



TOWNSHIP OF
EAST ZORRA-
TAVISTOCK

Eazy Talk

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 2

MAY 2007

TAKE NOTE

The second interim instalment is due May 31st. Several payment options are available. If you have any questions, you can contact the Office or visit our website.

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2007 Budget

The 2007 Budget has been approved by Council. This year's Township tax levy is up 4.1% compared to 2006. When the Township, County and Education Levy's are combined, the Total Tax Rate increase is 3.6% over 2006. The following example illustrates the total property taxes on an average residential property. The Township's portion is further broken down based on the 2007 budget.

2007 Average Residential Tax Bill (\$151,809 RT Assessment)

County	\$793.63
Education	\$400.78
Township	<u>\$667.05</u>
Total Property Taxes	\$1,861.45
3.6% Increase over 2006	

Breakdown of Township Portion

Public Works & Roads	\$222.73
Oxford Community Police Service	\$196.69
Fire Department	\$85.92
Administration	\$73.63
Parks & Recreation Facilities	\$24.87
Council	\$18.71
Tavistock Drainage	\$17.52
Building Department	\$12.40
Protective Services	\$10.36
Miscellaneous	\$4.22
Tavistock & District Recreation Centre	<u>\$0.00</u>
Total Township Portion	\$667.05

For the residential property class, 42% of your tax dollars go to the County of Oxford, 36% are used by the Township and 22% are transferred to School Boards.

The Township's Total Budget for 2007 is \$7,030,084. Of this amount \$2,614,773 comes from User Fees, Specific Revenue, Grants and Reserves, \$1,625,755 from General Grants and Revenue and \$2,789,556 from Taxation. Public Works is the largest expenditure comprising 33% of the total budget. This is followed by Police at 19% then Fire Department at 12%. Major capital projects this year include:

- William Street Reconstruction \$350,000
- Maplewood/13th Line Improvements \$265,000
- Braemar Sideroad \$300,000
- Hickson Tanker Replacement \$114,000
- Tavistock Drainage Projects \$600,000
- Coleman Street Reserve \$100,000

More details on the Township's 2007 Budget are available at the Township Office or can viewed on the Township website.

The total tax levy from the Township is \$8,828,220. This levy comes from the following property classes:
Residential 56%
Commercial 15%
Farmland 12%
Pipeline 10%
Industrial 5%
Multi-residential 2%

72

Hours

IS YOUR FAMILY
PREPARED?

getprepared.ca

Why 72 hours?

Experience has shown that it can take 72 hours or more to mobilize a significant relief effort during an emergency. The 72 hour preparedness message is commonly used across North America by first responders (fire, police, paramedics), governments and relief organizations.

Canadians are encouraged to be prepared to cope on their own for at least the first 72 hours; that's 3 days of an emergency. This allows emergency workers to focus on people in urgent need. To support their efforts, the rest of us need to be prepared to look after ourselves.

Start today! Prepare your emergency kit. Prepare your family so in case of a major emergency you are ready to take care of yourself for 72 hours.

Urban Wildlife

At this time of the year we see many new "visitors" to our neighbourhoods. The Canadian Federation of Humane Societies has a series of "Living with Urban Wildlife" factsheets on raccoons, squirrels, and skunks. These factsheets provide general information about these animals, how to prevent conflicts with them and what to do when

problems arise. If you wish more information you can obtain a brochure from the Township Office in



Hickson or visit:

www.cfhs.ca/wild/urban_wildlife



Municipal By-Law Enforcement

The By-Law Enforcement Department is responsible for enforcement of on street and off street parking, animal control, noise control, clean yards, property standards and other regulatory by-laws.

To lodge a complaint or obtain information on any of these by-laws, or to enquire about any other regulatory by-law, please contact the Township Office at 519.462.2697 and ask to speak to our by-law enforcement officer.

Officers will respond to clean yard/property standard calls with an on site investigation after which the necessary procedures will be taken to ensure compliance.

