



## TOWNSHIP of DAWN-EUPHEMIA

4591 Lambton Line, RR # 4, Dresden, Ontario N0P 1M0

Administration: 519-692-5148 Fax: 519-692-5511 Email: [admin@dawneuphemia.on.ca](mailto:admin@dawneuphemia.on.ca)

Public Works Dept: 519-692-5018 Emergency After-Hours: 519-401-4808

Website: [www.dawneuphemia.ca](http://www.dawneuphemia.ca)

YEAR IN  
REVIEW



**Leadership....  
moving the  
community  
forward**

March 2021

*It has been another progressive year! Council felt it was important to share with you, the residents, some of the exciting accomplishments made over the past year.*



### **Congratulations**

to Tareesa Williams, this year's recipient of Dawn-Euphemia's "Municipal Scholarship", awarded annually to one student pursuing a full-time post-secondary education in a government-related field. Council would like to wish Tareesa the very best of luck as she pursues her studies in Environmental Management.

**Deadline for applications is April 30<sup>th</sup> each year.** Applications and criteria can be found on the Township's website under the "events calendar".



*The Neighbour2Neighbour Food Drive held on November 7, 2020, was a huge success in Lambton County. Thank you to the generosity of the residents of Dawn-Euphemia Township!*



**The Rutherford United Church Bell monument** has been completed and can be seen at the community park in Rutherford. The bell chimed for 73 years from 1937 to 2010 at the United Church in Rutherford. A very special thank you to Linda & Jerry Burns for their donation. It has made a wonderful addition to the park.



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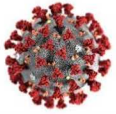
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**COVID-19** has been difficult on everyone. Council would like to thank all our residents for their cooperation during this unprecedented time. Many of our residents took advantage of our online services for the first time in an effort to reduce foot traffic in the office. It is through this joint collaboration that we were able to continue working safely to serve our ratepayers during this pandemic. A very special thank you to all of you that did your part in respecting these protocols and obeying Provincial Orders. A very special thank you to all of our essential service workers.

### Highspeed Internet now available!

Perhaps the most exciting news in 2020, was that Dawn-Euphemia Township was proclaimed the successful applicant selected to work with MPV Wifi and the Next Generation Network Program (NGNP) to research and fund a high-performance internet solution for the Township. In October 2020, MPV Wifi implemented "Fibre-to-the-Home (FTTH) technology" in both Shetland and Florence and offered a wide range of other comparable broadband internet access services to the rest of the Township. **For pricing and to sign up for internet services, you must contact MPV Wifi directly @ 226-620-0850 ext 1002.**

This \$1m project is part of the Next Generation Network Program (NGNP), an Ontario government program powered by CENG in partnership with the Ontario Centres of Excellence, which helps Ontario companies develop and demonstrate new wired and wireless technology, products and services.



In order to properly track internet improvements, new subscribers are being asked to test their internet speed

**before and after** installation at: [performance.cira.ca/dawneuphemia](http://performance.cira.ca/dawneuphemia)

**To sign up for internet, please contact MPV Wifi by emailing [support@mpvwifi.com](mailto:support@mpvwifi.com) or by phoning 226-620-0850 ext 1002**

## Farm Tax Program

One way the Ontario Government supports agriculture, is through the "Farm Tax Program". The farm residence and one acre of land surrounding it are taxed at the residential rate, and if eligible, the remaining farmland is taxed at no more than 25% of the municipality's residential property tax rate. Agricorp, the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) and municipalities work together to administer this Program.



You must inform Agricorp of any changes to your farm property that may affect your eligibility, such as changes to your land use, property rental arrangements, farm business structure, income, FBR status or exemption status, but **most common, is when there is a change to ownership, or expanding an existing operation on a farm parcel, the farmland automatically loses its "farm class status" and converts back to "residential"**. You can verify your property status by **checking your Annual Assessment Notice received from MPAC in November**. Contact Agricorp if the status has inadvertently changed, to ensure that the land continues to be taxed at the farm tax rate. For more information, call 1-888-247-4999 or [www.agricorp.com/farmtax](http://www.agricorp.com/farmtax)

## MILITARY BANNER PROGRAM



In December, Council approved a proposal for a Military Banner Program, in Rutherford. Banners are sponsored by veterans' families, commemorating local veterans. Each veteran's photograph is prominently displayed on hydro poles in the weeks leading up to Remembrance Day. For more information, please contact 519-683-2950 or [hchhchids@hotmail.com](mailto:hchhchids@hotmail.com)



## Property Standards Complaints

The Property Standards and Tidy Yard By-Laws set out minimum standards to ensure owners maintain their property to a minimum standard.

