



TOWNSHIP OF  
EAST ZORRA-  
TAVISTOCK

# EaZy Talk

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1

FEBRUARY 2006

## TAKE NOTE:

Tax Instalments  
February 28th  
May 31st

Ward 1 By-Election  
March 4 Advance Poll  
March 20 Election Day



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## 2006 Municipal Elections



2006 is a Municipal Election year. The general election will be held Monday, November 13th. For the 2006 General Election, nominations will be accepted for Mayor, Deputy Mayor, two Councillors from Ward 1 (Tavistock), one Councillor for Ward 2 (north of the Braemar Sideroad) and two Councillors for Ward 3 (South of Braemar Sideroad). In December, Council approved increasing Council size to 7 members from the current 5 members.

If you are interested 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.

Before the general election, Tavistock voters will be going to the polls to elect a Councillor for Ward 1. Five candidates have filed nominations for this position. Voting will take place on March 20th at the Tavistock Memorial from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. An Advance Poll will be held on March 4th at the Tavistock & District Recreation Centre from 12 noon to 6 p.m. Voter notification cards, which confirm you are on the voters list and contain details on when and where to vote will be mailed shortly. If you do not receive a card, please contact the Township Office to learn how to be added to the Voters List. This By-Election is for the residents of Ward 1 (Tavistock) only. If you do not live or own property in Tavistock you will not get a voter card or be entitled to vote.

## Hickson Library Re-Opens

Following the County of Oxford's decision to close the Hickson Library, local citizens developed a plan to keep the Library in Hickson open.

Support for the Hickson Library has been strong. Local residents have indicated a desire to help with operations; the Hickson Lions Club have donated funds to provide for operation for at least six months and the Township has established the Hickson Library Committee as a Committee of Council, which provides some operational benefits.

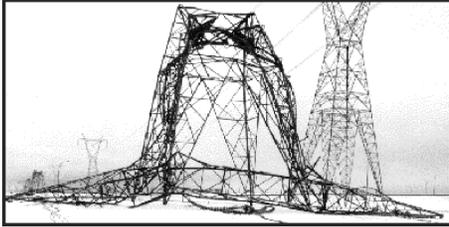
The Hickson Library Committee held a Grand Re-Opening for the Hickson Library on February 5th, 2006. Approximately 75 people turned out to show their support and interest in this project.

Now that the Library is back in operation, it is imperative that residents make use of the facility. According to Brad Smith, Chair of the Library Committee, "It is now up to the residents of Hickson and the surrounding area to use the facility. The Committee has worked hard to re-open the Library, and now it is up to the community to keep it open through continued use and participation with the committee."

The library re-opened with 2,100 donated books, three computers with high speed internet access and volunteer commitments for 6 months. Library hours are Wednesday, 3:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday, 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

If you are interested in helping out, please call 519-462-3029.

# Winter Power Failures



Winter power interruptions are often caused by freezing rain, sleet storms and/or high winds which damage power lines and equipment. An interruption can last from a few hours to several days. While all efforts are made to restore power as quickly as possible, severe weather conditions can greatly delay the process. An extended power failure in the cold winter months and subsequent loss of heating can result in severe living conditions in cold and damp homes as well as damage to walls, floors and plumbing.

Following are several important points to cope with a winter power failure:

- Make sure your personal emergency preparedness kit is complete and well stocked
- Prepare a portable preparedness kit in case of evacuation
- Turn off/unplug electrical appliances to avoid a fire when the power is restored
- Keep a radio or light on so that you will know when power has been restored
- Make sure you are extra careful if you are using candles...flash lights are a better choice

## EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS MAGNETS

This information magnet was mailed with the latest tax bills to all Township residents and businesses. Please review the list and make sure your 72 hour emergency survival kit contains these important items. If you have not received your magnet or would like extras, please contact or visit the Township office.

