

## Survey Comments

**Council has implemented a new communications policy in order to keep you more informed and be more transparent. Are there any further initiatives that Council could implement to provide better communications?**

Ok as is.

Get Council minutes on Website immediately after Council meetings.

Put important issues to the people – re: Sunday hunting – input on atv use on our roads – have mail in forms re: experiences with same sent with tax notices

Does not apply to people in Burton Township

Use e-mail – tax bills, newsletters, e-post

Include Municipal website URL on all correspondence. How about a friendly “What’s New in Whitestone” on the website.

No – wonderful job – leave as is

Forget communication. That money could be spent elsewhere and more appropriately.

Public should be able to speak at Council meetings for public input throughout

Make a scrap book on items from newspaper clips for non-residents

E-mail use where residents were willing

A more visible sign at the Community Centre advertising meetings

Website updates and expansion

Monthly newsletter – incl. minutes of Council meetings.

Improve on-line communications with more recent updates.

You have a good website

Have elections and important meeting in the summer months so all ratepayers have an input.

This is an improvement from previous years

To fully understand all departments

Communications fine. Can you think of a way to improve participation?

Newsletter, e-mail or post it on the website

A community newspaper perhaps (weekly or monthly)

Newsletter is great

Breakdown of five (5) year road plan – mail to residents.

I was very pleased with the newsletter. We've been cottagers in Whitestone for 40 years and felt it's the best communication taxpayers have received.

Do you have a website that is kept up-to-date? I do not see a web address on the Oct '07 newsletter.

Seasonal residents enjoy newsletters

Yes, a phone tower in Ardbeg, so we can have dependable phone communication.

Communication is improving considerable, thank you!

The website is not updated frequently and shows "under construction" for a lot of services – that does not help.

As a summer resident the newsletters are great.

Newsletter with personal touch – excellent.

Municipality should consider that all mail outs to taxpayers be included in tax bills to reduce costs.

Send agendas and minutes via e-mail

Call people and inform them if they are on your agenda and keep the quarterly newsletter.

Yes, a newsletter that recaps Council's meetings and decisions – not a platform for politics which is paid for by the taxpayers.

E-mail newsletter, e-mail Council minutes, e-mail reports....

Communication is pretty good now

E-mail newsletters and updates

Give notice to respective associations when severance or building variance of properties are requested, not just the adjacent properties.

I was disappointed with the content of the last newsletter. Only 1 Councillor gave a “big picture” of many issues. Rest of Council was focused on 1 issue only.

Significantly improve the website. Council minutes are short and other cryptic. Unless you attend it is difficult to understand the issues pros/cons if you only read current minutes. Could this be improved using plain language like the newsletter.

No thank you.

Give the public more freedom to speak at Council.

Maybe an e-mail distribution list

Send e-mail notices to ratepayers e.g council meetings, special events, new business etc.

E-mail notices to ratepayers who have e-mail addresses.

Not at this time.

I like the use of the Municipal Website for communication.

For new property owners, any cottage owners perhaps make us aware of all existing municipal expenditures.

Coming proposals added to newspaper before meetings.

**Do you feel that Council is dealing with the main priorities of the Municipality? If not, please provide your comments to assist Council dealing with priorities during the next twelve (12) months.**

Whitestone's slogan is "A Perfect Place to Live, Work and Play". I question that it is a perfect place to live when we have so many properties looking like junk yards. I would like to see a change of policy from the complaint driven system to an inspection system conducted by Council of the By-Law Enforcement Officer. We could attract more people to reside in our Municipality if we improved the appearance of "eye sore" properties.

We need much more effective lobbying to get Provincial Grants (and Federal) for roads, bridges and landfills, etc.

Certain areas noted above should be able to be improved without raising taxes.

Canadian's are paying too much "tax" we are saturated – continue to spend wisely and cut waste.

The landfill site is being badly abused, residents not recycling – We need more people on the road crew so we have enough service to fulfill our needs. Too many supervisors and not enough workers.

Roads – Appear to do just enough to quiet residents – would it not be better to do one section of road and do it right? I had three people complain to me about free landfill weekends – People bringing garbage from other areas – south. Dumping on their way to the cottage. Maybe implement bag limits and fees. Need more control – tires being dumped at night – recycle in landfill. Why do we have to pay \$60000 for a full time fire chief? When other municipalities, I understand don't. Who sets these limits?

