

ESSA TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

VOLUME. 1
SPRING 2024

5786 County Road 21, Utopia, ON

WWW.ESSATOWNSHIP.ON.CA TELEPHONE: 705-424-9917

Administration Office Hours: Monday – Friday 8:30 AM– 4:30 PM



Essa Township Council – 2022-2026 Term

Left to Right: Councillor Pieter Kiezebrink, Deputy Mayor Mike Smith, Mayor Sandie Macdonald, Councillor Henry Sander, Councillor Liana Maltby

A MESSAGE FROM COUNCIL:

Spring is around the corner and Essa’s Council wishes you all the very best in this brand-new season. Residents, be sure to take in all the great things Essa has to offer. Our trails with the full beauty of nature at your doorstep, golf courses, green space, and our hidden river gems to name a few. Outdoor basketball and pickleball courts are waiting for you to come out and enjoy and so much more. Parks and Recreation staff have been busy getting our parks ready and new programs to enjoy.

Our Public Works Department will be busy starting new road projects throughout the Township. Grass cutting will be underway by the Parks and Recreation crew. A shout out to our Public Works Staff for keeping our roads and sidewalks safe during the winter! Congratulations to Thornton and Angus Minor Hockey Leagues for an amazing fun season. Be sure to watch for all the new and upcoming programs offered by the Parks and Recreation Department. Residents, thank you for sharing your ideas and concerns with Essa Council and Staff. Our Essa Libraries are booming with fun activities for all ages to participate in. It is our privilege to work with Essa Residents. Your Essa Council is dedicated to protecting and promoting Essa’s interests and we are always looking for new ways to improve the quality of life in our communities. We would like to extend a big welcome to all our new residents and businesses to our beautiful Township. Council continues to look for ways to improve the safety for everyone on our roads. Residents have asked for more OPP officers to patrol our roads; with our limited resources this has been a challenge. We now have Automatic Speed Enforcement cameras to help with our #1 complaint about speeding on our roads. Residents this is not a cash grab as some have stated; rather a slowdown, save a life approach. If everyone does the posted speeds, we will not lighten your pockets of any of your money.

Thank you to all our staff for the great customer service that you deliver. Spring is a super time to get our gardens prepared and for planting trees. If you do not have a garden, our Angus Library will be preparing their Community Gardens and would love to have volunteers for planting, weeding – and residents get to reap the harvest!

We are all proud to call Essa home thanks to all our volunteers who contribute to Essa’s greatness.

Warm Regards,

Your Essa Council

Mayor Sandie Macdonald, Deputy Mayor Mike Smith,
Councillors Pieter Kiezebrink, Henry Sander, and Liana Maltby

CONTACT US

Sandie Macdonald, Mayor
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Liana Maltby, Councillor Ward 3
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Stay Informed and Up to Date!

If you haven't already done so, consider subscribing to the [News Feed](#) and the [Community Calendar](#) on Essa's [website](#). This will allow you to receive notifications by email when the Township posts news and events. Contact 705-424-9917, extension 101 if you need assistance.

Upcoming Due Dates:

<u>Taxes:</u>	<u>Water & Sewer:</u>
March 27, 2024	April 30, 2024
June 27, 2024	July 31, 2024

Payments can be made at financial institutions via tele-payment, online banking or by using our Virtual City Hall. In-person payments with Debit, Cash, or Cheque are accepted at the Administration Centre. A Drop Box at the Centre's doors is available for payments during closures.

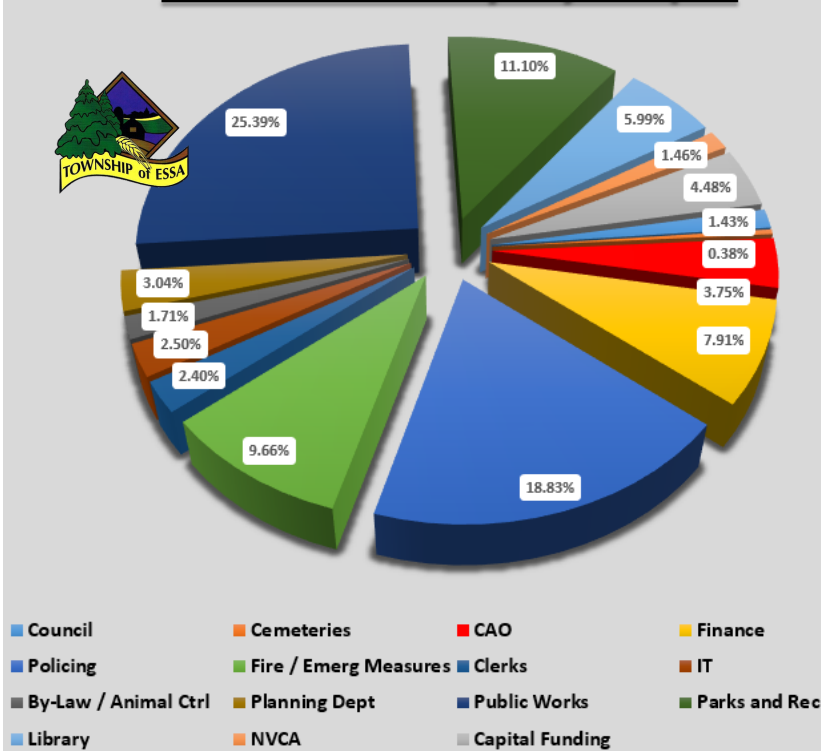
What's Happening at the Library this Spring?

