

# June 2007

## “Whitestone, a Perfect Place to Live, Work & 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](mailto:councillor.lamb@whitestone.ca)  
or 1-905-333-5951  
Councillor, Morley Moore 389-1328      councillor.moore@whitestone.ca

**Note:** Councillor, Alan Ladd has been appointed Deputy-Mayor for the Year 2007 in the absence of Mayor, Chris Armstrong.

### Council Meetings (As per Resolution #2007-177)

Council meetings have been scheduled as follows in an effort to accommodate all ratepayers:

#### Schedule of Council Meetings

Regular Council	Mon. Jun. 4 <sup>th</sup>	
Committee of the Whole	Tues. Jun. 12 <sup>th</sup>	
Regular Council	Mon. Jun. 18 <sup>th</sup>	
Regular Council	Tues. Jul. 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Ardbeg
Committee of the Whole	Sat. Jul. 7 <sup>th</sup>	Ardbeg
Committee of the Whole	Tues. Jul 10 <sup>th</sup>	Ardbeg
Regular Council	Tues. Aug. 14 <sup>th</sup>	Ardbeg

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

### 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

### INSTALL SMOKE DETECTORS..... IT'S THE LAW

Every residence in Ontario must have a working smoke detector on every level and outside all sleeping areas.

### 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

### Mission Statement

The Council of the Municipality of Whitestone will:

- Work with the public, the employees of the Municipality, and other contacts, to implement a strong working relationship that benefits all ratepayers, and;
- Endeavour to provide, to the best of our ability, the mandated services that this Municipality must provide, as well as other services and benefits that are feasible, without adversely affecting our ratepayers taxes, and;
- Ensure that each employee is treated in a fair and equitable manner, and;
- Support a positive and respectful workplace that is free from discrimination and harassment, based on the Ontario Human Rights Code and any other applicable laws.

### Landfill Site Summer Hours

Tues	10:00 am – 5:00 pm
Thurs	10:00 am – 5:00 pm
Sat	10:00 am – 5:00 pm
Sun	10:00 am – 5:00 pm
Holiday Mon	10:00 am – 5:00 pm

**Landfill access cards are required at both Municipal Landfill Sites and the McFarlane Street Transfer Station**

### McFarlane Street Transfer Station

Monday	7:30 am – 4:30 pm
Wednesday	7:30 am – 4:30 pm
Friday	7:30 am – 4:30 pm
Saturday	8:00 am – 4:00 pm
Sunday	12 noon – 8:00 pm

### Free Dumping Weekends

May Long Weekend, Civic Weekend and Thanksgiving Weekend are free of charge for clean up with the exception of Freon units, tires, shingles, and commercial/retail waste.

### Household Hazardous Waste

Household Hazardous Waste such as, cleaning fluids, paints, detergents, aerosols, antifreeze, ammonia, bleach acids, batteries, motor oil and pesticides must be taken to the McFarlane Street Transfer Station.

### By-Law Enforcement

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

**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 dampening structure to eliminate all noise that could reach neighbouring properties as per By-Law No. 32-2000.

**Clean Yards** - Residents are reminded about By-Law No. 34-2000 pertaining to property clean ups.

**Trailers** – Trailers are only permitted in the Municipality of Whitestone at a trailer camp licenced by the Municipality or for a thirty day period unless there is a building permit in place.

**Dogs** – As per By-Law No. 35-2005, dog tags are required. Tags can be purchased at the Municipal Office for a fee of \$10.00. Remember if your dog has a tag it can be easily returned to you. Without a tag, your dog will be turned in to the OPSCA in Parry Sound if it is found running at large.

**Landfills** - In an effort to keep our landfills clean and for your safety we encourage ratepayers to only dump their waste and recyclables when an attendant is on duty.

**Please note that all by-laws will be strictly enforced.**

### Whitestone Hagerman Memorial Public Library

Are you a member of the Library yet? If you aren't why not stop in and see what you are missing. We have a great selection of books, magazines, dvd's and videos and membership is free to year round and seasonal residents of Whitestone. For more information call 705-389-3311 or go to [www.dunchurchlibrary.org](http://www.dunchurchlibrary.org)

### Tax Rates

The Council of the Municipality of Whitestone passed the following at its Regular Council Meeting of May 7, 2007:

That Council hereby accepts the resolution from the Community Development Committee to support the Assessment Review Committee's recommendation to change the commercial/industrial tax rates to be the same as the residential tax rates to help promote business growth and expansion.

### 2007 Saturday Schedule

There will be a Councillor available at the Municipal Office on the following Saturdays from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm to address any questions or concerns.

