



TOWNSHIP OF  
EAST ZORRA-  
TAVISTOCK

### Tax Instalment

Just a friendly reminder that the 3rd instalment of interim taxes is due on

**August 31st**

If you do not have your tax bill that was mailed at the end of July, please contact the Township Office.

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### Keep Me Informed

Want to keep up to date on road closures in your area, community events, and important Township news? Sign up for **Keep Me Informed** on our website and receive email updates.

# Eazy Talk

VOLUME 12, ISSUE 3

AUGUST 2016

## Tax Deadline - We are Open Late

**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. For the August instalment we will be open over lunch and until 5pm on **August 30th & 31st, 2016.**

**Open Late Third Wednesday of the Month:** Starting up again in September, the Hickson Township office is open late the third Wednesday of the each month. The next extended hours offered will be on Wednesday September 21st and we will stay open until **5:30pm**. We will be able to process tax payments, accept building permit applications, and process criminal record check paperwork.

## By-Law Compliance

The Township seeks to ensure that its by-laws are adhered to, in order that a safe and healthy community might be maintained. In doing so, the Township's philosophy is always to utilize education and facilitation first in order to efficiently obtain compliance and, only where necessary, exercise a staged enforcement approach.

The Township generally begins all of its by-law infraction investigations after receiving a complaint, reserving proactive compliance only for situations with immediate safety threats. Those wishing to make a complaint related to a perceived Township by-law infraction are encouraged to contact the Township and provide the necessary information to begin the process. Please note that in order for the Township to conduct a proper investigation, anonymous or indirect complaints cannot be acted upon.

In terms of a by-law infraction complaint from either a landlord or tenant regarding a property they are renting, the Township requires proof of the parties making an effort to resolve the concerns prior to investigating the matter. The Township will not investigate complaints that are currently before the Landlord & Tenant Board.

As well, in reviewing the by-law infraction complaints it receives, the Township's observation is that many of the complaints are ultimately rooted in an ongoing disagreement or dispute between neighbours. As such, where at all possible, residents are advised to attempt to resolve their concerns directly between themselves before contacting the Township. Otherwise, involving the Township and/or other agencies may unnecessarily escalate the situation, where a discussion between the parties may have gone a long way toward resolving the matter at hand.

The By-law Compliance Department appreciates the continued efforts of all residents toward complying with the Township's by-laws.

### DENNIS O'NEIL'S RETIREMENT OPEN HOUSE

Dennis O'Neil - Director of Public Works and Development - is retiring after 17 years with the Township of East Zorra-Tavistock. There will be a retirement open house for Dennis, and EZT Council and staff invite EZT residents to come out and wish Dennis all the best in retirement.

**When:** August 19, 2016  
2:00 pm – 5:00 pm  
(Presentation at 4:00 pm)

**Where:** Craigowan Golf and Country Club, 595838 Hwy 59 N. Woodstock

Appetizers/Coffee & Tea/Cash Bar



### EZT IS ALL SMOKE FREE

**As of January 1, 2016, all EZT properties are smoke free!**

Residents are reminded that all Township properties are now entirely smoke-free (including e-smoking devices). This includes all recreation facilities, parks/playgrounds, sports fields, offices, fire hall properties, public works yards etc.



## Controlled Burns & Burn Bans

This summer has been very dry and for safety reasons there was an open air burn permit ban across Oxford County. We thank all of those who call in for their controlled burns and for those who continued to keep updated on the status of the burn ban.

Whenever you are planning a controlled burn of a large pile of brush, or cleaning up some items around your property we ask that you call into the office to book your controlled burn. This way we ensure that dispatch is notified and the fire department is aware. If anyone were to see the smoke from your fire and call 9-1-1 they would be aware of your controlled burn. Also when calling in your controlled burn it helps to keep everyone aware of when there are burn bans and to ensure that everything is safe.

### Requirements for a burn:

- You may only burn wood or wood products
- Controlled burns cannot be held in villages or rural clusters
- The weather must be safe for a controlled burn (if it is too dry or windy, or there is a weather alert in place, permission for a burn might be denied)
- Fires will not be permitted while a fire ban is in place (*fire bans are posted in our Newsroom. Subscribe to Keep Me Informed alerts for updates!*)
- The burn cannot start after 4 PM, and must be completely extinguished by dusk



### When you call in, please have the following information available:

- Telephone number where the person supervising the burn can be reached
- Address of the property where the burn will be held (including 911 number)
- Location on property (for example: "In the field", "beside the barn")
- When you pick a location, ensure that it's far away from any buildings or areas where the fire could spread. Be especially careful on windy days or during dry weather.
- Forms of extinguishing available (for example: Fire extinguisher; buckets of water)
- Material to be burned

**\* If you are considering burning a structure, please call well in advance to schedule an on-site inspection**

Burning on the weekend, no problem! Call the office on the Friday before. **519-462-2697**

## Community Group Grant Policy

Beginning in 2017, the Township of East Zorra-Tavistock will be implementing a new Community Grant system that will require community groups to submit a request for Township grant funding.

The deadline for these applications is **September 30th** of the year preceding the application year. Applications will be reviewed and approved by Staff and Council in consideration with the policy and approved budget, and community groups will be notified by the Township by January 31st if they have received a grant.

