



NEWSLETTER

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

MESSAGE FROM COUNCIL

Hope you are enjoying our warm summer. Although 2023 is the worst year on record for forest fires in Canada, the Whitestone area managed to come through the June-July fire restrictions relatively unscathed, with just some smoke and haze from the fires around us. The bullet we're currently dodging is high heat, severe rain, and thunder storms. All of this extreme weather is attributed to an El Niño climate pattern that alters the Pacific jetstream and makes the northern US and Canada warmer and drier than usual. El Niño is a recurring natural phenomenon, but combined with global warming, it presents challenges for us to adapt to climate change and prepare for emergencies. Section 4 of Whitestone's updated Strategic Plan recognizes this need.

Whitestone's usual summer events and recreation programs are now in full swing, including pickleball, archery, board game nights, a fundraising event at the Library on the August 5th long weekend, Legion Branch 394's fish fry on August 5th, and the Agricultural Society's Fall Fair August 18th and 19th. See this newsletter or our Municipal website for further details. Besides our usual cardboard boat race, on Canada Day we were treated to a presentation by the Waa Bo Kwe drummers and singers from Wausauksing First Nation. We hope to reschedule the fireworks display that was cancelled due to the fire ban later this summer.

Please support our local businesses. And always practise safety on our roads and waterways!

Mayor George Comrie on behalf of Whitestone Council

YOUR COUNCIL

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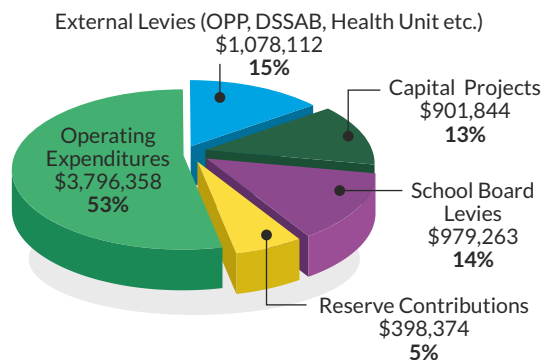
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HOW YOUR 2023 TAXES WILL BE ALLOCATED



BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

The approved 2023 Operating and Capital/Special Project Budget highlights include increased funding from grants, a slight increase in the mandatory levy's, a decrease in capital project spending and the reserve balance, compared to 2022.

The residential tax rate, including the education tax, will experience a 4.97% increase. Whitestone's tax rate continues to remain one of the lowest compared to neighbouring municipalities.

The 2023 Capital initiatives include slurry seal work on the Bunny Trail, Maple Island guide rail repairs, purchase of water tank for the tandem truck, Hyundai Excavator purchase, concrete work at the Community Centre and Library, finalize the Nursing Station expansion and a property purchase.



MUNICIPALITY OF WHITESTONE STRATEGIC PLAN

The Council of the Municipality of Whitestone has recently spent time updating the **WHITESTONE STRATEGIC PLAN**.

The Strategic Plan is an important guidance document and roadmap that assists in determining the strategic direction of the municipality. The Plan identifies what our community will be like, what services and programs will be provided, and what values the organization will embrace in an effort to meet our ultimate vision. This document guides municipal initiatives to ensure the municipality is mission successful.

Your input is important and we welcome your comments. The Draft Strategic Plan is available on our website at <https://www.whitestone.ca/p/strategic-plan>, or contact the Municipal Office for a printed copy.

The comment period will be open until August 31, 2023.

Please send comments to info@whitestone.ca and put **STRATEGIC PLAN** in the subject line.

Thank you for your interest in this important initiative.



BY-LAW

Did you know that the Municipality has a Light Pollution By-law? Its purpose is to promote responsible lighting practices, minimize light pollution, glare, and trespass, conserve energy, and ensure night-time safety and security. Just like a noise bylaw, it's not acceptable to disrupt the peace by blasting music, and the same applies to shining bright outdoor lights onto other properties or into their windows at night.

For information or to report the contravention of any By-laws, please leave a detailed message including name and phone number for By-Law Enforcement Officer Paul Rossiter, 705-389-2466 Ext.145.



DUNCHURCH KNOX UNITED CHURCH

Events:

Bake Sale, Yard Sale and BBQ at the Knox United Church
Date: Saturday, August 5, 2023 - 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 19, 2023 **Time:** 10:00 a.m. until sold out!

Thanksgiving Supper will be held at the Dunchurch Community Centre
Date: Saturday, October 7, 2023 **Time:** TBA

Christmas Social will be held at Knox United Church Luncheon, bake sale, cookie tins, grab bags, seasonal treasurers table, etc.
Date: Saturday, November 18, 2023 **Time:** 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.



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

There is a new volleyball net at Commons Park at Maple Island. Come out and try a game!

Pickleball | Where: Dun Dome
 Thursdays, please call (519) 362-6169

Archery | Where: Dun Dome
 Fridays 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
 Saturdays 10:00 a.m. to NOON

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



WHITESTONE PUBLIC LIBRARY & TECHNOLOGY CENTRE

The TD Summer Reading Club is in full swing! Visit library's website for the full schedule of summer programs and events, info on new books, movies, and more!

<http://whitestonepubliclibrary.com>
 @whitestonelib



Join us for a Giant Book Sale at the Dunchurch Community Centre from Saturday, August 5th, to Sunday, August 6th, between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. And that's not all! For a small donation, take a shot at the Dunk Tank and dunk local volunteers, staff, friends, or even a family member. Also, enjoy live painting sessions and a silent auction by a local artist, Brenda Larose. You might just find that perfect piece of art to brighten up your space!



DUNCHURCH AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY



The Dunchurch Agricultural Society Directors and Volunteers are working hard to bring an exciting fall fair festival to you this year! This will be our 135th fair, and as the theme suggests, we are celebrating all things that bloom!

Where: Dunchurch Community Centre and grounds
 Friday, August 18 at 5:00 p.m.
 Saturday, August 19 at 10:00 a.m.

There will be artisan demonstrations in the Dun-Dome, alongside vendors, with lots to see and learn. We are adding two new specials this year: Maple Syrup and Honey, so we hope to see your backyard gold in the lineup to pit against your fellow enthusiasts. The results should be SWEEEEET! Let us know if you want an egg category, and we could make that happen too.

<https://sites.google.com/view/dunchurchagriculturalsociety>
 Facebook page: **Dunchurch Fall Fair**



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

The on-line fire permit system is 24/7, and it's FREE! Seasonal Fire Permits are required under Open Air Burning By-law 37-2020. The Whitestone Fire Department reminds everyone that a Special Burning Permit is mandatory for any **brush burning** activities.

The fire rating system is a very important safety feature of the municipality. If you have any questions regarding open air burning permits, fireworks, or fire rating levels, please visit the municipal website for the fire rating or contact Fire Chief Bob Whitman at 705-774-1967.