Nobody likes to receive a complaint about their property. However, staff are obligated to investigate the validity of the complaint and take action if needed. Typically, staff will send the owner a letter asking them to rectify the matter by a certain date. Most owners work cooperatively with staff, and no further action is required. However, where an owner ignores the request or fails to comply, then the Township engages the services of Lambton County By-Law Enforcement who will issue a formal "Order" on the property to bring the property into compliance within a specific time frame. Costs associated with enforcement are passed on to the owner.

The Township works on "complaint-based", so if you receive a request to clean up your property, it is because someone has complained about your property *not* because the Township is "picking on you" or "targeting you". So please work respectfully and cooperatively with our staff to rectify the situation quickly whether it is picking up your garbage, cutting your weeds/grass, or removing refuse on your property. Keep in mind, having Township staff deal with initial complaints, saves significant dollars to the tax payers. So, let's all work together to keep our community looking nice.

## Library Hours



### Florence Library

Tuesdays & Thursdays 4-8 pm & Saturdays 10 -2 pm

### Shetland Library

Mondays & Wednesdays 4-8 pm & Saturdays 1-5 pm

## UPDATE ON 2020 PROJECTS

**Structure Replacement:** There were 2 major structures replaced in 2020 (1) the 100m large diameter culvert in Oakdale; and (2) the concrete bridge structure with a large diameter elliptical culvert on Tramway Road.

Public Works staff also replaced 7 other large diameter culverts and 60 small culverts throughout the Township.

**Hardtop Treatment:** Marthaville Road from Lambton Line to Bentpath Line received hardtop resurfacing in 2020.

**New Waterline:** 4.2 kms of new waterline was installed on Esterville Road adding 8 new water connections to the system!



The 2021 budget was passed with a 2.85% increase which can be attributed to the following:

- Ongoing and additional loss in Provincial OMPF Funding of \$48,700
- Combined insurance & OPP policing cost increases of \$30,000
- Increases to cost of gravel - \$30,000 plus an additional \$50,000 included for Gravel Resurfacing
- Future COVID-19 related expenses \$66,000

*Therefore, a residential ratepayer with a \$100,00 home will see an increase in Township taxes of approx. \$19/year.*

**Prov/Fed Funding:** The Township received \$69,500 in COVID Relief Funding & Safe Restart Agreement Funding from the Provincial and Federal Government which will be used to offset potential costs related to COVID-19.

**Gravel:** An additional \$50,000 was added to the gravel budget, in an effort to restore gravel resurfacing to historical levels.

**Hardtop Surface Treatment:** Resurfacing of Marthaville Road, will continue north of Bentpath Line.

**Structure Replacement:** The concrete bridge structure at the north intersection of Cuthbert and Langbank Line will be replaced at an estimated cost of \$375,000.

**Cairo Garage Expansion:** Council applied for a \$100,000 grant through the "Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program - COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream - Retrofits and Repairs to Public Infrastructure", which if successful, will be used to build an addition to accommodate 2 new bays for storage of equipment, at the Cairo Shop.

**Water Rates:** Effective February 1<sup>st</sup>, water rates will increase from \$2.85 cu3 to \$2.95 cu3 due to increases to cost of water, and in accordance with the Township's Financial Plan for Water Distribution. The bi-monthly flat rate will also increase from \$22 bi-monthly to \$23 bi-monthly.

**Wheelie Bins:** No change to rates

## NEW AGREEMENTS, BY-LAWS & POLICIES



**MEMORIAL TREE PLANTING PROGRAM** – Council is pleased to announce a new initiative whereby residents can plant a tree in memory of a loved one in a designated planting area at either the Rutherford Park, Community Centre or Shetland Park. For a reasonable fee of \$150,

applicants can select a tree from a list chosen specifically chosen for their growth potential in our region. Once a year a tree the trees will be planted. A record will be kept in a memorial registry and posted at the municipal office.

The tree will be planted by staff and will become a living tribute and remembrance of a person. Please contact staff for more information or see the website for a copy of the policy.

## EMERGENCY MESSAGE

### 72 Hour Emergency Preparedness Kit



These items are considered crucial in times of emergency. Is your household ready?

