



TOWNSHIP OF
EAST ZORRA-
TAVISTOCK

Eazy Talk

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 3

AUGUST 2014

Tax Instalment

Just a friendly reminder that the final tax bills were mailed at the end of July. Payments are due August 29th and October 31st. If you do not have your tax bill, please contact the Township Office.

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Still Need a Criminal Record Check/ Vulnerable Sector Screening?

The season is upon us when many new activities begin....sports, pre-school, elementary school, high-school activities, college students starting their placements and the list goes on. If you need to have a police check done, do not delay. Contact our office or visit our website for more details on requirements.

2014 Municipal Election

Vote By Mail

For the 2014 election, East Zorra-Tavistock electors will be voting from the convenience of their own homes. Voter's kits will be mailed to you the week of September 29th, and will include a sheet of voting instructions, a Declaration Form to be signed by the elector, a ballot with a secrecy envelope, and a return envelope into which the sealed secrecy envelope and signed Declaration Form are to be placed.

Upon receipt of the Voting Kit, each voter should follow the instructions provided in the Voting Kit exactly. The instructions require the voter to do the following:

1. Complete the ballot;
2. Insert the ballot into the ballot envelope marked Ballot Secrecy Envelope;
3. SEAL the Ballot Secrecy Envelope;
4. Complete and sign the Voter Declaration Form. If a voter requires assistance in voting, they can make their mark (ie. an "x") on the signature area of the Voter Declaration Form;
5. Place the completed Voter Declaration Form and the SEALED Ballot Secrecy Envelope into the yellow prepaid business reply envelope;
6. Seal the yellow prepaid business reply envelope; and
7. Mail the yellow prepaid business reply envelope by October 17, 2014 or deliver it by some other means to the Municipal Office no later than 8:00 pm on October 27, 2014.

Instructions are very easy to follow, with a final checklist on the outside of the return envelope. We have posted an instructional video on our website at www.ezt.ca/election

Mail-Back Date

Voters will have approximately 2 weeks to mark their ballot, as Voter's Kits will be mailed on September 29th. **You must have the return envelope in the mail no later than October 17th for it to be in our office by October 27th.**

As an alternative, for those people not comfortable with putting their completed ballot in the mail, we will be accepting them every day of the voting period (September 29th - October 27th) at the Township Office, so you are welcome to drop off your sealed return envelope prior to the close of voting at 8:00 p.m. on October 27th. Envelopes will be accepted during regular office hours, or by dropping them at any time into the secured drop box accessed from the mail slot by the front door. Remember that if you are using this method of returning your ballot, you must still seal your ballot in the Secrecy Envelope, complete the Declaration Form, and put both pieces in the yellow return envelope.

COMPOSITE BALLOT

For the 2014 election, East Zorra-Tavistock voters will be using a composite ballot. A composite ballot is a single sheet of paper which shows individual sections for each separate office for which you are eligible to vote. You will vote for each office based on the instructions provided by clearly marking an "x" in the box beside the name of the candidate of your choice.

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Student Accommodation Safety Tips

This is an exciting time for many students as they head off to College or University. When moving into your accommodation for the year whether it be the school residence, a home or apartment...students, parents and guardians should ensure the place they will be living is safe. A discussion about fire safety practices is paramount to prevent life-threatening situations from occurring!

- ♦ Do you know it is the law to have working smoke alarms on every storey and outside all sleeping areas?
- ♦ Do you know or have you planned an “escape” route? You should always have two ways out!
- ♦ A cluttered space can be hazardous - keep things that burn away from all heat sources (ie. stovetops, space heaters and electronic equipment). Keep heaters at least one metre away from bedding, furniture and curtains.
- ♦ Parties are as much a part of student life as attending classes. The consumption of alcohol combined with cooking or smoking can create a serious fire risk. Avoid over-crowding to stay in control of situations. Encourage guests to smoke outside. Refrain from burning candles to avoid them being knocked over.

