

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

As you plan for your year ahead, Essa Council brings our residents warm greetings. We are pleased to announce after passing the 2022 budget, Essa Council continued to keep your taxes affordable. Essa has the lowest taxes in the County of Simcoe and North of the GTA. Essa Fire Department welcomes a new Fire Chief and Deputy Fire Chief. Property was purchased for a new upgraded Essa Fire Station 2, in Angus, to replace the existing undersized Station.

Public Works has many road projects set for spring. Through our extra heavy snowfalls Staff has had a busy time keeping our roads safe and clear of snow. Parks and Recreation are busy making ice in our outdoor arenas and the reopening of our indoor arenas and gym. Council is excited to announce that Staff has been working diligently on providing residents with a new website that is user friendly and will provide modern tools for communication. We continue to work towards completion of our new official plan with an anticipated timeline of the summer of 2022.

It is always our intent to keep our roadways safe and to accomplish this mission, we need all drivers to please do the posted speed limits to keep our pedestrians and vehicle traffic safe. We are proud of our staff for stepping up and helping with the added work and pressures of Covid .

We thank our Essa residents for continuing to be kind and helpful for all those in need and less fortunate. Take care and stay warm. Enjoy the sunny days ahead. Your Essa Council continues to work with you, and for you. We are only a call away and always look forward to hearing from our residents.

Warm Regards,

Essa Council
Mayor Sandie Macdonald, Deputy Mayor Michael Smith
Councillors: Pieter Kiezebrink, Henry Sander, Ron Henderson

Council

Sandie Macdonald, Mayor
705-424-6844

smacdonald@essatownship.on.ca

Michael Smith, Deputy Mayor
705-305-8446

msmith@essatownship.on.ca

Pieter Kiezebrink, Councillor Ward 1
705-305-5027

pkiezebrink@essatownship.on.ca

Henry Sander, Councillor Ward 2
705-279-4992

hsander@essatownship.on.ca

Ron Henderson, Councillor Ward 3
705-305-3258

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Upcoming Due Dates:

Taxes:

March 28, 2022
June 27, 2022

Water and Sewer:

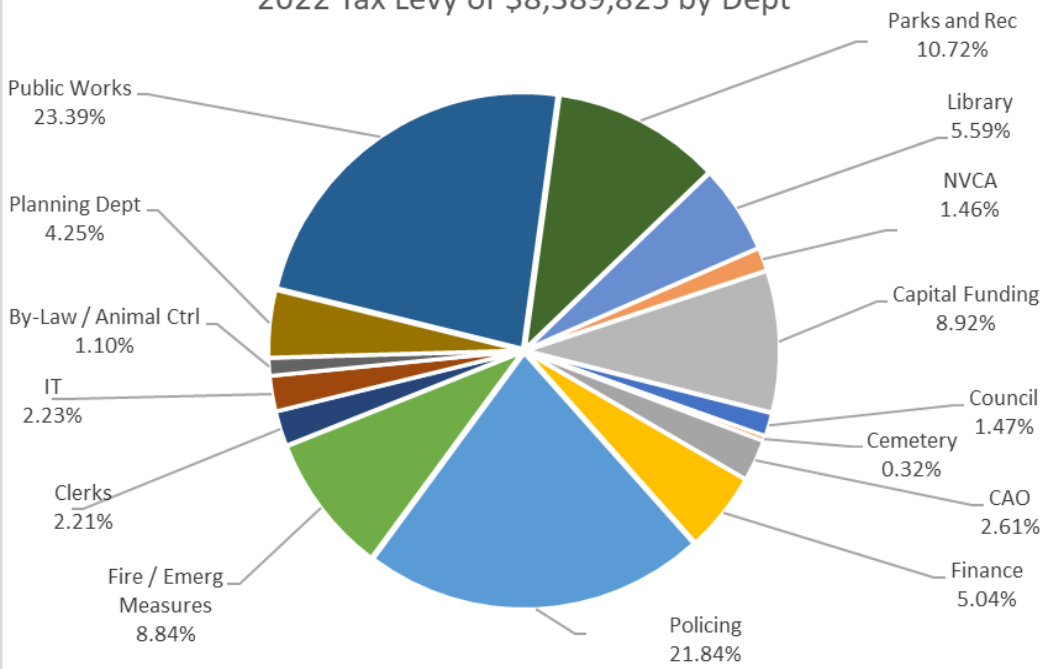
April 30, 2022
July 31, 2022

Payments can be made at most financial institutions using tele-payment or online banking options.

