



February 2009

“Whitestone, a Perfect Place to Live, Work and Play”

Members of Council

Mayor, Chris Armstrong 389-3721 mayor.armstrong@whitestone.ca
 Councillor, Bill Church 389-1956 councillor.church@whitestone.ca
 Councillor, Alan Ladd 389-1995 councillor.ladd@whitestone.ca
 Councillor, Joe Lamb 389-9542 councillor.lamb@whitestone.ca
 or 1-905-333-5951

Councillor, Morley Moore 389-1328 councillor.moore@whitestone.ca

Note: Councillor, Morley Moore has been appointed Deputy-Mayor for the Year 2009 in the event of an absence of Mayor, Chris Armstrong.

Department Heads

Liliane Nolan, CAO-Clerk
 Floyd Thomson, Facilities Manager
 Nick Thomson, Road Superintendent
 Paul Rossiter, By-Law Enforcement Officer
 Dennis Rowntree, Chief Building Official
 Bob Whitman, Fire Chief
 Tammy Wylie, Treasurer/Deputy-Clerk

**Dial 9-1-1
For Police, Fire or Ambulance**

Staff

Bruce Brear, Equipment Operator
 Bud Bryant, Landfill Site Attendant
 Melissa Crossman, Secretary/Receptionist
 Greg Kowal, Utility Person/Landfill Site Attendant
 Dale McDonald, Equipment Operator
 Bob Musgrave, Landfill Site Attendant
 Dyanne Roberts, Planning Assistant

What's Happening????

Whitestone Rod & Gun Club

3rd Annual Fishing Derby & Pancake Breakfast – March 14th

Walk-Fit

Mon, Wed & Fri –Dunchurch Hall– 10:00 am - 11:00 am

Royal Canadian Legion

Bid Euchre – Mondays @ 7:30 pm

Euchre – Tuesdays @ 7:00 pm & Saturdays @ 1:30 pm

Cribbage – Thursdays @ 7:30 pm

Darts – Fridays @ 8:00 pm

Horseraces – March 1st & April 5th & 19th following meat draws

Meat Draws – 1st & 3rd Saturday 4:00 pm

Important Numbers

MTO Patrol Yard	389-2502
Community Centre in Dunchurch	389-3211
Maple Island Hall	389-2350
Dunchurch Fire Hall	389-3824
Ardbeg Fire Hall	389-1036
Library	389-3311
Post Office	389-2133
Nursing Station	389-1951
Municipal Office	389-2466
Roads Garage	389-2364

A message from the Council of the Municipality of Whitestone

Council and Staff are currently debating our 2009 Budget. During the first two years of this Council we have actually been able to reduce the Municipal Operating Budget by 7.8% (excluding outside levies which we do not control, but we have lobbied hard to reduce their impact on our municipality). This has allowed us to invest in capital projects while keeping the total tax rate increase for the first two years to 2.87%, an enviable record when compared to the vast majority of other Municipalities. We intend to continue this type of rigour in 2009 as we try to minimize your tax increase but invest in our future. Some of the major projects we will be discussing while finalizing the 2009 Budget are, expansion of the York Landfill site, reconstruction of the Bunny Trail (if we can secure two thirds funding from the Building Canada Fund) and investment in other road and bridge repairs. The Community Development Committee is also working very hard trying to secure funding through the Trillum Foundation to assist in establishing walking trails throughout the Municipality.

Council recognizes MPAC's assessment adjustments and are currently striving to maintain a 0% increase in amount raised through taxation, which therefore would equate a reduction to the municipal portion of the tax rate. In October the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) sent out its Market Assessment Notices. It is important for you to know that this is a provincial program and that even if we had a zero municipal tax increase in the Whitestone 2009 Budget your taxes will either go up or down based solely on how your assessment has changed compared to the average assessment change within the Municipality. This information is contained on the notice that you received.

Representatives from the Ministry of Transportation attended the Council meeting of January 13th to discuss the Highway 520 reconstruction plans. It is expected that the 2nd phase of reconstruction will be completed this year and will include reconstruction and double surface treatment from 2.8 km west of Maple Island for an 8.1 km distance.

The Farleys Road bridge replacement project commenced in the fall and will be completed on Budget this spring. The new bridge will greatly enhance safe travel on that section of the road and put to rest a long outstanding and long awaited capital project.

The power outage on December 28th left some area residents without phones or hydro for several days. Our Emergency Control Group opened the doors of the Dunchurch Community Centre as an emergency warming centre for area residents.

As mentioned in the last newsletter the Municipality has entered an agreement with the Hagerman Ratepayers Association to introduce composting bins at a reduced cost to ratepayers in our community. The first 50 bins sold out quickly and the program has been received very positively including critical acclaim in an Editorial in the Parry Sound North Star Newspaper. We will be discussing the expansion of this most worthwhile program in the coming weeks. Until next time.

