



# NEWSLETTER

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

## MESSAGE FROM COUNCIL

As we welcome back spring and look forward to summer in Whitestone, we find ourselves once again in "lockdown" mode with COVID-19 case counts and ICU admissions at all-time highs. While West Parry Sound District has so far escaped the worst of this scourge, we must remember that we are not yet immune to the virus. Please continue to observe all safety precautions and protocols. If we can hang in just a bit longer, we can look forward to returning to at least some degree of normalcy by late summer or early fall.

Your Council has just approved a 2021 budget that features a modest 1% tax increase, and includes provisions for several new capital projects to take place during the next two years. These include reconfiguring our existing Municipal Office space to address health, safety and productivity requirements for our staff, and expanding our Nursing Station to accommodate increased demand for the important services it delivers to residents of Whitestone and neighbouring communities. Recently, Council also agreed to contribute to the construction and operation of a new West Parry Sound Pool and Wellness Centre, consistent with Whitestone's population and tax base, and contingent on receipt of federal funding.

Finally, we have recently embarked on some new environmental stewardship initiatives designed to protect the quality of our lakes, rivers, forests, and farmlands. Stay tuned for more on the good things happening in Whitestone.

## YOUR COUNCIL

**Mayor George Comrie**  
705-773-8211

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

**Councillor Beth Gorham-Matthews**

705-774-1889

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**Councillor Joe Lamb**

905-333-5951

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**Councillor Joe McEwen**

705-774-8555

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**Councillor Brian Woods**

705-774-8492

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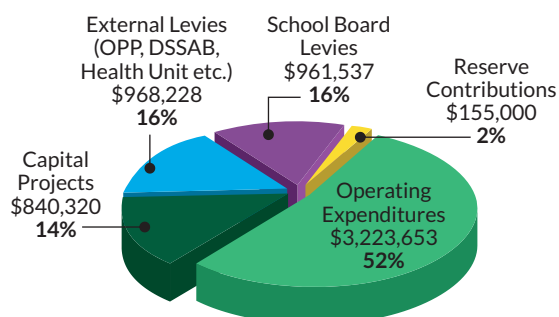
## YARD WASTE & BRUSH COUPON

Residents can bring yard waste and brush to Aulds Road Landfill (maximum eight (8) inches in diameter). Look for your one load FREE coupon enclosed with this newsletter.



## HOW YOUR 2021 TAXES WILL BE ALLOCATED

(based on adopted 2021 budget)



## BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

Highlights of the approved 2021 Operating and Capital Budget reflects decreased Mandatory Levies, Decreased Funding from Grants, Reduced Debt Financing and Reduced Capital Expenditures as compared to prior Year 2020.

Tax Rate increase of 1%, Education Rate unchanged from 2020, Increased ending Reserve Balance.

2021 Capital Initiatives: enhanced Gravel program, Boakview Bridge repairs, Whitestone Lake Road surface treatment, Canning & Balsam Road slurry seal, Library water system improvements, Park accessibility path and Electronic notice signs for the Community Centre and Library.

Asset Management Planning and Nursing Station Expansion Projects Underway.



## NURSE PRACTITIONER-LED CLINIC - 705-389-1951

On April 1, the Whitestone Nurse Practitioner-Led Clinic (NPLC) held a vaccination clinic at the Dunchurch Community Centre. Almost 170 local seniors (80 years and older) received their COVID-19 vaccination. The clinic was organized by the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit and the West Parry Sound Health Centre with assistance from volunteers, including our local EMS. More vaccination clinics are being planned. Whitestone Council in partnership with the West Parry Sound Health Centre (and with the assistance of several grant funding opportunities) is proposing for the expansion of the Nurse Practitioner-Led Clinic in 2022.

Design and planning is underway in support of this wonderful community asset to meet the needs of our community and surrounding communities with:

- Safer care, with more space improving infection prevention and control;
- Improved access to care with more patient rooms for scheduling our nurse practitioners, physiotherapist, social worker, mental health and addictions counsellor and family physician;
- Increased capacity to meet the demand for existing services; and
- Potential for new health and wellness services

Fundraising information coming soon to:

<https://www.whitestone.ca/p/whitestone-area-nursing-station>



## BROADBAND INTERNET SERVICE

Many Whitestone ratepayers have expressed concern about the unavailability of affordable internet service with adequate performance in our area. To assist our efforts to advocate on your behalf for improvements to broadband internet service, we are asking you to complete an internet performance test on your local internet service using the Canadian Internet Registration Authority (CIRA) speed test. This test will provide useful data on the typical upload and download speeds and latency you are experiencing, that will be compiled (anonymously) by CIRA and used by our provincial and federal governments to determine which areas are most underserved and deserving of support.

It is important that you use the CIRA speed test at <https://performance.cira.ca> and not some other (vendor-supplied) speed test, the results of which will not be made available to governments for planning purposes. Please be sure to do the test at your residence in Whitestone. Thanks in advance for helping us to address this critical infrastructure deficiency.



## ON-LINE FIRE PERMITS

SEASONAL FIRE PERMITS ARE NOW AVAILABLE ON-LINE!!

The on-line system is 24/7 and it's FREE! Seasonal Fire Permits are required under Open Air Burning By-Law, No. 37-2020. For burning brush, a Special Burning Permit is required from the Fire Department.

