



STELLAR NEWS

SPIRIT | PEOPLE | PRIDE

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IMPORTANT DATES

Apr 7: Police Commission

Apr 11: Council

Apr 15: Good Friday—ADMIN OFFICE CLOSED

Apr 18: Easter Monday—ADMIN OFFICE CLOSED

Apr 25: Committee of the Whole

May 5: Police Commission

May 9: Council

May 24: Committee of the Whole

May 23: Victoria Day—ADMIN OFFICE CLOSED

May 24: Committee of the Whole

Jun 2: Police Commission

Jun 11: Davis Day

Jun 13: Council

Jun 27: Committee of the Whole

Mayor's Message

Dear Friends and Neighbours:

It is nice to see the return of spring after an old-fashioned winter which kept our Public Works staff busy. We are thankful for their work. Snow removal is essential to keeping our streets and sidewalks safe and accessible. Our staff does their best to do it promptly and competently. The snowbanks were “lifted” off Foord Street shortly after each major storm – ensuring our main street was safe for those exiting vehicles and ensuring that businesses and services could be accessed. On occasion, machines break down which can cause delays with clearing snow, but overall, we are pleased with snow removal this past winter.



This year, we will begin the process of installing residential water meters. A handout was left in every Post Office Box about a month ago detailing the initial steps to installation. The Administration Office needs your contact information to update accounts and expedite the process. We have included this handout on the back page of this newsletter. There you can find the information on how to update your account. We are very appreciative of your assistance.

Homecoming Week returns in full force for 2022! We expect to see a full slate of events for the first time since 2019. There are some new ideas being floated for the Saturday night dance. The Homecoming Committee is looking at different venues and the possibility of an outside dance in the parking lot behind Town Hall. The devil is in the details (and the cost), but we are exploring opportunities. I remember many good times at the Stellarton Memorial Rink on Homecoming Saturday night. We are working towards starting something different that will continue the traditions of fostering old friendships and meeting new people, while enjoying music and a dance step or two on the Saturday night of Homecoming.

Your council has always placed an emphasis on heritage, and we are beginning to see the fruition of this work. We now have a Heritage Walking Map for the town that highlights areas of historical significance. This map features a QR code that can be scanned with a mobile device to read some background information on that location – we've also included visual descriptions of the sites for those who may have visual impairments. The maps are available at Town Hall and are available in a digital format on our website under the *Recreation* page. We are installing wayfinding signs for the Town's historical neighbourhoods; The Red Row will be signed, as will The Heights, The Asphalt, and so on. We are also developing a Heritage Room, on the second floor of the library. Soon, the stairwell leading up to the room will feature 12 large paintings that depict the history of our town – beginning with the Mi'kmaq and their traditions and showing Stellarton's industrial and community development over the years; A pictorial history of Stellarton.

Pioneer Coal's strip mine is nearing its end of life. That means reclamation is now underway. The province is the authority on this matter, the Town has no legal involvement; but it is a big piece of our town, in the heart of our town, so Council will continue to stay as involved as possible. We have raised the issue with MLA Pat Dunn, and hope to take him and Premier Houston on a tour of the area, so they are fully aware of our concerns and plans for the reclaimed site. Town staff meet regularly with provincial staff to ensure that we are kept up to date on the file and can provide feedback when required. This is a big deal for Stellarton, we want the mine reclaimed in such a manner that we can make commercial, recreational, and residential use of the area. It only makes sense. It will cost Pioneer Coal more, but the Town has never received any royalties from the mine, so we are being more than reasonable in our request that they reclaim the land in a manner that will benefit our citizens.

Your council is used to working hard on your behalf, it's what we've done since first being elected in 2016, and it is what we will continue to do. We put your interests first, which is why we were elected, twice. Thank you for your faith in us, it is not misplaced. We value it and remain dedicated to growing trust and continuing to fulfill your expectations of a proper Town Council that looks out for its' residents.

Take care.

Danny

Town Hall Updates

Tax Billing

Property taxes levied by the Town of Stellarton are billed in instalments as follows: 50% of the assessed taxes are billed on April 1st of each year due in June. The remainder of the current year tax levy is billed on September 1st and due in November.

Plow Damage

Anyone wishing to report plow damage to their property is asked to call Town Hall at 902-752-2114. You will be added to the list of properties that require attention.