As a taxpayer in Burton Township, we do not get any services and fire protection. We are water access and get to our home by water just 1/2 hour drive from Britt.

Business incentives, clean out closed/idle businesses, potable water supply, remove old non-applicable signage.

Quality of road maintenance is less than expected.

Winter maintenance of roads

Please tell us how we can all do our part on the "landfill issue" that soon will be crisis.

Only own roads that are brought up to standard by direct users at their expense. Actively pursue landfill – need large area for bulk ie. Buildings – Fire Chief part time as per Fire Department request (handled too fast and poorly).

Road maintenance has decreased, grading of roads is not done properly, etc. I am a property owners has a private road it should be that owners responsibility to maintain that road – NOT the other taxpayers. We are NOT in favour of supplying gravel for them.

We need a full time Fire chief for the protection of our citizens – We need less free dump weekends – not more.

Start charging per bag of garbage – Arts and culture come first – business will follow

Landfill – suggest extended coverage by attendant – strict inspection of garbage placed in the pit. Attendants presently do an outstanding job but after hours is the problem. Suggest closing access when no attendant is on duty and consider installing surveillance camera. Also increase times to deter illegal dumping. Also consider limiting the number of bags per visit. By-Law Enforcement – all properties need to be inspected on a rotational basis. Septic systems – all residents must produce documented proof of legal installation and maintenance. Building on waterfront lots must comply with OBC and Municipal set backs. Also there seems to be a lot of illegal dumping on roadsides (of brush mainly) I don't know if you consider this acceptable.

Environmental landfill issues – public education – All municipalities lobby to manufacturers re: packaging restrictions – bagging restrictions, clear bags for household waste for inspection – full tipping rate for materials not recycled (outside of household garbage) Current attendants at landfill to have monitoring and education capacity. Parameters as to define household garbage – we have seen computers – should not be allowed – they are hazardous waste.

Keep rivers flowing freely to prevent smaller lakes from getting very low water levels. Dismantle beaver dams, etc.

The 5 year strategic plan for roads does not include any general maintenance such as brushing, gravel or snow plowing and is therefore somewhat misleading. The need to purchase more new equipment is unnecessary unless it is used on a daily basis. There is already more equipment that the current operators can use, leaving some of the equipment idle for long periods of time. The plan to purchase a one tonne truck to snow plow and sand is unnecessary expenses and again would require an additional operator, not to mention the cost of insurance, licence, fuel and maintenance. The process of tendering for these jobs is much more economical and this Municipality is not large enough to warrant such purchases. – Responsibility for Municipally owned but unassumed roads: Property was purchased on these roads cheaper and with full knowledge that they were not maintained by the Municipality. Since this Municipality has in place a by-law outlining the requirements to be assumed, it would be irresponsible for any Council to do work on such roads where there are existing roads within the system that require much work. Landfills are becoming a huge issue and should be looked at closely. The cost of replacing a landfill in the near future will be extreme.

Seasonal residents lack information to judge.

The dam at the end of Kashegaba Lake is leaking and it needs to be repaired before the water system is drained so low that it becomes un-navigable and alters wildlife habitat.

Regular inspection of all septic systems and correction of violations should be top priority.

Whatever monies raised through should be put back towards the people (services) who contribute. I am concerned that some jobs that can be performed by our works crew are being contracted out to private companies. Perhaps a review of these jobs (contracted) should be examined by Council.

Just purchased at cottage at LaBrash Lake. Being new I would like a “welcome kit” providing info, dump pass, by-laws, major events calendar, etc.

Obviously the concerns of cottagers is different than full time residents.

Clear rocks under Dunchurch bridge so boats can go through to the upper lake. Landfill – need more bunkers for blue box material.

Please leave this area the way it is. This is a recreational area and I do not want it to look like Parry Sound.

Road maintenance is always important. We would love to see the walking trails opened soon. Trails for ORV’s would be helpful also, but keep speed limit reasonable.

Instead of raising taxes, look to see where money is being wasted.

