May 2015 Newsletter

STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS
Work is continuing on a Strategic Plan for the Municipality that is intended to reflect the aspirations and priorities of the entire Whitestone community. A draft of the major plan elements - including statements of vision, mission, core values and strategic priorities – will be available soon on the Municipality’s website and will be circulated to staff, committees and community groups for review and comment. Watch for further details.

BUDGET
The 2015 Draft Budget is scheduled to be adopted on Tuesday, May 19, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. The proposed 2015 draft budget represents a 1% decrease in the total tax rate (municipal plus school board) from 2014. The municipal tax rate will increase by 0.003%, which represents a general municipal revenue increase of 6%. The general municipal revenue is the dollar amount that the municipality will collect through taxation. The 2015 Capital/Construction Projects include surface treatment of 1 km of Farley’s Road and 1.5 km of Canning Road, completion of the Wah-Wash-Kesh Road relocation, Church Street drainage improvements, Pavilion drainage improvements, replacement of the Church Street public dock, and Recreation’s playground project. The Road Grant Protocol will continue for 2015. The Road Grant Application Deadline is September 30, 2015 and applications can be obtained at the municipal office or on the municipal website. Please remember that to be eligible for next year’s grant funds, you must submit a written summary of expenses as well as copies of supporting invoices.

BY-LAW ENFORCEMENT
As per By-Law 20-2014 licences are required for a rental unit. Further information can be obtained by contacting the municipal office or on our website. As per By-Law No. 42-2005, the 2015 dog tags are now available for sale at the Municipal office for $10.00 per tag. For information or to report the contravention of any By-Laws, please leave a detailed message including name and phone number for Paul Rossiter, By-Law Enforcement Officer at 705-389-2466 Ext. #45. All calls will be kept confidential.

WHITESTONE FIRE DEPARTMENT
Please note: Both smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms are now mandatory on every level in cottages, houses and trailers. INSTALL BOTH SMOKE ALARMS AND CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS... IT’S THE LAW. Smoke alarms can be obtained at the Municipal office and at the Fire Hall for $6.00 each and carbon monoxide detectors for $24.00 each. Remember to change your batteries at least twice a year! Campfires are a part of enjoying the outdoors but cause many wildfires each year. Remember: your fire is your responsibility. If it gets away, you are responsible for damages and any costs of putting it out. FIRE PERMITS are required from April 1st to October 31st each year and can be obtained at the Municipal office or by contacting Bob Whitman, Fire Chief at 705-774-1967. PLEASE REMEMBER to make sure all 9-1-1 Civic Signs are clearly visible!

ROADS DEPARTMENT
This summer the Roads Department will be performing construction projects on Farley’s Road and Canning Road. Your patience will be greatly appreciated. As a safety precaution, please remember to “Share the Road” with pedestrians and bikes!

LANDFILL SITES
The Landfill sites summer hours will be starting the on the May long weekend (Tues, Thurs, Sat 9:00am-6:00pm and Sunday and holiday Mondays 10:00am – 7:00pm). As per Ministry of Environment Regulations, the walk-through gate will be closed at all other times. Landfill access cards are required at both Landfill sites. Please note: Compact florescent lights are still florescent lights and need to be disposed of as hazardous waste! Council and Staff will be working diligently to improve our recycling program to extend the life of our Landfill Sites. In the meantime, it would be greatly appreciated if ratepayers would separate and contain plastic bags and packaging and place in the recycle bins which will prevent wind-blown garbage in the vicinity of the landfill sites. The volunteers of the Public School and Lions’ Club spend countless hours sorting at the bottle sheds and this program provides terrific community support. If beer bottles are dropped off in original boxes, with bottles matching the boxes it will be a huge help. Only empty clean bottles can be returned for refund. PLEASE REMEMBER TO RECYCLE!