Low Income Property Tax Exemption

Council has increased the low income property tax exemption for the 2022-2023 fiscal year. If your household income is \$26,972 or less, you are eligible for a \$300 rebate on your final property tax bill. This exemption will be applied to your tax account during the final property tax billing in September 2022. You must provide a copy of your 2021 Notice of Assessment received from the Canada Revenue Agency as proof of income. Forms are available by contacting the Town office at 902-752-2114 or from the Town of Stellarton website at: www.stellarton.ca.

Community & Recreation

Volunteer of the Year Awards

We are excited to be extending the nomination period for the Francis Bud MacKay Volunteer of the Year award until April 15!

Applications are available online or at Town Hall.

Summer Jobs

Youth employment opportunities for the Town are posted on our website and on our social media channels.

There are positions available in park maintenance, sport and recreation maintenance, day camp councilors, and day camp programmer.



Local Recreation Programs

Local recreation teams are preparing for their summer seasons. Check with individual teams for program information and registration dates!

NNU Summer Recreational Soccer (U5-U13)

NNU Competitive Soccer (U11-U18)

For more info: <https://nnusc.demosphere-secure.com>

Stellarton & Area Minor Girls Softball Association

(Learn to Play, U11-U17)

For more info: stellartonstingers@hotmail.com

Stellarton Minor Baseball Albions (U11-U22)

For more info, follow their Facebook group!

Pictou County Mixed Slo-Pitch League (19+)

For more info, follow their Facebook group!

**STELLARTON HOMECOMING
SAVE THE DATE
JULY 20-24, 2022**

Sunday-Funday at the YMCA

For the month of April, Stellarton residents can access the YMCA on Sundays from 12-5pm for free!

Pre-registration is required to participate. Residents can register for open gymnasium use, family swims, fitness centre access, and recreational pickleball.

Only one adult from the household is required to register for family swims. All other programs must be registered for individually.

Residents can contact the YMCA for additional information at 902-752-0202.

To register for Stellarton's Sunday-Fundays directly:

<https://bit.ly/3uEKEs>

(Type web link directly into address bar)

Stellarton Heritage Corner

Federal Funding Announced for Heritage Projects



Back row (left-to-right): Noah Delorey, Mayor Danny MacGillivray, Minister Sean Fraser, Paige Clarke
Front row (left-to-right): Janet Wallace, Judith Hoegg Ryan

Stellarton is excited to be the recipient of \$11,000 through ACOA's Community Revitalization Fund!

This funding will help to support three heritage projects in Stellarton. These include a new art exhibit commemorating our history, the development of a heritage tour and map, and new wayfinding signage.

Public Works Department

Stellarton Water Meter Information

As part of our effort to become an environmentally responsible and sustainable community, the Town of Stellarton will be launching a universal water meter installation program throughout the Town for all flat-rate users.



Stellarton's water supply is dependent on the East River. This is a fragile water source that requires protection. The Department of Environment has been monitoring our water levels closely, often finding dangerously low levels in the summer months. Council implemented a Low-Flow Contingency By-Law to reduce water consumption, but we need to do more to ensure we have a sustainable water source for years to come. Installing water meters is the next step in reducing consumption.

Communities who have implemented universal water metering programs have seen a substantial increase in community stewardship of this precious resource. Water meters allow us to accurately measure water consumption and create equitable billing based on your household usage. Meters also encourage water conservation and can assist users to detect leaks in their home.

The Town has issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the supply and installation of residential and commercial meters. Upon award of the contract, the Town and the successful proponent will be distributing water meter information packages explaining the installation process in further detail. It is anticipated that installation could begin as early as mid-2022.

As a first step, the Town is requesting residents to provide contact information to Town staff. This information will be provided to the successful proponent for the purpose of scheduling meter installations.

We require residents to provide their name, civic address, phone number, and an email address.

There are several ways in which you can provide this information:

- At the Town's Admin Office by giving the information to a member of staff;
- Calling 902-752-2103 and leaving a voicemail with the information – this is a secure mailbox monitored by Town staff;
- Or emailing water.meters@stellarton.ca with your information.

Meters will be able to provide readings once they are installed. However, residents who have their meter installed will continue to be charged the flat-rate for water until ALL residential meters are in place. This means that homeowners may be able to detect (and repair) leaks in their home prior to the changing of billing.

We greatly encourage residents to schedule their appointments at their earliest convenience.