Repair of the road and railway tracks at the entrance to town of Ardbeg.

Budget – the more Council cuts the further we get behind (try not to cut so much)

Never, never, be even tempted to give any of our tax dollars to the Stockey Centre for any reason at all.

Nursing Station – I am opposed to budgeting funds to be designated to the nursing station. From the onset of the nursing station project we (ratepayers) were assured that no taxpayer dollars would be used for the operation of the nursing station. The intent of the nursing station was not for emergency purposes but rather to offer primary care. Primary health care is already funded through provincial and federal governments. If it is just for primary care, is there a need for weekend hours? Landfill Sites – I agree that Council needs to carefully assess what is happening at our landfill sites and be looking for affordable means by which to extend the life span of both sites. I also agree that there is a need to work at educating ratepayers about our recycling program. Information meetings for the public, offering visual aids as to what we recycle, might be beneficial. It should be mandatory to recycle, not optional. I believe from the Facilities Manager’s address to

Council that the additional free dump weekend generated a lot more waste into our landfill, resulting in additional compacting. Free dump weekends need to be reviewed. I am not in agreement with extending hours of operations for our sites. If the scheduled hours are not meeting the needs of ratepayers, then perhaps some shuffling of these hours could be done, without scheduling additional hours. Roads – At Council meetings I hear correspondence and discussion around concerns/complaints as to how the roads in the municipality are maintained. The Roads Department budget does not seem adequate to allow the necessary improvements for the ASSUMED roads in the municipality, so I question the rationale behind taking on responsibility for UNASSUMED roads. Also, with the municipality having no ownership of PRIVATE roads, why would the municipality assist with the maintenance of PRIVATE roads? Am I to look forward to a substantial tax increase over the next few years to provide free gravel to ratepayers who wish to improve PRIVATE roads? How will Council justify assisting with the maintenance of PRIVATE roads? Communication/Newsletter/Report Card – I commend each and every member of Council for making himself available, through several avenues, to communicate with the ratepayers. (i.e. in person, telephone, email) to name a few. However, I do not support your decision to spend the money to do a separate mailing for the newsletter/report card. Hopefully, the response will prove that it was money well spent. I suggest that a synopsis of the results be compiled and made available to the ratepayers upon request.

My priorities are (to be truthful) are somewhat slanted or biased, because I am “infrequent seasonal.”

More really needs to be done to promote entrepreneurship to foster/encourage varied small businesses (general store, groceries, butcher, hardware, etc.) to succeed.

Should be looking for more development, commercial (jobs) residential (tax base).

Highway 520 from Ardbeg west to Hydro lines should be left open for ATV's and snowmobiles – it's access to our property.

Fix ramp at public docking – hole on right side. Trailer is very tilted when getting boats out.

All cottagers who maintain their own roads need help, free gravel would be a start, a bit of help using Whitestone equipment which their tax dollars have paid for. Also think the Municipality should think of a fire boat or something.

Cell phone service is a must. Un-assumed roads require some maintenance by the municipality, if only summer.

Landfill expansion needs to be a priority.

We think private roads should remain PRIVATE, unless the owners bring them up to township standards.

Taxes too high– For what we get i.e. not water, sewage, sidewalks, paved roads, streetlighting etc. Business – Should not get support from taxpayers dollars, mostly cottage type and seasonal, tax payers do not benefit if a business is more profitable. Un-assumed roads – owners should be responsible for costs to bring up to standard, owners of assumed roads had to pay for their roads in the past. Landfill – Should be carefully monitored, as city dwellers bring garbage they can't dump at home. Nursing Station – A waste of money. What is required in the area is a walk in clinic with extended hours.

Roads – You talk about improving roads, etc. As it stands, our road dissolves in every major rainstorm. It got graded recently but not packed – so the next rain reverted it to gullies. Look after current roads before taking on new projects. Nursing Station – Great idea, but generally one still has to get to Parry Sound for further treatment and prescriptions. We don't need it open more hours. Tourism – Events this year have been poorly promoted and organized – other areas do much better.

I do not agree with providing nursing services on the weekends in the summer – every new or improved service brings with it increased costs which we do not want!

No tax increase.