- ✓ Flashlight & Batteries (in case the lights go out)
- ✓ Radio & Batteries or Crank Radio (so you can listen to news bulletins)
- ✓ Spare Batteries (for flashlight or battery-operated radio)
- ✓ First Aid Kit
- ✓ Candles and Matches/Lighter
- ✓ Extra Car Keys & Cash
- ✓ Important Papers (identification for everyone, personal documents)
- ✓ Food & Bottled Water
- ✓ Clothing & Footwear (one change of clothes per person)
- ✓ Blankets or Sleeping Bags (one blanket or sleeping bag per person)
- ✓ Toilet Paper & Other Personal Supplies
- ✓ Medication
- ✓ Backpack/Duffel Bag (something that will carry the emergency survival kit in case you have to evacuate).
- ✓ Whistle (In case you need to attract someone's attention)
- ✓ Playing Cards, Games

*For more information about the importance of Emergency Supplies Kits, please visit the Ontario Ministry of Community Safety & Correctional Services website at [www.mpss.jus.gov.on.ca](http://www.mpss.jus.gov.on.ca).*



*Did you know...* that a fence is required for a swimming pool?

"Every owner of a swimming pool must enclose and maintain a fence and a gate around the pool. The fence must be at least 4 feet high and requires a gate at least 4 feet high with self-latching devices placed at the top and on the inside of the gate. **A permit must be obtained through Lambton County Building Department.**

*Did you know...* that you can sign up for pre-authorized payments for taxes & water bills? Property owners now have the option to choose one of two, pre-authorized payment plans for taxes and water bills. Contact the Municipal Office for more information.

## water token



*Did you know ...*

that the Township sells water tokens for large water purchases for the Rutherford Water

Station? The purchaser is responsible for supplying fill hose with 2" female cam-lock coupler.

**Water tokens are available for \$4/each or 3/\$10 (for Rutherford Water Station).** Each token provides 250 imperial gallons of water.

**LAMBTON RENOVATES PROGRAM** offers financial assistance to eligible households as follows:

- (1) One-time assistance in the form of a 10-year forgivable loan, secured by registration on title, for home repairs to a max of \$20,000 per household.
- (2) One-time assistance in the form of a grant, for accessibility improvements to a max of \$5,000 per household.

More information is available online at the County of Lambton website [www.lambtononline.ca/lambtonrenovates](http://www.lambtononline.ca/lambtonrenovates) or call 519-344-2062 ext. 2165 during business hours.

## FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS!



In response to the closure of the Inwood Fire Department, Council has negotiated and signed a new joint Fire Services Agreement with Brooke-Alvinston,. The Dawn-Euphemia Fire Department will assume the territory in the former Euphemia, previously covered by Inwood Department and Brooke Fire will continue to service the territory in the former Euphemia.



## MUNICIPAL LONG-SERVICE RECOGNITION

Scott Kramer, Fire Dept - 15 yrs  
Dave Williams, Fence Viewers 25 yrs  
Earl Elgie, Tile Inspector 40 yrs

## RETIREMENTS

Gary McFadden, PW Dept - 6 yrs  
Susan Symington, Admin - 19 yrs  
George Prangley, PW Dept - 28 yrs

## WELCOME NEW STAFF

Carla Trepanier  
Accts Receivable/Receptionist

**Full-time Public Works Employees:**  
(to replace previous retirements)

Drew Atkinson  
Mike Dennis  
Rick Mackenzie

## SENIOR OF THE YEAR

Due to COVID-19, no "Senior of the Year" was appointed – be sure to send in your nominations for 2021. Check website for details.

## Statistics Canada is hiring

**Apply now!**  
[www.census.gc.ca/jobs](http://www.census.gc.ca/jobs)

Stats Canada is hiring 9,000 candidates in Ontario to help conduct the 2021 Census in May.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

### TAX DUE DATES:

Last business day in March, May, September and November.



### WATER BILL DUE DATES:

Last business day in February, April, June, August, October and December.

### FIREMEN'S BREAKFAST:

Due to COVID-19, the Firemen's breakfasts have been cancelled until further notice.



### SPECIAL CLEANUP DAYS:

to be scheduled for September

### RABIES CLINIC:

Due to COVID-19, the Rabies Clinic will **not** be held this year.

Please visit your local vet for your dog's rabies shot!



### SYDENHAM CANOE RACE:

Due to COVID-19, it has not yet been determined if the annual canoe race will take place. Check [www.scrca.on.ca](http://www.scrca.on.ca) for information.



## MUNICIPAL SCHOLARSHIP:

Deadline is April 30<sup>th</sup>. A \$1,000 scholarship awarded annually to a student & resident of Dawn-Euphemia attending college or university. See Township website for details.

## DOG TAGS:

Due May 3<sup>rd</sup>, keep an eye out for Dog Tag invoices! Invoices not paid for by the deadline of May 3<sup>rd</sup> will result in a \$15 late fee. Invoices left unpaid, will be charged an additional \$10 per tag to add to your taxes. Failure to obtain your dog tag could result in a \$150 fine.

