



**TOWNSHIP OF
EAST ZORRA-
TAVISTOCK**

Tax Instalment

Just a friendly reminder that the 3rd tax installment 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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“Travel scenic rural back roads to explore eclectic culinary delights, artisans, festivals, cycling and hiking trails nestled amongst rolling hills and tranquil waters. Natural wetlands and woodlots set the stage for a birder's paradise. Pack your cooler or picnic basket and discover Oxford's unique communities and places in between”.

www.tourismoxford.ca

EaZy Talk

VOLUME 11, ISSUE 3

AUGUST 2015

The End of Recycle Sorting is Near

Oxford County is changing its waste management program beginning Monday September 14, 2015, bringing new garbage and recycling pick-up days and new sorting guidelines for the Township of East Zorra-Tavistock. Starting on September 14, 2015, garbage and recycling pick-up will be offered weekly in new trucks that allow for single stream recycling – meaning all your recyclables can now go into the same blue box.

Your garbage and recycling pick-up day is also changing, and garbage will also now be collected on all statutory holidays with the exception of Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Check the new Waste Management Calendar to see when your collection day is and always have your garbage and recycling set out to the curb by 7:00 a.m.

To help residents through the new garbage and recycling changes, new web tools and the *Wasteline* mobile app are available now to download personalized curbside collection calendars, check on recyclables quickly using a search bar, or sign up for automated reminders by text, email, phone or Twitter message.

Wasteline tools are available for use by residents in all eight of Oxford's area municipalities and can be found:

- At www.wasteline.ca;
- In your mobile device's App Store or Google Play; and
- On your local municipality's website



The new waste management program was approved by County Council in February 2015, following two years of study and community consultation. The new program offers better service for lower cost, with a smaller environmental footprint.

If you have any questions about the new garbage and recycling program, contact the Oxford County Waste Management department at 519-539-9800 or toll-free at 1-800-755-0394. Look for your new Waste Management Calendar this August.

Last Chance to Ditch Waste for 2015

Saturday September 12th 2015 - Oxford County is having their last scheduled waste collection event for 2015 at CAMI, 300 Ingersoll St, Ingersoll. Hours: 8:00 am to 12 noon.

Accepted material include:

- Household hazardous waste depot
- White goods (large household appliances including Freon containing units)
- Electronic recycling depot
- Scrap metal depots

For a full list of items that are accepted please visit www.oxfordcounty.ca or call 519-539-9800. Please be advised that these events are well attended and wait times can take up to 40 minutes.

Tax Department Information

The Final 2015 Tax bills have been mailed to all residences in the Township. If you have not received your Tax bill, please contact the Township Office. Failure to receive a tax notice does not prevent penalty charges for late payment. Taxes are due August 31st and October 30th.



Tax payments can be made by the following methods:

- ♦ Cash, Cheque or Debit payments at the Township Office.
- ♦ Cheques can also be placed in the secure drop box located at the front of the Hickson Office.
- ♦ The CIBC branch in Tavistock will accept Tax Payments.
- ♦ On-line and telephone banking is available for making monthly, arrears or regular instalments. All banks accept the Township of East Zorra-Tavistock as a client. When asked to provide an account number this will be your tax roll number from your tax bill.
- ♦ Pre-authorized Payment Plans are also available. You may choose the 10 month plan which is 10 withdrawals based on your yearly taxes, taken on the 15th of each month from January to October or you may choose to have payments taken on the due dates four times throughout the year; February, May, August and October.

Any questions, please contact the office for assistance.

Can Your Student Get Out?

Whether you are moving into a college or university residence, or you have your own place to live, parents, guardians and students should take an active role in finding a safe place to live and talk about fire and life safety.

- **Fire exits** - A home with an apartment, regardless of number, is required to have proper separated fire exits. A separated exit generally means that a fire anywhere in the building will not affect your ability to leave. Separations usually include fire doors, dry wall ceilings and walls, as well as electric smoke alarms in the shared stairways and corridors. Under the fire code, an apartment contains both a kitchen and a washroom.
- **Operating smoke alarms** - Are they located outside each sleeping area? The best level of protection is provided when there is at least one alarm on each level of the house. Alarms must be located on the ceiling, or no more than 12 inches down from the ceiling to provide proper warning. Note that it is the building owner's responsibility to maintain these alarms, including changing the batteries. Tenants must test the units monthly and report any problem to the owner. The penalty for removing a battery is a minimum \$200 to a maximum \$25,000 and or a year imprisonment.
- **Adequate exits** - There should always be a minimum of two ways out of your bedroom. The window can be considered an exit, but ensure that it is operable, and is of sufficient size and height to allow you to get out in an emergency. Those in a basement that open into a window well must have adequate space to allow exiting.
- **Electrical outlets** - Are there adequate outlets in the bedrooms for the items you will be using? Avoid the use of extension cords as this can overload the household circuits. Also check for improperly spliced or altered wiring and electrical boxes missing outlet covers as these can create a shock hazard when using them. Never run cords under carpets or attach with nails or staples that can damage the wire. Ensure the electrical plugs in the bedroom have a third prong-grounding feature especially for computer use.
- **Carbon monoxide alarms** - Any home that contains a fuel fire appliance (those powered by natural gas, propane, or wood stoves and fireplaces) must have carbon monoxide alarms present, outside the sleeping rooms. Ensure that a clearance of at least 1 meter (3 feet) is maintained around all fuel fired appliances.
- **House numbers** - Ensure that your home is easily identifiable from the street by emergency personnel. House numbers should be at least three inches high.
- **Working locks** - Check to see if all doors and all windows have them.

