



TOWNSHIP OF  
EAST ZORRA-  
TAVISTOCK

# EaZy Talk

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 2

MAY 2006

**TAKE NOTE:**

**Next Tax Instalment**  
May 31st

**2006 Municipal Election**

If you are interested in serving on Council, you can contact the Township Office for a nomination form and additional details, such as meeting frequency, responsibilities and expectations for the position. The deadline for nominations is Friday September 29th at 5 p.m.

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## EaZy Talk 1st Anniversary

This edition marks the 1st Anniversary of the EaZy Talk newsletter. The Township needs to provide information about programs and services it offers to residents. In some areas, such as Fire Prevention and Emergency Management, the Township is obligated by the Province to provide information and education to residents.

Township staff believe the newsletter has been effective in meeting the Township's requirements in a cost effective manner. The Newsletter costs approximately \$2.00/household/year. In addition to being economical, EaZy Talk is delivered to every

household in the Township. While newspaper, radio, internet and email are all useful and required for some notices, the Newsletter is a method of communication that everyone can use.

While Council and Staff believe the Newsletter is meeting the Township's objectives, we would like to hear your thoughts. Is it meeting your needs and requirements for information from the Township? Do you find EaZy Talk informative, easy to read, timely and useful? If you have any comments or suggestions, please contact the Township Office at 519-462-2697 or email [ezt@twp.ezt.on.ca](mailto:ezt@twp.ezt.on.ca) with your comments.

## Emergency Preparedness Week

Municipal Emergency Management officers will be visiting local schools to discuss how students can help their families by making sure that they have an emergency survival kit in their homes. The officers will also be meeting with seniors groups to discuss personal emergency preparations.

Further information is available in the Township Personal Preparedness Guide or check out the website of Emergency Management Ontario at

[www.emergencymanagementontario.ca](http://www.emergencymanagementontario.ca).

**Emergency Partners - Responding For You!**

You are invited on Saturday May 6th, 2006 from 11 am - 3 pm at Southside Park in Woodstock to the first annual "Emergency Partners.....Responding for You" day. This event will provide Oxford County families with

the opportunity to meet the people and organizations involved in emergency preparedness and response. Families will learn what resources are available in emergencies (both local and remote), and what role each

Emergency Partner plays in emergency response. We encourage families throughout the county to prepare for emergencies within their own homes and within

their community, and will provide them with the information that will help them do so. Admission is free. Come enjoy our interactive displays, canine demonstration, automobile extrication and emergency rescue demonstrations, as well as, various displays and giveaways. There are activities for children such as face painting, dress-up area and celebrity reading.

**May 7-13**

Prepare Now ! Learn How !

**Bring the family, learn together!**

## Hickson Office Staff

While it may appear there have been staff increases at the Township Office over the last year, we have been merely filling vacant positions. The latest staffing change was Tricia Johnson, who was lured back to the health clinic in Tavistock at the end of the year. Our loss is certainly their gain; however, we are very pleased that effective February 13<sup>th</sup>, Sherry Matheson has joined our staff. Sherry was previously employed at the North Blenheim Mutual Insurance office in Bright. We welcome Sherry, who will actually be coming back to her roots in East Zorra-Tavistock. When you call or come in to the office, you will be greeted by either Sherry or Stacey Wilker, our two 'front-office' employees. Following is a listing of the employees at the Hickson office and their general area of responsibility:

**Jeff Carswell**, Chief Administrative Officer

**Brenda Junker**, Tax Collection & Council Services

**Stacey Wilker**, Customer Service, Payroll, A/P

**Sherry Matheson**, Customer Service, Reception, Records Management

**Jennifer Albrecht**, By-law Compliance, Community Emergency Management, Building & Fire Assistant

**Bruce Holst**, Fire Chief, Community Emergency Management

**Jim Harmer**, Chief Building Official & Drainage Superintendent

**Dennis O'Neil**, Roads and Public Works Manager

# Lightning Safety Tips

## Be prepared

Electrical conductors including power lines, tall objects, high places and bodies of water attract electricity and lightning. Metal items like golf clubs, fishing poles, and bicycles will conduct electricity so avoid using them when a storm approaches. Never get closer than 30 metres to metal fences and take off shoes that have metal cleats.

## Have a lightning safety plan

Find a safe place where you can wait out the storm, preferably in a building or a vehicle.

Keep a cell phone for emergencies. When you see lightning or hear thunder take shelter immediately. Maintain an emergency kit for your home or automobile with first aid supplies, battery powered flashlight, radio, food items and blankets, in the event of a major storm.

