



TOWN OF STELLARTON

Council
March 13, 2023
5:30 PM
Council Chambers

- 1. Approval of Agenda**
- 2. Approval of Minutes:** February 13, 2023
- 3. Business Arising from the Minutes**
- 4. Proclamation-** Proclamation of Purple Day (Epilepsy Awareness)
- 5. Reports from Staff:**
 - a. Chief Mark Hobeck- Stellarton Police Service
 - b. Fire Chief Mike O’Sullivan – Fire Department
 - c. Paige Clarke- Marketing & Communications
 - d. Blaine Murray – Town Engineer
 - e. Noah Delorey- Active Community Living Coordinator
- 6. Correspondence**
 - a. Tupper Family Re: Thank you
 - b. NS Health Foundation Re: Mental Illness prevention launch
 - c. Healthy Pictou County Re: Community Fund Application
- 7. Committee of the Whole Report – No report**
- 8. Amendment to Tax Exemption By-law # 57** Second and Final Reading
- 9. Pictou County Wellness Centre, Minutes of November 14, 2022**
- 10. Open Forum**
- 11. Next Council Meeting:** Tuesday, April 11, 2023 @5:30 PM
- 12. Adjourn**

FEBRUARY 13, 2023
STELLARTON, NOVA SCOTIA

MEETING

A meeting of the Stellarton Town Council was held on Monday, February 13, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. in Council Chambers.

PRESENT

Mayor D. MacGillivray, Couns. S. Lawand, B. Knight, S. Campbell, and G. Pentz. Also present was the Chief Administrative Officer S. Higdon.

1. Approval of Agenda

The Agenda was approved as amended; move #8 and #11 to #4 and #5; and remove #10; and add #3 Presentation, on motion by Coun. S. Lawand, seconded by Coun. G. Pentz. **Motion Carried.**

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from January 9, 2023 Regular Council meeting were approved on motion by Coun. B. Knight, seconded by Coun. S. Campbell. **Motion Carried.**

3. Presentation

Mayor D. MacGillivray presented Steve Goodwin with an “Honorary Citizen of the Town of Stellarton” certificate for his support and media coverage over the years.

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

a. Fire Bylaw Re: Residents of Stellarton – CAO S. Higdon commented that at previous meeting, Deputy Mayor B. Knight had brought forward amending the bylaw regarding the fire department and having to be a resident of Stellarton to be a member; this is not a Town Bylaw, but a Department Bylaw; the Fire Chief M. O’Sullivan is looking to amend that.

5. Temporary Borrowing Resolution

CAO S. Higdon re budget for paving from the Reserves; upon recommendation from the Town Accountant B. MacKay, she recommends that the Town borrows for this expenditure.

Questions/Comments:

Mayor D. MacGillivray re affecting the Town’s ratio (Financial Condition Indicators). B. MacKay commented that the borrowing will preserve the reserves, and there is room within the debt service to borrow for the curbs and paving.

Coun. G. Pentz made motion to approve Temporary Borrowing Resolution, seconded by Coun. B. Knight.

On the Question:

Mayor D. MacGillivray read Temporary Borrowing Resolution in the amount of \$495,000.00 for the record (attached).

Motion Carried.

6. Application to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board – Water Rates

CAO S. Higdon reported that the Town is recommending to go the NS Utility and Review Board for a Water Rate Study; the last time was in 2006, and the last rate increase was in 2009; Council discussed this at the Committee of the Whole meeting in January. Mayor D. MacGillivray read reasons why this needs to be done, highlighting:

- Losses in the last two fiscal years, in excess of \$600,000.00
- Using surplus
- Operations not sustainable with current rates
- Rates have not increased in 15 years
- The proposed increases are equivalent to \$4.85 per month in year one, and additional \$5.43 per month in year two
- Raising rates now will lessen increases once meters are installed
- Best for the residents
- Water Utility will remain financially solvent; and invest in capital if needed

Questions/Comments:

Coun. S. Lawand re proposed increases.

CAO S. Higdon read motion for the record:

“The Town of Stellarton apply to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board for changes in its rates for water and water service, fire protection to the Town, and changes to its rules and regulations for customers served by the Town of Stellarton Water Utility, as set out in the Water Rates Study prepared by G. A. Isenor Consulting Ltd. in association with Blaine S. Rooney Consulting Ltd.”