Application forms will be available at the Municipal Office located at 90 Loveys St. Hickson ON N0J1L0 or through the Township website, [www.ezt.ca](http://www.ezt.ca)

## Message from the Mayor



It has been a delight to serve as Mayor of East Zorra-Tavistock for these past 14 years. In representing EZT I meet community leaders from across the province and beyond. They always ask the same question, "So, what's new in EZT?" Wow, what an easy question to answer in 2016. We are hosting the U21 Canadian Men's Softball Championships and our host team is all local boys! We are hosting the RCMP Musical Ride! We are hosting the Provincial PeeWee Boy's Championships for Softball Ontario. This is in addition to hosting the World Crokinole Tournament, The Southwestern Fiddle and Step Competition, The Gord Marshal Memorial Women's Fastball Tournament, Lion's Days in Hickson and Innerkip and of course the Tavistock Fall Fair I could go on and

on. They are amazed that all these activities come from a community of just 700 people. They then ask, "How do you do it?" I quickly answer that the Mayor does not do it. It is our community volunteers! It is their time, their energy, their vision, their generosity. It is their desire to serve. It is their desire to have fun and help others have fun. They are the ones who plan, promote and execute like no other small community in Canada. I am so thankful for our community volunteers and proud of their accomplishments.

When someone asks, "So, what is new?" I encourage you to answer them with the good things that are happening in our community. Answer them with pride and praise for our volunteers. A thankful home is a happy home and I am happy to call EZT my home.

## The Last Special Waste Event of 2016

The last special waste collection event will be on **Saturday September 10th, 2016**, located at 20 Spruce St, Tillsonburg. Acceptable materials include household hazardous waste, white goods (large appliances including Freon containing units, tires, electric recycling, scrap metal, and free paper shredding. For more information, please visit [www.wasteline.ca](http://www.wasteline.ca).

## What to Know about ATVs in EZT

Residents and visitors are reminded that All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) and other Off-Road Vehicles (ORVs) are **NOT** permitted on roadways (including road shoulders or unopened road allowances), in the Township. In addition to roadways, these vehicles are also not permitted on publicly owned lands including parks, trails and sports fields.

ATV and ORV use is governed under the Off-Road Vehicles Act, and the Highway Traffic Act (HTA). Section 191.8 of the HTA was first amended in 2003 to give municipalities the authority to pass by laws permitting ATVs to be used on municipal roads. Specifically, Regulation 316/03 governs ATVs when operated on highways. At this time, the Township has not passed a by-law to allow for ATV and/or ORV use on Township roadways, nor has any other municipality in the County of Oxford.

There are exemptions under the legislation which allow for operation on roadways. These include:

- Persons driving directly across a roadway, from one private property to another;
- Farmers and licensed trappers driving on the travelled portion of the roadway, for agricultural and/or trapping purposes, respectively;
- Public employees, including fire, ambulance, police, municipal, utility and rail workers, acting in the course of their employment or in response to an emergency;
- Persons operating on a permitted Provincial highway, in accordance with the legislation.

In all situations, operators must comply with the legislation and associated requirements in their entirety. Enforcement of ATV and ORV operation on roadways is the responsibility of the Ontario Provincial Police. To report ATVs or ORVs operating illegally, or trespassing on private property, please contact the police at: **1-888-310-1122**.



# Council

Mayor & County Councillor

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**Mike Routly**

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Councillor - Ward 3

**Jeremy Smith**

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Council meetings are held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month at 10:00 am and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm. All meetings are open to the public.

## Stone Gates Fundraising Progress

A volunteer committee was formed after citizens voiced their concern about the deterioration of the stone gates at the entrance to Tavistock Queen's Park in September of 2015. This committee researched what could be done and what the best option going forward would be. After issuing a request for proposal and having five contractors respond, it was determined that restoring the gates would be the best option.

The decision was made to contract Gilholm Stoneworks. The estimated cost will be \$50,000. Government grants and other fund raising possibilities have been researched and applied for but these, even if successful, will not cover the total cost.

Currently the committee has collected a number of donations from businesses and individuals within the community, and are still working towards their goal. They are now asking all EZT community residents and friends for their financial support in fulfilling the wish of the community to have these historical gates restored.

Donations should be made payable to **Township of East Zorra-Tavistock** and indicate that it is for the Queen's Park Gates. Cheques can be mailed to *Queen's Park Gates, Box 371, Tavistock, ON N0B 2R0* or forwarded to any of the following committee members: Brian Bennett, Barb Matthies, Greg Pye, Mary Alice Roth, Chris Wiffen, Ron Wiffen or Shirley McCall-Hanlon. The Township can accommodate debit (e-transfer not available) or online banking payment, using account number **4622697**.

Charitable tax receipts will be issued from the township for all donations \$20 and over. Donations of \$100 or more will be recognized on the EZT web site, with your permission.

*The committee sincerely thanks everyone for their support in assisting in the restoration of this historical piece of our past.*



## 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](mailto:ezt@ezt.ca)  
Website: [www.ezt.ca](http://www.ezt.ca)  
Office Hours: Mon - Fri  
8:30 - 12:00 & 1:00 - 4:30

### County of Oxford

Phone: 519.539.9800

### 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: 519.539.1340  
For Bookings: 519.469.3889

### Stay Informed



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