If you are involved in group activities outdoors (with children at a summer camp, a golf game with friends etc.) an action plan should be established in advance for all persons involved. Management, event coordinators, organizations, and groups should designate a responsible person to monitor the weather to initiate the evacuation process when appropriate. Monitoring should begin days and even hours ahead of an event. Safer sites must be identified beforehand, along with a means to route the people to these locations.



## Listen to the weather forecast

Be alert for Environment Canada weather warnings announced on radio or television; especially warnings of severe thunderstorms, which can produce lightning, rain, hail, strong winds, and even tornadoes.

## Watch for severe weather

Keep an eye on the sky. Dark, heavy clouds in the afternoon of a warm spring or summer day can signal an approaching thunderstorm. Take precautions even if the thunderstorm is not directly overhead. Lightning may strike several kilometres from the storm. If you see lightning

or hear thunder you should take shelter immediately.

## Seek shelter

### In a building:

Use a substantial and permanent structure, not a flimsy shelter.

### In a vehicle:

Lightning moves over the outer surface of metal objects, so you are safe inside an all-metal vehicle. But avoid touching anything metal inside, keep your hands in your lap! Don't park near trees or power lines that may collapse during the storm. If a power line falls on or near your vehicle, don't step outside! Smaller equipment (such as riding mowers, golf carts, utility wagons) are not safe and neither are convertibles because it is the outer body that offers protection and not the rubber tires!

### In the open:

If you can't reach shelter, keep away from tall objects such as trees and towers. Stay clear of high ground and open fields. Seek shelter in low-lying areas such as valleys, ditches and depressions. Keep alert for flash floods in low-lying areas. If you're caught in a level field, crouch down, don't lie flat and put your hands over your ears to protect your hearing. If you are in a group, spread out, keeping several metres apart.

### When Indoors:

Stay away from windows and doors and keep them closed. Avoid using tap water or the telephone and disconnect electrical appliances. Do not go back outside unless absolutely necessary.

### After the storm:

Wait about 30 minutes to resume outdoor activities.

### Help victims of lightning strikes

Call for immediate medical help! Victims may be suffering from burns or shock. Victims will not carry an electric charge and can be safely handled. If breathing has stopped, administer mouth-to-mouth resuscitation or cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR).

# Message From The Mayor



Lets celebrate our volunteers! One of the great aspects of being Mayor of East Zorra-Tavistock is representing such an outstanding community. It is one of the best places in Ontario to live, to raise a family, and to do business. What makes it so great? Yes, we have good climate and soils for agriculture, good infrastructure to support

business, good education and youth programs but the distinguishing feature is the commitment of our volunteers. The Innerkip Firefighter's Breakfast, Tavistock Men's Club Sauerkraut Supper, Hickson Lions Daze and the list goes on and on. These are events put on by our many community volunteers for the betterment of all. Great food, great fun and all at a great price - thanks to our volunteers. Our sports programs would not exist without the many volunteers to look after the facilities, fundraise and coach our youth. Our

local churches reach out to their communities through their many volunteers. Our seniors have access to a variety of programs through many caring volunteers. Our history and culture are kept alive by volunteers. When you stop and consider why we love our local community, I think you will agree it is because of the volunteers. They bring a quality and richness that money cannot buy.

We can buy a lot of things in life but we cannot buy the help or time of a volunteer. So what can we do to celebrate our volunteers? Let us start by saying thank-you! Let us continue to say thank-you and maybe add a little token of appreciation, a card or a coffee or a small gift. Finally, the best thing we can do to support our volunteers is to join them - support their activities and join their cause!

To you our volunteers, on behalf of all EZT residents, Thanks!

## Springing into the Barbecue Season

Longer days, clocks moving one hour ahead and warmer temperatures all are signs that spring is in the air and with that the beginning of the main barbecue season. Few things can match the enjoyment of a barbecue with family and friends. Practising sensible and safe barbecuing will help ensure that your get-together is a sizzling success.

While many people barbecue throughout the year, safety experts with the Technical Standards and Safety Authority (TSSA) recognize rolling out the barbecue is a sure sign that spring has arrived in Ontario. Similar to other spring rituals, the BBQ "season opener" should include a three-step safety check:

1. Clean: use a pipe cleaner or wire to make sure the burner ports are free of rust, dust, dirt, spider webs or other debris.
2. Check: examine the hose leading from the fuel supply to the burners. Replace if cracked or damaged.
3. Test: find leaks by applying a 50/50 solution of water and dish soap to all fuel and hose connections. If bubbles appear, tighten the connections and/or replace the damaged parts and always re-test.

In addition to these opening season safety checks, BBQ enthusiasts are reminded that barbecues are approved for outdoor use only. They emit carbon monoxide, an odourless, colourless poisonous gas that can lead to serious health affects even death.

