



TOWNSHIP OF
EAST ZORRA-
TAVISTOCK

Tax Instalment

Just a friendly reminder that the 1st instalment of interim taxes is due on

February 29th

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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Calendar of Events

Want to know what is going on in your community? Take a look at the Calendar of Events on our website. If you have a community event to add please email ezt@ezt.ca

Keep Me Informed

To keep up to date on everything going on in EZT sign up for Keep Me Informed and we will send you emails when we post to our newsroom.

Eazy Talk

VOLUME 12, ISSUE 1

FEBRUARY 2016

Township is Completely Smoke-Free

As of January 1, 2016, all EZT properties are Smoke Free!

Every year, smoking kills more people in Ontario than any other illness or disease and costs the people of Ontario \$1.6 billion dollars in health related costs. Accordingly, since 2006, the Ontario government has banned smoking in most enclosed public places, as well as a variety of outdoor public spaces including playgrounds, sports fields, bar/restaurant patios and outdoor festivals. The Township passed a by-law in 2012 which prohibited smoking in proximity to the entrances to Township facilities. Given this, very little (if any) area was actually left on many Township properties where smoking would in fact still be permitted.

As such, the Township passed By-law #2015-36 on September 16, 2015. This By-law now prohibits smoking (including all e-smoking devices) at all times, on all properties owned or leased by the Township including recreation facilities, parks/playgrounds, sports fields, offices, fire hall properties, public works yards etc. The new By-law took effect on January 1, 2016, with violators subject to a fine.

The Township encourages those using Township properties to be considerate of others by keeping all Township properties smoke-free, and thanks everyone for their cooperation in this matter.

For more information, please contact:

Will Jaques

Corporate Services Manager/Clerk

Phone: 519-462-2697

Email: wjaques@ezt.ca



Having Trouble Making it by 4:30?

The Hickson Township office hours are changing to stay open one hour later on the late council meetings on the third Wednesday of the each month.

This change starts on **Wednesday March 16th** - we will be staying open until **5:30pm**. We will be able to process tax payments, accept building permit applications, and process criminal record check paperwork.

Tax Deadline Extended Hours: the day before and the day of the tax deadline our office will stay open over the lunch hour and stay open until 5pm to process tax payments.

Barn Fire Safety Checklist

Inspect your barn and outbuilding for fire hazards to reduce the risk of tragic loss and ensure the following:

- Heat lamps and space heaters are kept a safe distance from anything that can burn.
- Heaters are placed on a sturdy surface.
- Electrical equipment is labeled for agricultural or commercial use.
- Avoid use of extension cords in a barn.
- Lightbulbs have covers to protect them from dust, moisture and breakage.
- Damage is identified and quickly repaired.
- Dust and cobwebs around electrical outlets and lights are removed.
- Oily rags are stored in a closed metal container away from heat.
- Flammable liquids are stored away from the main barn.
- Barn should be smoke-free.
- Exits and pathways are clear.
- Fire drills are held with everyone who uses the barn.
- Workers are trained to use fire extinguishers.
- ABC fire extinguishers are at every exit and within 50' from any point in the barn.
- Personal safety is the first priority if a fire breaks out.
- Ensure hazard checks take place on a set schedule.

Further safety equipment may be required by local building codes and will help protect your barn such as fire alarms, sprinklers and carbon monoxide detectors.

You can learn more about fire safety on the farm by visiting www.nfpa.org/farms

“Spring Cleaning” Fire Safety Tips

In the House

- I know it's been said many times but this is great time to test your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and change the batteries immediately if needed.
- Check your fire extinguishers that they are easily accessible, pressure gauge is in the “green” and not damaged, nozzle is not clogged, cracked or broken, pin and handle are intact and “do a little shake” - turn it upside down at least 3 times.
- Check for overloaded or damaged extension cords and replace if needed.
- Ensure you have an emergency preparedness kit ready in case of any emergency. For further details on what to include in your kit, visit www.getprepared.gc.ca
- Practice your family's fire escape plan so everyone knows what to do in case of an emergency.
- After a long winter, windows should be checked to ensure they open and close properly in case they are needed as an exit.
- Many of you will get that urge to “spring clean” the house after a long winter. Properly store household chemicals and never mix cleaning agents.
- Get rid of old newspapers, magazines and junk mail. These items tend to pile up and greatly contribute to the severity and spread of fire.
- Check and clean the filters above the stove – this is a task often overlooked and the build-up of grease and grime can be quite substantial.
- You would be amazed at what may be lurking behind that refrigerator! Take the time to pull it out and vacuum the coils (it may help your energy cost too!)
- In one of our prior newsletters, we mentioned “Dryer Safety”. This is a perfect time to take another look at this article found on our website to refresh your memory of what “Spring Cleaning” you can do here.
- Is there a staircase in your home that is not “high-use”? Keep all stairs and landings in your home clear for safe evacuation in the event of an emergency.

