



STELLAR NEWS



SPIRIT | PEOPLE | PRIDE



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Town Engineer, Blaine Murray
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Community Development & Recreation
Director, Paul Corbin (902) 752-8944

Fire Chief, Dwight Campbell
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Police Chief, Don Hussler
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Emily Jones (902) 752-5311

IMPORTANT DATES

JAN 3 - Police Commission

JAN 14 - Council Meeting

JAN 23 - Rink Open House

JAN 28 - Committee of the Whole

FEB 7 - Police Commission

FEB 11 - Council Meeting

FEB 18 - Heritage Day Event

FEB 18 - Town Office Closed

FEB 25 - Committee of the Whole

MAR 7 - Police Commission

MAR 11 - Council Meeting

MAR 25 - Committee of the Whole

Mayor's Message

Dear Friends and Neighbors;

The dawning of a New Year is a reason to celebrate. We celebrate the memories of years past, the prospects of years ahead, and the presence of love and enjoyment in our lives today. Not only do we as individuals celebrate the New Year, but we do so collectively as a Town as well. The Town of Stellarton has memories to cherish, positive prospects ahead, and a strong sense of community today. For that, we are grateful. I have always felt lucky to call Stellarton my hometown.



A major highlight for Stellarton in 2018 was the hiring of a new Town Clerk, Susan Higdon. The Town Clerk is the lead staff position in the Town of Stellarton, equivalent to the CAO position in most other municipal units. Susan is an enthusiastic and capable leader who brings experience and knowledge to our Town Hall. She empowers employees, encouraging an efficient and effective workplace, while at the same time creating an environment where staff feels appreciated and respected.

There are economic highlights to come in 2019. The cannabis production facility, located on Acadia Avenue and owned by Zenabis, has been a beehive of activity as of late, with local work crews coming and going on a regular basis. According to their website, Zenabis expects production to start in the first quarter of 2019. They predict the facility will create 200 well paying jobs. Council also expects development in the Albion Business Park in the upcoming year. We dropped the price per square foot of the land, and have recently implemented tax incentives to attract new development. We expect these strategic moves will result in growth over the next few years, starting in 2019.

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I encourage all residents to attend our open houses re: Stellarton Memorial Rink on Wednesday, January 23rd at the Stellarton Fire Hall. Sessions are 2:00pm – 4:00pm and 6:00pm to 8:00pm. The presentation will explain the situation with our rink. We face a big decision. For more detail, please see information provided by staff in this newsletter.

Council has decided against hiring a consultant to perform a Police Review. The reason being the quotes came back too high. The cost would have been at least \$60,000, and council did not see it as a good investment. Council has the following options to consider when Chief Don Hussher retires December 2019: 1) Continue Shared Chief with Westville, 2) hire our own Chief, or 3) expand the partnership with Westville Police Services. Council will continue to work with staff to find the best solution for our town.

My genuine expectation is that the Town of Stellarton will prosper in 2019. My sincere hope is that you find personal prosperity in this New Year.

As always, please feel free to contact me by phone (902-759-6840) or email DannyMacGillivray@stellarton.ca.

All the Very Best;



Town Hall Updates

Public Works and Engineering

After Hours Service

For after hours Public Works emergencies contact the Stellarton Police Service at (902) 752-6160.

Planning Department

Who we are

The Town of Stellarton's Planning and Development Department consists of Rachael McLean and Emily Jones. This is a shared service with Stellarton, Westville and Trenton. Rachael started her role as the Planning & Development Officer in February 2018, and Emily has been the Building & Fire Inspector since August 2015. The department is responsible for the enforcement of the Common Land Use By-Law, community planning, dangerous and unsightly premises administration, building permits and inspections, fire inspections, and civic addressing. You can contact Rachael at rachael.mclean@trenton.ca or (902) 752-4476 and Emily at emily.jones@trenton.ca or (902) 752-5209.

Police Department

Winter Parking Bylaw

Please note, there is currently a parking ban in place within the Town of Stellarton. You could be ticketed and possibly towed if you park on the streets at night between December 1, 2018 and April 15, 2019.

The winter parking bylaw prohibits parking on roadways from 1:00 AM to 7:00 AM in the Town of Stellarton so that vehicles do not interfere with snow removal.

Because stormy weather can arrive unexpectedly it is important to keep the streets clear every night. Fines can be laid, even if there is no snow at the time, but towing is usually only done when necessary. Vehicles can also be towed during the day if they are left where they interfere with snow removal.