Spring into new programs at Essa Public Library. Visit essalibrary.ca for a full calendar of special events and programs for kids, teens, adults, and seniors. Library cards are free for all residents of Essa Township. Visit our Angus or Thornton branch to sign up and access books, magazines, board games, puzzles, video games, kitchen gadgets and appliances, iPads, seeds, and more. **A place to imagine, discover, and connect.**

Budget

The approved 2024 Budget represents a total tax increase of 5.91%, which equals approximately \$43.95 per \$100,000.00 per residential assessment, all while maintaining the lowest tax rate in Simcoe County. For an average residential home assessed at \$395,000.00, the impact of the 2024 Budget equals an approximate increase of \$173.17. Despite a 15% allocation reduction in funding from the province (15% Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund and 15% Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund), the 2024 budget includes increased staffing, new vehicles, road upgrades and resurfacing, new parks, and parks upgrades. Essa will be transferring an amount equal to a 5.7% tax contribution to asset management in keeping with its adopted Asset Management Plan, which, along with the rest of the budget, reinforces Essa's position as the municipality with one of the lowest tax rates north of the GTA.

2024 Tax Levy by Dept.



Transportation & Trails Master Plan

We invite you to participate in our second **Public Open House** on **March 19** at the **Thornton Community Centre** & share your feedback on the Township's proposed network improvements & policy/guideline recommendations. Visit our [website](#) for more information.

Spring Watermain Flushing

Municipal water users are advised that the flushing of drinking watermains will take place as follows:

- Angus: April 22 – May 2, 2024
- Thornton: April 22 – April 26, 2024
- Baxter: April 26 – April 26, 2024

Paperless E-Billing for Property Taxes & Utility Bills

Tired of receiving paper bills for your property taxes and water bills? Consider opting to receive paperless bills instead. For more information or to sign up, visit our [website](#) to fill out our online form.

Alertable Notifications

Sign up for Essa's mass notification system so that you receive notifications directly from the municipality. Such notifications will inform you of important happenings such as road closures, burn bans, watering restrictions, emergency situations, and more!! Stay safe, plan ahead, and save time. Visit www.essatownship.on.ca or our Facebook page (@essatownship) to sign up today!

Increased Online Services

Essa Township now offers online payments for various services, including parking and speeding tickets, dog tags, burn permits, fishing access passes, and more. With Essa's Virtual City Hall, residents can conveniently access and manage their property tax and water accounts 24/7, making online payments hassle-free.

Official Plan Update

Recent legislative changes have affected the schedule of the Township Official Plan Update. 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.

Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE) Program

The Township of Essa launched its Automated Speed Enforcement Program (ASE) on January 1, 2024. Essa's ASE cameras will rotate between several different Community Safety Zones throughout Essa. ASE's have been proven to increase road safety for motorists and pedestrians. For full details on Essa's new ASE Program please visit our [website](#).

Parks and Recreation

Stay up to date on schedules and programs by visiting our website. For cemetery questions or concerns, please call extension 121 or email sgreene@essatownship.on.ca Did you know you can honor your loved ones and outstanding community members with the Township of Essa's Commemorative Bench and Tree Program? Contact extension 108 or email at amcclinton@essatownship.on.ca.

Do I need a Building Permit?

Yes, but there are some exceptions:

- Building a 15m2 (160sqft) shed with no plumbing and not more than one story; you don't need a permit.
- Adding an air conditioning unit to an existing HVAC system; you don't need a permit.
- Constructing a deck providing it's under 10m2 (108sqft) not attached to a building & not next to egress window or door; you don't need a permit.

Have other questions about your next project? Visit our website or contact building@essatownship.on.ca for project-specific information.

FOR AN ACCESSIBLE VERSION OF THIS NEWSLETTER, PLEASE CONTACT THE CLERKS

DEPARTMENT AT 705-424-9917