



# Municipal Newsletter

## Township of Blandford-Blenheim

Welcome to our latest newsletter!

### Town Hall Meeting

The Township will be hosting its 1<sup>st</sup> "Town Hall" style meeting for 2016. The meeting will take place on Tuesday April 26<sup>th</sup> 2016 from 7 – 9 pm in Princeton at the Princeton Centennial Hall. All members of the public are welcome to ask questions and provide comments to Township Council and staff.



### Municipal Office

47 Wilmot St. S.,  
Box 100  
Drumbo, ON N0J 1G0  
Phone: 519-463-5347  
Fax: 519-463-5881  
[www.blandfordblenheim.ca](http://www.blandfordblenheim.ca)

### Hours of Operation

8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
Monday – Friday

### Public Works Yard/Leaf Waste Depot

The depot is located at  
895957 Oxford Road 3,  
just North of Drumbo

### Community Centres & Parks

Plattsville Arena &  
Plattsville Community Hall  
68 Mill Street East  
519-684-7482

Princeton Centennial Hall  
35 Main Street South  
519-458-4891

### County of Oxford

Phone: 519-539-9800  
[www.oxfordcounty.ca](http://www.oxfordcounty.ca)

### Message from the Mayor

In 2017, Canada will be 150 years old. In the lead up to that the Federal Government announced the Canada 150 Infrastructure Program and the Township was fortunate to have two projects selected to receive funding. These, in addition to the projects we already have on the go, will make for a very busy year ahead in Blandford-Blenheim.



The Canada 150 grant will enable us to complete upgrades to the ball lights in the Drumbo Park six years earlier than planned. The other project approved will allow us to upgrade the Richwood Community Centre to improve accessibility and breathe new life into this beautiful building.

We continue to work with the community group in Princeton on the expansion of the park. This past year we were successful in securing a Trillium grant in the amount of \$88,000 for the installation of a 1.3 km walking trail. Council has appointed a Committee and we are also working with the Drumbo Lions Club on the development of a community splash pad. It's through forming these partnerships and keeping the lines of communication open that we are able to successfully complete these projects. Building these relationships are important and help us respond to the needs and wants of the community. – **Mayor Marion Wearn**



**Are you planning on constructing a building or structure?**



If so, keep in mind a building permit may be required! Building permits ensure that all buildings within the Township have been inspected in accordance with the Ontario Building Code regulation and the community can be assured the buildings are safe, healthy and accessible. If you are unsure if a building permit will be required, feel free to contact the Building Department staff at 519-463-5347 or visit

[http://www.blandfordblenheim.ca/Services/Building\\_Planning\\_Services/Building](http://www.blandfordblenheim.ca/Services/Building_Planning_Services/Building)

### Parks & Recreation News

**Plattsville Tennis & Pickle Ball Courts and Drumbo Beach Volleyball Court will be open as soon as weather permits. Washrooms in parks will be open as soon as the ball and soccer seasons are underway in May.**

**Share the Road:** It's the time of year to get your bicycle out! Don't forget - we are a "share the road" community where both cyclists and auto drivers mutually respect each other and strive to create a safe road experience.

**Princeton Park Expansion:** Trail will be built this summer as result of successful Trillium Foundation Grant application. Tree planting is scheduled for fall.

**Drumbo Lions Splash Pad:** Together with the Township, Drumbo Lions are working on bringing a Splash Pad to Blandford-Blenheim.

**Drumbo Softball Lights:** As part of the Canada 150 Grant received, Drumbo ball lights will be replaced in the fall at the end of the season.



Check our website for Township & County Cycle Routes, Community Projects information and the facility availability calendar.

### About your Property Taxes

**Farm Property Tax Credit Program**, even minor changes in ownership or farm tenants can have a dramatic effect on your assessment and taxes on your property. Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (**OMAFRA**) at 1-877-424-1300.

**Conservation Land Tax Incentive Program**, it is equally important to meet the July 31<sup>st</sup> deadline each year. Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry's (**MNR**) at 1-800-268-8959.

**Notice of Assessments 2016 (2017 – 2020 tax year)**, will be sent out from MPAC starting:

- April 18, 2016 – Properties with RESIDENTIAL Assessment only
- October 11, 2016 – All remaining assessed properties, including residential properties with more than one assessment class (ie. FARM, CONSERVATION, COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL)
- Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (**MPAC**) at 1-866-296-MPAC (6722).

**IT IS IMPORTANT FOR RESIDENTS TO MAINTAIN THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE ABOVE AGENCIES. PLEASE CONTACT THEM DIRECTLY FOR ANY ENQUIRIES.**

## For Your Information...

Dog owners should have already received their **2016 dog registration** invoice. Your dog is registered once the annual invoice is paid. A late fee of \$5 applied to all invoices paid after April 1<sup>st</sup>.