Outside the House

- Take a look at your “911” sign or house number. Are they present and visible from the road or street. This is extremely important if you should ever require the help of any emergency services.
- Maintain a clear “fire zone” of 10' around structures.
- After a long winter, it is also a good idea to take a look at your electrical outlets and appliances for animal nests to ensure the wiring is intact and safe.
- Keep 100' of garden hose with an attached nozzle connected and ready for use.
- Remove leaves and trash from carports and garages. Combustible materials are dangerous if they are exposed to heated automobile components, especially under any type of vehicle, lawnmower, motorbike etc.
- Clean up and properly store paints, pool and yard chemicals.
- Check fuel containers for leaks and make sure they are properly stored.
- Let power equipment sit for approximately 30 minutes before placing it inside to be sure there is no possibility of fire.
- If you are in a rural area and wish to have a “Controlled Burn”, remember to contact the Township office for approval. We will require your address, phone #, location of the burn, what you intend to burn and specifics on the hours you wish to carry out this task.
- Everyone loves that first BBQ of the season but here are a couple of things to keep in mind as you “light up the grill” for the season. Check all your propane tanks and lines for leaks and remove any grease build-up in catch trays to prevent igniting. Always position the BBQ well away from combustible objects and only use the grill outdoors. Always know where the closest extinguisher can be located.

Tips from the “Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs”

Message from the Mayor



Twenty years ago on March 1, 1996 the ice came out of the old Tavistock arena to make way for the “New” arena to be built and opened in September of the same year. Not only do we still call it our “new” arena but it actually looks new, or at least it does not show its age. Visitors marvel when you tell them it is 20 years old. They also marvel at the

number of banners hanging from the rafters and the quality and quantity of the signage advertising local businesses. The users are greeted with a clean, practical and highly functional facility. The most amazing fact of this facility is that it has covered all operating costs from operating revenue over these 20 years! There is no other arena in the province that comes close to this claim. How can the small community of East Zorra-Tavistock boast such a claim? Community, community, community!

It started with community consultation and has continued with community participation. The design and construction were overseen by a local group of community volunteers. The fund raising group brought in over \$1.2 million from local businesses and residents. The governance for 20 years has been a

volunteer board. The community has used it for hockey, figure skating, and public skating. It is home to the Tavistock Fall Fair, The World Crokinole Championship, The Southwestern Ontario Fiddle and Step Championship, and a host of other events. A special thanks to the Men’s Club for operating the concession stand. Each person that has helped along the way should feel proud of their contribution to these first 20 years. Well done each and every one, thank-you!

The foremost appreciation goes to Ken Wettlaufer. Ken has been the Arena Manager since day one. He has been the promoter and champion each and every day. He has been the overseer and caretaker to keep it clean and safe. He has been the frugal and thrifty operator to keep the books balanced. Please take a moment and say a personal thanks to Ken.

The next 20 years will be more challenging to maintain the standards of the first 20 years but I am confident that as a community we can make it happen. Please consider how you can be a part. Your suggestions can be passed along to Ken or any Board Member or Councillor. Let’s celebrate our past success while planning wisely for our future.

Watch your Weight. Load Restrictions in Effect

Load Restrictions on Township roadways take effect March 1st and run until the end of April. In accordance with By-Law #2005-46, during this time most vehicles are restricted to 5 tonnes for each axle. Fuel and feed trucks are limited to 7.5 tonnes per axle and milk trucks are exempt.

The reason for the load restriction is to minimize the deterioration of the road during the spring thaw. Equipment exceeding the weight restriction causes extensive damage to the roads, resulting in very high maintenance costs and increased liability. Although farm equipment is not included in this by-law, we request local farmers to consider spring thaw conditions when scheduling movement of commodities, machinery, etc. This will help preserve your Township roads.



Reminder: Keep Your Dogs Tagged

The Canine Control By-Law (#2008-35) requires that all dogs within the Township have an identification tag affixed to them. It has been a few years since the Township stopped selling dog tags, so instead we ask that your dog have an identification tag.

Dog owners can purchase tags from a variety of locations, such as pet stores, vets or online. The tags must include the dog owners name and phone number. More information can be added if you wish. While Microchips are great, they are only readable by people with chip readers, not your neighbour or someone that finds your dog, so make sure your dogs have their tags!