June 23	Morley Moore
July 28	Joe Lamb
August 25	Alan Ladd
September 22	Morley Moore
October 13	Joe Lamb
November 24	Morley Moore
December 15	Alan Ladd

Mayor Armstrong will be available most Saturdays for any ratepayers wishing to meet with him. Arrangements for such meetings, or any other day, can be made by contacting the Municipal Office during regular office hours.

### Community Development Committee

Whitestone Summerfest has been re-formatted this year. The Canada Day Celebrations to be held on Saturday, June 30<sup>th</sup> sponsored by the Community Development Committee has taken a new name, "Whitestone Country Canada Day" with an all new Country Theme. Our celebration runs from 10:00 am through until 12:00 midnight and some of our planned activities include:

- Beer Garden and Music in the Pavilion  
6:00 pm – 8:00pm – Hank Williams Tribute  
8:00 pm – 12 midnight – The Harris Brothers
- Antique Quilt Show in the Community Centre
- Food Vendors, Games for the Kids (and adults)
- Kids Mania – Fun, Games & Entertainment  
1st Show at 2:00 pm  
2<sup>nd</sup> Show at 4:00 pm
- And, much more.

All of this will be followed by Whitestone's Famous Fireworks Display at dusk.

As Mayor of the Municipality of Whitestone, I would like to take this opportunity to touch base on a few of Council's main focuses for the first quarter of 2007.

Council has recently passed a communications policy which is an essential tool for running a smooth and orderly organization. This policy outlines a plan for communications with ratepayers and the various media on day-to-day activities. Please refer to the highlights listed below.

1. **Newsletters** - Will be sent out quarterly.
2. **Agendas and/or Minutes** – Ratepayers wishing to receive agendas and/or minutes via e-mail should e-mail a request to [info@whitestone.ca](mailto:info@whitestone.ca)
3. **Report Card** – We are in the process of developing an interactive report card for ratepayers to comment on Council's performance.
4. **Information Boxes** - There are six (6) information boxes containing various items of interest that have been placed throughout the Municipality at the following locations: LCBO, York St. Landfill Site, Loggers Station House, Dunchurch Post Office, Duck Rock Resort, Maple Island Hall
5. **Monthly Open House** - There will be a Councillor available at the Municipal Office one Saturday per month from 9:00am – 1:00 pm to address any questions or concerns and an appointment can be arranged with myself by contacting the Municipal Office.

At the ROMA/OGRA Conference in February of this year, Honourable Donna Cansfield, Minister of Transportation was presented with background information regarding the conditions of Highway 520 N to Ardbeg. Correspondence dated April 4, 2007 from Minister Cansfield states "in 2008, MTO will begin work to completely rebuild Highway 520 from Maple Island to Ardbeg, a distance of 19 km. The first project, a 2.8 km section North of Highway 124, from Maple Island westerly, is scheduled for full reconstruction and double surface treatment next year." I know this was one of four areas of major concern to the ratepayers of our Municipality and hopefully the next newsletter another major concern will be addressed.

I trust you will enjoy your summer in Whitestone.

Chris Armstrong, Mayor

Fellow Ratepayers,

As a member of your Council, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you a safe and enjoyable summer. I look forward to meeting with as many of you as possible at the various functions throughout the summer. You are also encouraged to contact myself or any other member of Council to express your concerns or opinions at any time. We are always looking for volunteers to assist on many of the Municipality's Committees or Boards, like the Recreation Committee, Canada Day Celebrations, Library Board just to name a few. Please contact the Municipal Office, any Councillor or member of a committee if you can help.

Thanks again for your support and for the opportunity to serve our great community.

Bill Church, Councillor

To the Ratepayers of the Municipality of Whitestone

When campaigning in the last Municipal Election I emphasized two areas that I felt were extremely important in having an effective Municipal Government in the Municipality of Whitestone.

The first area was communications with the ratepayer. I believe your existing Council has provided through our newly developed Communication Policy, the means for you to be informed about municipal decisions that affects you, and the right to provide your views and input prior to those decisions being acted upon. The Council has included in our Communication Policy, information boxes that are located throughout the Municipality containing, Public Notices, Meeting Agendas, Minutes of Meetings, Meeting Schedules, and other relevant information to keep you informed. Additionally, there has been considerable improvement to the Municipal website with more to be accomplished in the near future.

The second area is accountability of how and why your tax dollars are being spent. Mandatory levies are \$741,257.00 which is an increase of \$50,000.00. Including other inherited costs to the new Council, your tax increase (including School Tax) is 2.1 %.

