



# Municipal Newsletter

## Township of Blandford-Blenheim

### Message from the Mayor

Welcome to our latest newsletter! Council and Staff are very excited to introduce you to our new CAO/Clerk Rodger Mordue. Rodger is a resident of Blandford-Blenheim and has served the Township for many years as a past Councillor. Welcome Rodger!

I would like to express my gratitude to the residents of Blandford-Blenheim for your patience during this very challenging past winter. I believe our road workers have once again done an excellent job in keeping our roads open and safe. We look forward to a much awaited spring.

It is very important to Council and Staff to hear from you regarding any issues or concerns throughout the year. We need to hear from you in order to maintain and improve our service. If we have missed any information you might require, please contact our office at 519-463-5347 or by email at [generalmail@blandfordblenheim.ca](mailto:generalmail@blandfordblenheim.ca). Constant communication will keep us all working together for the betterment of Blandford-Blenheim residents.

### 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  
519-463-5389  
[roads@blandfordblenheim.ca](mailto:roads@blandfordblenheim.ca)

### Community Centres & Parks

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

Plattsville Arena  
68 Mill Street East  
519-684-7482

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

### New to the Township - Town Hall Meetings

The Township will be hosting two "Town Hall" style meetings in 2015. The first meeting will take place in Plattsville at the Lion's Hall on April 21<sup>st</sup> from 7 – 9 pm. The second meeting will take place in Drumbo in the fall.



These meetings will be based on a question and answer format with all members of the public welcome to pose questions and provide comments to Township Council and staff. These meetings are opportunities for informal dialogues and exchange of ideas. Come out and have your say!

### Booking Community Service Facilities

To book Township ball diamonds, soccer fields, pavilions or halls please contact Sarah at 519-463-5347 or [smatheson@blandfordblenheim.ca](mailto:smatheson@blandfordblenheim.ca).



### Dog Tags

Dog owners should have already received their 2015 dog tag invoice. Tags are valid once the annual invoice has been paid. A late fee of \$5 is applied to all invoices paid after April 1, 2015. If anything has changed with the status of your dog, please call our office at 519-463-5347 or email [dogtags@blandfordblenheim.ca](mailto:dogtags@blandfordblenheim.ca).

### From the Public Works Department

**Load Restrictions:** load restrictions on Township roadways take effect March 1 – April 30 2015. In accordance with By-law 864-91, during this time, most vehicles are restricted to 5 tonnes for each axle, whereas fuel and feed trucks are limited to 7.5 tonnes per axle. Load restrictions are used to minimize the deterioration of roads during spring thaw.

**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 –please ensure crops are planted on privately owned property only.

### From the Building Department

As the warmer weather quickly approaches, those who are considering installing a backyard pool or new deck greater than 24" from grade must ensure you contact the building department in order to get a building permit. Please visit our website at [www.blandfordblenheim.ca](http://www.blandfordblenheim.ca) for more information.

Do you have **feedback** as to other topics you'd like covered in our next newsletter?  
Please contact [kstevenson@blandfordblenheim.ca](mailto:kstevenson@blandfordblenheim.ca) with comments.

## For Your Information...



**Battery Recycling:** The Township now offers a battery recycling program. Drop off locations include the Drumbo Township office, Plattsville and Princeton Libraries.

**Farm Property Tax Credit:** If you believe your property qualifies for the Farm Property Tax Credit Program please contact OMAFRA at 1-877-424-1300 to confirm eligibility.

**Conservation Land Tax Incentive Program:** If you believe your property qualifies for the Conservation Land Tax Incentive Program please contact the MNR at 1-800-268-8959.

**Municipal Drains:** If you believe the municipal drain on your property is in need of maintenance or repair, please contact our office at 519-463-5347 so we may set up a time to inspect the drain.

**Oxford Cycling Maps:** Oxford County cycling maps are now available. For more information visit [www.rideoxford.ca](http://www.rideoxford.ca) or email [toursim@oxfordcounty.ca](mailto:toursim@oxfordcounty.ca).

## New OPP Billing Model

Under the new OPP model in effect January 1, 2015, two components are used to determine the amount a municipality is billed for policing costs: a standard base cost and number of calls for service. The base cost billed to a municipality is billed per property, which includes services such as routine patrol, crime prevention, RIDE programs and other proactive policing initiatives. The remainder of the bill is based on reactive calls for service based on a 4 year average. In an effort to keep costs down, we would like to provide you with a brief explanation of who to call for specific emergency and non-emergency events:

**Call 911 (emergency):** for a crime in progress, suspicious activity/people/vehicles and collisions

**Call 1-888-310-1122 (non-emergency) Communications Center:** for a crime not in progress, any other non-emergency call for service

**Call 519-688-6540 (Tillsonburg) or 519-485-6554 (Ingersoll) Detachments:** for clearance/record checks, community service requests or walk-in complaints (record checks may also be completed in our Township Office)

**Call 211:** if you have issues finding housing, mental health/substance abuse services, or any information on local service organizations

**Call 511 (from a cell phone only):** for information on provincial highways (road closures, winter road conditions and construction projects)

Certain incidents can be reported online by using the 'online citizen self reporting' website at [www.opp.ca/reporting](http://www.opp.ca/reporting). You may use this system to report: theft under \$5000, damage to properties/vehicles under \$5000, theft from vehicles, lost/missing property, stolen licence plates and driving complaints (after the fact). Please do not use this website for emergencies.

## From the Protective Services Department

**Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors:** Did you know that smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors have an expiration date? Most smoke detectors are good for 10 years, and most carbon monoxide detectors are good for 5-7 years. Replacement or expiration date stickers can usually be found on the back or inside of battery compartments. Please take a moment today to look at your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors to ensure they are up to date as well as functioning properly (this is a great time to check and/or replace the batteries!).

**Fire Safety Plans:** Spring is the perfect time to make sure everyone in your home knows what to do in case of an emergency. Ensure you have a fire safety plan and that everyone knows at least two ways to exit your home and where your meeting area is.

**Controlled Burn Guidelines:** If you are going to have a controlled burn, you must contact the Township Office at 519-463-5347. You will be required to provide staff with information as to where and when you plan to have the fire as well as its approximate duration.



**Water Main Flushing:** Plattsville April 7-9 2015, Drumbo & Princeton April 20-22, 2015

**2015 Property Tax Installment Deadlines:** May 29, 2015 / August 31, 2015 / October 30, 2015

**Plattsville Town Hall:** April 21, 2015 7-9 pm at the Lion's Hall.