

# Municipal Newsletter

## Township of Blandford-Blenheim



Mayor Mark Peterson  
[mpeterson@blandfordblenheim.ca](mailto:mpeterson@blandfordblenheim.ca)

Councillor Randy Balzer  
[rbalzer@blandfordblenheim.ca](mailto:rbalzer@blandfordblenheim.ca)



Councillor Bruce Banbury  
[bbanbury@blandfordblenheim.ca](mailto:bbanbury@blandfordblenheim.ca)

Councillor Nancy Demarest  
[ndemarest@blandfordblenheim.ca](mailto:ndemarest@blandfordblenheim.ca)

**Council meetings are held on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 4:00 p.m. currently at the Princeton Centennial Hall, due to the pandemic.**

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

### Municipal Office

47 WILMOT ST. S.,  
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

**Princeton Hall is closed as of Fall 2020 due to the pandemic.** Any updates will be posted on the website. Call the office for more information.

### Community Services

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

Princeton Centennial Hall  
35 Main Street South  
519-463-5347

### County of Oxford

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

### Municipal Drains

Dead & fallen trees can affect the function of drains, this can cause blockages, which may also cause flooding. Please inspect open drains on your property.

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.

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

### Public Works Yard/ Leaf Waste Depot:

Located on Township Road 8 beside the Public Works yard at 895957 Oxford Road 3 - Open 24/7 to drop off yard waste such as grass, hedge trimmings, leaves, Halloween pumpkins plus house and garden plants. No containers please.

**FINES**

- First offence: \$400 to \$2,000 and six demerit points.
- Each following offence: \$1,000 to \$4,000, six demerit points and possible jail time (up to six months).

**I STOP YOU STOP**

Do not pass when signals flashing.



Have you heard about the **Green Cone Composter** now offered? It's a way to compost your kitchen scraps underground, letting the sun and cone do all the work.

### Township Office will be Closed:

October 12<sup>th</sup> for Thanksgiving  
November 11<sup>th</sup> for Remembrance Day  
December 24<sup>th</sup> to January 1<sup>st</sup> for Christmas Holidays  
February 15<sup>th</sup> for Family Day  
April 2<sup>nd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> for Easter



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 your Green Cone for just \$40!

## About your Property Taxes

### E-mailing of Property Tax Bills

Have your property tax bill e-mailed to you, instead of regular mail! Receiving your tax bill by e-mail will allow you to easily file these important documents electronically for future reference. It's not only environmentally friendly, but also fiscally responsible. Your authorization is required and can be done by sending an e-mail requesting this service, to Katie, our Deputy Treasurer / Revenue Co-ordinator, at [kkoski@blandfordblenheim.ca](mailto:kkoski@blandfordblenheim.ca). Don't forget to keep us updated if your e-mail address ever changes.

### Pre-Authorized Payment of Property Taxes

Paying your property taxes by pre-authorized payments makes sense. There are no administrative fees and your payment is never late. There is a monthly payment option; 10 months from January to October, withdrawn on the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month, as well as the installment option withdrawn on the four tax due dates. Forms are available online or at the Township office.

### Internet/Telephone Banking Tax Payments

If you pay your taxes online or by telephone banking, please allow for 2-3 business days for processing. The Township **must** receive payment by the due date. Payments made online or by telephone banking on the due date will not reach the Township on time and will be subject to penalty.

### Farm Property Tax Credit

If you participate in the Farm Property Tax Credit Program, **it is important to keep the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) up to date with any changes to the farm ownership or tenancy.** It is important to maintain your relationship with OMAFRA as even minor changes can have dramatic effects on your assessment and property taxes. Please call 1-877-424-1300 to report any changes or if you have questions about the program.

