



TOWNSHIP OF
EAST ZORRA-
TAVISTOCK

Eazy Talk

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Tax Instalment

Just a friendly reminder that the final tax bills were mailed at the end of July. Payments are due August 30th and October 31st. If you do not have your tax bill, please contact the Township Office.

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As the kids head off to school, consider this quote.....

"The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education".

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Farm Machinery - Road Safety

In this age of farming, tractors and other pieces of machinery have grown in size to meet the demands of increased farm sizes and drivers are bound to encounter large machinery in their travels. Here are a few tips to stay safe when travelling on the roadways:

- ♦ Slow down as soon as you spot a piece of farm equipment.
- ♦ Practice defensive driving and teach this to young drivers in the family.
- ♦ A farm vehicle is part of a farmer's workplace - be respectful in allowing them to do their job. Roadways need to be used in order to move machinery from one field to another.
- ♦ Watch for hand signals. Just because a tractor veers right does not mean the operator is pulling over for you to pass. The sheer size of farm equipment often dictates the necessity of wide turns - hence the veer right.
- ♦ Be aware of the "Slow Moving Vehicle" sign on equipment. Watch for flashing amber lights. This type of light often marks the far right and left of farm equipment.
- ♦ Do not speed past farm machinery. Even when you may pass safely and legally, the turbulence created by your vehicle may cause the machinery to sway and become unstable.
- ♦ Do not pull out in front of equipment and then slow suddenly. A tractor pulling a piece of machinery does not have the maneuverability of a car. Ensure you have ample space to pass. As with any passing operation, check the rear-view mirror before returning to your lane.
- ♦ Do not expect equipment to run partly on the road shoulders. Driving with one set of wheels on the pavement and one set on loose-surfaced shoulders substantially increases the risk of overturn or other accident.
- ♦ Driver's anxiety levels skyrocket when they are held up behind a tractor; however, keep in mind that the equipment is likely not going too far. Practice patience and common sense.

Reminders to Farmers

- ♦ Make sure all safety lights are clean and working. Replace any worn emblems and add reflective tape to your equipment. If slow moving vehicle signs are damaged or faded, they must be replaced. Perform a complete check of both tractor and equipment prior to heading out on the road. Use safety-type hitch pins and ensure they are fastened properly. A safety chain must extend from the tractor to the frame of the towed equipment. Check all tires and always lock brake pedals together for highway travel - sudden braking on one wheel only, at high speed could put the tractor into a dangerous skid.
- ♦ Try not to group pieces of equipment together when traveling on high-traffic roadways. Motorists need time to pass and return to their lane. When moving a combine, always use the header trailer. For larger equipment down narrow roads, consider an escort vehicle.
- ♦ Don't park machinery on the roads in a manner that blocks traffic when loading/unloading.
- ♦ If possible, limit road travel during evening or peak traffic hours. Keep lights on and flashing, even in the daytime.
- ♦ Remember, rules of the road such as stop signs, traffic lights, turning, etc apply.
- ♦ As with driving any vehicle, **DO NOT USE YOUR CELL PHONE WHILE DRIVING!**
- ♦ Equipment may be driven on the travelled portion of the road, on the shoulder portion of the road, except where prohibited, or on both portions when operating wide equipment. For more information about "Where to Drive on the Road" visit www.gov.on.ca. Farm equipment regardless of width, must by law, give up one-half of the roadway when being overtaken or passed in the opposite direction.

Remove the Temptation.... Hide the Phone!



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It is a known fact that distracted driving is the cause of vehicle accidents every day. The quick response to check a message or answer a call while driving is a danger not always considered.

Remember, school buses and students will be back on the roads very soon. As harvest season approaches, equipment will be travelling the rural roads. You risk the chance of disaster every time you pick up the phone while driving.

Remove the risk - take away the temptation....hide or turn off the phone while driving.

A message from the Oxford OPP

Campfire Safety Tips



It only takes a spark for things to go wrong - a small fire could turn into a dangerous and fast moving blaze if proper precautions are not taken. Follow these tips to ensure an enjoyable and safe campfire.