Motion approved by Coun. B. Knight, seconded by Coun. G. Pentz.

On the Question:

Coun. G. Pentz commented that it would be irresponsible of today’s Council if this decision was not made; it is a difficult decision, but if let go, it will get much harder later.

Coun. B. Knight agreed and commented that past Councils should have implemented some small changes in the Utility, preventing the current deficits.

Motion Carried.

7. Reports from Staff - for information; reports attached.

- a. Chief Mark Hobeck – Stellarton Police Service

Mayor D. MacGillivray asked about the speed report. Coun. B. Knight replied that the police are monitoring the area.

Coun. B. Knight made motion to accept Police Service Report, seconded by Coun. S. Lawand. **Motion Carried.**

b. Fire Chief Mike O'Sullivan – Fire Department

Coun. B. Knight motioned to accept Fire Department's report for January 2023, seconded by Coun. G. Pentz. **Motion Carried.**

c. Paige Clarke – Marketing and Communications

Coun. S. Lawand re the Deans Project "selfie-station"; CAO S. Higdon replied that the Committee is looking into ideas such as "pizza" as a common theme. Coun. S. Lawand recommends having a Stellarton "miner" selfie.

Coun. B. Knight made motion to approve the Marketing and Communications report, seconded by Coun. S. Lawand. **Motion Carried.**

d. Blaine Murray – Town Engineer

Coun. B. Knight asked CAO to look into the storm drain combination on Claremont and Kirk. CAO S. Higdon replied that work will commence on those streets and the lines will be separated.

Coun. S. Lawand re trees in the Olympic Park that need attention.

Coun. G. Pentz made motion to approve Town Engineer's Reports, seconded by Coun. S. Lawand. **Motion Carried.**

e. Noah Delorey – Active Community Living Coordinator Report

Coun. B. Knight made motion to approve Active Community Living Coordinator Report, seconded by Coun. G. Pentz. **Motion Carried.**

8. Correspondence

a. Municipal of Pictou County Re: Contribution to sidewalk in Blue Acres –

CAO S. Higdon reported that letter was received from Warden Robert Parker, read for the record, asking for a financial commitment from the Town to help with new sidewalk project stretching from the bridge over the East River in Stellarton to the bridge across from the Irving Station. Discussion commenced. Coun. S. Lawand re shared assets and designated joint projects; commitment from all municipal units; would like to see a better scope for future planning and shared costs. Coun. G. Pentz and Coun. B. Knight agrees. Coun. B. Knight made motion to deny their request for a financial commitment on this project, seconded by Coun. G. Pentz.

On the Question:

Mayor D. MacGillivray will bring forward determining shared assets to the next Mayors and Warden meeting.

Coun. G. Pentz commented that a sidewalk on MacGregor Avenue would be a better use of Town's resources.

Motion Carried.

- b. Ava Gennoe** Re: Thank you for Oulton Award; information for Council
- c. Town of New Glasgow** Re: Water Filling for Fire Trucks – CAO S. Higdon stated that letter was received from the Town of New Glasgow, sent to Fire Chief Mike O’Sullivan, copied to Stellarton Council; read for the record; that starting January 30, 2023, there will be no more water filling of outside fire departments trucks at the New Glasgow Fire Station. CAO S. Higdon noted that the Town of Stellarton does not use the water filling station from the Town of New Glasgow; the CAO of New Glasgow will be sending out a clarification letter saying that Stellarton does not use the filling station.
- d. Town of New Glasgow** Email Re: Ladder Truck – CAO S. Higdon re letter from New Glasgow CAO concerning the use of the New Glasgow Fire Department ladder truck; future use will be charged; this should not affect the Town of Stellarton since we have not used their ladder truck in decades. Coun. S. Lawand re the Mutual Aid agreement. CAO S. Higdon replied that the Mutual Aid Agreement is still in effect, not sure how other towns will work around it. Coun. G. Pentz referred to the existing Mutual Aid Agreement, read two sections regarding responsibility for damages done to any equipment; furthermore, the agreement was signed in January 1989 and was to be reviewed yearly; unsure if reviews were completed; but any changes would be done by way of amendments during such reviews. He feels this item will be an amendment to the Mutual Agreement which shall become part of the agreement upon ratification of all parties; if New Glasgow wants to start charging for use of the ladder truck, then they should make such changes to the mutual agreement. Coun. G. Pentz suggested bringing this issue to the Mayors and Warden meeting, and the fire chiefs should meet to settle any concerns.

