



STELLAR NEWS

SPIRIT | PEOPLE | PRIDE

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IMPORTANT DATES

Jan. 4 - Police Commission

Jan. 8 - Council

Jan. 22 - Committee of the Whole

Feb. 1 - Police Commission

Feb. 12 - Council

Feb. 19 - Heritage Day (ADMIN OFFICE CLOSED)

Feb. 26 - Committee of the Whole

Mar. 7 - Police Commission

Mar. 11 - Council

Mar. 25 - Committee of the Whole

Mayor's Message

Dear Friends and Neighbours:

Welcome to a new year in Stellarton! The holiday season is always a very busy time, so I hope you all had an opportunity to relax and gather with friends and family throughout the last few weeks.

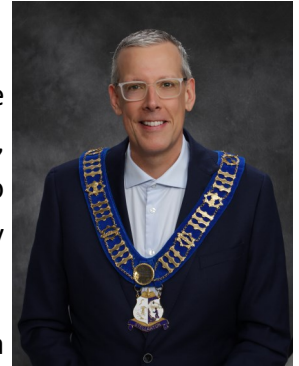
Over the last year, Stellarton made a major change. We continued our momentum as an action-oriented municipal unit with a big-ticket item – the purchase and installation of water meters for all residential homes in town. This project came with a price tag of \$1.2M. Stellarton is the last town in Nova Scotia to move to residential metered water.

The water meter project was initiated due to environmental reasons. Conservation of a precious resource, to be precise. The water levels of our East River are dangerously low most summers and we needed to be proactive with implementing protective measures for our water supply. The Province of Nova Scotia watches these levels closely in the warmer months and has been encouraging the town to install meters to reduce usage and ensure there is enough water left in the river for the fish to survive.

Billing on the metered rate will begin in 2025. We must ensure reliable, consistent data on water usage before changing from flat rate billing to metered billing. This information will be used in accordance with the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board rate study application to determine the water rate moving forward. We are monitoring this information now and will continue to do so in 2024.

The Town of Stellarton is proceeding with important municipal priorities and we can expect to see additional changes in 2024.

Our historic Town Hall was erected in 1930. It's a beautiful building as it is, however, it is in dire need of modernization. Our



Police Station, which shares the building with the Town’s Administration Office, is undersized and inadequate for the needs of today’s Police Service.

Town Hall is not accessible to all residents and visitors, but we must be, by 2030. I am always proud to be the Mayor of Stellarton, however, I do find it awkward when discussions turn to our inaccessible Town Hall. Stellarton’s Accessibility Committee outlined Town Hall as a priority to improve when we developed our Accessibility Plan (2021) and Council is determined to begin the process of making these improvements in 2024.

Budget talks will begin early in the year, and we will be making important decisions at that time to fund the modernization of Town Hall and/or build new. My personal preference is to retain our beautiful Town Hall as the center of all our municipal operations. We will look at all the options on the table and determine what is feasible. Despite any personal preferences, your Council will continue our pattern of making decisions that are in the best interests of the town. As individual council members, we don’t always agree, but we do respect each other, and at the end of the day will make the right decision for you, the residents.

All the very best in 2024!

Danny

A Glimpse of 2023



Special Olympics Soccer Team with coaches Chief Hobeck & Cst. Williams won gold at the NS Special Olympics Summer Games and were named 2022 Team of the Year!



Stellarton Fire Department and the new fire truck purchased by Council.



Grade 4’s from G.R. Saunders participated in the school’s annual community cleanup at the Foster Avenue Park.



2023 Volunteer of the Year, Trevor Boudreau, with plaque presented by Bud MacKay’s great-granddaughter, Layla.



The largest tree Stellarton has had in Town Square.

