



Municipal Newsletter

Township of 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 Services

Plattsville Arena &
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

The Township will be hosting its 1st Town Hall style meeting for 2017. The meeting will take place on Tuesday April 4th from 7 – 9 pm at the Lions Hall in Plattsville- 68 Mill Street E, inside the arena. 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 an exchange of ideas. Come out and have your say!



Come out and celebrate our Country's 150th Birthday!

Drumbo: July 1st Canada Day Birthday Party at the Drumbo Museum
September 22nd Birthday Party at the Drumbo Fair

Plattsville: The Plattsville & District Heritage Society presents "Windows to the Past" at the former Chesterfield Church; Saturdays 10 am to 4 pm in May, June and July or by Appointment

Princeton: Two day Celebration Event on August 6th and 7th at the Princeton Park



Tree Planters Needed!

Interested in Volunteering your time to help in the community planting seedlings in Princeton Park? On Saturday, May 6th, the Township along with the Grand River Conservation Authority are inviting everyone to come to Princeton Park to help in planting a variety of seedlings throughout the park and in our new municipal nursery. If you wish to participate, please call the office or email dclayton@blandfordblenheim.ca including how many people wish to volunteer and if you will be bringing your own shovel (or require one).

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 our website!

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. Please call, 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 31st deadline each year. Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry's (**MNR**) 1-800-268-8959.

NEW THIS YEAR In an effort to become more efficient and effective in the processing of Property Tax Notices, the Township is offering residents the opportunity to receive property tax notices by email as opposed to regular mail. We see this initiative as being both environmentally and fiscally responsible for all of us. We hope that you agree! To sign up for E-mail, please notify the Township office by forwarding an email to kkoski@blandfordblenheim.ca

IT IS IMPORTANT FOR RESIDENTS TO MAINTAIN THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE ABOVE AGENCIES.

PLEASE CONTACT THEM DIRECTLY FOR ANY ENQUIRIES

Tax Installment are due May 31, August 31 and October 31, 2017

Parks & Recreation News

Drumbo Softball Lights: As part of the Canada 150 Grant received, Drumbo ball lights will be installed during the spring of 2017. There may be times that the diamonds are unavailable due to construction. The work will begin and end as soon as possible and we hope it will not go into the ball season.

Use of Ball Diamonds: The diamonds will be open as of Friday May 5, 2017.

Tennis Courts: Will be open as soon as the warmer weather arrives in April.

Spring Cleanup: Parks will be cleaned up the last week of April weather permitting.

2017 Projects: The following projects are being planned for 2017 pending budget and approval from Council.

- Completion of Princeton Trail
- Drumbo Ball Lights
- New Multi Purpose Pad in Princeton
- Renovation to Richwood Community Centre
- New Skateboard Park in Plattsville

For Your Information...

DOG TAGS

All dog owners have until April 1, 2017 to pay their invoice. After April 1st, a late charge of \$5.00 will be applied to your account. If you have received an invoice for a dog that is no longer living at that property, has passed away or you have a new dog, please contact the office, 519-463-5347 or email dogtags@blandfordblenheim.ca so we can update our records. If your dog has lost their tag, a replacement tag can be purchased at the office for \$3.00

Township Office will be Closed:

April 14th for Good Friday

April 17th for Easter Monday

May 22nd for Victoria Day

July 3rd for Canada Day



August 7th for the Civic Holiday

September 4th for Labour Day



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.

Construction season is almost upon us. When you see  be aware that you are entering a work zone with people & equipment ahead. Workers are repairing/improving the road to keep it safe for everyone to use. Please slow down, pay attention and be prepared to stop. We want to see that these workers get home safely to their families each and every day. If you see  it means that the road is impassable and you must take an alternative route.

The Township Office is able to process your request for a Criminal Record Check/Vulnerable Sector Check. If you require a Vulnerable Sector Check, the OPP requires a letter from the organization stating that you require this check along with a signature. It is required by you to bring 2 acceptable pieces of identification: Driver's License, Passport, Birth Certificate, Hunting License, Blood Donor Card or Student Card. We cannot accept a Health Card as identification.

Wood Chips:

When available, free of charge, Monday -Friday between 7am & 3:30 pm. Please call the shop, 519-463-5389, for availability of wood chips.

Public Works Yard/ Leaf Waste Depot:

Open 24/7 to drop off yard waste. Please remember not to leave planter boxes or bags in the piles.

Wedding season is upon us! Did you know that you can purchase your marriage license at the Township Office? The license must be obtained within 3 months of the marriage date. There is a fee of \$100 to issue the license. Please see our website for further information.

Emergency Preparedness Week May 7-13 2017

Disaster can strike with little to no notice...the best way to be ready for any emergency is to have a plan.

<http://oxford72hours.ca/Community/BlandfordBlenheim.aspx>

Controlled Burns: All non-fire-pit burns must be 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.

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.

Municipal Drains

The Township website 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

If you suspect that the municipal drain on your property requires maintenance or repair, including being affected by trees or their roots, please contact the Drainage Superintendent to schedule an inspection at 519-463-5347.

Have you heard about the **Green Cone Composter** now offered? It's a way to compost kitchen scraps underground, letting the sun and cone do all the work! There are many benefits to the cone. No need to stir the compost! The composter is underground making it difficult for animals to get to and reduces odors. It's made out of recycled materials and allows you to compost kitchen scraps that traditional systems can't break down. Visit us at the Township Office to purchase a Green Cone for just \$40!

Mayor Marion Wearn

mwearn@blandfordblenheim.ca

Councillor Randy Balzer

rbalzer@blandfordblenheim.ca

Councillor G. Bruce Banbury

gbanbury@blandfordblenheim.ca

The Mayor and Council are always receptive to your input and comments. Your attendance at Council is welcome.

Councillor Betty Cowan

bcowan@blandfordblenheim.ca

Councillor Mark Peterson

mpeterson@blandfordblenheim.ca