



STELLAR NEWS

SPIRIT | PEOPLE | PRIDE

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IMPORTANT DATES

Jan. 10 - Council

Jan. 24 - Committee of the Whole

Feb. 3 - Police Commission

Feb. 14 - Council

Feb. 21 - Family Day (ADMIN OFFICE CLOSED)

Feb. 28 - Committee of the Whole

Mar. 3 - Police Commission

Mar. 14 - Council

Mar. 28 - Committee of the Whole

Mayor's Message

Dear Friends and Neighbours:

Another new year is upon us. As with most any new year, it brings hopes and ambitions. Unique to this change of the calendar, we are finishing the second year of a global pandemic, and Nova Scotia has recently experienced record-breaking numbers of COVID-19 infections. Communities across our province, country, and world are ready to move past this pandemic and return to a more socially connected time. Hopefully our high vaccination rates and the reduced gathering limits over the holiday season allow this to happen in Nova Scotia in 2022. We are social animals, and we look forward to once again safely interacting with loved ones and friends without concern of serious health consequences. My heart goes out especially to residents in long term care homes, it was a lonely Christmas for many, same as 2020. As with any battle in life, there is a cost to fighting this pandemic. We have accepted reduced connection to increase safety, we can only hope that 2022 brings a better balance, where we can connect more freely, without personal safety concerns.



Despite the global pandemic, the Town of Stellarton made significant progress on many fronts in 2021. Council and staff continued to move our town forward by working hard and by working smart. That is how we operate at Town Hall. Perhaps most important for a municipality, we maintained a healthy financial condition. We are strong in this aspect; you can see for yourself in the provinces' report detailing the Town's fiscal position. The report can be found at <https://bit.ly/3He77Ox>. Stellarton has always been a leader when it comes to monetary matters, your Council knows we are stewards of this legacy, and we take that role very seriously. We treat tax dollars like our own dollars, watching all expenditures closely. Council always has an eye towards increasing revenue through development of the Albion Business Park. The Petro Canada is a welcome addition to town, and we expect the SPCA and Self-Storage Units to break ground in 2022. There is a national public service group currently doing due diligence on a space in the park and have been for several months. We also just signed Letters of Intent with a new real estate

developer for two of the main lots in the park. They have until April to complete their due diligence. We are hopeful that the spring will bring final sales on these lots, and major new businesses to our park.

The Town developed, approved, and are now implementing an Accessibility Plan. Access to your community is a human right. We must continue to do better, making our buildings more accessible. Pictou County Transit was reborn on May 17th, 2021. The service launched after a 25-year hiatus. It is a one-hour loop between Stellarton and New Glasgow, Monday to Friday, 7:00am to 9:00pm. For more information, please visit www.pctransit.ca.

The Stellarton Police Service, with help from the Pictou County Integrated Street Crime Unit, made our neighbourhoods safer in 2021. Over the last several years, we received consistent complaints about “drug houses.” In almost all parts of town. We acted and have shut down at least five of these houses. It takes a lot of investigative work, and a little bit of luck, to be able to get inside these houses, shut down the drug activity, and clean up the structure, or tear it down. Law enforcement worked hard, and communicated well with our administrative staff, allowing council to make decisions that made our town safer.

2021 also brought forward major challenges to our communities. We understand not just our town, but our entire province is faced with a mental health crisis. It is acute here in Pictou County, as we lack mental health services that are present in other parts of the province. Council has made this a priority and are participating in working groups to try and alleviate some of the major concerns. We need more family doctors. Stellarton Council and the other five municipal units in Pictou County invested in a Doctor Recruitment Specialist. We have an affordable housing crisis, as many have trouble finding safe housing for a reasonable price. Your council is heavily involved in looking at ways to address this issue. Both housing and health are provincial jurisdictions, however the municipal units in Pictou County are advocating for solutions.

I've touched on Council's hopes for 2022. A *health fix* for Pictou County; more family doctors, and positive steps towards improved mental health services. We will continue to prioritize growth of the Albion Business Park; commercial development is never quick and easy in rural Nova Scotia, we are in for the long haul, and are realizing success. Council has prioritized making Town Hall fully accessible and expect to make major strides in that respect in 2022. Finally, we hope for a full Homecoming in 2022; no gathering limits, so we can celebrate our town and our residents in proper style, large groups enjoying the events and the company of our fellow Stellartonian.

Danny

Stellarton Active Living

Wellness Centre Public Skates

Every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, the Wellness Centre has \$2 public skates. Helmets must be worn.



9-10am Parent & Tot

3-5pm Public



10am-2pm Senior & Adult

Stellarton Library

The library offers over 100 regular programs per month. All library programs are free and open to all!

