

Heritage Committee



(Committee members took part in a workshop led by WSP.)



The Heritage Committee was formed to help shape and develop a heritage plan for the Town of Stellarton—with the goal to provide an interactive, yet educational experience within the Town. The members of this committee have a deep passion for Stellarton, and its expansive historic background and they have been an incredible asset to work with.

We are incredibly proud of the heritage that exists within Stellarton. We have heard many ideas, stories, and themes of how we can better recognize and celebrate our past. To help us streamline this process and organize these ideas, the Town secured WSP as a consultant to work alongside the Heritage Committee to form the Heritage Plan.

The first steps are underway in building this plan. Many of you filled out a survey to express what aspects of Stellarton history are most important to you. We are grateful to have this valuable resident input in our plan – it will help us provide a better outcome for you, the residents.

Business Advisory Committee

We are in the preliminary stages of forming a Business Advisory Committee in the Town of Stellarton!

This committee will be comprised of local business owners and identified staff and will be beneficial in connecting businesses with one another, as well as with the Town. The goal of this committee is to build better relationships within the business community, offer better communication between the Town and businesses, and further develop opportunities for businesses and residents alike.

Accessibility Committee

The Accessibility Committee has been hard at work developing a plan to increase accessibility in the Town. We have an obligation to be fully accessible by 2030 and this committee will help us navigate our top priorities.

We will begin by retrofitting Town Hall to ensure that it is fully accessible to every Stellarton resident, regardless of their ability. Then, we will begin on our five key areas: Built Environment, Information & Communications, Goods & Services, Transportation, and Employment.

Recently, the Accessibility Committee took a bus tour of Stellarton to further identify elements of the Built Environment that need to be considered. If there are facets of the Town that you feel could be more accessible, let us know!

“Stellarton is a thriving community that is safe, healthy, inclusive, and engaged with a robust economy that appeals to businesses, citizens, and visitors alike.”



(Committee members on the bus tour.)



STELLAR NEWS

SPIRIT | PEOPLE | PRIDE

Mayor's Message

Dear Friends and Neighbors;

As I sit and write, we are one week away from Christmas Day and anticipating our first significant snow fall of the season. The Winter solstice is only a few days away, the days will soon grow longer once again. Even as we enter into our cold winter season, the longer days are a reminder that the warmth and light of the sun has not forgotten us. On this solstice, we have an extra treat, a real Christmas Star, the first one in 800 years. The solar systems two largest planets, Jupiter and Saturn, will align and shine as one star in our Christmas sky. Very cool.

Council and I feel as though we received our Christmas present early, October 17th to be exact. We worked hard for four years, made tough decisions, and realized improvements to our town. Further to that, we really enjoyed representing you at the municipal level of government. That is why we are all so pleased to have four more years in office, to serve your interests. The council members have built up a trust and respect for each other over our first four years, we are all happy to continue to work together, for your benefit.

We are seeing growth in the Albion Business Park, great news for our town. Petro Canada and associated businesses are hoping to be open mid-February. Self-Storage units (across from Anchor Toyota) will be the next structure to go up. They have submitted their documents to our planning department, and a sign is up advertising their business. In addition, the Town of Stellarton donated a parcel of land in the park to the SPCA. They will build a modern facility that serves Pictou, Antigonish and Colchester Counties. It will draw people to our park and provide property tax revenue to the town. Also important to recognize, with a new top-notch facility, three counties in Northern Nova Scotia will feel the full benefit of the SPCA mission: “The SPCA is dedicated to the prevention of cruelty to animals and to the promotion of respect and humane care for animals. Its members are committed to providing humane leadership in animal advocacy, protection, education, and veterinary care.”

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IMPORTANT DATES

Jan. 7 - Police Commission

Jan. 11 - Council

Jan. 21 - Planning Advisory Committee

Jan. 25 - Committee of the Whole

Feb. 4 - Police Commission

Feb. 8 - Council

Feb. 15 - Family Day - TOWN HALL CLOSED

Feb. 18 - Planning Advisory Committee

Feb. 22 - Committee of the Whole

Mar. 4 - Police Commission

Mar. 8 - Council

Mar. 18 - Planning Advisory Committee

Mar. 22 - Committee of the Whole

We are very fortunate in Stellarton to have a significant commercial tax base. It is a big part of what makes us strong. It started with Sobeys over 100 years ago and continues today. Growing the park will grow the commercial base, ensuring we remain strong financially over the long term. Council's main goal is to hold the residential tax rate. Each year it seems there is more and more pressure to raise the tax rate. Councils' strategy is to grow the commercial tax base, in hopes the revenue will keep the pressure off the residential tax rate.

As winter passes and we move into spring, a new bus service will launch. It will be the first public transit in our town (and county) since 1996. The name is Pictou County Transit, a one-hour fixed route (loop) around Stellarton and New Glasgow. We called it Pictou County Transit in hopes other municipalities will join after the three-year pilot project is complete. The Province of Nova Scotia recognizes the importance of public transit in rural areas and are putting their money where their mouth is, investing \$200,000 to buy the bus, and another \$200,000 for the first year of operations. The Town of Stellarton's commitment is \$50,000 in year two and \$50,000 in year three of the pilot project. New Glasgow's contribution is essentially double that, the funding formula is based on population and kilometers of the route in each town.