Fire Prevention

MAKING A HOME FIRE ESCAPE PLAN

Did you know that a fire in your home can leave you as little as one or two minutes to escape safely once the smoke alarm sounds? Creating a home fire escape plan can help save your life.

1. Draw a floor plan of your home.
2. Include all possible emergency exits (doors, windows & stairways).
3. Show two ways out of every room, if possible.
4. Does anyone need help to escape (children, elderly, persons with disabilities, pets)?
5. Choose a meeting place outside.
6. Call the fire department from outside your home.
7. Practice your escape.

Remember to install smoke alarms on every level of your home and outside all sleeping areas.

Community Development & Recreation

Volunteer of the Year Nominations

The Town of Stellarton Community Development and Recreation Department is seeking nominations for the Francis “Bud” MacKay Memorial Award.



If you or your organization is aware of an outstanding volunteer who is a resident of the Town of Stellarton *or* volunteers for a Stellarton organization, please submit their name to Stellarton Community Development & Recreation on the nomination form available at stellarton.ca or Town Hall.

Heritage Day Event

On February 18th the Community Development and Recreation Department will be hosting a free family event. Please check Facebook or call (902) 752-8944 for more information.

Town Priorities

The Town is working very hard on joint department initiatives to help plan and utilize the vast skill set available around the table.

Asset Management

Municipalities all over the country are dealing with aging infrastructure and decades of underfunding nationwide. Underfunding of infrastructure has left a big strain on small communities to repair or replace aging assets. From aging buildings to 50-70-year-old sanitary sewers and water mains, the Town is reshaping its capital investment program. The Town has assembled an asset management team composed of administration, planning, engineering, finance and council. The team is developing policies and plans that will influence the strategic decision-making process for capital infrastructure investment.



Mine Reclamation

The Planning Advisory Committee has begun planning for future development opportunities for the current mine site which is over 600 acres. Pioneer Coal is beginning to shape the land to begin its completion process. The Planning Advisory Committee held 3 public consultations to hear the ideas and concerns of residents, business owners and youth. The Engineer and Town Planner are currently working on proposals.

Active Transportation Plan

The Community Development & Recreation Director and the Town Planner have been working on a comprehensive Active Transportation plan for the Town. This plan will address the public safety of cyclists and pedestrians throughout town. A massive response to the public survey gave great insight to the areas that need the most focus. All responses and public feedback have been included and used to help shape the plan. This finalized plan will be presented to Council at the January meeting for their consideration.



Town Priorities continued...

Stellarton Memorial Rink

The Town hired an engineering firm, SNC Lavalin, to do an Aging Building Audit on the Stellarton Memorial Rink. They examined the building and all related components during site visits in July and September. In the meantime, Town Council passed an Asset Management Policy. Communities across Canada are being challenged to make the best possible decisions, with the scarce resources available, for both today's citizens (users) and future generations. This policy allows council and staff to prioritize and manage the assets and their lifecycles in a responsible way.

SNC Lavalin presented the report's findings to Town Council and the Rink Commission. Staff studied the report in detail and outlined what is required to ensure the rink operates in a safe and efficient manner. They prepared a presentation that outlined the users of the rink versus the expense of operating it, as well as the cost of renovating the building and related components to bring the rink up to current building code. The Town must consider other pressing infrastructure priorities as well; 11.5km of sanitary sewer pipe needs replacement, the police station is undersized and in need of renovations, the public works barn requires significant investment to bring it up to code, and our Town Hall is not accessible.

As per the SNC Lavalin Aging Building Audit, the minimum cost of mandatory repairs and refurbishing of the Stellarton Memorial Rink is \$4.1 million dollars. Staff is exploring possible funding options, such as grants, borrowing, and potential tax rate implications. This is a big issue for council to consider – they want to ensure that residents have all the facts to support council in making an informed decision about the future of our rink.

There will be two public open houses to explain the details of this situation. They will be held on Wednesday, January 23, 2019 at the Stellarton Fire Hall. Information sessions will be at 2:00-4:00PM and 6:00 -8:00PM.

The Town of Stellarton is committed to hosting an equitable, accessible event with dignity, inclusivity and safety for all individuals.



“Stellarton is a thriving community that is safe, healthy, inclusive and engaged with a robust economy that appeals to businesses, citizens and visitors alike.”