



NEWSLETTER

August 2020

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MESSAGE FROM COUNCIL

Thanks to COVID-19 our world is certainly a different place than it was just six months ago. Since Ontario first declared an emergency in March, your Council has been focused on two priorities: (i) trying to keep our staff and our community safe through measures to limit the spread of the virus, and (ii) trying to accomplish as many of our strategic objectives and plans as we can, safely. In the process, we have had to restrict some programs and services, and modify others. I am proud of the positive way our community has responded to these sometimes inconvenient changes, and has pulled together to care for each other as we have rallied to fight the spread of the pandemic. And I am convinced that our collective efforts have contributed to the low infection rate in West Parry Sound. Special thanks are due to our Municipal staff, our Fire & Rescue Service, our Nursing Station, and the businesses in our community who have continued to serve us in these difficult times. We are not out of the woods yet, and some of our current measures may well become the “new normal” for the foreseeable future. But I remain convinced that the best way to regain some normalcy in terms of both social interaction and economic activity is to persevere in following the advice of our medical experts with respect to the COVID-19 protocols of social and physical distancing, frequent hand washing, wearing masks when in public, etc.

The good news in all this is that we have still been able to move forward with a number of strategic initiatives, such as the expansion of the Whitestone Library and some much needed road work. In addition, we have seized the opportunity to enhance various aspects of our operations including electronic Council meetings accessible to the public, waste management, receipt of electronic payments, and communications.

I hope that this summer provides you with some respite from the stress and inconvenience of life in a pandemic, and that you will enter the fall renewed because of it.

Mayor George Comrie

Whitestone Public Library

As you have probably noticed, the library is currently under construction. We are looking forward to welcoming you to the newly renovated **Library and Technology Centre** later this year.

Follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter at whitestonelibrary, and bookmark our website <https://whitestone.olsn.ca> to access thousands of free ebooks and audiobooks and take advantage of an assortment of other online tools. If you need a Library card or need to have yours renewed, please email the library at whitestonelibrary@vianet.ca.

The TD Summer Reading program is online this year, with a link on the library's website.

Please consider helping the library reach its \$100,000 fundraising goal. To donate visit:



<https://whitestone.olsn.ca/make-a-donation/>

NEW TAX PAYMENT OPTIONS

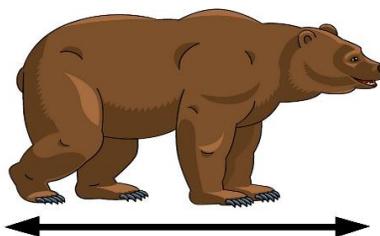
Receive your Property Tax Bill by e-mail
 AND / OR

Sign up for a Pre-Authorized Tax Payment Plan.

FORMS are available for download on the Municipal Website and is included in the Final Tax Bill.

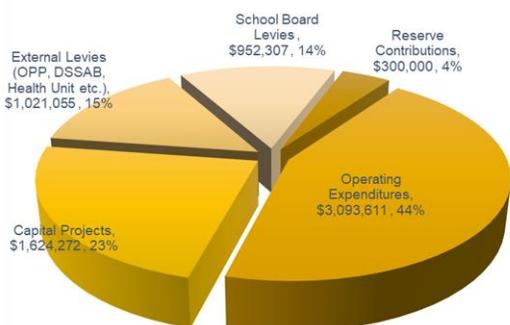
For more information, please contact the Municipal Office at 705-389-2466 or info@whitestone.ca

Visiting a Public Space? Please Physical Distance.



One Brown Bear (or 2m / 6ft) Apart

How your 2020 Taxes will be allocated
 (based on adopted 2020 budget)



West Parry Sound Municipalities

Whitestone Fire Department

Campfires are the leading cause of preventable wildfires in Ontario. Never leave your fire unattended. Pour lots of water on to extinguish and drown ALL embers. Fire Permits for open burning are required from April 1 to October 31 each year and can be obtained at several locations throughout the Municipality.

