



STELLAR NEWS

SPIRIT | PEOPLE | PRIDE

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IMPORTANT DATES

- APR 4** - Police Commission
- APR 8** - Council Meeting
- APR 9** - Volunteer Recognition
- APR 10**- Rink Commission
- APR 17**- Planning Advisory
- APR 19/22**- Office Closed
- APR 23**- Committee of the Whole
- APR 26-27**- Go Clean Get Green
- MAY 2** - Police Commission
- MAY 13**- Council Meeting
- MAY 27**- Committee of the Whole
- JUN 6**- Police Commission
- JUN 10**- Council
- JUN 11**- Davis Day Ceremony
- JUN 24**- Committee of the Whole
- JUN 28**- Canada Day Seniors Tea
- JULY 24-28**- Homecoming

Mayor's Message

Dear Friends and Neighbors;

As the air warms and the sun shines a little brighter, we know that spring weather is upon us. The winter of 2018 / 2019 saw lots of blustery weather, especially early in the season. As a result, the Stellarton Public Works Team were in the big salt trucks and the small sidewalk plows clearing our roads and walkways, ensuring a safe winter season for all residents. While the rest of us hunker down with our storm chips, the Public Works Team is out in the midst of the storm, doing their important work. Thank you Public Works.



As with any successful entity, the Town of Stellarton must plan in order to be prepare for the future. Your current Council took office in November 2016, and embarked on a Strategic Planning session soon thereafter. Your Council drilled down to specific, measurable, attainable, realistic and timely goals. These goals were threefold: 1. Support development of the Albion Business Park and our Industrial Park, 2. Decrease barriers for citizens to be active, and 3. Increase openness and transparency with respect to municipal business.

With respect to goal 1, Council reduced the price of the land in the Albion Business Park, and passed a tax incentive bylaw to attract new business. As a result, we now have six lots under purchase sale agreement with Endurance Equities, and expect to see growth this construction season, i.e. new buildings and businesses in our park. Council also helped support Zenabis in their quest for a Cannabis Cultivation License from Health Canada. Zenabis, located in our Industrial Park, was successful and they expect to employ over 200 people by the end of 2019. Great news for our town and county.

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In order to decrease barriers for citizens to be active, staff prepared an Active Transportation Plan, which Council approved. The plan would have been very costly for a consultant to prepare, we were very fortunate to have in house staff with the skill sets to work on this plan. It focuses on creating an environment that feels safe for pedestrians, bikes, cars and trucks. We often hear that pedestrians do not feel safe crossing Foord Street, this plan provides ways to make our Main Street safer for all.

Stellarton Town Council is now the most open and transparent municipal Council in the province. We live stream our meetings on YouTube. We produced a new website, which contains year to date financial statements and important engineering documents like our street and sidewalk ratings. We also introduced the quarterly newsletter to residents, included in the water bills (and which you are now reading).

Since the Town achieved the original Strategic Plan goals, your Council sat down with staff for another full day Strategic Planning Session, resulting in a five year plan. The three goals to focus on for Council and staff are: 1. Make improvements to the Town infrastructure, 2. Increase communication and promotion / marketing and 3. Reclaim the land from the Pioneer Coal strip mine. These are big goals, but they are specific, measurable, attainable, realistic and timely. The Town expects to achieve these goals, just like with our first Strategic Plan.

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

All the Very Best;

Danny

Town Hall Updates

Administration

Low Income Property Tax Exemption

The Town of Stellarton has approved the low income property tax exemption for the 2019-2020 fiscal year. If your household income is \$25,000 or less you are eligible for a \$200 rebate on your 2019-2020 final property tax bill. This exemption will be applied to your tax account during the final property tax billing in September 2019. You must provide a copy of your 2018 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.

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 and due on the June 7/19. The remainder of the current year tax levy is billed on September 1st and due November 8/19.

Go Clean Get Green

On April 26-27th Pictou County is encouraged to go out and help make our community cleaner by collecting litter. There are fun activities to take part in while you clean such as a scavenger hunt and Plogging (A cleanup activity that happens when running or jogging). Cleanup materials are available from Pictou County Solid Waste for teams that register at www.gocleangetgreen.ca or call (902) 396-1495.

Planning Advisory Committee

The purpose of the Planning Advisory Committee with the Town of Stellarton is to act as the principal forum for planning and community development. They advise Council with regard to planning of orderly and economic development and maintaining and improving the quality of the physical environment for settlement within the Town, including but not limited to:

- 1.) Community Planning or recreational , residential and commercial areas in town
- 2.) Zoning designations
- 3.) Land use matters
- 4.) Relevant municipal projects

The committee is chaired by Councillor Simon Lawand and some of the projects on the agenda include the mine reclamation, trail development and signage. With regards to signage the idea of identifying the areas of town was discussed. Areas such as Evansville, Valley Woods, The Asphalt, The Heights, Brown Row, Lourdes, Bunker Hill, and Red Row, are looked at fondly by residents past and present. This initiative is dependent upon Council approval for funding, however, the Planning Advisory is looking for public feedback on your thoughts about this initiative – do you feel it is important to recognize these areas of town with signage? If you would like to share your feedback, please email Town.office@Stellarton.ca or call Paul Corbin at 902 752-8944.