We are summer residents only and as such, our needs vary greatly from permanent residents. We enjoy living in a summer community, not a retirement community. A fine balance needs to be made to accommodate both groups of people.

How about a fireworks by-law? Nightly (late) fireworks are increasing in frequency. This is both a nuisance and a fire hazard.

Highway 520 is in terrible condition and was supposed to be fixed by now, I thought. This is a top priority.

Revise the commercial density by-laws. Revise the hours of operations at the dumps for Sunday evenings. Increase dumping fees. Stop boats and large loads at the dumps.

We need landline telephone service at Bennett's Bay

Bunny Trail road improvements

Wah-Wash-Kesh Road is terrible in the Spring. Get the Provincial Gov't to improve Hwy 520 and keep Wah-Wash-Kesh road better sanded in the winter.

Improve roads – a focus should be “Bunny Trail” and Municipal ownership of “Bunny Trail Spring”.

I share Councillor's concerns on the landfill. I would support a change for dumping non-household waste such as demolished construction materials. Disposal is an owner's cost not a municipality's.

We don't need more regulatory by-laws. It also can't afford to assume more roads. Council needs to stick to basic services, as I believe it is trying to do.

Council should enact a by-law to regulate the density of condos, timeshares, fractional ownerships, etc. involving waterfront properties in order to preserve the quality of our lakes. In pursuing economic development, I would like Council to think about how this can be accomplished which is made up of small northern towns, lakes, river, etc. Let's preserve our natural environment as much as possible – not like the Muskoka!

Since the vast majority of taxpayers are seasonal, more emphasis needs to be placed on their needs. This survey is a start. However, much more needs to be done to find out their needs and act on them.

Environmental Initiatives – need more enforcement especially the by-laws (boating) on the lakes – noise, speed and boating laws.

Need to stop free weekends at landfills, let unassumed road remain unassumed, worry about essential services i.e. fire dept, rather than giving away gravel to private roads.

More voice for the concerns and needs of seasonal cottagers.

A cat by-law

Please remember that cottagers pay a good percentage of the municipal tax base. Fix the main roads and improve police service. Put pressure on the OPP for more presence in the Ardbeg area.

I would appreciate a continued effort to improve and upgrade roads and bridges.

I was impressed that Council had the foresight to allow Sunday Hunting. Thank you all very much.

If you pass the proposed fee increase for construction waste, please also consider keeping landfills open until 8pm on the regular workday so contractors can dump waste after work rather than take time off to make the dump schedule.

ATV's on all roads, better than large gas guzzling vehicles, cut all stupid costs, do not get like the big city, more important issues than the greed of money.

Send survey with tax bill, to avoid extra costs. We elect the Council to make these decisions. They are the most informed and aware of the problems happening now.

Why was this form not web based, website should be more current.

Explain why the recent massive increase in assessment value by the province has not put out tax roll in a surplus position vs. budget expenses. Water quality and health. Some lakes have fallen victim to algae invasion. What can be done to stop it here.

#1 priority – make seasonal roads year round! With the conversions of cottages to retirement homes, Whitestone will enjoy enhanced assessment and a population boom that will encourage services, business and economic development to follow.

We need compost disposal in order to keep bears, raccoons, skunks out of family yards.

I like the idea of having a communal gravel/sand pit to aid in road management without the dramatic added expense of town capital. – I really don't believe in increasing taxes beyond inflation. It is unsustainable, property value increase adding to taxes and force locals out of town with tax burden.

Because like many others I am only a property owner waiting to build (cottage). My personal priorities are different from permanent residents, things like garbage, library, by-law enforcement do not affect me. In my experience paying a Full Time Fire Chief is a complete waste of money. You are better off sending fire codes and info out to home owners making them aware and responsible for fire safety. In large municipalities and cities where I work and live, Firefighters get paid huge money to sleep and wash trucks and use up valuable tax dollars doing the same thing.....they have legislated themselves out of work and now on the medical side of emergency service to justify their existence. **THINK LONG AND HARD ON THIS SUBJECT.** – Remember that many of up property owners who visit cottages and bush lots will never see or use any municipal services.....are there different tax values for different property types.

Long-term plan for landfill sites.

Top priority should be in the area of our landfill sites.