



Municipal Newsletter

Township of Blandford-Blenheim

Message from the Mayor

During our Township Strategic Planning sessions we identified "improved communication" to be a top priority of Council and Staff. Since we launched our website www.blandfordblenheim.ca, we have revamped it several times and continually update our information. However, we realize not everyone uses the internet. Therefore we are adding this newsletter to allow for even better communication with our residents. We encourage your feedback on this first edition. Your thoughts and comments are always appreciated.

This term of Council we have had a number of Staff accept new opportunities for advancement elsewhere as well as recent and pending retirements. While we miss their contributions to our Township, we certainly wish them all the best. We have been very fortunate to have found excellent people to fill these positions. I'm very pleased to welcome Kirsten Stevenson, Administrative Assistant; Sarah Matheson, Administrative Assistant; Denice Williamson, Director of Finance; Paul Gabara, Deputy Chief Building Official; and Jim Harmer, Drainage Superintendent to Blandford-Blenheim.

We have been very busy this term of Council with a number of improvements to our facilities. The Princeton Centennial Hall received a face-lift as well as an enlarged Fireside Room, fully accessible washrooms and front entry and kitchen upgrades. All of this work was funded through a combination of donations and reserve funds. The Plattsville Arena Renovation was a major undertaking. A new addition allowed for the change rooms to be placed on the main level along with fully accessible washrooms; an enlarged lobby with large automatic front doors, canteen area, and offices. The second floor provided a new Community Room, the Plattsville Lion's Hall. Reserves from our Toyota Agreement with the City of Woodstock and donations will fund this addition and renovation. By this spring our new Fire Station will be completed in Plattsville as well as the final phase of the Plattsville Drainage works.

It was only through long range planning and setting aside the necessary funding over time that we were able to complete these expensive projects without huge impacts on our tax levy. We employ a similar strategy with our Public Works Department. Each year any upgrades, new paving, improved intersections and road alignments have been identified in our long-range capital plan and are funded through reserves. Our philosophy has been to identify our needs and the timelines through our Capital Plans, set aside the required funding each year, and pay as we go. Consequently we have very little debt, healthy reserves, and reasonable tax increases in Blandford-Blenheim.

Municipal Office

47 Wilmot St. S.,
Box 100
Drumbo, ON N0J 1G0
Phone: (519) 463-5347
Fax: (519) 463-5881
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

Bright Community Centre
886277 Oxford Rd 8
(519) 463-5347

Drumbo Park
Drumbo
(519) 463-5347

Plattsville Arena
68 Mill Street East
(519) 684-7482

Plattsville Pavilion
Plattsville Park
(519) 463-5347

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

2014 Municipal Election

The next election for Mayor and Council will be Monday October 27, 2014. If you are interested in being a candidate in the next election, contact the Clerk for more information or check the Township website and click on "Municipal Election". Nominations are open from January 2, 2014 until September 12th at 2 pm.



Dog Tags

Dog owners should already have received a 2014 invoice for the Township's multi-year dog tag program. Tags are dated 2013 – 2017 and are valid once the yearly invoice is paid. If anything has changed with the status of your dog ownership or if you have acquired a new dog, please contact the Township office by phone or email at dogtags@blandfordblenheim.ca.

DO YOU HAVE **FEEDBACK**
ABOUT OTHER TOPICS YOU'D
LIKE INCLUDED IN OUR NEXT
NEWSLETTER?

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE
FUTURE NEWSLETTERS
EMAILED TO YOU?

Please contact
kstevenson@blandfordblenheim.ca
with feedback and/or your
requests.

Did You Know?

Marriage Certificates: You can now apply for a marriage certificate at the Township office. Certificates take roughly 30 minute to process and cost \$95.00. Please make sure to bring along proper ID and documentation with you.

Celebrations: The Township is pleased to recognize residents celebrating significant birthdays and wedding anniversaries. Certificates are available for these events and other milestones upon request. Please contact Kirsten at kstevenson@blandfordblenheim.ca for more information.



Criminal Reference Checks: If you are a resident of the Township of Blandford-Blenheim, the Township is able to process your request for a Criminal Record Check/Vulnerable Sector Check. Applications are available at the Township Office. For detailed information about documentation required for criminal reference checks please visit our website.

Garbage and Recycling: Oxford County offers a comprehensive waste management program focused on diverting waste from landfill. Waste management services include: 10 leaf, yard and brush depots located throughout the County, four special waste collection events between May and October of each year as well as special recycling depots for scrap metal, tires, electronics etc... For more information on the services provide by Oxford County Waste Management, or to request a calendar with recycling schedules and important dates please visit: <http://www.oxfordcounty.ca/Services-for-You/Garbage-and-Recycling>.



Frequently Asked Questions

Q. How do I book community halls, pavilions or parks?

A. To book the Bright Community Centre, Drumbo Pavilion or Plattsville Pavilion please contact our Township Office. To book the Plattsville Arena contact Ken Wood at kwood@blandfordblenheim.ca or 519-684-7482.

Q. How do I get a re-print of my taxes?

A. Please contact our tax department for a re-print of your tax bill from a previous year. Effective January 1, 2014 a fee of \$10 will be charged for any reprint of tax bills or statement of accounts.

Q. What are some of my tax payment options?

A. Tax payments may be made by cash, cheque, or debit at the Township office. Ratepayers also have the option of signing up for one of two pre-authorized payment plans. Information on these plans are available in our Township Office or on our website. You may also wish to pay your tax bill over the phone, online, or through other options provided to you by your financial institution.

Q. When are Council meetings held?

A. Council meetings are held at 4:00 p.m. on the first and third Wednesday of every month, except for July and August when Council is held on July 2 and August 6 2014. Agendas are posted on our website by noon the Friday before the meeting takes place.

Q. Who do I contact about a municipal water or sewage problems?

A. The municipal water and sewage system is operated and maintained by the County of Oxford. For questions or to report any problems please contact the Water and Wastewater Department at the County of Oxford at 519-539-9800.

Q. What are the proper dimensions and location for a mailbox?

A. A mailbox should be located with the mail box door directly above the rounding of the road shoulder. The bottom of the box must be 42 inches above the road (these are federal specifications designed by Canada Post). If possible, place the mailbox a minimum of 5.5 m (18') from the centreline of the road. This allows snow plows room to pass without need to cross the centreline of the road.

2014 Property Tax Installment Deadlines: May 30, August 29, October 31
2014 Municipal Election: October 27, 2014
Dog Licencing Fee Due: April 30, 2014

