



NEWSLETTER

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



2022 – A YEAR IN REVIEW

2022 was a busy and interesting year for Whitestone. An office renovation and the expansion/renovation of the Nursing Station made Dunchurch a hub of construction and contractor activity for much of the year.

The Municipal Election dominated a good portion of the year with nominations beginning May 2, and Election day on October 24.

With the waning of the COVID-19 pandemic and restrictions, the Municipality was able to open the Municipal Office and the Public Library to the public and start to reintroduce some of the in-person programming that had been suspended for the past two years. A number of recreational activities including walk fit, pickle ball, movie nights, board game night and various youth and family events resumed. We welcomed a well-attended Fall Fair back to the Community in August.

In person Council meetings resumed in the Community Centre with the hybrid opportunity to access the meetings via Zoom. Technical challenges are still being worked through as we adapt to doing business differently.

A dedicated staff complement, the many volunteers who continued to work behind the scenes, and a Community who were engaged and interested in the decisions made, supported the Municipality in 2022.

For a more complete report, please visit the Municipal website at <https://www.whitestone.ca/p/council-agendas-and-minutes>

YOUR COUNCIL

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Councillor Janice Bray
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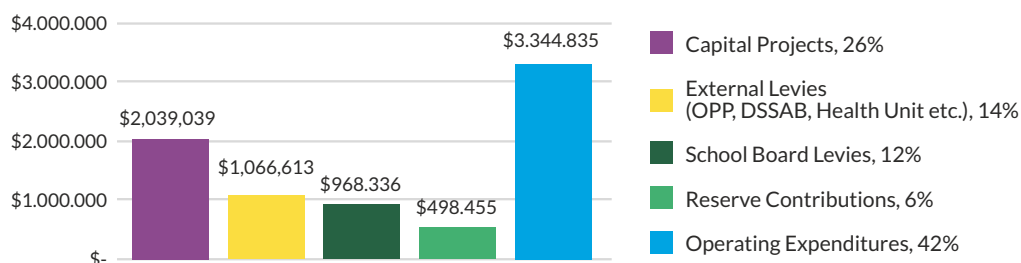
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HOW THE 2022 TAXES WERE ALLOCATED (approved budget)



FINANCE AND TREASURY

Highlights of the approved 2022 Operating and Capital/Special Projects Budget reflects increased funding from grants, a decrease in mandatory levies, an increase in capital project spending, and an increase in the reserve balance compared to 2021.

The tax rate increased 3.5%; the education rate was unchanged from 2021. The Whitestone tax rate remains one of the lowest when compared to neighbouring municipalities.

2022 Capital Initiatives:
Expansion of the Nursing Station; renovations to the Municipal Office; enhanced gravel program; ditching/culverts on Maple Island & Farley's Roads, slurry seal Whitestone Lake & Canning Roads; completion of Electronic signs for the Community Centre and the Library; bridge structure maintenance; backhoe and pickup truck purchase and a land purchase.



BROADBAND INTERNET ACCESS

In 2021, Cogeco announced that high-speed fibre-to-the-home internet is coming to an estimated 2,130 homes and businesses in the communities of Waubamik, Lake Manitouwabing, McKellar, Hurdville, Fairholme, Dunchurch and Whitestone Lake. Surveying and engineering began in 2021 and continued in 2022. Groundbreaking is planned for 2023 and the project will be finalized in 2025.



ROAD GRANTS

Council continued to fund the popular Road Grant program. In 2022, the program supported 191.3 km of private roads and 893 households with a budget of \$87,649 and an expenditure of \$86,073.



PUBLIC WATER TAP

The Public Water Tap system at the Community Centre now allows for public access year round.



MAPLE ISLAND THRIFT SHOP

The much loved Thrift Shop reopened this year after being closed for two years. A record \$16,250 of revenue was received and these proceeds were donated to a number of deserving local and regional initiatives as recommended by the Thrift Shop Committee.



WHITESTONE AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

2021 – 2022 School Year

With the relaxing of COVID protocols, the After School program resumed normal operations and, with at-capacity attendance. Thank you to Rebecca Green, our After School Coordinator for her dedication to the program and children.



Meet your 2022 to 2026 Members of Council (from left to right)

Councillor Janice Bray
Councillor Brian Woods
Mayor George Comrie
Councillor Scott Nash
Councillor Joe Lamb



SPECIAL AWARDS CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to our 2022 Senior of the Year-Edward Bennett Sr. and to Jan Hill, recipient of the 2022 Order of the Municipality of Whitestone



Honouring Jane Bottrell – 35 years of Volunteer Service

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

Council hosted the annual Volunteer and Staff Appreciation event for the first time since 2019. It was a full house at the Community Centre - over 100 people enjoyed dinner and a celebration of Volunteers, Staff and Council.

NEW STAFF

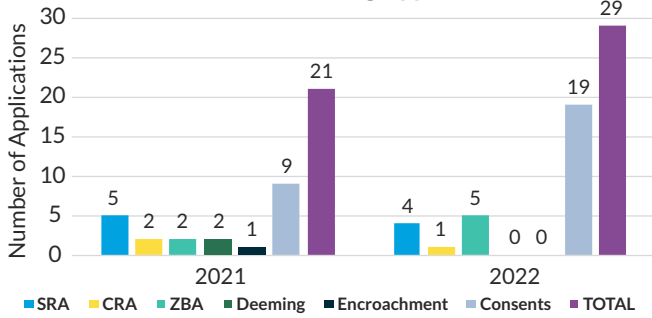
We welcomed Treasurer Maneesh Kulal, Chief Building Official Jamie Osborne and Municipal Office Assistant Sylvia Buckingham.