Propane cylinders must also be safely stored and transported. Do not use or store your cylinders inside any structure. When transporting the cylinder always keep it upright and do not put the cylinder in a closed vehicle or in the trunk. It is preferable to transport the cylinder on the floor of the passenger compartment.

### Using propane BBQs on the Balcony: Yes or No?

Many Ontarians live in apartments and condominiums and should be aware of additional safety issues and restrictions regarding the use of barbecues on balconies. Barbecue use may be prohibited by the *Condominium Act* of your building or prohibited by the building owner or property manager, so ensure you have determined what restrictions are in place for your building. If barbecues are permitted in your building, there are still some regulations governing the storage and use of propane in Ontario on balconies:

- the balcony is open (no closures or walls have been erected); cylinders are transported in a service elevator or when there are no service elevators, the person must use the passenger elevator alone to transport the cylinder;
- cylinders are kept outdoors;
- the barbecue is kept clear of all combustible materials listed on its rating plate or in the certified instructions; and
- the cylinder relief valve is at least one metre horizontally from any building opening below it, and three metres from a building air intake.

Once again, remember that barbecues are only approved for outdoor use. It is always better to be safe, so if you are uncertain about the condition or any part of your barbecue, including your propane cylinder, replace it with a new component. Parts are readily available at most hardware stores and building centres. If you are uncomfortable performing safety checks and repairs on your propane or natural gas barbecue yourself, please contact a certified fuel-appliance technician. All technicians must be certified by TSSA. If you are unsure if your contractor is registered you can contact TSSA at 1-800-682-8772 [www.tssa.org](http://www.tssa.org).

# Contacts

Mayor & County Councillor

**Don McKay**

519.532.2500

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Deputy Mayor

**Maureen Ralph**

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Councillor - Ward 1

**Dave Oliphant**

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Councillor - Ward 2

**Don MacDonald**

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Councillor - Ward 3

**Betty Yeoman**

519.462.2364

byeoman@twp.ezt.on.ca

Council meetings are 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

## Township Office

90 Loveys Street

Box 100

Hickson ON N0J 1L0

Phone: 519.462.2697

Fax: 519.462.2961

Email: [ezt@twp.ezt.on.ca](mailto:ezt@twp.ezt.on.ca)

Website: [www.twp.ezt.on.ca](http://www.twp.ezt.on.ca)

Office Hours: Mon - Fri

8:30 - 12:00 & 1:00 - 4:30

## Tavistock & District Recreation Centre

Phone: 519.655.2102

Fax: 519.655.3560

## Innerkip Community Centre

Phone: 519.469.3449

# Township Calendar

Date	Event
May 6	Hazardous Waste Collection - Woodstock Waste Water Treatment Plant
May 7-13	Emergency Preparedness Week
May 9	United Way Community Matters - Tavistock Town Hall Meeting
May 22	Victoria Day - Township Office Closed
May 31	Taxes Due
June 3	World Crokinole Championship - Tavistock & District Recreation Centre
June 5-9	Large Article Collection (materials to be set out by 7:00 am on the Monday)
June 9-11	Great Canadian Outdoor Expo
June 17	Bell Canada Long Distance Dialing Implementation
June 30 - July 2	Innerkip Lions Club - July 1st Celebrations at Innerkip Park
July 3	Canada Day - Township Office Closed
July 14-16	Hickson Lions Daze Community Festival, Hickson Park
August 7	Civic Holiday - Township Office Closed
August 26	Hickson Fire Fighters Fish Fry - Hickson Park
August 31	Taxes Due

# Frequently Asked Questions

- Q. Who do I call if I live in Innerkip, Tavistock or King Subdivision in Hickson and have problems with my water system?**
- A. Your municipal water system is looked after by the County of Oxford. Any questions or concerns should be directed to the Public Works Department at 539-9800 or 1-866-537-7778.
- Q. Are there any rules or regulations if I want to do a spring clean-up and burn my brush?**
- A. If you plan to have a controlled burn and you **do not** live in the villages, you must contact the Township of East Zorra-Tavistock office and indicate the location of the burn (911#), person supervising the fire, form of extinguishment available, contact number and start & end time of the burn. After receiving this information and providing approval, the Township will contact the Oxford Community Police/Fire Dispatch on your behalf. If you do not contact the office, you risk being fined up to \$25,000.00. Unnecessary Fire Department call outs to controlled burns are expensive and can happen quite innocently due to mobile phones and many traveller's good intentions. Reminder - burns are not allowed in the villages of Tavistock, Innerkip and Hickson.
- Q. What is the dead-line for Water Service Connections in Innerkip?**
- A. This dead-line is July 1, 2006. You can obtain your Plumbing Permit Application at the Township Office. Once this has been completed you will receive your meter gap equipment. After installation has been completed, arrangements can be made for an inspection by calling the office at (519) 462-2697.