



NEWSLETTER

"A PERFECT PLACE TO LIVE, WORK AND PLAY!"



MESSAGE FROM COUNCIL

By the time you read this we will be half way through another fine Whitestone summer. Lately, we've had a bit more rain than usual, and lake levels are still a bit high, but no fire ban so far. We celebrated Canada Day in Whitestone as usual with plenty of food, a cardboard boat race, and fireworks at dusk.

Whitestone's usual summer events and recreation programs are now in full swing, including pickleball, archery, board game nights, bingo, fundraising events at the Library and the Legion on the August long weekend, and the highlight of our summer season – the Agricultural Society's Fall Fair on August 16th and 17th. This year, we were especially pleased to be able to offer learn to swim classes once again at the Dunchurch beach. Be sure to check this newsletter, and our Municipal website and Facebook page, for details of the many events available to both permanent and seasonal residents. Better yet, subscribe to have our weekly e-newsletter delivered to your in-box.

This year, Council has moved to holding one regular all-day meeting (starting at 10:00 a.m.) per month instead of the bi-weekly evening meetings of past years. So far, public participation in these meetings has been low. Members of the public are welcome to join in person at the Dunchurch Community Centre or on-line via Zoom, and recordings are posted on our website. We encourage you to get involved in your local government, and to provide your input into the deliberations of Council.

Please support our local businesses. Please be extra careful with fires. Enjoy a safe summer and fall on our roads and waterways!

Mayor George Comrie on behalf of Whitestone Council

YOUR COUNCIL

Mayor George Comrie

705-773-8211

mayor.comrie@whitestone.ca

Councillor Janice Bray

705-774-8796

councillor.bray@whitestone.ca

Councillor Joe Lamb

(Deputy Mayor)

905-333-5951

705-389-9542

councillor.lamb@whitestone.ca

Councillor Scott Nash

705-346-4367

councillor.nash@whitestone.ca

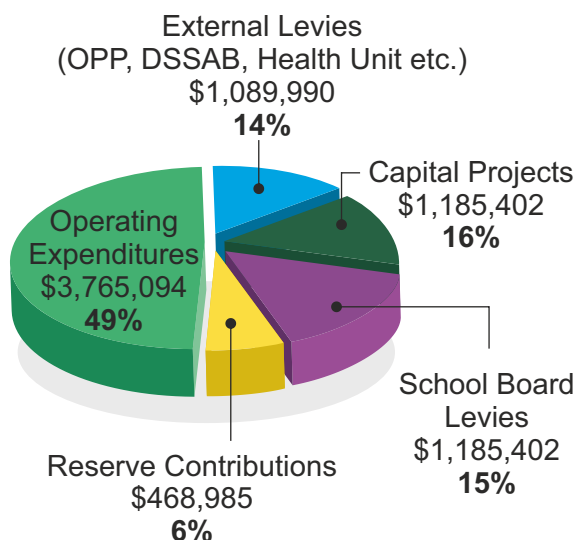
Councillor Brian Woods

705-774-8492

councillor.woods@whitestone.ca



HOW YOUR 2024 TAXES WILL BE ALLOCATED



BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

The approved 2024 Operating and Capital/Special Project Budget highlights increased funding from grants, a slight increase in the mandatory levy, an increase in capital project spending, and a decrease in the reserve balance compared to 2023.

The residential tax rate, including the education tax, will see a 5.88% increase. Whitestone's tax rate continues to be one of the lowest compared to neighbouring municipalities.

The 2024 Capital initiatives include the purchase of a new fire pumper truck, which is a crucial addition to our emergency response capabilities. Other initiatives include the Bunny Trail slurry seal and repair, slurry seal on Farley's Road, and guide rail end treatments on Farley's Road bridge.

The closing balance of the asset management reserve has increased. The 2024 contribution to the asset management reserve was \$288,985.



WPS RECREATION AND CULTURAL CENTRE UPDATE

The Municipality of Whitestone entered into a Funding agreement with the Joint Municipal Services Board (JMSB) agreeing to a one-time payment of \$250,000 for Capital costs and annual Operating costs of \$18,316 (with annual CPI increases). The agreement required a review of the operating model, project operating costs and reserve requirements for the Facility by independent management consultants.

Council received the BDO report on November 9, 2023 and informed the JMSB that the report does not meet the requirements as set out in the agreement. On April 10, 2024: Council deferred the Capital Contribution to the year 2025 and until such time as the report meets the requirements of the Municipality. (Moved by Councillor Lamb, Seconded by Councillor Woods, recorded vote as follows: Councillor Nash-Yea, Councillor Woods-Yea, Councillor Bray-Abstain, Councillor Lamb-Yea; Mayor Comrie-Nay).



