



TOWNSHIP OF
EAST ZORRA-
TAVISTOCK

Tax Instalment

Just a friendly reminder that the 2nd instalment of interim taxes is due on

May 31st

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

Have an event going on in the community? Let us know so we can spread the word! Please email ezt@ezt.ca to have your community event added to our calendar of events.

Eazy Talk

VOLUME 12, ISSUE 2

MAY 2016

EZT Community Appreciation Event

EZT Councillors invite all Seniors and Volunteers from *all across the Township* to join us for the EZT Community Appreciation Event.

This event is an opportunity for us to say **THANK YOU** to all of our seniors and residents who dedicate their time and efforts to making a difference in our local community. Come and help us celebrate their endless commitment and support!



SUNDAY JUNE 26, 2016

2:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Presentation of "The Senior of the Year" Award at 3:00 pm

TAVISTOCK MEMORIAL HALL



Welcome Our New Staff Members

Summer Student - Rachel Knechtel

On May 2nd, Staff and Council welcomed Rachel Knechtel into our Summer Student position from May until August of 2016. Rachel is a resident of Tavistock, and has completed her second year of studies at the University of Guelph with a major in Honours Psychology Co-op and is working towards a Certificate in Business and Leadership. After completing her degree, Rachel is striving for a career in the Human Resources field, specifically a managerial role.

Building Inspector/Public Works Assistant - Connor Ocleston

On April 25th, Staff and Council welcomed Connor Ocleston into the role of Building Inspector/Public Works Assistant. Connor graduated from Conestoga College this year, from the Architecture - Construction Engineering Technology program. He is from Kitchener, and has worked previously for the City of Stratford in the building department prior to joining our Township.



STOP... STOOP... SCOOP

If you are out walking your dog, please make sure it is leashed and always carry plastic bags to pick up after your animal.



Dispose of the bags in an appropriate manner; do not leave them laying about or “beside” a disposal bin. Please be a responsible dog owner.

**Township is Completely 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.

The Township encourages those using Township properties to be considerate of others by keeping the 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



Fireworks Safety

Fireworks are only permitted on Victoria Day, Canada Day and New years Eve, and only between 8pm-Midnight of the same day as per the Noise By-law 2008-36.

To minimize the risk of fire and burn injury, the fire service does not recommend family fireworks or informal neighbourhood displays.

The fire service recommends attending public fireworks displays hosted by your municipality or other responsible organization.

If you still choose to have a family fireworks or an informal neighbourhood display, check with your local fire department about regulations regarding fireworks. Here are some important safety tips to be followed:

- Appoint a responsible person to be in charge. Only adults who are aware of the hazards and essential safety precautions should handle and discharge fireworks.
- Carefully read and follow the label directions on fireworks packaging.
- Always keep a water hose or pail of water close by when discharging fireworks.
- Discharge fireworks well away from combustible materials like buildings, trees and dry grass.
- Keep onlookers a safe distance away, upwind from the area where fireworks are discharged.
- Light only one firework at a time and only when they are on the ground. Never try to light a firework in your hand or re-light dud fireworks. For dud fireworks, it is best to wait 30 minutes and soak them in a bucket of water. Dispose of them in a metal container.
- Discharge fireworks only if wind conditions do not create a safety hazard.
- Keep sparklers away from children. Sparklers burn extremely hot and can ignite clothing, cause blindness and result in severe burns. As the sparkler wire remains hot for some minutes after burnout, it should be immediately soaked in water to avoid injury.
- If someone gets burned, run cool water over the wound for three to five minutes and seek medical attention, if necessary.

Information from the “Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs”

Illuminated Paper Lanterns

Illuminated paper lanterns are increasing in popularity across Canada, but they are also increasingly becoming banned because of their classification as a ‘serious fire hazard’. The illuminated paper lanterns are ignited and float upwards in the air, similar to a hot air balloon.



While they are a stunning sight, they are also a huge fire risk. The lanterns are intended to float into the air until the flame is naturally extinguished, however while the material itself is non-flammable if it lands and is still burning, it could create a fire.

Given that you have no control on where these lanterns land it is advised that you do not use illuminated paper lanterns.

Message from the Mayor



Ending Poverty, is it just about money? There is a great political debate occurring in our nation that wants huge amounts of your tax money to be invested in poverty reduction without first answering the question. After attending a national conference in Edmonton, 'Poverty Reduction When Mayors Lead', I can assure you that poverty reduction is much more complicated than just a money solution. I was attracted to this conference to support the idea of local solutions rather than simply administer Federal and Provincial mandated programs. I was also intrigued to attend a conference welcoming and featuring many participants with "lived" experience. I was born in the late 50's and sometimes I am tempted to claim "lived" experience when recalling my early education in the two room Hickson school. Wearing the same clothes to school every day and eating a baloney sandwich for lunch surely qualifies. However a short conversation with my older siblings born in the early 50's assures me that my experience was heaven on earth compared to their early education experience. The reality was we all had a home, food to eat and the great hope that the hard work on the farm would lead to a better tomorrow.