To report a vicious dog or a dog bite incident, please contact the Oxford Community Police Services at 519.655.2550.

Dog Licences/Tags

The Animal Control By-law states that all dog owners within the Township obtain a municipal dog licence annually. It also prohibits dogs from running at large. Dogs must be kept on the

owner's property or on a leash under the owner's direct control while off the property. If a dog is found running at large, it will be placed in the pound and the owner will be responsible for paying the fines and impound fees in order to have their animal returned. All owners are also responsible to ensure that their dog is not causing a disturbance with excessive barking.

Noise Control By-law

The Noise Control By-law regulates different types of noises and the days and times specific types of noise are prohibited. Please ensure that any noise created from your activities do not disturb your neighbour's enjoyment of their property.

Clean Yards By-law

This by-law requires the owner of a property to keep their yard clear of garbage, debris and any inoperative motor vehicles. It also requires that all fences and structures be kept in a safe condition.

Controlled Burn Guidelines

- If you are going to have a controlled burn, you **must** contact the Township Office at 519.462.2697. You will be asked to give information with regards to the date, location, time, etc. of your controlled burn. Permission can also be granted for weekend burns.
- Avoid starting any fires in dry situations or windy days. Even the most carefully attended fire can quickly get out of control if conditions are right.
- Do not start any controlled burns past 4:00 pm. Fires that burn into the evening and night are easily mistaken by other individuals passing by as fires burning out of control.
- Do not have large fires. If there is a lot of material to burn, split it into a series of smaller fires that can be managed easily.
- Respect your neighbours. Avoid having large quantities of smoke drift towards neighbouring dwellings as it is not only irritating, it can also be a fire hazard.
- No fires are allowed in villages unless they are in a burn or barbeque pit, or used for cooking purposes. Remember that even when these fires are out, these pits can still be very hot and easily lead to burns.
- Only the burning of wood products is permitted.
- If at all possible, keep an adequate source for extinguishing the fire close by at all times.
- Please be aware that the Township can charge for False Alarms responded to by any of the Township Fire Departments.

Message From The Mayor



Winston Churchill wrote, “Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak. Courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen”.

I recently had the opportunity to sit down and listen to a presentation from the Oxford Drug Task Force. We have a very serious problem in our society and it will have an impact on all of us. With the joy of spring and the anticipation of summer, life should be celebrated every day. Unfortunately, many in our community are robbed of this joy through substance abuse. Our health and social services are struggling to cope with the volume of cases and the complexity of treatment. Our work force is suffering from escalating lost work days and employee turnover due to substance abuse problems. People of all ages and walks of life are falling victim to the allure of excitement or the escape from reality. It can happen to anyone at any time when they choose to try it. It is not just teenagers giving in to peer pressure; it is also adults coping with a marriage breakup or a health crisis or a job loss. This is big business with huge profits to

be made by those involved. They have made it as affordable and available as a daily cup of coffee. Unfortunately, when use turns to abuse, lives are at risk, relationships are stressed and the economic impact will hurt everyone. Please, be courageous. Sit down and listen to your children, your relatives and your friends. Be there for them. Stand up and speak out. Prevention is not a program, it is a daily choice! Your smile and kind words may help someone today!

* * * * *

Congratulations to the Innerkip Lion’s club for celebrating 25 years of community service and dedication. May I encourage everyone to get out and support your community events this summer. Thanks to all the local volunteers for making our community a proud place to call home!

On another note, a reminder to our Seniors that once again the Township of East Zorra-Tavistock will sponsor the Annual Seniors Picnic to be held on June 20, 2007 at the Tavistock Memorial Hall at 2:00 pm. Entertainment and refreshments will be provided. Hope to see you there!