Fire Pit Guidelines

- ◆ Fire pits should not exceed 24" in diameter and have sides no higher than 24".
- ◆ Placement of the pit needs to be a minimum of 25' from buildings and combustibles ie trees, dry grass, tents, wood fences, decks, sheds.
- ◆ It is recommended that only dry wood be burnt. All toxic materials prohibited by the Canadian Environments Protection Act including treated, painted or laminated wood/wood products, tires, plastic rubber, asphalt, foam and insulation shall not be burnt at any time. Don't burn garbage in your campfire - the smell is unpleasant for you and your neighbours.
- ◆ Use paper and/or kindling to start a fire rather than using flammable liquids. Never use gasoline as an aid to start a campfire. Keep all combustibles including flammable liquids, propane cylinders, lighting fluid, etc. away from the fire.
- ◆ Respect your neighbours - avoid having large quantities of smoke drifting towards neighbouring dwellings. All fires must be supervised at all times and please avoid starting any fire on windy days. Also, ensure there are no "Fire Bans" in place.
- ◆ Sufficient water or extinguishing agent needs to be readily available.
- ◆ Loose clothing can easily catch fire. Never reach into the fire to rearrange pieces of wood. As little as one second contact with fire can cause 3rd degree, full thickness burns.
- ◆ Children should be closely supervised - never allow horseplay near or involving the campfire such as jumping over or around it.

Criminal Record Checks

With the fall season upon us, many organizations will be requesting parent volunteers, coaches, trainers, students and those seeking employment to have a Criminal Record Check or Vulnerable Sector Screening be completed. In an effort to make things more convenient for EZT residents, the Township Office located in Hickson can assist you with the "paperwork". The OPP office in Tavistock does not always have staff present in the office, therefore, are not able to complete this paperwork for you. Officers from the Tillsonburg OPP detachment stop by our office two times a week to pick up applications to be processed and drop off completed checks. Individuals must come in person to complete the paperwork as well as pick it up in person with photo identification. If you are a student or requiring this for volunteer reasons, there is no fee however; a \$25 fee will apply if it is for employment purposes.

Types of Police Checks

- ◆ Criminal Record Check (CPIC)
- ◆ Police Record Check
- ◆ Vulnerable Sector Check (includes Pardoned Sex Offender Database (cannot be completed for person(s) under 18)

In order for the OPP to conduct a Vulnerable Persons Check, the organization must request this in a letter and it must be on the organization letterhead and contain an original signature in non-black ink (faxed or scanned copies will not be accepted). Applicants must also provide 2 pieces of identification with at least one piece of photo ID - Health Cards and Social Insurance Cards cannot be accepted. An extensive list is provided on the Township's website or the OPP website www.opp.ca as well as further details regarding the process.

If you have any questions or uncertainty about the process, please contact the office or visit our website to ensure you have everything in order prior to coming to the office.

Message from the Mayor



All those in favour? All those opposed? Count the votes and the majority wins! It is really quite simple in our Canadian society.

But wait a minute - what was the resolution being voted on? It seems it does not matter. All too often we know the outcome before the formal resolution is put to discussion and debate. People have their minds made up, or as the case with the party politics, they have already been told how they will vote. Opposition has become the common attitude when trying to affect change in government whether it is local, provincial or national. There is certainly a need to challenge government and hold them accountable, but simple closed-minded opposition has two serious consequences. The first problem, as I see it, is the government leaders become more arrogant and thick skinned. If there is not going to be any give and take from those opposed, why even bother trying to have engaged discussion? The second problem is the time, energy and cost which is wasted on playing this game of making each other look

bad rather than governing our communities and our countries toward peace and prosperity.

Perhaps we should start a movement being opposed to opposition?

A better way would be to heed the words from Hebrews where the author writes, "provoke one another to love and to good works", or as another translation puts it, "spur one another to love and good deeds". I can testify that this strategy works. I receive many calls of complaint and opposition and they all provoke me. However, the ones that provide creative alternatives and are aimed at a better solution are the ones that provoke me to change my mind or work harder to achieve better results.