For further information please contact Fire Chief Bob Whitman at 705-774-1967



## SHORT-TERM RENTAL UNIT LICENSE

Did you know that Whitestone has a Short-Term Rental Unit License By-Law? If you are renting your cottage, you may be required to apply for a Rental Unit License as per By-Law No.20-2014. Details and an application form can be found on our municipal website at <https://whitestone.ca/p/rental-units> or email [paula.macri@whitestone.ca](mailto:paula.macri@whitestone.ca) for information

Council is currently reviewing the Rental Unit License By-Law to ensure it is up to date, enforceable and serves the needs of the Municipality



## WASTE MANAGEMENT

Thank you to everyone for helping to make the 'Clear Bag' initiative successful and thank you for participating in the Earth Day roadside clean-up challenge. We appreciate your efforts!

Please go to our website for information on Recycling, Landfill Fees and more. Connect with us on Facebook for Trash Talk Tuesday - a weekly post with important reminders and Waste Management information.



Starting May 22, 2021

### REGULAR SUMMER LANDFILL HOURS

52 York Street & 5 Aulds Road

Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday

9:00 a.m - 5:00 p.m

Sundays, Holiday Mondays

10:00 a.m - 6:00 p.m



## BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Building permits give legal permission to begin construction, subject to other required municipal approvals. Building permits ensure that the proposed construction will meet the minimum life and fire safety requirements contained within the Building Code.

If you are unsure whether your project requires a permit, please contact **CBO Tyler Irwin** at 705-389-2466 Ext.26 or [tyler.irwin@whitestone.ca](mailto:tyler.irwin@whitestone.ca)



## 2021 SWIMMING PROGRAM

The Whitestone McKellar Lions Club regrets to announce that free Red Cross Swimming lessons we traditionally sponsor will be cancelled for 2021. We wish everyone a safe and healthy summer.



## OFFICIAL PLAN AMENDMENT #2

The Municipality of Whitestone will be holding a Statutory Public Meeting pursuant to Section 34 of the Planning Act, on **Thursday, August 19th, 2021**. The two proposed amendments will address the following matters:

(i) trailers on vacant lots: Currently the Municipality prohibits placement of trailers or motorhomes on existing vacant lots. Council is proposing to allow placement of trailers or motorhomes for up to 30 days at least once in every calendar year.

(ii) building on vacant lots that do not front on waterfront or a year round road: Council is considering a new policy to allow for existing vacant lots to be eligible for a building permit. For further information, please visit our website or email [paula.macri@whitestone.ca](mailto:paula.macri@whitestone.ca).



## BY-LAW ENFORCEMENT

SPRING IS HERE and it's every property owner's responsibility to keep their property in a clean and tidy condition. For example:

- Removal of weeds or grass more than eight inches in height
- Removal of domestic waste such as trash, appliances etc.

A By-Law Enforcement Officer may inspect a yard and if deemed uncompliant with By-Law No. 34-2000 (as amended), a Notice or a Provincial Court Order may be issued to clean up the property. 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.45**.



## CEMETERY BOARD

A Cemetery Handbook is now available on the Municipal webpage, providing general guidance to Cemetery operations and interment.

All funeral and burial services must be conducted in compliance with the provincial COVID-19 restrictions in place at the time. A color coded chart and updates can be found on the Bereavement Authority of Ontario (BAO) website at <https://thebao.ca/covid-19-update-links/>

For specific questions or guidance contact the Whitestone Municipal office at 705-389-2466



## WHITESTONE PUBLIC LIBRARY & TECHNOLOGY CENTRE

As of April 16, 2021, Whitestone Public Library & Technology Centre is open for curbside pickup! Follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter @whitestonelib for updates and library news

Visit our website <https://whitestone.olsn.ca> to access thousands of free ebooks and audiobooks and to use our other online tools. If you need a library card or wish to have yours renewed, please email the library: [whitestonelib@vianet.ca](mailto:whitestonelib@vianet.ca).

Please consider helping the library reach its \$125,000 fundraising goal. To donate visit <https://whitestone.olsn.ca/make-a-donation>. Also, we are currently seeking donations of gently used puzzles, board games, and ice fishing gear to add to our collection. For more information, give us call at 705-389-3311 or send us an email.



## SENIOR OF THE YEAR

**Cathy Lamb - Whitestone Senior of the Year 2021.**

Cathy has spent countless hours volunteering on different projects/committees to help make Whitestone a better place. This includes her work on the Library Board, the Whitestone Waterfront Park Committee and as a member of the Citizens Pool and Wellness Centre Committee.



## INVASIVE SPECIES IN ONTARIO

PLEASE see our Municipal website and Facebook for invasive species action plans, helpful links and resources. We have partnered with the Georgian Bay biosphere to bring awareness to invasive species that have infiltrated our Lakes and Rivers.



## DUNCHURCH AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY



The Dunchurch Fall Fair - In Person - is cancelled for 2021 due to COVID-19. However, our theme is **SOWING SEEDS FOR THE FUTURE** and we are planning lots of virtual activities and contests to keep Whitestone busy. Prizes to be won, and fun for everyone, whether old or young!

Please check us out on our Facebook page: Dunchurch Fall Fair and on our website: [sites.google.com/site/dunchurchfallfair](https://sites.google.com/site/dunchurchfallfair)

Hope to see you there, VIRTUALLY!



## KNOX UNITED CHURCH

Worship Services continue every Sunday at 10 a.m. - order of service is available by hand delivery, email or Facebook.

For information please contact Reverends Charles or Ratna Arasaratnam at [cssratna12@hotmail.ca](mailto:cssratna12@hotmail.ca) or phone 705-389-2604. Stay safe and God Bless everyone.

## MAPLE ISLAND THRIFT SHOP

The Maple Island Thrift Shop will remain closed again this year due to COVID-19. We look forward to seeing everyone again in 2022. For more information, please contact Peggi Woehl at 705-389-3775 or Elizabeth Hamilton at 705-389-2207