Lesson #1. Poverty Reduction is more about hope and opportunity than money! There were several great speakers with authentic 'lived' experience that shared their inspirational stories. The common element in all their stories was Poverty Reduction happened to them when someone cared and connected with them. Someone took the time to reach out and connect with them in their world. None of these transformational connections happened in an office through a hole in a glass window between 9 and 4.

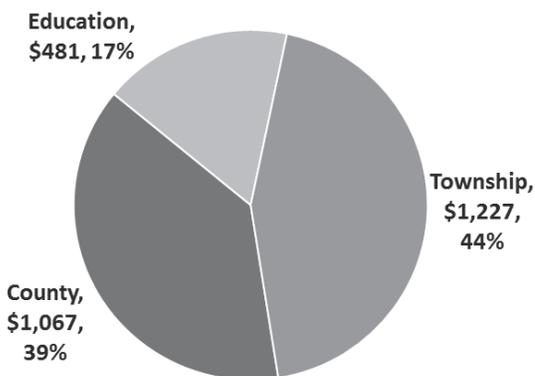
Lesson #2. Poverty Reduction, actions speak louder than words and money! Several Mayors spoke about their local initiatives that were addressing their local needs. I wish I could have told them about TAP, about MCC, about Operation Sharing, about Indwell, and about the Oxford County Housing First Policy and many other initiatives.

Lesson #3. Poverty Reduction, there is no place like home! While we need national income redistribution programs to support those in poverty the solution is local engagement. Thank you for supporting our local initiatives with your time, money and gifts of food and clothing. Let us continue to meet today's real needs while building a future of hope and opportunity.

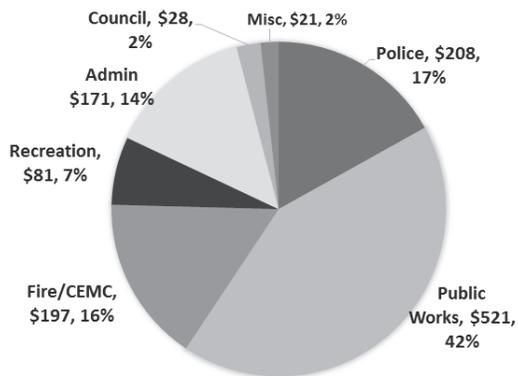
2016 Budget and Tax Rates

Council has approved the 2016 Budget and Tax Rates. The Township taxation levy for 2016 is \$4,573,838. This a 4.22% increase over the 2015 Levy. This levy supports Capital expenditures of \$3,691,929 and Operating expenditures of \$5,884,333. The balance of funds to support expenditures is coming from User Fees (\$1,064,400), Reserves (\$2,042,917) and Grants/ Other (\$1,913,107).

Total Taxation Breakdown
Typical Residential Assessment \$256,000
\$2,775 Total Property Taxation



Township Taxation Breakdown
Typical Residential Assessment \$256,000
\$1,227 Township Taxation



Taxation on a typical residential property assessed at \$256,000 will be \$2,775. \$1,227 represents the portion directed to the Township to support the various programs and services. The following charts provide some additional detail on breakdown of the typical property tax bill.

The budget process is open to the public and all documents have been posted to www.ezt.ca/budget

Council

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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.

Call Before You Dig - It's the Law

As the season for digging and underground work is now upon us, the Township has been receiving numerous calls about locates. The Township is a member of "Ontario One Call" and would like to direct all contractors and residents to contact this service for their locates. Ontario One Call is a member-owned and directed Not-for-Profit corporation. It operates the provincial Call Before Dig service for more than 170 utility owners that operate 80% of the vital, buried infrastructure in Ontario. This is a free service to you and information is accepted by phone, fax and online from anyone planning to dig.

How Far in Advance Should You Call?

Utility members require at least 5 business days to complete their locates. Plan your project accordingly by informing at least one week before your excavation.

There are 3 easy ways to contact Ontario One Call:

Online www.on1call.com

Fax 1-800-400-8876

Phone 1-800-400-2255

Please note: Not all utility owners are members of Ontario One Call. You must contact all non-members directly. Refer to your utility bill if you are not sure who else you should contact.



Having Trouble Making it by 4:30?

The Hickson Township office hours have changed to stay open one hour later on the late council meetings on the third Wednesday of the each month. The next extended hours will be offered on Wednesday June 15th 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. July and August there are no evening council meetings.

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 May installment we will be open over lunch and until 5pm on **May 30th & May 31st, 2016**.

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: 519.539.1340

For Bookings: 519.469.3889

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