



**TOWNSHIP OF  
EAST ZORRA-  
TAVISTOCK**

# Eazy Talk

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 2

MAY 2009

## Taxes Due

Just a friendly reminder that the 2nd instalment of Interim taxes is due on May 29th. If you do not have the tax bill that was mailed at the end of January, please contact the Township Office.

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## Tavistock Summer Ice

Ice will be coming out of the Tavistock arena on May 22nd; however, it will be going back in on July 20th. Anyone renting ice in July and August will be offered an incentive. If you book 10 hours, you will receive an additional hour of ice time at no charge. For bookings, contact Ken Wettlaufer at 519.655.2102.

## Outdoor Solid Fuel Combustion Appliances

Respecting the rights of our neighbours and ensuring health and safety is an important and essential aspect of community living. To help keep our community a safe and enjoyable place to live, the Township has several by-laws that regulate and prohibit certain activities. These by-laws address such things as clean yards, property standards, noise, nuisances, animal control and parking violations to name a few. Council recently approved a by-law to regulate the use and location of Outdoor Solid Fuel Combustion Appliances. These appliances are commonly referred to as Outdoor Wood Furnaces.



By-law # 2009-18 prohibits the installation of these appliances in urban areas such as Villages, Rural Clusters, Subdivisions and Settlement Areas. It is believed there is considerable risk to the more densely populated areas of our Township as these appliances can produce substantial amounts of smoke which could be both a health hazard, as well as a nuisance for neighbours. Also, since these appliances can be used for heating water, they are often used year round, unlike a woodstove which tends to be in the winter only.

These appliances are permitted in rural and agricultural areas; however, only when they are located according to the provisions of the by-law and the proper permits obtained from the Township prior to installation. It is highly recommended that you review the provisions of the by-law and contact the Township before purchasing or installing one of these units. The complete by-law is available at the Township Office or can be accessed from the Township website at [www.twp.ezt.on.ca](http://www.twp.ezt.on.ca). As well, you can contact the Township's Protective Services Coordinator, Fire Chief or Chief Building Official to discuss how this by-law may affect you.

This by-law does not apply to Outdoor Solid Fuel Combustion Appliances that were installed before the by-law was passed. The Township is asking anyone that has an Outdoor Solid Fuel Combustion Appliance currently installed to contact the Township, so that a record can be created and the Township Fire Department will have knowledge of where these appliances are currently located.

*Upcoming events and meetings can be viewed on the Township website at  
[www.twp.ezt.on.ca](http://www.twp.ezt.on.ca)*

### If an Emergency Strikes....

Are you prepared if an emergency strikes? The following items should be a part of your Emergency Kit so that you and your family can care for yourselves for a minimum of **72 hours** in the event of an emergency:

- ◆ Flashlight and batteries
- ◆ Battery operated radio
- ◆ First Aid Kit
- ◆ Candles and matches
- ◆ Copies of important documents/identification for each person
- ◆ Food and bottled water
- ◆ Clothing and footwear (a change of clothing per person)
- ◆ Blankets or sleeping bags (one blanket or sleeping bag per person)
- ◆ Toilet paper and other personal hygiene supplies (soap, toothbrush, etc)
- ◆ Medication
- ◆ Extra cash
- ◆ Whistle (in case you need to attract someone's attention)
- ◆ Playing cards, games, reading material, colouring books, crayons etc.

### Hey Kids.... Can you unscramble these disasters

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## Fireworks Safety



If you plan to celebrate a special occasion with your own family fireworks show, please read the following tips. Family fireworks should only be used in clear areas away from structures and dry vegetation. Pay close attention to these safety guidelines.

- ◆ Purchase your fireworks from a reliable source
- ◆ Always read and follow the directions
- ◆ Persons using fireworks must be at least 18 years old
- ◆ Check the wind. Place fireworks in a bucket of sand and incline fireworks to go away from spectators (postpone fireworks if wind is strong)
- ◆ Always have water handy (garden hose or bucket)
- ◆ Never experiment or make your own fireworks
- ◆ Light only one firework at a time
- ◆ Never re-light a "dud" firework (wait 15-20 minutes then soak it in a bucket of water)
- ◆ Never give sparklers to children. Sparklers have been considered to be harmless fun however they burn extremely hot and can ignite clothing, resulting in severe burns and/or eye injuries. The sparkler wire remains very hot after burnout and should be soaked in a bucket of water before discarding.
- ◆ Dispose of fireworks properly by soaking them in water
- ◆ Never throw or point fireworks at other people
- ◆ Never set off fireworks during an open air burning ban
- ◆ Never carry fireworks in your pocket
- ◆ Never shoot fireworks in metal or glass containers
- ◆ The shooter should always wear eye protection and never have any part of their body over the firework
- ◆ Stay away from illegal explosives
- ◆ Support your Community and go to a local fireworks display

## Controlled Burn Guidelines

Most residents in the Township are aware of our "Controlled Burn" guidelines and we thank you for your cooperation in abiding by these rules. As a refresher, please review the following:

- ◆ 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 specific information such as date, location, time, etc. of your controlled burn. Permission can also be granted for weekend burns.
- ◆ Avoid starting any fires in dry situations and on 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 p.m. Fires that burn into the evening and night are easily mistaken by others as fires burning out of control.
- ◆ If there is a day with poor air quality due to high outdoor temperatures and high humidex, permits for controlled burns will not be granted.
- ◆ Do not have large fires. If there is a lot of material to burn, split it into a series of smaller piles that can easily be managed.
- ◆ 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 allowed.
- ◆ If at all possible, keep an adequate source for extinguishing the fire close by at all times.