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

Claremont Project Update

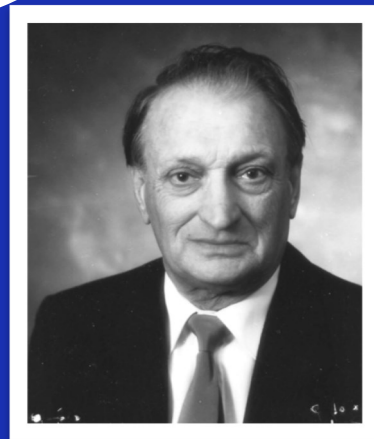
The Town engaged S.W. Weeks for the Claremont Avenue Infrastructure Upgrades project back in the fall. With funding from the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program, these upgrades involve the replacement of water, sanitary, storm, curbs, sidewalks, and asphalt infrastructure.

This project is being undertaken in two phases. Phase 1, Foord Street to Belmont Street, is nearing completion. To date, new sanitary and water mains have been installed, there are new sanitary and water laterals, a new curb was installed, the north side sidewalk was removed, and street and sidewalk reconstruction are underway.

Phase 2, Belmont Street to High Street, will commence in spring of 2024. This will see new water and sanitary mains installed, new laterals, curbs, and street reconstruction. There won't be a sidewalk installed and the existing short section of sidewalk on the north side will remain.

For further information on this project, please contact our Town Engineer, Blaine Murray.

Stellarton Heritage Corner



Bob Hoegg, Town Superintendent 1966-1989

Mr. Hoegg became Acadia Coal Company's youngest-ever draegerman in 1941 when he was just 20 years old.

He worked in the Albion Mine until 1952, when he transferred to the McBean Mine in Thorburn and became Underground Manager in 1957, a position he held until he began to work for the town in 1966.

Winter Parking Regulations

Whereas due to the congestion on the streets and highways in the communities of Westville and Stellarton caused by vehicular and pedestrian traffic and the limitation on the free use of the streets liable to be caused by the presence of snow and ice thereon and notwithstanding that certain traffic signs have been erected in these communities prohibiting or permitting vehicles to park or stand upon any street during the hours stated thereon:

No person shall park or leave standing any vehicle upon any street in these communities between the hours of 01:00am and 07:00am of the same day.

No owner, driver or person having control or custody of any vehicle shall between the 1st day of December, 2023 and the 15th day of April, 2024, 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 or snow or ice from such highway or street.

No owner, driver or person having control or custody of any vehicle shall during the period from one hour after any snowstorm has commenced to two hours after such snowstorm 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 these communities.

In addition to the general winter parking regulations, there are regulations in utilizing the public parking lot located on Jubilee Avenue, behind Stellarton Town Hall. These regulations are as follows:

When snow is forecasted to be 10cm or more, vehicles must park in the furthest back rows towards Stellar Street. Vehicles should not park in any other row until the back is full.

All parked vehicles must be moved within 12 hours of the snow stopping. If you are planning to be away from your vehicle for a longer period of time, you must have accommodations in place to have it moved within the allotted time.

Any vehicles not adhering to these regulations will be towed at the owners' expense.

Nothing in the foregoing shall apply to:

1. A motor vehicle of a physician or surgeon parked reasonably near his/her office or residence and immediately available for professional calls.
2. A motor vehicle parked by a physician or surgeon who is actually engaged in his/her professional occupation and reasonably near where he/she is so engaged.
3. A motor vehicle parked by an operator who is actually engaged in discharging his/her duties as a Police Officer or a member of the police or the armed services.
4. A motor vehicle parked by an operator who is actually engaged in discharging his/her duties as a member of a Fire Department.
5. A commercial vehicle parked by an operator for the purpose of loading or unloading merchandise.
6. A motor vehicle belonging to a public utility company or corporation parked reasonably near the residence of an operator and immediately available for emergency calls.

It shall be an offence for any person to fail to comply with these regulations and such person will be liable to a penalty as provided by Section 293 of the Motor Vehicle Act. No person shall remove or permit to be removed snow or ice from a property onto a public street, sidewalk or other public place. Businesses are reminded that it is your responsibility to remove all snow and ice from the sidewalk abutting their property including the street corner. Your cooperation is essential for the safety of all pedestrians particularly school children and senior citizens during the winter months.