**FINAL TAX INSTALLMENT DUE OCTOBER 30, 2020**



# Only YOU Can Prevent Cooking Fires



**Cooking left unattended** is a leading cause of home fires in Ontario.

Install **smoke and carbon monoxide alarms** on every storey of your home. **Test them every month.**



## How do I keep myself and my loved ones safe?

- To prevent cooking fires, you must **be alert**. You will not be alert if you are sleepy, have consumed alcohol, drugs or medicine that makes you drowsy.
- Always stay in the kitchen while cooking.** If you must leave, turn off the stove.
- Keep anything that burns—oven mitts, cooking utensils, dish cloths, paper towels and pot holders—a **safe distance from the stove.**
- Keep a **proper-fitting pot lid** near the stove when cooking. If a pot catches fire slide the lid over the pot and turn off the stove. Do not move the pot until it has cooled completely.
- Loose-fitting clothes can come into contact with stove burners and catch fire. **Wear short sleeves, tight sleeves or roll them up** when cooking.



For more information contact your **local fire department.**

Township of Blandford-Blenheim  
47 Wilnot St S  
Drumbo ON N0J 1G0



Office of the Fire Marshal and  
Emergency Management  
ontario.ca/firemarshal

Did you know cooking is the No. 1 cause of home fires and home fire injuries?

SERVE UP  
**Fire Safety**  
IN THE KITCHEN!

Fire Prevention Week™ is Oct. 4-10.  
Learn more at [fpw.org](http://fpw.org).



## Home Fire Escape Planning and Practice

Home fire escape planning should include the following:



- Drawing a map of each level of the home, showing all doors and windows
- Going to each room and pointing to the two ways out
- Making sure someone will help children, older adults, and people with disabilities wake up and get out
- Teaching children how to escape on their own in case you cannot help them
- Establishing a meeting place outside and away from the home where everyone can meet after exiting
- Having properly installed and maintained smoke alarms
- Pushing the smoke alarm button to start the drill
- Practicing what to do in case there is smoke: Get low and go. Get out fast.
- Practicing using different ways out and closing doors behind you as you leave
- Never going back for people, pets, or things
- Going to your outdoor meeting place
- Calling 9-1-1 or the local emergency number from a cell phone or a neighbor's phone

To book ice or any facility, a return to play plan needs to be completed. This plan shall be complete before the rental. Staff will help you with creating the plan. If you have any requests please email [facility@blandfordblenheim.ca](mailto:facility@blandfordblenheim.ca) or phone 519 684 7482. Seniors skates starts Tuesdays on Oct 20<sup>th</sup> from 11-12pm, 12 skaters on the ice.



Parks will be shut down Oct 30<sup>th</sup> 2020-washrooms will be closed, and garbage removal will be limited.



Have your say!

[safewelloxford.ca](http://safewelloxford.ca)



**Batteries don't go into the garbage or recycling! They are hazardous waste. The Township office has battery disposal buckets for your convenience.**

From the Public Works Department



**Respect the BLUE:** Snow removal equipment will soon be out on the roads. When you see the BLUE lights flashing give them lots of room to work. They are there to make the roads safer for everyone to use.

**Snow Removal:** Residents are reminded that it's an offense to deposit snow or ice on a roadway. This practice contravenes Township of Blandford-Blenheim By-law Number 455-82 and similarly The Highway Traffic Act, R.S.O. 1990, C.H.8, S 181, which states "No person shall deposit snow or ice on a roadway without permission in writing to do so from the Ministry or Road Authority responsible for the maintenance of the road".

**Parking:** To assist with snow removal operations, parking is restricted on all Township maintained streets. Starting November 1<sup>st</sup> to March 31<sup>st</sup> there is NO Parking from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm Monday to Friday. Parking on streets maintained by the County of Oxford is restricted from 2:00 am to 6:00 am.

**Mailboxes:** The Township will replace broken mailboxes **only** if snow removal equipment makes physical contact with the mailbox. Landowners are responsible to ensure mailboxes are securely attached to their post.

**Marriage Licences** are available at the Township office. To book an appointment or for information contact the office.



Criminal Record and Vulnerable Sector Checks are now completed online through [www.opp.ca](http://www.opp.ca).



Do you have a pool? Remember that it is against by-law to drain any water onto neighbouring properties. Be neighbourly and ensure your run off is draining on your own property.