**Civil Marriage Services** are now offered by the Township. Ceremonies may be on or off site. A marriage licence and two witnesses are required. You can apply for a **Marriage Licence** at the Township office. For more information contact the office or see the website.

### Municipal Drains

The Township website now has an interactive map showing municipal drainage. Use this map to determine if your property is affected by municipal drains.

[www.blandfordblenheim.ca/Services/MunicipalDrainage](http://www.blandfordblenheim.ca/Services/MunicipalDrainage)

If you suspect that the municipal drain on your property requires maintenance or repair, please contact the Drainage Superintendent at the municipal office to set up an inspection, 519-463-5347.

### Water Meter Installation to begin in Oxford County

Oxford County will be working to install water meters in every home and business across the County. Blandford-Blenheim residents will be part of the second phase of the program, which is expected to roll out this summer. Residents can visit [www.oxfordmeter.ca](http://www.oxfordmeter.ca) to learn more. Installation is happening on an area-by-area basis. Residents are asked not to book an appointment until they receive a booklet about the program in the mail this summer.

### Two messages from the Public Works Department

**Keep Our Roadways Safe:** With spring here, it is important to remind people not to plant crops in municipal right of ways. As crops grow taller and fuller through the spring and summer seasons they can obstruct visibility as motorists approach rural intersections. Works staff have the authority to cut down any crops planted on Township road allowances.

**Depositing garbage on the road allowance is unsightly and can create a hazard to people travelling the road and staff operating maintenance equipment.** In accordance with By-law 455-82, it is an offense to obstruct ditches or culverts in any manner or deposit stones, brush, rubbish or refuse on any road allowance. Obstruction of ditches or culverts can create flooding on roadways and also interfere with drainage from the road base which can affect the stability of the road.

The **OPP Citizen Self Reporting** system can be used to report specific incidents online, at your convenience, without attending a detachment or waiting for an officer at [www.opp.ca/reporting](http://www.opp.ca/reporting)



**You can use this system to report:**

- Driving Complaints
- Theft & Damage to Property / Vehicle Under \$5000

If you prefer, you may still contact the OPP by phone to report a crime to have an officer attend. **Do not use this system if it is an emergency!**

The 24 hour OPP toll-free number is **1-888-310-1122**.

**Using this program reduces policing costs for our Township.**

### Well water testing reminder

Oxford County Public Health encourages people with private wells to test their well water at least three times a year for bacteria, and once a year for nitrates and fluoride. Public Health's free information kit provides information on the importance of testing your well water regularly, well water construction and maintenance, and water treatment options. Kit is available for pick up at 410 Buller St. in Woodstock or by calling 519-539-9800 ext. 3431, toll-free 1-800-755-0394. Test bottles are available at the Township Office.



### From the Protective Services Department

**Controlled Burns:** All non-fire-pit burns must called into the Township Office. This helps us to make sure that fires are being performed in a safe manner, as well as making sure that firefighters are only dispatched to real fires; this saves resources and makes sure that when a fire emergency happens, people and vehicles are available. Failure to call in a burn could mean that you'll be faced with the expense of dispatching firefighters out to your property.

**Burning Guidelines:** NO fires are allowed in the Villages of Bright, Drumbo, Plattsville or Princeton or in Forest Estates and Maple Lake Mobile Home Parks unless they are in a burn or barbecue pit, or used for cooking purposes. Fire pit not to exceed 24" in diameter by 24" in height. Remember that even when fires are out, these pits can still be very hot and easily lead to burns, especially of small children.



Need to know if something can be recycled? Set up weekly reminders and see what can be recycled on the Township page about waste management, [www.blandfordblenheim.ca/community/waste\\_management](http://www.blandfordblenheim.ca/community/waste_management), or download the Wasteline App on your Apple or Android device.

### When to call the 211 helpline



#### Hungry?

Call 211 to find food banks, community meals, holiday meals, breakfast and after-school programs.

#### Unemployed?

Call 211 to find employment centres, skills upgrading, literacy help, retraining programs and financial support.

#### Caregiver?

Call 211 to find Alzheimers programs, respite support, home care, support groups, parenting help and health care services.

#### Alone?

Call 211 to find youth programs, recreation centres, sports clubs, seniors centres and children's programs.

#### Feel threatened?

Call 211 to find the non-emergency police number, bullying and elder abuse help, homeless shelters and counselling.

**MAKE THE CONNECTION CALL 2-1-1**



**Town Hall Meeting:** Tues. April 26<sup>th</sup> from 7pm to 9pm at Princeton Centennial Hall

**2016 Property Tax Installment Deadlines:**

May 31, 2016 / August 31, 2016 / October 31, 2016