We all know what kind of year 2020 was for our province, our country, and the world. Our region is doing better than most. Let us continue to stay safe, while recognizing 2021 will be a better year for all. It is always darkest just before the dawn, perhaps 2020 was the darkness and 2021 will bring us a new dawn.

Sincerely, *Danny*

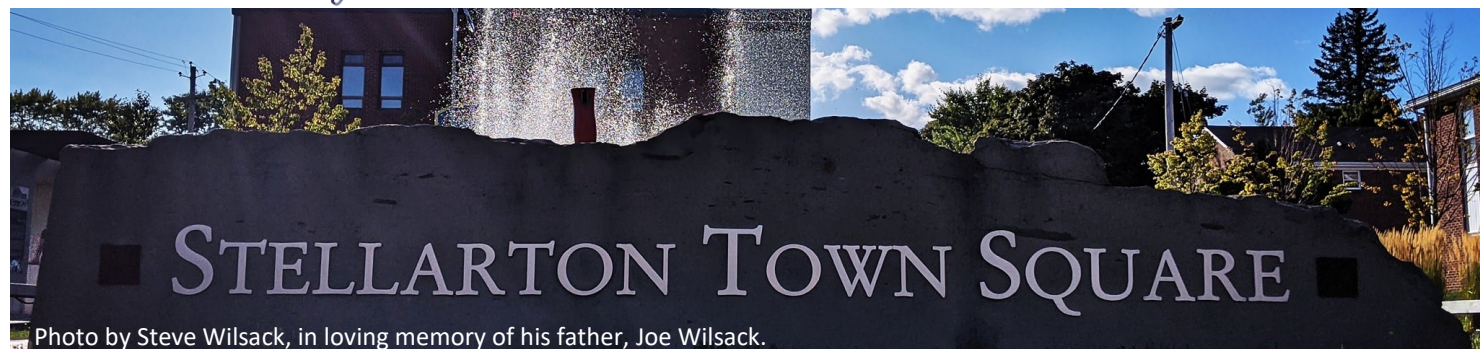


Photo by Steve Wilsack, in loving memory of his father, Joe Wilsack.

Town Hall Updates

COVID Update

This past year has been one for the history books.

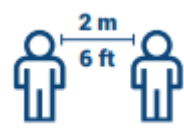
The COVID-19 pandemic caused us to shut the doors to Town Hall on March 16, 2020 and it has continued to impact our lives every day since. We're proud of the support throughout the community during these challenging times.

It is uncertain how this pandemic will continue to unfold as we navigate into the new year. We are fortunate that Nova Scotia has been relatively safe compared to other areas, but we are not in the clear yet.

We will continue to monitor the province's COVID-19 situation and provide updates on any changes within the Town. Continue to do your part and together we will ensure a safer community for all!



Wash hands often.



Ensure physical distancing.



Wear a non-medical face mask.



Disinfect high-touch surfaces often.



Stay home if you feel unwell.



Town of Stellarton



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Town of Stellarton

Volunteer Nominations

The Town of Stellarton is seeking nominations for the Francis "Bud" MacKay Memorial Award!

If you or your organization is aware of an outstanding volunteer who is a resident of the Town of Stellarton or volunteers for a Stellarton organization, please submit their name and accompanying nomination form. This form is available online at stellarton.ca or at Town Hall.

Traditionally, we would honour our Volunteer of the Year nominees at our annual volunteer reception in the spring. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our methods of celebrating have had to be altered.

At this stage, we are not certain of how we will fully celebrate our volunteers. We will continue to monitor public health and safety guidelines to ensure that however we end up celebrating is safe for everyone!



Communications Plan

At Council on December 14, 2020, Stellarton Town Council approved, in principle, a Communications Plan prepared by the Marketing and Communications Coordinator.

This plan was developed to increase and improve communications between the Town and the surrounding community; for residents, businesses, and tourists alike.

There are many different strategies and tactics outlined in this plan that will help achieve the goal of becoming fully transparent. These strategies connect priorities of the Town like accessibility and Stellarton heritage preservation and celebration.

To view this plan, visit our website:

<https://bit.ly/3asiKUy>



Town of Stellarton



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Town of Stellarton

Police Department

Winter Parking Bylaw

Please note: There is currently a parking ban in place within the Town of Stellarton.

You could be ticketed (and possibly towed) if you park on the streets at night between December 1, 2020, and April 15, 2021.

The winter parking bylaw prohibits parking on roadways from 1:00am to 7:00am in the Town of Stellarton so that vehicles do not interfere with snow removal.

Since stormy weather can arrive unexpectedly, it is important to keep the streets clear every night. Fines can be laid whether there is snow on the ground or not, however towing is typically only done when necessary.

Be advised that vehicles may be towed during the day if they are left where they interfere with snow removal.



Stellarton Heritage Corner

Mount Rundell

"The residence of the Manager of the General Mining Association, and later the Halifax Company."



Date: ca. 1880

Credit: Museum of Industry

*Have a historic photo you want in the next newsletter?
Send it and your story to paige.clarke@stellarton.ca