**Prepare Now, Learn How...  
Emergency Survival Checklist\***

\*Three-day supply per person

- Flashlight and batteries
- Battery Operated Radio
- Spare batteries (for radio or flashlight)
- First-aid Kit
- Candles and matches/lighter
- Extra car keys and cash
- Important papers (identification)
- Food and bottled water
- Clothing and footwear
- Blankets or sleeping bags
- Toilet paper and other personal items
- Medication
- Backpack/duffel bag (to hold all of the emergency survival kit items)
- Whistle (to attract attention, if needed)
- Playing cards, games

www.vaboc.on.ca  
519-537-2824

# Install Smoke Alarms - It's The Law

The Township Fire Department will be enforcing a recent amendment to the Ontario Fire Code that requires homes to have working smoke alarms on every level. This is in addition to the existing requirement of having smoke alarms outside all sleeping areas. The amendment applies to single family, semi-detached and town homes, whether owner-occupied or rented.

"There is no question that working smoke alarms save lives," says Bernard Moyle, Fire Marshal of Ontario. "This amendment was introduced to help make Ontario residents as safe as possible from fire. Homeowners, landlords and tenants all have a responsibility in ensuring compliance with the regulation."

To increase awareness about the amendment and the importance of working smoke alarms, the Township of East Zorra-Tavistock Fire Department will be launching *Working Smoke Alarms: It's the Law*, a provincial awareness campaign developed by the Office of the Fire Marshal. In addition to its focus on smoke alarm requirements and responsibilities, the campaign will educate the public about smoke alarm technology,

installation and maintenance.

"This campaign is a welcome addition to our regular smoke alarm program," said Fire Chief Bruce Holst. Our goal is to ensure every home in East Zorra-Tavistock has a working smoke alarm on every level and that residents know how to maintain them. No one needs to die in a fire and the East Zorra-Tavistock Fire Department will be doing everything we can to help you keep your home and your family safe."

**INSTALL SMOKE ALARMS  
IT'S THE LAW**

Every residence in Ontario must have a working smoke alarm on every level and outside all sleeping areas.

OFFICE OF THE FIRE MARSHAL

Statistics from the Office of the Fire Marshal indicate that in about fifty per cent of fatal home fires that occurred in Ontario, the victims had no smoke alarm warning. For homeowners, tenants and

individual landlords, non-compliance with the Fire Code smoke alarm requirements can result in a ticket of \$235 or a fine of up to \$25,000.

For information about smoke alarm requirements, installation and maintenance, contact the East Zorra-Tavistock Fire Department at 519-462-2697.

# Message From The Mayor



Recently I had the opportunity to attend the Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs Conference. I came away with an overwhelming appreciation for the Fire Services in East Zorra-Tavistock and our Chief Bruce Holst. We have three of the finest rural firehalls in all of Ontario. We will soon take possession of two new rescue vans which will bring our truck fleet up to date. The Township is committed to a capital budget that will guarantee replacement of vehicles as needed and provide for ongoing operating equipment. We appreciate the local departments and community fund raising to provide some important extras. Fire and Emergency Services required the township to levy \$329,451 in 2005 or a \$46 per person. This compares to police services at a levy cost of \$834,973 or \$117 per person and EMS (ambulance) at a levy cost of \$294,683 or \$41 per person.

The best equipment and all the money will not guarantee anything. It is our local volunteer firefighters that provide the service – to protect, to rescue, to save our lives and property. The telling difference at the conference was the quality of our volunteers. The variety of backgrounds and skills they bring to the team is incredible. Their commitment to ongoing regular training is envied by many fire chiefs. Their prompt response to emergencies and their cooperative team spirit with other emergency service providers gives us a great sense of security and pride. Our volunteer firefighters are your neighbours and friends. On behalf of all EZT residents we say Thank You. You are the BEST!

*P.S. Let us each do our part – fire prevention and emergency preparedness.*

## 2006 Township Budget

Each year the Township is required to establish a budget which sets out the estimated revenues and expenditures that will be incurred over the year. The amount expenditures exceed revenue is the amount that must be levied from property taxation.