Fire Ratings and Allowable Activities



Activity	LOW	MODERATE	HIGH	EXTREME
Campfires (1 metre or less)	✓	✓	✓	✗
Permit Burning (2 metres or less)	✓	✓	✗	✗
Residential Fireworks	✓	✓	✗	✗

REMEMBER:

During a MUNICIPAL FIRE BAN or during a RESTRICTED FIRE ZONE, no burning is allowed! All Existing permits are suspended. Check the Municipal Website and Social Media Site for current information.



What's new in Waste Management?

Council has made a number of significant decisions this year that will change how the Municipal Landfill sites are managed. Landfill space is important to our Community and ensuring space is preserved and used wisely is important to Council.

- **Tires** are no longer accepted
- **Brush** is accepted at the Auld's Road site **only** - no commercial brush
- Household **Construction and Demolition Debris** is now accepted at the Auld's Road Site **only** – *no shingles and no commercial construction and demolition waste*
- **Boats** – only **metal hull boats** will be accepted; they must be completely stripped of non-metallic components and liquids

Future Initiatives

- Landfill Access Permits will be provided for all ratepayer properties in the near future
- Cameras are being installed for surveillance and the protection of the Landfill property
- Commencing September 1, 2020 fees will be charged for boat wrap and pool liners
- Commencing January 1, 2021 Clear/transparent bags for will be required for Household waste

For more information, please see our Website or call the Municipal Office

Municipal Cemeteries

In April 2020 the Municipality passed a new Cemetery By-Law for the management of all three Municipal Cemeteries. Several changes were required to ensure proper operation protocols were in place and to establish compliance with regulations for Cemeteries in the Province of Ontario.

Highlights of the new Cemetery By-Law include the establishment of Scattering Grounds, size and location of memorial markers and headstones, and protocols for the placement and removal of all memorial decorations. Please be reminded planting of flowers or shrubs in the Cemeteries is not permitted and all memorial decorations (wreaths, flowers, vases, urns, flower stands, etc.), with the exception of veteran white cross markers, must be removed by October 31st each year. Articles left in place will be removed at the direction of the Cemetery Board without notification.

Temporary Requirements:

With new provincial restrictions on **Social Distancing**, please see www.ontario.ca for the most up-to-date information.

Knox United Church

Until the church reopens, weekly Sunday morning worship service is available via e-mail or hand delivery. For information please contact Reverend Charles or Ratna Arasaratnam at cssratna12@hotmail.ca or phone: 705-389-2604

All fundraisers are cancelled.

Stay safe and God Bless everyone.

Some of our Capital Projects for 2020

- The Whitestone Public Library expansion
- Canning and Balsam Road reconstruction
- Replacement of the boat ramp, Fire Department standpipe, and a new floating dock at the Dunchurch waterfront
- Sand Dome repairs
- A Road Needs Study for Asset Management
- Audio visual improvements for the Community Centre
- Municipal Office expansion and renovation
- Nursing station expansion feasibility study
- Landfill site surveillance cameras and general landfill site Improvements
- Improvements to parking and docking at the WahWashKesh landings

Dunchurch Agricultural Society

Dunchurch 2020 Fall Fair Cancelled in response to **Covid-19** to keep our community safe.



We have arranged for some summer fun, in keeping with social distancing and encourage you to visit our Facebook page and website.

- Registration Deadline for Vegetable Contest, August 20, 2020; on site judging completed by August 31, 2020
- Registration open for Quilt Block Trail Family Scavenger Hunt, August 20, 2020; Game closes August 31, 2020
- Entry Deadline for Farm to Table Contest, September 7, 2020
- Lawn Display Contest Entry Deadline October 3, 2020
- Locate the Scarecrows Scavenger Hunt closes October 12, 2020

Building Department

What requires a Building Permit?

You need a Building Permit if you intend to:

- erect, install, extend, alter or repair a building
- demolish all or part of a building
- perform construction or alterations that result in a material change to a building or an accessory structure

Under the Building Code Act, "building" means?

- a structure occupying an area greater than 10m² consisting of a wall, roof and floor or any of them or a structural system serving the function thereof including all plumbing, works, fixtures and service systems appurtenant thereto
- a structure occupying an area of 10m² or less that contains plumbing, including the plumbing appurtenant thereto
- plumbing not located in a structure
- a sewage system
- structures designated in the Ontario Building Code