It is recommended that you check every room in your accommodation. Do not be afraid to ask questions about the accommodation - you have the right to know.

Some Fire Safety Tips

- Never store gasoline, or propane tanks inside of a building.
- If there are smokers present in the home, check couches and chairs before going to bed or leaving to ensure that there are no smoldering butts. Ashtrays should be emptied into non-combustible cans such as coffee tins and allowed to cool for a minimum of 24 hours before emptying into trash.
- Prepare a home escape plan. If you live on campus or in a multi-unit building, ask management for a copy of the emergency fire procedures for the building. This will provide you with information on what to do in the event of a fire, as well as common fire hazards that may be present in your building.
- Candles must never be left unattended and should be extinguished if leaving the room, even for a moment. Keep away from combustibles including books, papers, curtains. And always have them on a sturdy non-combustible surface.
- Many of the fatal fires that occur involve alcohol. After a night out many people come home with a food craving and decide to cook fries and then fall asleep. Picking up food on the way home could prevent these fires.

Message from the Mayor



The summer is quickly coming to a close but I trust you have been able to fit in some special outings. I had the great pleasure of attending *The Sound of Music* in Stratford at the encouragement of my children. It was simply amazing! A month has passed and the words are still playing in my head.

*"I go to the hills when my heart is lonely,
I know I will hear what I've heard before,
My heart will be blessed with the sound of music,
And I'll sing once more."*

Why is music such a magical sound that touches our hearts and emotions? How is it that so many find the music in nature and yet so many others cannot stop to listen? Maria found the

transforming energy of the natural music in the hills to sustain her through many trials and then shared that music with the Von Trapp children. The music blessed her heart and it blessed mine.

How do we encourage each other to find the blessings in life and not the discouragements? One way is to count your blessings. How many have you had this past summer? How many have you had this past week? How many have you had today? When we stop to count it is amazing how blessed we are here in East Zorra-Tavistock. As Mayor, along with your Council, we strive to make EZT a better place. We try to ensure that each tax dollar helps everyone be safe and secure in their community while ensuring a variety of opportunities for a fulfilled life. Maybe we should create an EZT anthem that we could sing every day to energize our lives. Or maybe we should remember an old Sunday school song that our parents sang and lived by, "Make me a blessing to someone today."

Give us your EaZy Thoughts

The Township is looking for your input on several upcoming initiatives. Two-way communication is important in helping Council to set policy and provide programs and services that best serve residents and property owners. Right now, Council is considering several important items that will benefit from your input:

Innerkip Traffic Safety

Two areas of concern have been identified and are being reviewed. We will be looking for your input on what you have observed in these areas and your thoughts on what would help to mitigate the problems.

- Oxford Road 33 - Briar Drive to Blandford Street - Speed / School crossing area / Fire Station
- Area around the intersection of Balsam and Queen Streets

If you have any comments, suggestions or observations you would like to pass along please do so. We will also be sending letters requesting feedback to those in the affected areas.

Township Office Hours

We recognize it is sometimes difficult to get to the Township during regular office hours. With people working in neighbouring communities with similar hours, getting to the office can be a challenge. Currently the Municipal Office is open M-F 8:30 to noon and 1:00 to 4:30. A survey has been setup to gather input on being open over the noon hour and/or having some extended hours.

Council Meeting Videos/Webcasting

Would you be interested in following Council meetings on the web? Would a video of Council meetings be useful to keep you informed and up to date on Council business. A survey has been setup to gather feedback on this item.

For all of these items, there is more information on the Township's website at www.ezt.ca/ezthoughts

Want to make sure you are keeping up to date on things going on in the Township?

Sign up for our **Keep Me Informed** alerts through the Township's website, and choose what items you would like to be informed of. Or, follow the Township on Twitter @EastZorraTav or Like our Facebook Page.

EaZy Thoughts...



Tell Us What
You Think!

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

Shirley McCall-Hanlon

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Councillor - Ward 2

Mike Campbell

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Councillor - Ward 3

Mike Routly

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Councillor - Ward 3

Jeremy Smith

519.536.6363

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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.

Report Crime to OPP Online

www.opp.ca/reporting

Navigate to the above link then select your language preference, then click on the "Start Report" button. Using the Citizen Self Reporting system, specific incidents can be reported online at your convenience without attending a detachment or waiting for an officer.

Do NOT use if there is an EMERGENCY.

Use this online reporting system to report:

- Theft Under \$5,000
- Mischief/Damage to Property Under \$5,000
- Mischief/Damage to Vehicle Under \$5,000
- Theft From Vehicle
- Lost/Missing Property
- Stolen Licence Plates
- Driving Complaint (after the fact)



All submissions will be reviewed by an officer, and you may be contacted to provide more information. You must have a valid e-mail address in order to submit a report.

This system IS now compatible with mobile handheld devices such as phones or

Sidewalks are for Scootin'

People operating motorized wheelchairs and medical scooters are treated in the same way as pedestrians. Therefore you must obey all the rules of the road that apply to pedestrians under the *Highway Traffic Act*.

A sidewalk should be the first choice for someone using a wheelchair or medical scooter. When there is no wheelchair-accessible curb, return to the sidewalk at the first available opportunity. If there is no sidewalk available, you should:

- Travel along the left shoulder of the roadway facing oncoming traffic
- Look for a way to get onto a sidewalk safely and as soon as you can

For more information on personal mobility devices please visit:

<http://www.mto.gov.on.ca/english/vehicles/wheelchairs-and-medical-scooters.shtml>

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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