BY-LAW

NEW Traffic and Parking By-law No. 33-2024

As of August 6, 2024, no person shall Park or leave a Trailer, Camping Unit or Boat separate from a Vehicle on a Highway or Designated Vehicle Parking Area (i.e. Boat Launches & Landings).

No person shall Park a Trailer, Camping Unit or Boat which is attached to a Vehicle for more than fourteen (14) days annually (consecutively or non-consecutively) on a Highway or Designated Vehicle Parking Area (i.e. Boat Launches & Landings).

For more information on this new By-law visit: <https://whitestone.ca/p/by-laws>.

WHITESTONE PUBLIC LIBRARY & TECHNOLOGY CENTRE

Did you know that you can browse the collection, borrow, renew, and place holds on books and more on our website?

Visit whitestonepubliclibrary.com and click "my account" to log in with your library card. Pop into the library or give us a call at 705-389-3311 for more information or to book an appointment.

MAPLE ISLAND THRIFT SHOP

The Maple Island Thrift Shop is located at #1 Maple Island Road at Highway 520 North.

Hours:

July to August: Friday, Saturday & Sunday
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

September to October: Saturday & Sunday
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Come explore our Thrift Shop and check out the section of gently-used clothing and smaller used furniture!

Support the Maple Island Thrift Shop by:
Donating Items, Visiting and Browsing,
Spreading the Word, and Being a Volunteer.
You can now pay by DEBIT!

Any questions regarding our Thrift Shop or to make a donation, please contact Peggi at **705-389-1375** or Pam at **705-389-3081**.

PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE ARTICLES OUTSIDE WHEN THE THRIFT SHOP IS CLOSED.

RECREATION COMMITTEE

Recreation Programs

Archery | Where: Dun Dome
Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. - NOON

Board Game Night | Where: Whitestone Library
Biweekly Fridays, 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Pickleball | Where: Dun Dome (spring & summer), | Where: Community Centre (fall & winter)

Tuesdays (except on specified dates) and
Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Walk Fit | Where: Community Centre
Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays 10:00 a.m. -
11:00 a.m., starting September 4, 2024

Minecraft & STEM Club | Where: Whitestone Library
Saturdays, 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Play Minecraft with friends or participate in
STEM activities. Participants must be
accompanied by an adult.

Teen Dungeons & Dragons | Where: Whitestone Library
Saturdays, 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Adult Dungeons & Dragons | Where: Whitestone Library
Saturdays, 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

DUNCHURCH AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY



The Dunchurch Agricultural Society Directors and Volunteers are working hard to bring an exciting fall fair festival to you this year! Our theme this year is, Fields to Forks!

Where: Dunchurch Community Centre and grounds

Friday, August 16 at 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, August 17 at 10:00 a.m.

Square Dance at 8:00 p.m.

There will be lots to see and learn. For more information, please visit: www.dunchurchagsociety.ca or Dunchurch Fall Fair Facebook page

DUNCHURCH KNOX UNITED CHURCH

Events:

Bake Sale, Yard Sale and BBQ at the Knox United Church

Date: Saturday, August 3, 2024 - 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Homemade pies and sandwiches will be sold in the kitchen at the Dunchurch Community Centre on **Fair Day**

Date: Saturday, August 17, 2024

Time: 10:00 a.m. until sold out!

Thanksgiving Supper will be held at the Dunchurch Community Centre

Date: Saturday, October 12, 2024

Seating Times: 4:30 p.m. and 5:45 p.m.

To volunteer or get tickets, contact MaryAnne at 289-968-7425. It's best to buy tickets early, but some will be available at the door. Volunteers are welcome to help.

Christmas Social will be held at Knox United Church Luncheon, bake sale, cookie tins, grab bags, seasonal treasures table, etc.

Date: Saturday, November 16, 2024

Time: 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

LANDFILL SUMMER HOURS

Summer Hours:

May Long Weekend – Thanksgiving Weekend

Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Sunday & Holiday Mondays 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

To use the Landfill sites, we kindly request that you present your Landfill Access Pass to the attendants.

WHITESTONE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Seasonal Fire Permits are available on-line. Download your fire permit anytime and it's FREE!

Please visit the municipal's website for the fire rating or contact Fire Chief Bob Whitman at 705-774-1967.

BINGO

Join us for Whitestone Conservation Association BINGO every Wednesday in July and August 2024, including August 7, 21, and 28, at the Dunchurch Community Centre! Doors open at 5:30 p.m., with games kicking off at 6:00 p.m. Remember to bring cash for entry. Proceeds go towards purchasing equipment for the Whitestone Nurse Practitioner-Led Clinic. Let's play and support our community together!