In person with Debit, Cash or Cheque can be made the Administration Centre. 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 to avoid penalties.

2022 Tax Levy of \$8,389,825 by Dept



2022 Municipal and School Board Elections

The 2022 Municipal and School Board Elections are set to take place on **October 24, 2022**. The Township of Essa will provide electors with Advance Voting Days prior to October 24, 2022 – dates will be communicated to electors.

Residents wishing to run for a seat on Council for the upcoming Election can file their Nomination Papers when the Nomination Period opens on May 2, 2022. The deadline to file is 2:00 pm on August 19, 2022.

Voter Lookup - Not sure if you're on the Voter's List? New to Essa?

Residents are encouraged to visit voterlookup.ca to ensure their names are on the voting list.

Essa Modernization Project

The Township of Essa applied for and was approved as a recipient for funding from the Province of Ontario to modernize and improve its technology systems. As such, you will see more up-to-date platforms roll-out that will better assist residents and the municipality in providing cost-savings and efficiencies in services.

Essa has established several IT initiatives to best utilize the funding from the Province. In 2022 Essa will be launching a new website providing the ability of residents to submit online forms and easily access municipal information using a user-friendly interface. Additionally, Essa will be offering increased online payment options to residents to pay parking tickets, property taxes, water bills and more. Please watch our social media channels for launch dates...

Parks and Recreation has implemented new software for online purchases, program registration and facility booking and payment. This software has a user friendly interface and allows residents to register for and pay for programs as well as book and pay for a facility rental from the comfort of your own home.

New Paperless E-Billing Option for Property Taxes and Utility Bills

The Township of Essa has launched a new paperless e-billing option for property tax and utility bills. Now bills can be sent electronically to your email. For more information or to sign up, visit our website or email ebilling@essatownship.on.ca

What's New in Essa's Parks?

The Parks and Recreation Department is excited to announce new upgrades to our facilities and parklands. The Angus Arena is receiving a new stage curtain, sound system and improved acoustic baffles. The Thornton Arena received an upgrade to its lighting system which is now LED and energy efficient. Michael Street Park is set to receive a brand-new play structure this spring.

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

Alertable Notifications

We are excited to provide residents with access to a mass notification system called Alertable. By signing up, you will receive notifications directly from the municipality to inform you of important things such as road closures, burn bans, watering restrictions, emergency situations and more! We encourage residents to sign up and use the Alertable Notification System to stay safe, plan ahead, and save time. Visit www.essatownship.on.ca or our Facebook page (@essatownship) to sign up today!

Updated Property Assessment Delayed Again

The Province has announced a further delay in updating property assessments for 2022 and 2023. Province-wide re-assessments are expected for 2024. Assessments for the 2022 property tax year will remain the same as 2021. The only changes that may occur are a result in physical property changes. 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?

Don't miss the next author talk in the 2022 Simcoe Author Talk Series where you can connect with incredible authors with hosting libraries throughout the County. Library programs are available for all ages. Visit our website essa.library.on.ca, and join us on social media to learn more. Your library card gives you access to our physical and digital collections including books, kitchen items, puzzles, board games, maker kits to keep you learning and entertained. Come in to visit our friendly spaces where you can **Imagine, Discover, and Connect.**

Reminders to Residents

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 2022 Dog Tag(s), now available for purchase [online](#).

Burn Permits–Recreational burning is permitted as per By-law 2015-92 once a permit has been purchased. Purchase your Burn Permit [online](#), or visit the Administration Centre.

Street Lights If you notice a street light out, please contact our Public Works Department at extension 112 or 127.

Spring Water Main flushing
Municipal water users are advised that flushing of drinking water mains will take place at the following locations and time periods:
Angus: Apr 25 – May 6, 2022
Thornton: Apr 18 – Apr 22, 2022
Baxter: Apr 18 – Apr 22, 2022