It is my belief that the affairs of the Municipality's Ratepayers come first and Council must curb the voluntary flow of money that goes outside of our Municipality in the form of donations to organizations to support their cause. I further believe, now that the budget for this year is set, whatever happened in the past is behind us and as a new Council it is our responsibility to proceed as efficiently and effectively with the future for the Municipality of Whitestone.

I am available to every Ratepayer in the Municipality of Whitestone; I am here to talk with, listen to, and act on your behalf regarding issues and concerns that you may have. Feel free to contact me at (705) 389-1995.

Sincerely,

Alan Ladd, Councillor

Last fall I ran for Council as a seasonal resident and I want to thank the many ratepayers who voted for me and the platform I campaigned on. I have worked very hard all winter trying to run our municipality like a business, cutting out unnecessary cost and maximizing value for you the ratepayers.

Of great importance to all of us is our 2007 Budget. I have led the effort to reduce our 2007 controllable operating expenses by approximately 7% (\$120,000) compared to 2006. Unfortunately the uncontrollable operating levies which are downloaded to us by the various Provincial Agencies increased in 2007 by 7% (\$50,000) which partially offset our hard work. Added to this is the fact that the last Council left us with a \$31,000 deficit which has to be paid for in this year's taxes. We were able to keep your tax increase down to a respectable 2.1 % increase but I am concerned that it will be hard to keep taxes down under the conditions that we face and particularly if we want to invest more in our infrastructure like roads, bridges, eventual dump closures etc. I would very much appreciate your input on future expenditures as I continue my term on council

Some of the other initiatives I have put forward motions on which have been passed by council include;

- Improved Communications with ratepayers which includes things like an improved website where in the near future you will have the ability to ask questions and have minutes and agendas sent to you by email This quarterly update letter is another example of improved communication .Councillor Ladd's idea for news boxes throughout the municipality has also proved to be a great idea.
- cut the previous council's approved pay raise in half by phasing the increase in over a 2 year time frame.
- changed most Council meeting dates from Tuesday to Monday and added three additional Saturday meetings during the year. This should allow more accessibility to meetings for all our ratepayers.
- Added a new free dump weekend on Civic Holiday weekend.
- Made the commercial and industrial tax rate the same as the residential rate at minimal cost to help spur economic development. (This was a recommendation by the ad hoc committee on property assessment) This tells people we welcome new business to our community. I also voted against a 30 hour per week Fire Chief Position at a cost of approximately \$60,000 per year. The impact of this decision alone would have been to add 3% annually to your tax bill and I didn't feel it was a prudent expenditure. Having said this I very much appreciate the efforts of all our volunteer firefighters and thank them for all their hard work in our community.

Until next quarter.  
Councillor Joe Lamb

To the Ratepayers of the Municipality of Whitestone

Some of the concerns you wanted addressed were:

The cost associated with Summerfest/You wanted a more accessible Council open to Ratepayers view before decisions are made/You wanted Council to scrutinize very closely the mandatory levies charged to our Municipality  
Our community development committee has replaced the Summerfest with a one day CANADA DAY celebration. We are committed to celebrating this day (as close as possible) to a break even point. This committee is also exploring different avenues we could implement for the betterment of this community as a whole. I will elaborate on some of our ideas on our next newsletter.

We have asked all the departments that levy us to supply us with a copy of their budgets so that we can scrutinize their increase. Our greatest concern this year was the 55% increase in the levy from Belvedere Heights. We were assured by the management that a consulting firm had been hired to look into how the care administered to their residents was recorded. Hopefully this will lead to an increase in funding from the government and reduce our levy for next year.

I am sure that those that attend Council meetings on a regular basis will attest that they have ample opportunity to express their views on all matters that come before Council in our open meetings and their views are appreciated by Council.

I have a couple of concerns that will impact our resources in the coming years. One is the rising costs to manage our landfill sites and the second is the resources that will be required to maintain our system of roads to an acceptable level.

I will be at the Municipal Office on Saturday, June 23 from 9:00am until 1:00 pm if you have any concerns you wish to be recorded for Council's consideration, I will be happy to do so.

You can reach me by phone at 705-389-1328

E-mail at [morleymoore@vianet.ca](mailto:morleymoore@vianet.ca)

Municipal Office 705-389-2466

Councillor, Morley Moore

### **West Parry Sound Geography Network**

The Municipality of Whitestone has partnered with other Municipalities within the West Parry Sound District to develop a website containing maps of the area.

Maps of the Municipality of Whitestone can be viewed by visiting [www.wpsgn.ca](http://www.wpsgn.ca).

### **Free Family Fishing Weekend**

The Province of Ontario, in partnership with many non-government organizations like the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters, declares one summer weekend a licence-free family fishing weekend.

Friday, July 6, 2007 to Sunday, July 8, 2007