9. Committee of the Whole Report

The following recommendation is for Council’s consideration from correspondence received at the Committee of the Whole meeting held on January 23, 2023:

Recommendation #1

On the recommendation of Committee of the Whole Council approve \$200.00 to the Pictou County United Way.

Coun. S. Lawand made motion to approve Committee of the Whole recommendation, seconded by Coun. S. Campbell. **Motion Carried.**

10. Adoption of Public Engagement Program

CAO S. Higdon reported that the Province of Nova Scotia has mandated that all municipalities in the province have a “Public Engagement Policy” in place to ensure that

abutting or nearby municipalities are engaged in the planning or plan amendment process in the future. This was recently adopted by the province and resulted in the adoption of a new section 204 A of the Municipal Government Act.

Previously, section 204 only required the adoption of a public participation program which all municipalities had in place. Town Planner Roland Burek is recommending that the policy the province is proposing be adopted, deadline is May 31, 2023 as a requirement set out by Minister John Lohr. Details are in Council's package. Coun. B. Knight made motion to approve the adoption of a public engagement program, seconded by Coun. G. Pentz. **Motion Carried.**

11. Amendment to Tax Exemption Bylaw #57 First Reading

CAO S. Higdon re First Reading of an amendment to our Tax Exemption Bylaw, currently under the Tax Exemption Bylaw which gives a full tax exemption to Riverview Home Corporation – 43 Birch Hill Drive and 31 St. Bernard Street – the First Reading is to remove them from the Tax Exemption Bylaw which would require them to become fully taxable April 1, 2023. Also, adding to Schedule A, the Stellar Curling Club which will give them a full tax exemption beginning April 1, 2023.

Coun. S. Lawand made to motion to approve the First Reading, seconded by Coun. S. Campbell. **Motion Carried.**

12. Open Forum

No one spoke at the Open Forum.

13. Next Council Meeting: Monday, March 13, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.

14. ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned on motion by Coun. G. Pentz.

MAYOR

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER



STELLARTON POLICE SERVICE

Report for Month End Feb 28th, 2023

Calls for Service

Total: 179

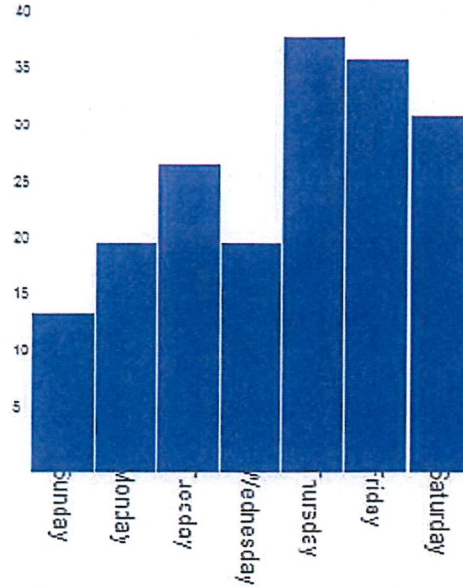
Calls	Type	Charges
3	911 Act-Other Activities	
1	Animal Calls	
4	Assaults	3
1	Assault with a weapon	1
8	Assists to the General Public	
6	Assists to Can. Police Agency	
1	Being unlawfully in a dwelling	
3	B&E	
1	Child Welfare Act	
1	Coroners Act	
4	Crime Prevention	
2	Causing a Disturbance	
1	Dog Act- Other Activities	
1	Driving while disqualified	
3	Fail to comply with conditions	2
10	False Alarm	
9	Family Relations Act	
1	Fire Prevention	

2	Fraud	
1	Harassment	
7	Information Files	
1	Landlord Tenant problem	
15	Mental Health Act	
9	Mischief	2
16	Motor Vehicle Act Violations	8 (15 warning)
7	Municipal Bylaw (traffic)	
1	Flight from Police	
1	noise complaint	
19	Thefts	
1	Theft of car	
4	Parking complaint	2 (6 warning)
1	Peace Bond	
1	Possession of Stolen property	
3	property check	
1	Possession of a weapon	1
19	Suspicious Persons/Veh/Property	
7	Traffic Collisions	
3	Well-Being Checks	
4	Threats	

