



Township of Chatsworth NEWSLETTER

(519) 794-3232

February 2024
www.chatsworth.ca

Mayor's Greeting

On behalf of myself and Council, I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year. Winter has finally arrived, and our public works crew are doing a great job of clearing snow from our roadways.

Our February newsletter contains information about the 2024 Operating and Capital Budget and our updated Fees and Charges. Staff began the budget process last August and Council held seven special meetings to review and discuss the proposal. A public meeting was held to review both the budget and fees and charges on January 17, 2024.

Council recognizes that this is a significant increase. There were several factors beyond the control of Council, including increased fuel costs, insurance, gravel, and contracted services that impacted the budget. We have approved a budget that shifts some of our fees and charges directly to the user rather than the general levy. The budget also supports our move to a long-term capital plan that better prepares us for maintaining our capital assets, such as roads, bridges, and facilities. More details about the budget are contained within the newsletter.

We thank all our residents who came out to provide comments and input on both the budget and fees and charges. We encourage everyone to attend our council meetings or access the agendas on our Township website to keep informed.

We are now reviewing and updating our Comprehensive Zoning By-law including a review of among other items, tiny homes to support affordable housing, the use of sea cans or shipping containers, and short-term rental accommodations. Upcoming special meeting dates have been posted on our website.

2024 Budget

After a five-month process, the 2024 budget will be adopted at the February 7, 2024, Council meeting. The budget approves a 7.53% levy increase which results in a 5.9% tax bill increase.

Some of the operating budget highlights include the following:

- Increase of 3% Consumer Price Indexing across most functional areas
- Increase in gravel and dust suppression expenses
- Increase in hard top maintenance to prolong the life of some of our hard-surfaced roads
- Updating our Asset Management Plan as required by Provincial regulation to be completed by July 2024
- A reduction in transfers from reserves to cover operating expenses and an increase in the transfer to reserves to ensure funds are available for capital projects in the future

- Increase in Curbside Waste Pick Up (See Waste Management Information below).
- Increase in insurance costs of 13%
- Cost of Living increase for Council and employees of 2.5%
- Increase in benefit costs
- Reduction in policing costs
- Slight increase in Ontario Municipal Partnership Funding
- Reduction in Saugeen Mobility and Regional Transit due to a Pilot Project in Chatsworth
- New debenture replacement for Concession 4 reconstruction completed in 2022 and Replacement of Bridge Structure 4 (Gordon Lang Bridge)
- Increase in revenue from garbage bag tag sales (all bags must be tagged as of April 1st, 2024)

Capital Budget Highlights include:

- Small equipment purchases for Fire Department - \$18,200
- Replacement of Gordon Lang Bridge - \$600,000
- Sidewalk Snow Removal Equipment - \$85,000
- Upgrades to Holland and Sullivan Works Shops - \$45,000
- Continued upgrades at Keady Community Centre- \$227,000
- Ice Resurfacing Equipment - \$100,000
- McCullough Lake Boat Launch improvements - \$15,000

Tax Due Dates

Tax bills are mailed out twice a year and are paid in quarterly instalments. The interim tax bills are due February 27 and April 25, 2024.

Payments can be made in person, by cheque, cash, or debit, by mail, telephone banking, pre-authorized payments or by using the mail drop box at the municipal office.

Fees and Charges

The new Fees and Charges By-law has been posted to our website. The new fees come into effect as of April 1st, 2024 (ice rental fees will increase on September 1, 2024).

Of particular note is the increase in garbage bag tag fees from \$2.50 per tag to \$3.00. In addition, as of April 1st all bags **must be tagged. Untagged bags will not be picked up. Please see our website for vendor locations to purchase tags. Recycling does not need to be tagged.**

2024 Dog Tags

We have moved to new life-time dog tags effective January 1, 2024. You will still need to pay your annual license fee. All dogs must be tagged. New Fees apply:

	On or Before March 31 st	April 1st
First Dog	\$20.00	\$30.00
Second Dog	\$45.00	\$50.00
Third Dog	\$100.00	\$110.00

2024 Dog Tags (cont'd)

You will be invoiced annually in January. A surcharge is added if your tag is not paid for by April 1st.

If you no longer have a dog previously licensed, please contact the Township Office to update your information.

No more than three dogs per property are permitted, unless you are a kennel operator, licensed by the Township.

Community Improvement Plan

We were excited to launch our new Community Improvement Plan which provides several financial incentives by way of grants to our local businesses in 2023. Congratulations to Desboro General Store, our first CIP grant recipient. Money is still available to property owners for grants under the program and we want to get money into the hands of our local businesses. Read more about the CIP on our website or contact Patty Sinnamon, CAO Clerk at 519-794-3232, Ext. 124

Landfill and Transfer Station Sites and Hours of Operation

There are two landfill sites within our municipality that are available to all Township of Chatsworth residents:

Sullivan Transfer Station (702320 Sideroad 5)

November 1 to March 31

Saturdays 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Mondays 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

April 1 – October 31

Saturdays 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Mondays 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Markdale Landfill (775557 Highway 10)

Monday, Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Closed on Statutory Holidays

2023 Household Hazardous Waste Days

The City of Owen Sound will continue to offer the use of their Household Hazardous Waste Program to all residents in the Township of Chatsworth. Household Hazardous Waste will be accepted on the following days from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at 1900-20th Street East, Owen Sound:

April 20

May 11

June 15

July 13

August 17

September 14

October 5

October 19

Coming Soon - New Book Vending Machine at Keady Community Centre

Members of the Owen Sound & North Grey Union Public Library will soon be able to borrow a variety of materials from the new vending machine at the Keady Community Centre. Watch our website and Facebook page for updates.

Save The Dates!

Community Hub Antique Car and Tractor Show – Saturday, June 15, 2024

Community Yard Sale – Desboro Community Centre – Saturday, April 27, 2024



2024 WASTE & RECYCLE CALENDAR



JANUARY						
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DECEMBER						
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**NOTE: All waste must be placed at the curb prior to 6:00 a.m. Garbage and recycling must be placed on the following roadside:
Township Roads- Mailbox side, Provincial, County and Townline Roads - End of Driveway**

Garbage Tags may be purchased at the Township of Chatsworth Office, 6 & 10 Convenience Chatsworth, Esso Gas Station Chatsworth, Williamsford General Store Williamsford, and Holland Centre Gas Bar Holland Centre.

**LEGEND: RED SHADING - FORMER SULLIVAN & THE VILLAGE OF CHATSWORTH (WEST OF HIGHWAY 6)
BLUE SHADING - FORMER HOLLAND (EAST OF HIGHWAY 6)**