**If you have questions or concerns, please contact Fire Chief, Scott Alexander.**

# Message from the Mayor



**“The worst kind of ignorance is the things we know for sure that just ain’t so.”**

I’m not certain just what Mark Twain had in mind back in the 1800’s, but today his clever quip could apply to much of the economic information being spread around. Surprise is an understatement when we compare our present situation to that of a year ago. Many have lost significant amounts of their investments. Many have lost their jobs or have had hours or pay reduced. Many are living differently today and adjusting their plans for the future. We are all wondering what went wrong and why we were not warned.

Let me encourage you to consider your investment strategy for this summer. How are you investing in your personal health and well being? How are investing in your relationships with family and friends? How are you investing in your local community? The worst kind of ignorance would be to assume that these things will take care of themselves and we simply have to look after our money. Perhaps if we invest in our health, our family, our friends and our community whatever happens to our money will not matter as much.

East Zorra-Tavistock is still a great place to call home knowing that our investments will lead to happiness and contentment.

## Waste Management Items

### A couple of dates to mark on your calendar.....

Many of the Waste Management “Special Events” are now over for the spring season. These events have been a great success and listed below are a couple more events that will still take place.

**White Goods Collection** will take place May 30th 8:00 am - 1:00 pm at 944 James St. in Woodstock.

**Large Article Collection** will take place June 1st to the 5th.

- ♦ Collection is for residential and farm properties only.
- ♦ Regular household garbage is not part of the LAC
- ♦ Items can weigh no more than 45 kg (100 lbs)
- ♦ Set out must be on level ground. Material placed in ditches or swales will not be collected
- ♦ Items placed out in a garbage can/container, cardboard box or trailer/bin will NOT be collected
- ♦ All items must be to the curb/road by 7:00 am on the first day of collection.

For further information regarding acceptable/unacceptable items for either of these events, refer to your waste management calendars or visit our website to view the event.

Bag tags, blue boxes and composters are always available at the Township Office in Hickson. Costs are as follows:

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

### Leaf and Yard Waste

A reminder that these depots must be used properly. To ensure high quality compost is produced, please make sure the material dropped off is free of garbage and plastic bags. Depot locations are as follows:

Tavistock	18 Hendershot St. (by the Water Tower)
Innerkip	104 Blandford St. (in the Park)
Hickson	158 Loveys St. (at the Road Shop)

## 9-1-1 Signs and Posts

Each property owner is responsible for the maintenance of the civic address (9-1-1) sign placed on their property. In the case of an emergency situation, it is extremely important that these signs are easily visible. If damage to the plate or the post has occurred, repairs must be done promptly and at the owners’ expense. If this task is not completed, Township employees will do the work, with all costs incurred billed to the property owner.

Signs can be obtained by contacting the Township Office.

### Prices are as follows:

- ♦ 9-1-1 Sign \$80  
New Install by the Township (includes hardware)
- ♦ Blade & Hardware only \$30
- ♦ Post & Cap only \$15

# Council

Mayor & County Councillor

**Don McKay**

519.532.2500

dmckay@twp.ezt.on.ca

Deputy Mayor

**Maureen Ralph**

519.462.2955

mralfp@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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dmacdonald@twp.ezt.on.ca

Councillor - Ward 3

**Jeremy Smith**

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Councillor - Ward 3

**Betty Yeoman**

519.462.2364

byeoman@twp.ezt.on.ca

Council meetings are held 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. All meetings are open to the public.

## Congratulations to PW Manager - Dennis O'Neil

Dennis O'Neil, Public Works Manager for our Township, was appointed President of the Association of Ontario Road Supervisors (AORS) at the OGRA/ROMA Conference in February of this year. Dennis has been involved with the Association for many years and this is quite an accomplishment on his part.

Prior to working for the Township of East Zorra-Tavistock, Dennis worked for 13 years with Chatham Township as an equipment operator. During this time he attended every OGRA and MTO course that was offered to him as well as obtained his Drainage Superintendents' certification. At the time of the amalgamation of Chatham-Kent, Dennis and his wife Katie along with their two sons, decided they would like to move to the EZT area. He felt very fortunate to secure his current position with the Township.

AORS is a Provincial professional association of individuals dedicated to providing high quality public services through certification, educational programs and interaction amongst its members. It is governed by a 35 member board of directors and a 4 member Executive elected at both the Local and Provincial level. A priority for Dennis during his year as President is to

encourage members at the Board and Local levels to become more involved with their Associations. He believes strongly in tapping into the vast amounts of talent and knowledge that is available through the membership. There are many critical issues for Public Works professionals to deal with including infrastructure funding, increased legislation and liability concerns. Dennis believes AORS does a great job in keeping the membership well informed of new regulations and construction techniques to avoid litigation or work delays, and encourages the Association to continue lobbying for Provincial and Federal Government funding to provide and maintain the reliable infrastructure we all so desperately need.

No one from Oxford County has held this position since 1974/75 when former Road EZT Superintendent John Appleton was appointed.

Congratulations Dennis! We wish you great success during your tenure as President of AORS.



**AORS** PROMOTING KNOWLEDGE. PURSUING EXCELLENCE.

## 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

### County of Oxford

Phone: 519.539.9800  
Website: www.county.oxford.on.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: 519.469.3449