The safety tips available are too numerous to list! Here are a couple of websites you can visit for further guidance. www.mcscs.jus.gov.on.ca/english/FireMarshal/FireSafetyandPublicEducation/PublicFireSafetyInformation/SafeStudentAccommodation/OFM_safe-student-tips.html and follow other links or view various safety videos at www.knowfire.ca/.

Memoirs: 1979 Tornado

On August 7, 1979 a tornado cut a 30 kilometer swath of destruction through East Zorra-Tavistock, destroying homes and farm buildings in its path.

In the words of the late Oxford MP Dr. Bruce Halliday, “The devastating tornado which struck our County on the evening of August 7th has left a scar which for some of us, will not be erased in our lifetime.”

On August 7, 2014, 35 years later, the Township held a community open house where survivors came out to share photographs and stories of the day the sky went black. A video featuring stories of that day and those that followed was unveiled. A link to the video is available on the Township website at www.ezt.ca or on YouTube by searching Memoirs: 1979 Tornado.

The event served as a sobering reminder that things like this can happen here and the importance of preparing NOW. For more information on how to be prepared visit www.getprepared.ca.

Tornadoes

- ♦ Did you know Ontario has an average of 12 tornadoes every year?
- ♦ By July 31st this year, Environment Canada had already confirmed the 12th tornado of the season. The season runs from late April to early October.
- ♦ A tornado can strike anywhere - even here!

If you are Indoors:

- ♦ The safest place to be is in an underground shelter, basement or safe room.
- ♦ If there is no basement, go to the centre of an interior room on the level away from corner windows, doors and outside walls.
- ♦ Secure your house - do NOT open windows or doors!

If you are Outdoors:

- ♦ Lay flat in a nearby ditch or depression and cover your head with your hands.
- ♦ Do not get under an overpass or bridge. You are safest in a low, flat location.
- ♦ Watch for flying debris.

Prepare Now:

- ♦ Designate a gathering spot in your home where family members can gather during a tornado.
- ♦ Talk about the dangers and safety precautions with your family so everyone knows what to do when a tornado is approaching.
- ♦ Secure items around your house that could become missiles in a tornado (dead tree branches etc).



Message from the Mayor



Which is more important? To know where you are or to know where you are going? Consider you are on a fishing trip and you are 10 km off shore and just enough fuel to travel 10 km. You know where you are and there is no reason for concern. However, when you start the engine you need to be certain you are headed for shore and not further out into the lake or the results could be disastrous.

Where are you at? By this I do not mean your physical location but your overall well-being. Most people will answer this question by considering their physical and financial health. A visit to the doctor and a check of your bank account will give you a pretty good report card. While these are important considerations I would encourage you to look deeper. Where are you at emotionally, spiritually and mentally? I believe it is more important in these matters to know where you are going than where you are at. The challenge comes to try and gain perspective in these areas of our lives. If you have paddled a canoe upstream in a river you know the challenge of perspective. You are paddling with all your strength and thinking you must be making great progress only to look over to the shore and realize you are barely making progress. It can become very discouraging. I encourage all of us to consider

where we are at in our personal lives and where we are going. Do not be afraid to ask for help. A friend or pastor or advisor sitting on shore can easily see our struggles and offer the encouragement we need to keep going. A full and satisfying life is ahead for all of us but we need to be certain that each step we take is in the right direction.

Where are we at as a community? Certainly we have never been more affluent. We have bigger homes, bigger farms, more cars and lots and lots of stuff! We have more public services than ever before and we have very strong and engaged community volunteers. Where are we going as a community? This is a very difficult question. I am concerned when I see the attitude of entitlement pervading our society. Each step in that direction takes us further away from a sustainable community. The more we ask and demand of Government the more obligation the next generation will have to pay for our over indulgence. I am not advocating for a return to the 'good old days' but rather a reflection on the direction of community. Leadership is a key part and we need willing people to step up and serve on Council, Service Clubs, as Coaches, in our local Churches and in many other leadership opportunities. We need to support those willing to serve if we want tomorrow to be better than today. Let us not waste our moment in history by spending our energy going in the wrong direction.

