken and exchange information/ideas. Ensure your neighbours know your farm's municipal address and vice versa; it could be their call that saves your farm!

Message from the Mayor



“If Mayors Rule the World”

I recently attended a conference where Benjamin Barber, Senior Research Scholar at The Centre on Philanthropy, The City University of New York, gave a lecture entitled “If Mayors Rule the World”. The result would be lower taxes, more efficient delivery of services and less burdensome regulations! I like it and I am certain you would like it too.

He is confident that the world would be a better place if Mayors ruled; not because Mayors are smarter than Presidents but because local communities have the most at stake in government decisions. They will fund the decisions and live with the consequences. None of us want Big Brother or Uncle Sam telling us what we can and cannot do. None of us want to pay for the mistakes of relocating Gas Plants or E-Health and the like. If we do not like how Big Government is ruling the world then we better be ready to take responsibility to act locally. Many local communities are asking for more local autonomy in regard to Green Energy Projects and Police costs to name but a few. Are we ready for our chance to rule?

Benjamin has great confidence in local communities to rule the world and he gives us some advice if afforded the opportunity. First, do not expect perfection. Do not be afraid of making mistakes because it is equally important to learn what not to do as what to do. Local decisions can be corrected and costs recovered as they are small in comparison to the alternatives. Secondly, learn from others. Our challenges are not unique to us and we should be combing the world for examples of local communities who have done the heavy lifting. Thirdly, celebrate community. If local communities are to be successful they need to have a strong sense of identity. Their citizens need to be committed to one another and to each other’s well-being. A commitment to the common good must prevail over personal entitlement!

As Mayor, I encourage each one to be a participating member of our local community. Buy local, support our local businesses, attend community events and watch out for your neighbour’s needs. We celebrate the finest local fire services, the finest local recreation facilities and programs, and we are all proud to call East Zorra-Tavistock our home. This is possible not because you have a great Mayor, but rather that I have a great Council, a great Staff and I am part of a great community!

The “Royal Reno” Open House

Participate in a Day of Community Fun at the Tavistock Queen’s Park!

Date June 22, 2013

Time 10 am - 4 pm

BBQ 11 am - 1 pm

Musical Entertainment, Baseball, Soccer, Floor Hockey, Basketball, Face Painting, Crafts, Yoga & Zumba Exercise Classes, Crokinole, Euchre



EZT Seeking Feedback on Community Garden

As the Northwest Storm Water Management Facility is nearing completion, it has been determined there may be a small area of land that will not be used directly for flood control. This area is on the southern part of the facility behind Janelle Drive, just north of Jacob Street West. It will be a relatively flat area, suitable for cropping. Township Council authorized staff to explore the possibility of using this area for a Community Garden. Following are some questions to comment on:

- ♦ Is it a good idea?
- ♦ What problems can you foresee?
- ♦ Are there people that would like to garden, but don't have space?
- ♦ Could it be organized and run by the community?
- ♦ Would an existing or new group wish to take the lead on this project?
- ♦ How much Township involvement would be required or expected?
- ♦ What kind of rules would need to be in place?



If you have any comments or suggestions on this idea, please let the Township know.

You can write to the Township, email at ezt@ezt.ca, call at 519-462-2697 or speak with a member of Council or Staff.

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

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Councillor - Ward 1

Linda Fulton

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Councillor - Ward 1

Clive Lawry

519.655.3102 or 519.655.3490

clawry@ezt.ca

Councillor - Ward 2

Don MacDonald

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Councillor - Ward 3

Don Lazenby

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dlazenby@ezt.ca

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.

No Smoking Regulation Update

No Smoking Regulations Now Include Playgrounds and Sport Fields

In the spring of 2012, Township Council passed By-law #2012-15, the No Smoking By-law. This by-law prohibits smoking at various locations in the Township. The first phase, which was effective last spring, prohibited smoking near entrances to municipal facilities. This spring, the by-law provisions will also prohibit smoking on or near the following locations:

- ◆ Playgrounds
- ◆ Outdoor Playspaces
- ◆ Baseball Diamonds
- ◆ Soccer Fields
- ◆ Tennis Courts
- ◆ Spectator Seating Areas
- ◆ Bleachers

The distance from these locations is 9 metres or 29.5 feet, which is consistent with the provision for entrances. Signs will be installed to identify where smoking is not permitted.

It is hoped that people using Township facilities respect the By-law and voluntarily comply; however, there are provisions for enforcement, if needed. For more information please visit: <http://ezt.ca/MunicipalServices/ByLawAnimalControl/Enforcement.aspx>



Public Works Shed - Open House

The Public Works Shed in Tavistock is now complete and provides the much needed space for maintenance as well as storage of machinery and equipment.

On Saturday June 15th, stop by the Shed in Tavistock located at 381 William St. S. for their 'Open House' being held from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Enjoy a coffee and donut as you take a look at the new facility. Public Works Staff from the County of Oxford will also be on-site giving tours of the new Wastewater facilities.

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