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	UNKNOWN	TOTAL
NUMBER OF EVENTS ->	13	19	26	19	37	35	30	0	179
0:00 TO 3:59	3	3	1	2	3		4		16
4:00 TO 7:59	1	1	2	4	2	3			13
8:00 TO 11:59		3	9	2	12	11	7		44
12:00 TO 15:59	3	7	7	5	11	8	10		51
16:00 TO 19:59	3	1	3	2	7	9	4		29
20:00 TO 23:59	3	4	4	4	2	4	5		26
UNKNOWN HOUR									0

Breakdown by day of the week:

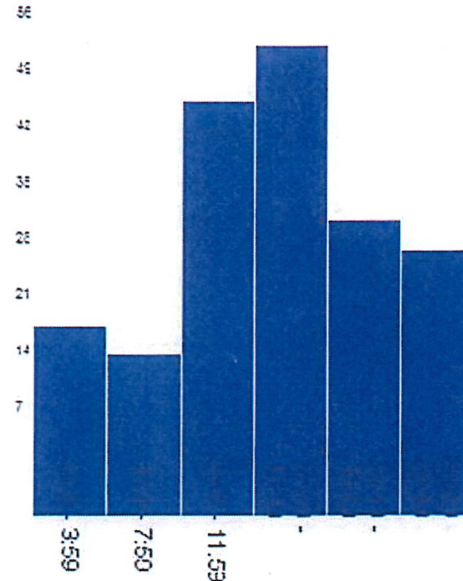
Weekday	Number of occurrences	Percentage of total
Sunday	13	7.3%
Monday	19	10.6%
Tuesday	26	14.5%
Wednesday	19	10.6%
Thursday	37	20.7%
Friday	35	19.6%
Saturday	30	16.8%
Unknown	0	0.0%
Total	179	100%



Number of occurrences per weekday

Breakdown by time of day:

Time	Number of occurrences	Percentage of total
0:00 - 3:59	16	8.9%
4:00 - 7:59	13	7.3%
8:00 - 11:59	44	24.6%
12:00 - 15:59	51	28.5%
16:00 - 19:59	29	16.2%
20:00 - 23:59	26	14.5%
Unknown	0	0.0%
Total	179	100%



Number of occurrences per time of day

Other Activities

Foot/Bike Patrol	6	hours
Traffic Enforcement	27	hours
Community Relations	7	hours

Noteable Events

- Chief Hobeck and Cst Williams attended and coached the Special olympic winter games
- Chief Hobeck attended the special olympic gala
- Email from NSCC principal regarding Cst Gabe Vandergrift and Cst Braeden Williams

Dear Chief Hobeck -

I'm writing to say "thank you" for the great service we received from two of your officers on Thursday February 16th. They came to the Campus to aid us with a student who was suicidal. They handled the situation with great compassion to the student, and sensitivity to the campus as a whole. I only caught their first names - Gabe and Braeden. Their professional manner was truly appreciated!

Max

*Chief
Inspector*

Stellarton Fire Department
Monthly Report – February 2023

The month of February was somewhat busy but with almost entirely false alarms.

CALLS:

During the month of February we responded to 9 calls: 1 was a sparking transformer report, 1 was a possible structure fire and the other 7 were alarm calls. An average of 13 fire fighters responded to each call.

PRACTICES:

Practices were held every Thursday. On average 18 members attended.

Clean-up/Equipment checks:

Weekly clean-up and equipment checks are performed with individual crews.

Respectfully submitted by Mark Fortune(secretary)

March Council Report

Marketing & Communications

DEANS Projects

I continue to be the Stellarton representative attending planning meetings with the DEANS team and the other municipalities regarding ACOA funded projects (and have been since spring 2022). Some of the allocated funding had not been fully utilized in the fall, so we have been meeting to make a plan to reallocate these funds.