2014 Municipal Election

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VOTERS LIST

It must be emphasized that in a Vote By Mail system, the onus is on eligible voters to ensure that their names are on the Voter's List. You are welcome to contact the Township Office to check if you are on the list. Because we are using Vote by Mail, it is imperative that our list be as accurate as it can be, so please take the time to check the eligible voters at your residence. This is also an opportunity to check if other persons at your residence are included - children who have recently become eligible to vote; or to have children removed from the list if they have moved away from home. Please note, students are eligible to vote at home as well as where they go to school. If you are a landlord, please make your tenants aware of this opportunity to be added to the Voters List, as very often, MPAC does not have the correct tenancy information. If you are new to EZT, ensure your electoral information is updated. Your assistance in maintaining an accurate list is appreciated.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU DON'T GET A VOTING KIT IN THE MAIL

If your name is not on the Voter's List by September 15th, you will not receive a voters kit in the mail. You will need to come to the Township Office to have your name added to the list. You will be asked to provide proof of identity and residence, or to sign a declaration that you are eligible to vote in East Zorra-Tavistock. Once your application is certified, your Voting Kit will be issued. A Voting Station will be set up at the office, so you will have the option of conducting your vote and dropping your sealed return envelope in the ballot box right then, or you can take the package with you and return your sealed return envelope before the close of vote at 8:00 pm on Voting Day (October 27th).

Any person who receives a Voting Kit addressed to another person should contact the Municipal Office immediately to receive further information, as it is against the law to exercise a vote other than your OWN vote. Information has been posted on our website as well as a video demonstration for your convenience. If requested, we will gladly do a presentation and demonstrate the proper method of handling your voters kit.

NOMINATIONS

Friday September 12, 2014 is Nomination Day, with nominations closing at 2:00 pm. Time is running out! If you are interested in serving on Council, contact the Township Office for a nomination form.

Council

Mayor & County Councillor

Don McKay

519.532.2500

dmckay@ezt.ca

Deputy Mayor

Maureen Ralph

519.462.2955

mralfp@ezt.ca

Councillor - Ward 1

Linda Fulton

519.635.7140

lfulton@ezt.ca

Councillor - Ward 1

Clive Lawry

519.655.3102 or 519.655.3490

clawry@ezt.ca

Councillor - Ward 2

Don MacDonald

519.462.2672

dmacdonald@ezt.ca

Councillor - Ward 3

Don Lazenby

519.537.3758

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.

It's That Time.....

As the summer comes to an end, another school year begins. There are numerous things that parents should teach or review with their children. The first few weeks are an exciting time for children perhaps contributing to a "limited attention span".



A Few Things to Talk About?

- ♦ Walk on the sidewalk if available; if not, always walk facing traffic.
- ♦ Before crossing, stop, look and listen; if a crossing guard is available, always listen to them as it is their job to keep you safe.
- ♦ Bikers should always wear a proper fitting helmet and obey the rules of the road. Come to a complete stop before crossing a street and always get off your bike and walk.
- ♦ Taking the bus? Always stand 6 feet away from the curb and if crossing in front of the bus, stay on the side of the road and walk 10 feet ahead of the bus. You and the bus driver should always be able to see each other.

There are many resources available on various websites. Do a quick search and find fun ways to engage your children about 'back to school safety'.

Photo Contest - Winner

East Zorra-Tavistock is a beautiful Township and we always welcome more photos from all residents.

"Nothing says spring like the emergence of baby wildlife".

This quote and photo were provided by EZT resident, Lorna Wilhelm. She will receive a gift certificate to be used at a business located in the Township.



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: 519.539.1340

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