Check out all of their programs and events online:

<http://www.parl.ns.ca/events/calendars/STEL.php>



W.M. Sobeys Indoor Sports Complex

Community Walk

Monday-Friday 8:30-9:30am & 12-1pm



Highland Tennis

Tuesdays & Thursdays 1-3pm



Highland Golf Driving Range

Tuesdays & Thursdays 9:30-11:30am



Family Fun Night

Saturdays 6-7:30pm



Stellarton Fire Department

During the winter months, we tend to spend more time inside our homes with loved ones. Make sure your home is safe and protected from fire hazards!

Have your furnace checked annually.

Many people believe they can do this themselves, but it is safer to invest in hiring a professional.



Check your chimneys and vents.



If you use your fireplace often, you should get annual chimney inspections to make sure there are no hazards. Remember to burn dry, seasoned wood that will produce more flame with less smoke.

Test your smoke alarms.

You always want to double check your batteries are fresh and will last through the winter.



Cover your fireplace with a screen.



A metal screen or tempered glass will protect sparks from leaving the fireplace. Make sure to keep kids and pets at least 3ft away from a burning fireplace.

Use caution with lit candles.

Candles can easily be knocked over. Only light candles when you are alert and able to watch them—blow them out when you leave the room.



Use caution with space heaters.



Avoid placing heaters near curtains or other flapping fabrics. Ensure your space heater has an automatic shut off switch that will force the heater off if it reaches a dangerously high heat.

Non-Emergency: (902) 752-6506

Emergency: 911

Email: fire.department@stellarton.ca

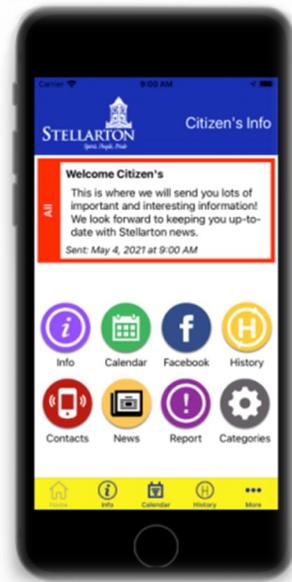
Stellarton Alert App

Have you downloaded the Stellarton Alert App? Get the information you need to make life easier – up-to-date and at your fingertips.

Through the app, we will send you personalized notifications about: Safety, Events, Road Issues, News, Taxes, Calendar, plus other info.

You can also send us reports about:

Road Issues, Accidents, Garbage Issues, Floods, Power Outages, and other info.



To start receiving your notifications, all you need to do is download the Stellarton app – no registration or payment required!

(The Stellarton app is available through Google Play or the App Store.)

Stellarton Heritage Corner

Stellarton Fire Department 1907



Men identified as: John McLennan, H.R. Flemming, J.R. Murray, George Campbell, Angus H. McKay, John Bowser, Arch Ross, Alex Hayman, H.T. Doran, John Baker, Colin Pearson, Warren Johnston, Martin McDonald, Lester Archibald, David Henderson, E.H. Culton - Chief, C.H. Newington, John Pearson, John Flaigher, Sam Baker, William McDougall, & Thomas Mason.

Reference: Stellarton Mining Museum, Nova Scotia Archives (no. I91.32.635)



Protect Your Property

Stellarton Police are encouraging residents to use these safety tips to protect themselves from theft.



**Lock your vehicle -
Even when parked
in the driveway.**



**Never leave
valuables in your
vehicle - especially
in plain view.**



**Take your
purse/wallet with
you every time you
leave your vehicle.**



**Leave outside
lights or motion
sensors on.**

**www.stellarton.ca
(902) 752-6160**

Stellarton Police Department

Whether you're out running errands or parked in your own driveway, it's important to take steps to protect yourself from theft!

Stellarton Police have been investigating reports of thefts from vehicles over the last month. Entry into these vehicles is gained through unlocked doors. Police are reminding residents to take precautions to keep themselves safe.

Anyone who has had property stolen from their vehicle is encouraged to report it to police. If your license plate is stolen, report it to police immediately.

Police ask that anyone who observes suspicious activity in or around parked vehicles or in their neighbourhood to call the police non-emergency line immediately—(902) 752-6160.

Winter Parking Regulations

Residents are advised that winter parking regulations are in effect from December 1, 2021 to April 15, 2022:

- (a) No person shall park or leave standing any vehicle upon any street in Stellarton between the hours of 1:00am and 7:00am of the same day.
- (b) No owner, driver or person having control or custody of any vehicle shall park or leave unattended by a person authorized to move and capable of operating the same upon any street in the above manner as to hinder, inconvenience or prevent removal of snow or ice from such highway or street.
- (c) No owner, driver or person having control or custody of any vehicle shall during the period from one hour after any snow storm has commenced to two hours after such snow storm has stopped, park the vehicle if it is unattended by a person authorized to move and capable of operating the same, upon any street in Stellarton.

The complete by-law can be found here:
<https://stellarton.ca/winter-parking-ban.html>

(To access web link, type directly into the address bar of your browser.)