East Zorra-Tavistock is a great community because many residents have perfected the skill of provoking one another. With many serious provincial and national problems ahead of us, we will all need to practice the right kind of provocation.

Stoop and Scoop!

Be a good citizen and respect your neighbours

Dogs may be "man's best friend," but, we also have to make sure they are friends of our community and environment! When your dog defecates on a lawn or sidewalk, it creates a nuisance for everyone else. Not only does it make an unsightly mess, it can also create environmental and health concerns. When out walking your dog, make sure it is leashed and always carry a plastic bag to pick up after your animal. As a dog owner, you should also ensure that your dog remains on your property at all times when not leashed. Despite the fact that you have 'a nice dog who would never hurt anyone', some people have a fear of dogs and do not share the same feelings as a dog owner and their pet.

Unless your dog can do this...please clean up after them!



Retirement and Staff Changes at EZT

After 32 years of service with the Public Works Department, Dennis Holst has retired from the Township. We are sure there have been numerous experiences over his time working with the crew that he will always remember. His expertise and knowledge will be missed by the rest of the road crew, and staff in the office will certainly miss the "smiling" face Dennis wears as he walked into the office even if was to pay taxes! If you see Dennis out and about, give him a pat on the back and congratulate him for a job well done! All the best to Dennis and his family in this new venture.

Staff and Council would like to welcome Tom Lightfoot to the Township as the newest member of the "Road Crew". Tom brings a wide range of experience to the position and resides in the village of Hickson. He has also been a Firefighter with the Hickson Fire Department since 2003 serving various roles on the department.

A couple of other changes to staff at EZT.....

We also welcome Melanie Shiehl and Carla Garrett as the newest staff members in the Office. Melanie will be carrying out the duties of By-Law Enforcement in the Township and will be available one and a half days a week to answer your By-law questions. Carla will be filling the position of Protective Services Administrative Assistant.

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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Councillor - Ward 1

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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.

All Your Recycling Needs

Did you know that blue boxes are available in two sizes? The 16 gallon blue box used for papers is available for a cost of \$4.50 and the 22 gallon boxes used for your containers is available for \$5.50. The County of Oxford has also introduced lids that will fit both blue boxes at a cost of \$1.50. Composters continue to be available at a cost of \$10. To purchase any of these items, please visit the Township Office in Hickson or the County Administration building at 21 Reeve St. in Woodstock.

Battery Recycling

The Township of East Zorra-Tavistock offers a free program for recycling all **household** batteries. Simply bring your batteries in to the office and we will take care them for you. For more information about how this program is run, please visit their website at www.rawmaterials.com.

Tire Recycling

Our tire recycling program has been in place for a couple of years now and continues to be well used by EZT residents with a noticeable difference in the number of tires being dumped along the roadsides. Tires can be dropped off at the Hickson Public Works Yard located at 158 Loveys St. Please ensure tires are off the rims and clean - bicycle tires are not permitted.

Special Waste Collection Event

Taking place on September 21st at 944 James St. in Woodstock from 8:00 am - 12:00 pm, this event will include Household Hazardous Waste, White Goods, Electronics and tires. Please see your Waste Management Calendar for further details.

Fall Clean-up

When you are raking leaves and cleaning out the flowerbeds this fall, please remember the Township provides Yard Waste Depots in Hickson (158 Loveys St.), Innerkip (corner of George & Main St.) and Tavistock (18 Hendershot St.). Bring only acceptable materials such as hedge and tree trimmings, grass, leaves, plants and Halloween pumpkins. **Do not leave garbage, plastic bags, hazardous waste, sod, rocks, stumps or topsoil.**

Please do **not** rake the leaves to the curb as this is not a service provided by the Township and they will not be picked up.



Office and Facility Contacts

Township Office

90 Loveys Street
Box 100
Hickson ON N0J 1L0
Phone: 519.462.2697
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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