

Essa Township Newsletter

5786 County Road 21, Utopia, ON
www.essatownship.on.ca T: 705-424-9917
Administration Office Hours: Monday – Friday 8:30 am – 4:30 pm



A MESSAGE FROM COUNCIL

Happy New Year Essa Residents!

Council would like to take the opportunity to thank our residents for doing their part during these unprecedented times and for continuing to be a good neighbour, especially to our seniors and shut ins. Please continue to follow the COVID-19 directives and mandates set out by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit and the Provincial Government. Council and staff wish everyone a peaceful 2021.

Staff continue to work towards the safety of our residents. We ask that everyone do the posted speed limits for everyone's safety.

For the most up to date information within Essa Township, please visit our website at www.essatownship.on.ca or follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

From your Essa Council, Take Care, Stay Safe and Stay Healthy,

Sandie, Mike, Keith, Henry and Ron

Council

Sandie Macdonald, Mayor
705-424-6844

smacdonald@essatownship.on.ca

Michael Smith, Deputy Mayor
705-305-8446

msmith@essatownship.on.ca

Keith White, Councillor Ward 1
705-305-5027

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Henry Sander, Councillor Ward 2
705-279-4992

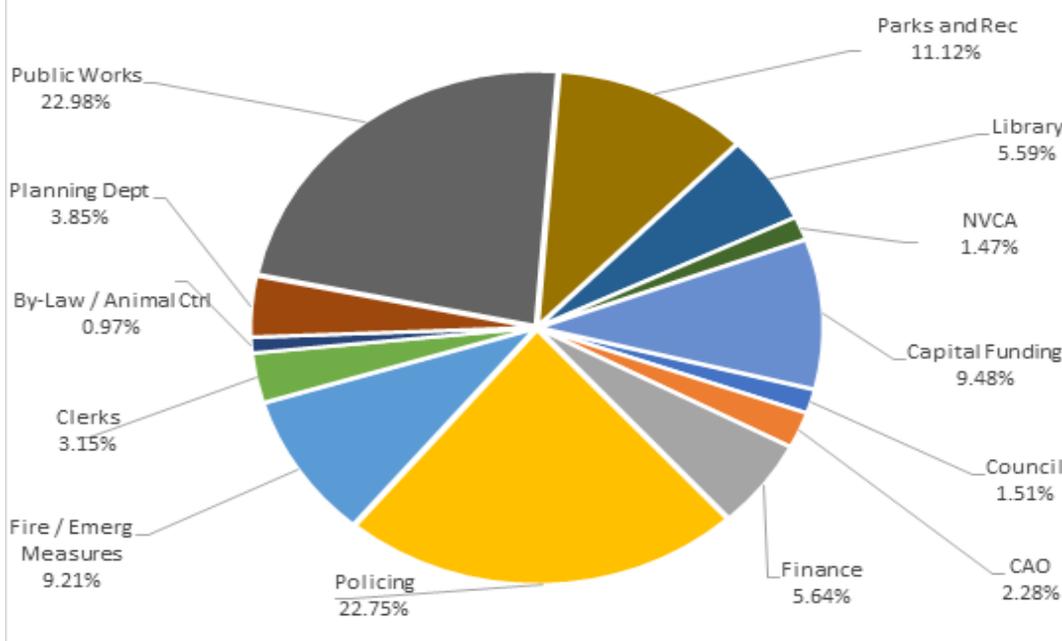
hsander@essatownship.on.ca

Ron Henderson, Councillor Ward 3
705-305-3258

rhenderson@essatownship.on.ca

Wonder Where Your Tax Dollars Go?

2021 Tax Levy of \$8,097,650 by Dept



Upcoming Due Dates: Taxes:

March 26, 2021

June 25, 2021

Water and Sewer:

April 30, 2021

July 31, 2021

Payments can be made in person at the Administration Centre with Debit, Cash or Cheque, as well as at most financial institutions, or by tele-payment and online banking.

A Drop Box is available at the Administration Centre upper and lower-level doors for payments made during Office Closures.

Pre-Authorized Payments can also be arranged. Payments must be received by the due date in order to avoid penalties.