As of my last report, we had been looking at a county-wide sort of initiative that would have a “selfie station” of sorts in each downtown or core areas – this would be a large art installation of some sort that is commonly used by the public as a backdrop or a feature in photos, often being circulated online. The intent is that each participating municipality would have a new art piece that is community focused, showcasing something meaningful to each individual town, but having a consistent theme throughout the pieces so that they are all connected. Residents would have a sense of pride in their own art piece but would also be encouraged to go visit the other pieces as well.

We had been exploring the concept of “Slices of Pictou County” and having individual Town-themed pizza slices as our option, but we have not made further progress from last month. ACOA has granted the group an extension on the funding, so we have a bit more time to brainstorm. CAO Higdon did bring Councillor Lawand’s request of a miner or the mining theme to my attention, so we will work to incorporate that once the group has a firm decision on the shape/concept of the stations.

Heritage Room

We have been working to get the Heritage Room cleaned, organized, and ready to be opened to the public with the target goal of an April 1 opening. Senior Staff and some members of the Heritage Committee made a priority list of tasks required to open the room, with the biggest need simply being to clean/organize the room and get it painted.

I spent two days in the Heritage Room cleaning up the back rooms, setting up the office, and organizing as much of the artifacts as I could during that time. The Public Works crew has been working to replace tiles and paint the space over the last week, however I am unsure of their progress at this time. We are hopeful to be open by the spring and be able to tie the room into Homecoming as well.

Homecoming

We held our first Homecoming Committee meeting for the 2023 year this past month and it was quite productive. The Homecoming dates for this year are July 26-30 and will run with a schedule similar to that of past years. There may be some adjustments to events or locations, but the core events will remain.

The Committee will be working to confirm more details before our next meeting in April, however, we are certainly feeling more confident after the success and organization of last year.

Accessibility

I have been seeking out training opportunities for staff regarding general accessibility training and providing basic and standard services in an accessible manner. There have been several free options that have been available online for individuals, but these have not been made available in a group format. We have been looking for a training that would be for all staff at once, but this is proving to be difficult.

There are some "Train the Trainer" type of courses upcoming that I will be investigating if they will work for our organization. If this method works, the Town would have a designated staff person able to host and train accessibility sessions at our own convenience.

I'm currently scheduled to attend a virtual gathering on accessibility for Prescribed Public Sector Bodies later this month. I'm hopeful that this meeting may provide further insight on more of the self-running accessibility training.

Promotions

In collaboration with our Active Living Coordinator, we promoted the Free Family Fun for Heritage Day at the WM Sobey Sports Complex on February 20. This post reached approximately 24k people online and was very well attended. We've received a lot of positive feedback regarding the activity.

Also in collaboration with the Active Living Coordinator, we have shared the opening for nominations for the Francis Bud MacKay Volunteer of the Year Award. Nominations are being accepted until March 10; submissions are to be sent to Noah.

Respectfully submitted,

Paige Clarke
Marketing & Communications Coordinator

Town of Stellarton Town Engineers Report February 2023 Water Utility Report

Water Quality Testing

1. Routine weekly Bacteriological sampling was conducted. All results were negative for the month.

Water Treatment Plant (WTP)

1. Average treated water Production for February 2023 compared to February 2022 was ~ 3% More.
2. Computer failed at plant (NOT SCADA COMPUTER), Lucas performed temporary repair. We are awaiting server @ Town Hall before we are complete.
3. WTP staff are working on the 2022 annual report for the water utility. The report will be submitted to Nova Scotia Environment in late March.

Water Distribution

4. No water break to report for February.
5. Public Works are busy locating and testing water standpipes for Neptune in advance of meter appointments. This exercise is ongoing.

**Blaine Murray, P. Eng.
Town Engineer**

Town Engineers Report

February 2023

Engineering & Public Works Report

Engineering/ Capital Projects

1. Canadian Utilities Services Limited have completed tree removal and still some mulching to do. PID 00991315 behind Poplar, Cambey and High Street required further tree removal as the aspen/poplar that stood in a wet low-lying area had rotted. Due to the amount of damage a lot of trees had to be removed to get at the fallen or damaged trees.
2. The water meter project is approximately 57%. The radio antenna will be installed on March 8th. It will be installed on a light pole at the Albion ballfield. The antenna will relay the signals from the meters which will be used by the administration software for billing.
3. As part of our asset management program through FCM the Town completed a test well at the water treatment plant (WTP) to explore ground water supply. The test well only provided 35 gpm. During the summer the demand from the WTP can be anywhere from 300-400 gpm with peaks reaching 500 gpm. The asset management report will be presented to council in March.