Recreation News

Wellness Program – Recently introduced and aimed primarily at local women wanting to participate in various physical activities with group motivation, social interaction within our community and education and information focused on women’s issues and just having fun! Contact Colette Deacon @ 389-1452 for more info.

Walk Fit, started by the late Del Carter, is now in its 9th year. Join us Monday, Wednesday and Friday 10:00 am – 11:00 am for a fun-filled hour of exercise and walking at the Dunchurch Community Centre.

Thrift Shop will re-open Saturday April 4th with 2 floors filled with treasures. It will be open every Saturday and Sunday 10 am – 2 pm

Craft Sales – Plans are being made for craft sales in July and November. More details will be provided as available.

Volunteers are required for all Recreation Committee events and activities. Please contact any member for more information. Further details are available on the website at www.whitestone.ca

Loitering – Child & Family Services Act

Parents – Please be reminded of the curfew provisions under the **Child and Family Services Act**. Under this act, no parent of a child less than 16 years of age shall permit the child to loiter in a public place between midnight and 6 a.m.

Allowing child to loiter, etc.

79(5) NO parent of a child less than sixteen years of age shall permit the child to, loiter in a public place between the hours of midnight and 6 a.m.; or

Be in place of public entertainment between the hours of midnight and 6 a.m. unless the parent accompanies the child or authorizes a specified individual eighteen years of age or older to accompany the child.

Police may take child home or to place of safety.

79(6) Where a child who is actually or apparently less than sixteen years of age is in a place to which the public has access between the hours of midnight and 6 a.m. and is not accompanied by a person described in clause (5) (b), a peace officer may apprehend the child without a warrant and proceed as if the child had been apprehended under subsection 42(1).

Recycling

Two streams of recycling are available as follows:

Recyclable Fibres – Newspapers, magazines, catalogues, telephone books, corrugated cardboard, boxboard egg cartons, mixed papers, office papers and brown paper bags.

Recyclable Containers – Glass bottles and jars, metal cans or containers, plastic bottles, aluminum trays and foil.

Fire Prevention

Winter is here and on occasion we may experience power interruptions so here are a few safety tips to ensure everyone stays safe:

- Keep lit candles in a safe location from small children and pets.
- Put candles out when leaving the room.
- Never run generators in enclosed locations, they can let off harmful gases that can hurt you or even cause death.
- Don’t cook with BBQ’s in enclosed locations, they too can let got harmful gases that can seriously injure a person or cause death.

By-Law Enforcement

There has been an escalation in the number of complaints received regarding the following by-laws:

Clean Yards – Residents are reminded about By-Law No. 34-2000 pertaining to property clean ups. This includes derelict, un-plated vehicles.

Landfill – Leaving your garbage at the gate creates a potential hazard for everyone, increasing operating costs for the landfill sites and after the bears and raccoons tear through the garbage it is an unsightly mess. \$300.00 fines will continue to be issued.

Noise – Fines for noise violations will be increased from \$125.00 to \$200.00 for 2009.

Fuel-Powered Generators - Council wishes to remind seasonal and permanent residents to respect your neighbours’ rights. We recommend that their use be limited to daylight hours, or alternately, erecting a noise dampering structure to eliminate all noise that could reach neighbouring properties as per By-Law No. 32-2000.

Trailers – Please be reminded that By-Law 25-2001 outlines restrictions for trailers within the Municipality.

Building – Any building without a permit is in contravention of By-Law No. 30-2005 and the Building Code Act S.O. 1992 Section 8-(1).

705-389-2466 Extension 45

Whitestone-Hagerman Public Library

Come to the library and check out our new releases. We have a great selection of best selling books and DVDs available for check out.

Take advantage of our high speed wireless internet service. Use one of our 8 public computers or bring your laptop and surf with speed. Have you checked out the library’s new website yet? Visit www.olsn.ca/whitstonelibrary and browse our catalogue from home, or renew that book that you haven’t finished yet.

Library membership is now 600+ strong. If you haven’t registered for your library card yet, drop by and see what you’re missing!

Upcoming Council Meetings

Regular Council	Monday, March 2 nd
Committee of the Whole	Tuesday, March 16 th
Regular Council	Tuesday, April 7 th
Committee of the Whole	Tuesday, April 21 st
Regular Council	Monday, May 4 th
Committee of the Whole	Tuesday, May 19 th
Regular Council	Monday, June 1 st
Committee of the Whole	Monday, June 15 th

All meetings will be held at 6:30 p.m. at the Hagerman Community Centre in Dunchurch unless otherwise stated.