Alertable Notifications Coming to You Soon!

Do you want to receive notifications from the municipality about important information or updates directly? If so, we are excited to announce that Essa will be rolling out a new mass notification system in 2021 which will allow you to receive this information directly. Alerts such as Burn Bans, Road Closures, Emergency Information and Watermain Flushing are just a few of the notifications that you may receive. In order to “opt-in”, send an email to alerts@essatownship.on.ca For more information, call our office at 705-424-9917 extension 116. We look forward to “ALERT-ing” you soon!

Traffic Calming and Road Safety

The Township will be implementing temporary traffic calming measures utilizing speed cushions as a part of the 2021 approved budget to help promote public safety on local roads for selected locations within Essa Township starting this Spring.

What's New in Essa's Parks?

With the growing demand for basketball in the community, Mike Hart Park serves as a great location for the installation of a brand-new basketball court come spring 2021. You can also expect to find an additional new basketball net at Stonemount Park this spring (on Greenwood Drive, Angus).

The Parks and Recreation Department is always looking for new and creative initiatives to serve the community. If you would like to share your ideas on what you would like to see in our parks, contact the Administrative Assistant at (705) 424-9917 x 107 or by email at bwhite@essatownship.on.ca.

Updated Property Values Delayed

2021 was intended to be the start of the new provincial wide 4 year Phased-In Assessment cycle. Municipalities use these assessments to calculate property taxes over a 4-year period. However due to the pandemic, the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) has delayed the start of the new assessment cycle until 2022. For most properties, the assessment used to calculate property taxes for 2021 will be the same as 2020. For more information, please visit www.mpac.ca

Official Plan Update

The Township is progressing its Official Plan Update with a pending draft of the Official Plan for all to review and comment on. Please visit the Township’s ‘Official Plan Review’ page on the Township’s website to keep updated on the project’s progress or email us at officialplan@essatownship.on.ca with any questions or comments you have.

Additional Residential Units Program

The Township is excited to work with all residents looking to legalize and create Additional Residential Units (aka Secondary Suites) in a safe and timely manner. Please contact Aimee Powell, Manager of Planning and Development, at apowell@essatownship.on.ca for more details!

What's Happening at the Library this Spring?

The Essa Public Library continues to offer library services including curbside service. Your library card gives you access to our physical and digital collections including kitchen items, puzzles, board games, and more. Visit their website at www.essa.library.on.ca to place holds and learn more about virtual programming for all ages. Follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter to keep up to date with what’s happening at your library and subscribe to our YouTube channel for children’s programs that you can participate in when it’s convenient for you.

Burn Permits

Recreational burning is permitted as per By-law 2015-92 (Please refer to the By-law for guidelines pertaining to lot sizes and clearances for type of burn permit required). **Burn permits are \$40.00 and are valid until the end of each calendar year.** Purchase your Burn Permit [online](#), or visit the Administration Centre.

Reminders to Residents for the Spring and Summer Months

Street Sweeping services in the Township are contracted out. Operations usually commence mid-April and continue through to mid-May (weather dependent). It is requested that vehicles not be parked on the streets during this period. If it becomes necessary to park a vehicle on a street and the owner/driver notices a street sweeper working in that area, it would be appreciated if the vehicle can be removed immediately so that the street can be swept properly at that time.

Watering restrictions for lawns, gardens and car washing are in effect from May 15th to September 30th each calendar year for those on the municipal water system as opposed to a private well. Even numbered properties are permitted to water on even calendar numbered days ONLY between the hours of 7:00pm to 11:00pm. Odd numbered properties are permitted to water on odd numbered calendar days ONLY between the hours of 7:00pm and 11:00pm. These measures are necessary to ensure there is an adequate water supply for domestic use, fire protection and emergency services.

Dogs Running at Large – With spring around the corner, we would like to remind residents that dogs are not permitted to run at large. By-law 2006-18 regulates the control of dogs and is being strictly enforced. Owners of dogs found running at large are subject to fines. Please purchase your 2021 Dog Tag(s), now available for purchase [online](#).

Check Your Batteries! Schedule battery replacement for your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors when your clocks go forward this spring.