Streets/Properties

4. There were several snow events during the month of February in the range of 5-15 cm. No major events to report.
5. Several Town trees were removed or trimmed from throughout the Town in February which were damaged from Fiona.
6. Closed circuit Television (CCTV) camera work was done on the sanitary mains along Birch, Jubilee, and Bridge Avenue. These lines were backed up during a major rain and melt event on January 27th. The camera work found several root blockages in the main going across GR Saunders. A hydrovac truck was used to flush the line and poke a hole thru the root mass until it can be repaired. Public Works intends to remove the major blockage during March Break when school is on break.

Blaine Murray, P.Eng.,
Town Engineer

February Council Report

Active Community Living Coordinator

Volunteer of the Year; The Town of Stellarton Volunteer of the Year Committee is asking for nominations for the Volunteer of the Year Award. The deadline for submissions is Friday, March 10th. For more information- please check the Town of Stellarton Facebook Page or contact noah.delorey@stellarton.ca.

Highland Summit; On February 13th, the Highland Region Recreation Coordinator Committee had our annual Summit. This was scheduled to be a two-day event; but the weather only allowed for one day. As the Chair and the host of the Summit, with it being held at the Holiday Inn Stellarton, we had a great turnout along with some great guest speakers. Collaborating with local Recreation Leaders is great, as it allows people to come together and share ideas and help create new ones. Thank you to everyone who attended and helped plan our Highland Summit, and the staff at the Holiday Inn Stellarton!

Stellarton Homecoming; We are looking to build off our success from last year! On February 28th, the Stellarton Homecoming Committee had our first planning meeting for the 2023 Stellarton Homecoming. Dates for the 2023 Stellarton Homecoming are July 26-30th, 2023. If you are looking to get involved, please contact noah.delorey@stellarton.ca for more information.

Safety Training; On March 3rd, I attended a safety training course as a member of the Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee. The course was hosted by Construction Safety Nova Scotia.

Active Community Fund; We have been approved for our Active Community Fund, and will begin working on finding the right Consulting Firm for the development of the Town of Stellarton's Active Living Strategic Plan. We will create a Request for Proposal to connect with the most appropriate consulting firm. There are many benefits for working with a consulting firm, including- ensuring that every angle is considered, effective community engagement approaches, and overall, a more effective Physical Activity Strategic Plan for community members.

Multisport; Pictou County MultiSport is underway, with our first session at Trenton Rink on February 26th. We are off to a great start and looking forward to next Sunday! For notices and updates, please follow the Pictou County MultiSport Facebook Page.

Pictou County Aging Well Together; In January I have joined the Pictou County Aging Well Together Committee. This will allow me the opportunity to learn about recreation opportunities for older adults and provide similar opportunities to older adults in Stellarton.

Nova Scotia 55+ Games; Pictou County has won the bid for hosting the 2023 Nova Scotia 55+ Games, set for September 20-24. On behalf of the Town of Stellarton, I am a part of this committee, and our next scheduled meeting is April 5th.

Active Living Committee; Our Active Living Committee is starting back up in the near future. There will be two Council members on the Committee, active living stakeholders within Stellarton, and myself. The committee will discuss ways to improve active living within Stellarton, collectively develop an Active Living Strategy for the Town of Stellarton and allow for a space for opinions and thoughts can be brought up and discussed. If you wish to be a part of the Active Living Committee, please contact noah.delorey@stellarton.ca for more information.

Active Living Strategic Plan; An Active Living Strategic Plan is in the early stages of being developed for the Town of Stellarton. The purpose of this plan is to use community engagement to identify the target demographics for the Town of Stellarton community members and promote existing ways individuals can be active, while also creating new activities where our community members can increase their physical activity levels. The Active Living Strategic Plan will identify and focus on building upon the active living lifestyle in Stellarton, desired outcomes, increase transparency, and use community engagement to see impactful changes.

Respectfully submitted,

Noah Delorey

Active Community Living Coordinator