Planning Department

Construction season is quickly approaching! Do you need a permit?

Prior to the start of construction, the owner of a property is responsible for obtaining a permit. A building and/or development permit is required for new building construction, structural modifications, demolition, building relocation, change of occupancy or use, building repairs or renovations, interior alterations, accessory buildings greater than 20m² (215ft²), decks and stairs, and roof enclosures.

A permit is not required for cosmetic repairs such as paint, replacing roofing unless the structure is altered, replacing siding, and replacing windows and doors in existing openings unless the structure is altered.

To obtain a permit, please contact the Building Inspector at emily.jones@trenton.ca or (902) 752-5209 or the Planning & Development Officer at rachael.mclean@trenton.ca or (902) 752-4476.

Community Development & Recreation

Volunteer of the Year

An advocate of sport, Dr. Tara Carruthers has been coaching elementary school basketball in Stellarton for the past 10 years, promoting respect, inclusion, team building, fair play and enjoyment of the game. She has coached with the GR Saunders Elementary School Boys Basketball Team, the Pictou County Lightning Basketball Association, the Steve Nash Youth Basketball Program, and was co-ordinator for the Pictou County Elementary Boys Basketball League. Tara is also a volunteer with the Heatherbells Pipes and Drums Youth band. Her efforts include snare drum lessons, chaperoning performances and working in their Snack Shack during the summer. Congratulations Dr. Carruthers on your deserved recognition as volunteer of the year.



Summer Jobs

Youth employment opportunities for the Town are posted on our website and will be shared on Facebook mid April. There are positions available in park maintenance, sport & recreation maintenance, day camp Councillors and day camp programmer.

Police Department

Studded Tires

Motorists are reminded that the use of studded tires is not permitted past May 31st.

Parking on Foord Street

Motorists should be aware there are a number of parking restrictions on Foord Street. The Police Department receive a number of calls relating to vehicles parked or stopped too close to the crosswalks.

Motorists are reminded that you must always park or stop a minimum of 5 meters (15 feet) from a crosswalk or intersection. This allows adequate sight distance so moving traffic can see the pedestrian. Police will enforce by issuing tickets if this distance is not observed.



There are no exceptions when it comes to the safety of pedestrians.

Engineering and Public Works

Capital Infrastructure

The Town has submitted several applications for the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) Green: Environmental Quality funding stream. The funding will provide up to 73% of the capital costs required for sanitary and water infrastructure projects which will span the next two construction seasons. Engineering plans and specifications have been completed and will be tendered once approved.

Engineering will complete condition assessments for asphalt streets in the coming weeks. A colour based map will be provided to Council for capital paving selection. Street selection depends on several criteria such as asphalt condition, available funding, and the condition of underground infrastructure. The condition rating map will be available on the website at such time.

Town Priorities

Strategic Plan

The Town of Stellarton Council and Staff have identified the following three goals, which align to the Town's vision, mission and values, and are to be implemented and executed over the next 3 to 5 years:

1. Make improvements to the Town's infrastructure
 - Improvements to the Town's infrastructure will allow it to maintain its levels of service to the community, as well as, have a positive effect on the Town's image and community engagement. Pro-active maintenance will also help to reduce repair and replacement costs in the long-term.
2. Increase communication and promotion/marketing
 - By increasing the Town's communication within the community, residents will be more informed of the many amenities and events available in the Town of Stellarton. Increased promotion and marketing of the Town's events and amenities to the general public will also increase tourism and attract more residents and businesses to establish themselves in the Town. The impact of these will be an increase in revenue for the Town of Stellarton and neighboring towns. This aligns to the Town's vision to be a thriving community that is inclusive and engaging with a robust economy. It fulfills the mission to work together to address Stellarton's needs, build a vibrant community and create an environment that encourages growth, as well as, adheres to the values of openness and transparency in conducting the business of the municipality.
3. Reclaim the land from the mine
 - Reclamation of the mine site will provide new land development opportunities for the Town of Stellarton. These land developments could come in the form of new residential areas, businesses and recreational spaces which would provide opportunities for tax revenue, as well as, a more attractive and appealing environment for its residents and visitors. This aligns to the Town's vision to be a thriving community that is safe and healthy with a robust economy that appeals to businesses, citizens and visitors alike. It also fulfills the mission to build a vibrant community and create an environment that encourages growth.

Active Transportation Plan

The Community Development & Recreation Director and the Town Planner have presented the Active Transportation plan to Council. The plan has used feedback from businesses, the public and experts on how to improve the safety and accessibility of our active transportation opportunities. Potential areas of focus for the 2019-20 budget are lit crosswalk lights at the post office and at Marie Street. Also being considered is a new 3-way stop intersection at Jubilee and Foord. A trial period will be done in the future to see traffic impact and unforeseen issues before implementation. This plan is available on the Town website under Town Priorities.



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