



# NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2019

## MESSAGE FROM COUNCIL

This summer, our community experienced the loss of Mayor Chris Armstrong, who passed away on August 5th after a valiant battle with cancer. Chris served Whitestone faithfully for many years as Deputy Fire Chief (2000-2018), Councillor (2003-2006) and Mayor (2006-2019). We acknowledge with gratitude his dedicated leadership to the Municipality. I would ask that you continue to keep his wife and family in your thoughts and prayers.

I am pleased to advise you that, after consultation with ratepayers in October, Whitestone Council is now back up to strength with my appointment to serve the balance of Chris' term as Mayor, and the appointment of Brian Woods to serve the balance of my term as Councillor. I am honoured to have received the confidence of my Council colleagues, and to accept the responsibilities as your Mayor for the next three years.

With a few minor revisions, we are proceeding with implementation of various elements of our Strategic Plan. Noteworthy among these are development of a communication strategy, a major redesign of our municipal website, and replacement of the sound system in the Community Centre. Watch for more details on these and other improvements in 2020.

Please join us for a New Year's Day Levee at the Community Centre in Dunchurch from 1:00-3:00pm.

*Mayor George Comrie*

### Mayor George Comrie

P: (705) 773-8211

E: [mayor.comrie@whitestone.ca](mailto:mayor.comrie@whitestone.ca)

### Councillor Beth Gorham-Matthews

P: (705) 774-1889

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### Councillor Joe Lamb

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### Councillor Joe McEwen

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### Councillor Brian Woods

P: (705) 774-8492

E: [councillor.woods@whitestone.ca](mailto:councillor.woods@whitestone.ca)

## **Congratulations to our New**

## **Mayor George Comrie and our new Councillor Brian Woods**

### **We are modernizing to Serve You Better!**

#### **Coming soon: Pre-authorized payments and Tax Bills sent directly to you via email!**

- Ease your budget by spreading out payments
- No interest or service charges from the Municipality
- Save the cost of postage
- No special trips to pay taxes
- Avoid late payments or missed due dates

**Watch our website for more information in 2020.**

## **Fire Department Reminders**

### **INSTALL SMOKE ALARMS AND CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS... IT'S THE LAW.**

Every family should practice good fire prevention. Now is the time to prepare for winter and make your home fire-safe. It is wood burning season; remember to check your stove and chimney before burning. Every home or cottage must have a carbon monoxide alarm and working smoke alarms on every level. Both detectors can be obtained at the Municipal Office or the Fire Hall. Remember to change your batteries at least twice a year!

**For more information contact Fire Chief Bob Whitman at 705- 774-1967.**

## **OPP Updates - Misdialed 911 calls**

Being able to call 911 with ease is a benefit to having a cellphone. Sometimes, however, it can be too easy to make that call. If you misdial 911, *please* stay on the line and speak to the dispatch call centre. Follow these simple tips to help prevent misdialed 911 calls: Protect your cellphone by locking and storing it carefully ~ Keep it in a safe position when not in use and use a case or holster to protect it ~ Use your cellphone's key lock to help prevent accidental calls ~ Don't program 9-1-1 into any telephone ~ speed dials cause accidental 9-1-1 calls.

**Please use 1-888-310-1122 for all non-emergency calls!**

## **Winter Road Safety Tips**

Winter is almost here! The weather can be unpredictable during the winter months. Be prepared when planning a journey on the road: Check weather forecast and road conditions - if the weather is poor or the road surface is dangerous, reconsider your travel plans. Allow extra time for your journey. Drive according to road conditions. Let people know where you are going and when you expect to arrive. IT'S NOT A RACE – GIVE PLOWS SPACE. They can't see you and you can't see the road ahead.



**REMEMBER: NO PARKING ON SNOW ROUTES. VEHICLES WILL BE TOWED**



## Whitestone Public Library



**Thank you to everyone in the community who has helped with our Library Expansion Project fundraising.** The Whitestone - McKellar Lions Club held a raffle throughout the summer with proceeds going to the project and we thank everyone who purchased a ticket and supported the cause. Our book sale and silent auction raised almost \$4,000 in one weekend! If your workplace has a United Way Workplace Campaign, please consider directing your donation to the Whitestone Public Library. We offer tax deductible receipts for your donation.



We are very pleased to announce the Whitestone Library Expansion Project will receive a \$150,000 Capital Grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF). OTF is an agency of the Government of Ontario and one of Canada's leading granting foundations

The library has purchased several new Kobo Aura H20 devices. Book your one-on-one training session. You can sign out one of these devices and borrow digital content (like eBooks and audiobooks) from the Library Over Drive service. These e-readers are the simplest yet, give one a try!

**Holiday Hours:** Closed December 24, 25, 26, 31 and January 1. Open December 28

### Fall/Winter Hours at the Library:

- Tuesday 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
- Wednesday 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- Thursday 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

### Upcoming Events

- Every Thursday 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Knitting Circle**
- Dec. 3, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Crockpot Class (registration required)**

**Bookmark the library's website at <http://whitestone.olsn.ca> or follow whitestonelib on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to keep up to date with library news.**

## Cemetery Board

The Cemetery Board recently acquired a cemetery management software application. Existing paper files and maps are very fragile. A software application with mapping and linked data base will allow electronic tracking and secure storage of all existing files.

### Winter Hours -York St. and Aulds Rd.

- Tuesday 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- Thursday 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- Saturday 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- Sunday 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.



### Holiday Closure:

Thursday December 26

**What to recycle?** Please check our website for information and guidance.

## By-law Winter Reminders

Vehicles parked on the roadways and Municipal property create a hazard and challenges for plowing operations. As per By-Law No. 25-2010, no person shall park any vehicle on any highway or park any unauthorized vehicles on Municipal property from Nov. 1 to Apr. 30. Vehicles in contravention will be tagged and/or towed away at owners' expense.

As per By-Law 12-2009, no person shall deposit ice or snow on any Municipal roadway. Contravening this by-law will result in a summary conviction and fine.

For information or to report a contravention of any By-Law, please contact Paul Rossiter, By-Law Enforcement Officer at 705-389-2466 Ext. 45.

**All calls will be kept confidential.**

## Building Department

### Portable Garages

A maximum of one, tent-like portable garage is permitted for any given property, up to 645sq ft. A building permit is not required. Ensure the structure is securely anchored to the ground as per the instructions provided by the manufacturer and keep the roof free of ice and snow buildup to prevent a possible collapse. The location of tent-like portable structures must comply with current Zoning By-Laws.

### Shipping Containers

Shipping containers up to 20ft long are permitted accessory structures as long as:

- Main building is existing
- They are located in the rear yard
- Comply with applicable setbacks
- Building permit is required.

Please contact our Chief Building Official, Tyler Irwin for more information at 705-389-2466.

## Recreation Committee

Check out the Municipal website for our many activities and programs. Come out and join us! Volunteers are always needed and welcome for our events. If you are interested, please contact Rebecca Green at 705-773-2091.

## Maple Island Thrift Shop

### Thank You for another Successful Year!

We appreciate our wonderful volunteers and the community for their donations of time and gently used items. Proceeds from the Thrift Shop support important Community initiatives. Volunteers are always welcome.

**For more info: Call Peggi Woehl 705-389-3775 or Elizabeth Hamilton 705-389-2207.**