Waste Management For East Zorra-Tavistock



Upcoming Dates to Remember:

- May 26** White Goods Collection (Public Works Yard 944 James St. in Woodstock)
- Computer Equipment Drop off Day (944 James St. in Woodstock)
- June 4-8** Large Article Collection (All items must be set out by 7:00 am Monday morning of the collection week. Collection vehicles go by once only. These items do not require a garbage bag tag. Items can weigh no more than 45 kg/100lbs. Unacceptable items remain the responsibility of the homeowner.)

Reminders Regarding Garbage/Recycling Collection

Bag tags must be stuck on the top half of the garbage bag so it can be seen by the collector. The tag can be applied either around the neck of the bag, folded over and the ends stuck together or flat on the bag. If both ends of the tag are not visible, the garbage will not be collected. There is no limit to the number of bags you put out, as long as they are tagged. For details regarding bag/container size, refer to your calendar. All paper and boxboard must be bundled or placed in grocery bags and placed in the recycling box to prevent it from blowing around. All cardboard must be broken down and bundled no larger than 30x30x8”. The cardboard should then be placed beside your recycling box.

Garbage/Recycling must be to the curb by 7:00 am on your collection day since contractors may have reason to switch their route on occasion. It must be placed no further than 1 metre (3 feet) from the curb or traveled portion of the road. If your garbage/recycling is unacceptable, it will not be collected and an explanation notice will be left.

Bag Tags, Blue Boxes and Composters are always available at the Township Office in Hickson.

Bag Tags	\$ 1.25	each
Blue Boxes	\$ 6.00	each
Composters	\$20.00	each



For information regarding acceptable & unacceptable items please refer to your Waste Management Calendar. If you still have questions, you can contact the Township Office at 519.462.2697 or the Oxford County Public Works Department at 519.539.9800 or 1.866.537.7778.

Council

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

Clive Lawry

519.655.3102

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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

Jeremy Smith

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Councillor - Ward 3

Betty Yeoman

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byeoman@twp.ezt.on.ca

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.

Building Department Information



Now that the snow has finally gone and Spring is upon us, many individuals in the community will take the opportunity over the next several months of warmer

weather to begin their planned projects, whether it be the construction of a new fence or deck in the back yard or perhaps a garage/shop. Individuals tend to have many questions once the decision has been made to start their project. Some of these may include zoning, lot grading and building code issues.

Projects Which Require a Building Permit

New Buildings	Swimming Pools
Additions	Demolitions
Renovations	Prefabricated Structures
Plumbing	HVAC systems
Mobile Homes	Temporary Buildings
Any Building 10x10 or larger	
Decks, Fireplaces, Porches, etc.	
Agricultural Buildings	

Projects Not Requiring a Building Permit

Painting, Landscaping, Eavestroughs
Sidewalks, Driveways
Kitchen Cupboards, other cosmetic work
Decks less than 2 ft off grade and not attached to the house
Roof (unless the pitch of the roof is changing)

Where to get a Building Permit

Applications are available at the Township Office located at 90 Loveys St. in Hickson or on our website. A completed application must be submitted along with the appropriate fee, a site plan and structural plans which show footings, foundation, wall and roof profile. This is then reviewed by the Chief Building Official and a permit is issued if everything is in order. Please note that you must provide stamped engineered drawings for barns, manure pits, bunker silos or commercial buildings. It is recommended that the building permit application process be started well in advance of the construction schedule in order to avoid untimely delays. The Chief Building Official requires the builder to post the Building Permit in a window or other prominent place at the site and to keep a copy of the building plan on site at all times.

Construction work must meet required Building Standards

The Inspector's duty is to ensure that the project is being carried out according to the Building Permit, Building Code and the Building Plans. Upon inspection, if some work does not conform to the approved plans or code, the contractor will be advised either through verbal contact or written notice that the situation is to be remedied. If the violation is deemed serious enough, a stop-work order may be posted until the problem is resolved.

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@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

County of Oxford

Phone: 519.539.9800
Website: www.county.oxford.on.ca

Upcoming events and meetings can be viewed on the Township website at www.twp.ezt.on.ca