BUILDING DEPARTMENT
Under By-Law No. 30-2006 and the Ontario Building Code, a building permit is required for construction of any building with a floor area larger than 100sq. m (108 sq ft). Residents are encouraged to report any unauthorized construction to the Building Department – your call will be kept confidential. Permit fees have been increased to $14.00 per $1,000 of construction value. Summer hours for the Building Department will begin after the May long weekend: Mon-Fri 8:30 am - 4:30 pm.
**INTRODUCTION TO AN EMAIL VERSION OF OUR NEWSLETTER**

We would like to know how the public would feel about signing up to receive their copy of the Newsletter by e-mail instead of regular postal mail. If this is something that you would be interested in, please forward your resumés to the Municipal Office. For full details on this position, please visit our website at **www.whitestone.ca**

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**HOMETOWN BRAND NEW!**

The Thrift shop is now open and we look forward to your visit. We are currently open Saturday & Sunday 10:00 am – 2:00 pm. In July our hours will be extended to include Fridays 10:00 – 2:00 pm. Donations of gently used clothing and household items are greatly appreciated. Please contact Elizabeth Hamilton @ 705-389-2207 or Peggy @ 705-389-1375 for additional information.

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**STUDENT EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**

Attention all students aged 18-30, who are planning to return to school in the Fall: Are you looking for summer employment in the Field of Government Services? If so, please forward your resumés to the Municipal Office. For full details on this position, please visit our website at **www.whitestone.ca**

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**RECREATION COMMITTEE & EVENTS**

Recreation Committee’s mandate is to provide programs and events for the community! In order for this to happen, we need volunteers to help. Contact the Municipal office for information on how to apply. Please follow us on all social media sites for other programs such as Soccer (beginning in July), Walk-Fit and Fitness Classes.

The Committee is hosting a Home Business Fair on May 23rd at the Dunchurch Community Centre. Admission for this event is **FREE**. Please direct any inquiries to Colette Deacon at 705-389-1452.

Canada Day Fireworks will be held on July 1st at the hall grounds at dusk. The Baseball Program will be starting on July 3rd and will continue on Friday evenings from 6:30-7:30 throughout the months of July & August. 2015 Family Fitness Festival will be held on July 18th – Please contact the following with any inquiries: Mike Lynch 705-203-0757 bulldogreta@gmail.com Colette Deacon 705-389-1452 colette.deacon@gmail.com

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**INTERNET & SOCIAL MEDIA**

There is now an internet hub at the Dunchurch Community Centre for public use. The passcode for connection is Dunchurchhall1. There will be additional hubs installed at Maple Island and Ardbeg in the very near future. Please watch our website for an active date and passcodes. The Municipality of Whitestone has joined the world of Social Media! In addition to our Facebook page, we now have a Twitter account and our very own YouTube channel, where you can view the videos of Whitestone! Please take a few moments and check us out online. While you’re there, don’t forget to “Like” us on Facebook, “Follow” us on Twitter and “Watch” us on YouTube! The links to these sites are located on our Municipal Website.

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**TECH TUESDAYS**

There are still have a smartphone, tablet or device that you’ve been meaning to learn how to use. Consider becoming a Whitestone-Hagerman Public Memorial Public Library volunteer. We are always looking to add to our team, whether it is to help at an event or assist staff in day to day duties. Contact the library for more information.

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**RABBIES CLINIC**

On May 25th we will be hosting a Rabies Clinic for dogs and cats only, at the Dun-Dome (Dunchurch Pavilion) from 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm. The fee is $20.00 payable in cash only. You may also purchase your 2015 dog tags for $10.00 each.

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**COUNCIL & DEPARTMENT HEADS**

Mayor Chris Armstrong 705-389-3721 or 705-773-8211 mayor.armstrong@whitestone.ca

Councillor George Comrie 705-774-6370 or 416-705-3936 councillor.comrie@whitestone.ca

Councillor Colette Deacon 705-389-1452 councillor.deacon@whitestone.ca

Councillor Joe Lamb 705-389-9542 or 905-467-1284 councillor.lamb@whitestone.ca

Councillor Joe McEwen 705-389-2025 or 705-774-8555 councillor.mcewen@whitestone.ca

Tammy Wylie, CAO-Clerk-Treasurer 705-389-2466 – Ext. 25 treasurer@whitestone.ca

Jennifer Wadden, Deputy Clerk / Deputy Treasurer 705-389-2466 – Ext. 27 deputys@whitestone.ca

Dennis Rowntree, Chief Building Official 705-389-2466 – Ext. 26 cbo.building@whitestone.ca

Paul Rossiter, By-Law Enforcement Officer 705-389-2466 – Ext. 45 roads.department@whitestone.ca


Bob Whitman, Fire Chief 705-389-3824 or 705-774-1967 fire.department@whitestone.ca

“Whitestone, A Perfect Place To Live, Work And Play”

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