PLANNING SERVICES



2021 & 2022 Planning Applications



SRA – Shore Road Allowance
CRA – Concession Road Allowance
ZBA – Zoning By-law Amendment
Deeming – Deeming By-law
Consents – Managed by the Parry Sound Area Planning Board



PUBLIC WORKS – ROADS AND BRIDGES

Projects in 2022 included: Farley's Road, Lorimer Lake Road, Gibson Bay Road and Nelson Clelland Road – ditching, rock removal and gravel.



Canning Road (Karbehuwe to turn-around) and Whitestone Lake Road (Hwy 520 to turn-around) received a slurry seal overlay.

Maple Island Road from the cemetery to Shady Maple Trail: dig outs, removed high shoulder, pulverized surface treatment, grading and placing 100mm of fresh A gravel.

Church Street: Maintenance activities completed include ditching, rock removal in roadway and ditch line, grading and asphalt.

A new snow plow turn around was installed at Chur-Lee Road and Whitestone Lake Road.



NURSING STATION

In 2022, we saw the substantial completion of a major building expansion for our NPLC. The expansion (1,000 sq.ft. at grade and 1,000 below grade) includes three more patient care rooms, a meeting room and, a larger and more comfortable reception area. The construction below grade includes a small suite for visiting nurse practitioner students and interns or a visiting nurse practitioner to cover vacations.



RECREATION FACILITIES

Sun Shades were installed this year at the Whitestone Waterfront beach and park, and were well used all summer. A wonderful addition!



A dock was installed on Gooseneck Lake along with improvements to the boat launch and parking area. At Church Street, the launch was improved along with new decking on the pedestrian ramp leading to the public dock as well as swimming area upgrades. Farley's Road boat launch, Beach Road boat launch and Labrash Road boat launch received some much needed brushing, gravel and grading.

Indian Narrows Boat Launch - Maintenance was completed to the boat storage area, including an elevated platform for boat storage and a notice provided for the abandoned boats being moved to the Municipal Gravel Pit on Dobson Road.

Bennett's Landing benefited from grading and brushing operations. Accessible parking signage was updated.

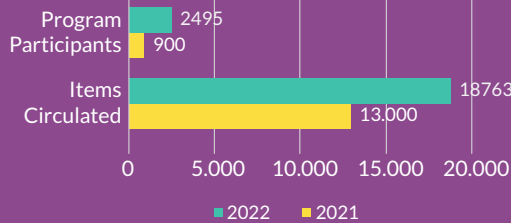
Maple Island Park (the Commons) received some attention with improvements to the park access including minor grading, improved lawn care and cleanup around the swings.



WHITESTONE LIBRARY AND TECHNOLOGY CENTRE

The Library works closely with the Municipality and the community, including the Whitestone McKellar Lions Club, Whitestone Recreation Committee, Dunchurch Agricultural Society, Georgian Bay Biosphere, Whitestone Parents Association, Fire Department and more to offer programming and activities for all ages.

The Public Works staff removed the old sidewalk and installed a safe, new sidewalk from the Library entrance stairs to Hwy 124.



ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES

Signage received from FOCA providing information about the Clean Boat law that requires boats to be cleaned before moving from one body of water to another, was installed at boat launches and landings as well as no littering signage.

Continued benthic monitoring - In 2022, the Whitestone, Wahwashkesh and Lorimer Lakes were studied and results posted on the Municipal website.

Whitestone is working on our Milestone 1 with ICECAP and attended meetings to develop action plans for climate change.

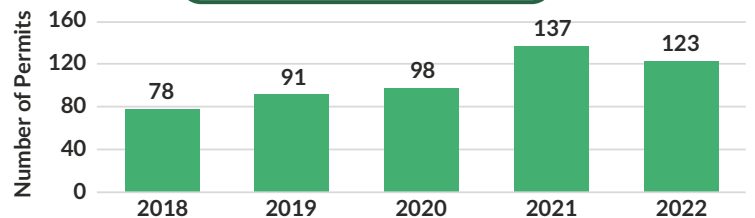
A 'Bio blitz' on Nesbitt Trail was hosted in June with Georgian Bay Biosphere.

Bio Blitz



BUILDING SERVICES

TOTAL PERMITS ISSUED



FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES

The number of permits issued in 2022 was 1226

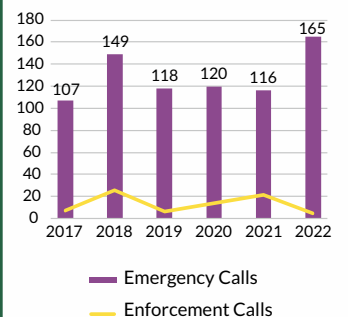
Five new recruits were added to the Fire and Rescue Service in 2022.

As in previous years, the majority (approximately 95%) of the emergency calls are medical response calls.

Under the direction of the Public Works Manager, the Ardbeg Helipad was upgraded in 2022 including gravel, frost tapers, brushing, grading and general cleanup. Lighting upgrades are required next for helicopters on approach.



Fire and Rescue Service Calls



CEMETERY SERVICES

The Municipality of Whitestone is proud of the three Municipal Cemeteries: Fairholme, Maple Island and Whitestone. Oversight, on behalf of the Municipality, is undertaken by the Cemetery Board and its members. We thank the Board members for their 'behind the scenes' work and for the respect and sensitivity of their approach to the families they assist during bereavement.