In 2005 the Township levied just over \$2.5 million in taxes, received \$1.5 million in grants and collected about \$900,000 in user fees/other revenues. The gross expenditure, including transfers to reserves was \$4.9 million.

Township staff and Council have started preparing the 2006 Budget along with the 5 Year Capital Forecast. Part of the budget process each year involves holding a public meeting. At this meeting the proposed budget and user fees are presented to the public. The public is encouraged to attend this meeting and provide comments and feedback to Council

on the budget before it is finalized. Budget documents will be available on March 10th from the Hickson Office and available on the Township's Website.

The 2006 Budget and User Fee Public Meeting is scheduled for March 15th at 8:00 p.m. at the Hickson Municipal Office. During this meeting, everyone has the right to address council on the budget, user fees and tax rates.

Since 2006 is a re-assessment year, the township tax levy change may not coincide with the increase or decrease you see on your tax bill. This is because the assessment change to your property will also have an effect on your tax bill. Staff will be providing information that illustrates the effect on a wide variety of properties based on the change to their assessment.

## Where Is This?

In this edition of EaZy Talk, we've taken a photo that illustrates the natural beauty of the Township in the winter. The running stream, fresh snow and bright sun created a wonderful winter photo opportunity. While this photo is of a specific location that we are challenging you to locate, it does serve to represent the many picturesque locations in the Township. Good Luck!

The photo in the last edition of EaZy Talk was the stone entrance to Queens Park, Arena and Hall in Tavistock. In the lower right corner you can see the arena and several letters from "Tavistock & District Recreation Centre".

*A larger, colour photo is available on the Township's website.*



# Contacts

Mayor & County Councillor  
**Don McKay**  
 519.532.2500  
 dmckay@twp.ezt.on.ca

Deputy Mayor  
**Maureen Ralph**  
 519.462.2955  
 mralph@twp.ezt.on.ca

Councillor - Ward 1  
**Vacant**

Councillor - Ward 2  
**Don MacDonald**  
 519.462.2672  
 dmacdonald@twp.ezt.on.ca

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 a.m. and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

**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  
 Website: 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
February 28	Taxes Due
March - April	Load Restriction on Township Roads - 5 Tonnes / Axle
March 4	Hickson Ball Registration 10 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Oxford Agropro
March 4	Tavistock Minor Ball Registration 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tavistock & District Recreation Centre
March 4	Advance Poll - Ward 1 By-Election - 12 noon to 6 p.m. Tavistock & District Recreation Centre
March 8	Tavistock Minor Ball Registration 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Tavistock & District Recreation Centre
March 9	Oxford Community Police Service - 2006 Budget Public Meeting - 7:30 p.m. Woodstock City Hall
March 15	Township 2006 Budget and User Fees Public Meeting - 8:00 p.m. Hickson Municipal Office
March 20	Voting Day - Ward 1 By-Election
April 14	Good Friday - Office Closed
April 17	Easter Monday - Office Closed
May 31	Taxes Due

# Frequently Asked Questions

**Q. Why didn't I receive a Tax Bill?**

A. Tax bills were mailed the first week of February. You will not receive a tax bill if your taxes are paid by a mortgage company or if you are on the monthly pre-authorized payment plan. If you didn't receive a tax bill and believe you should have, please contact the Township office. Failure to receive a tax bill does not relieve you of liability for the bill.

**Q. When are load restrictions in place on Township Roads and are there any exceptions?**

A. Load restrictions on Township roadways take effect March 1st and run until the end of April. 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 exempted. 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 road, resulting in very high maintenance costs and increased liability.

**Q. How can I check if I'm on the voters list for the Ward 1 By-Election?**

A. The Voters List is available at the Township Office in Hickson for viewing. You may also call or email the office to check whether you are on the list. For the By-Election, Voter Notification Cards will be mailed the last week of February. Receipt of a card would indicate you are on the Voters List. It is helpful if you take your Voter Notification Card with you when you go to vote.