



The Stellarton Memorial Rink

The Stellarton Memorial Rink served the community extremely well since the doors were opened in 1947. The Stellarton Royals officially opened the building by hosting a hockey game and it was also the unveiling of the plaque "In Loving Memory of Stellarton's brave young men who made the supreme sacrifice for the cause of Freedom". Their memory will not be lost, nor will the cherished memories of hockey brawls, homecoming dances, first kisses behind the stands, bingo games, concerts, and of course those high school hockey games where you couldn't get near the place on a Friday night.

Elite hockey players such as Leo Fahey, Frank Sim, Stan MacDougall, Porgy MacDougall, Jimmy MacDonald and Dougie Davidson put on a show every time they glided over the ice.

Another highlight for the rink was when we hosted the 1948 Olympic Figure Skating Champion Barbara Ann Scott King. It was said the only suitable place for her to skate was at the Stellarton Memorial Rink.

Boxing was another huge event that always drew a crowd. Fighters like Jackie Hayden, Doug Odo and Gary Simon made Stellarton a hub for the boxing community.

There is no doubt "the Rink" has made an impact on our community. To have such a community rink in the heart of our town allowed many children to run down to the rink for an afternoon skate. As the years went on and the stands got quieter and quieter, the looming costs to upgrade proved to be too much for the tax payers of Stellarton. Throughout the process of closing the rink doors, the passion many people in our community have for the rink was evident. While the physical structure will be not be there to re-live those cherished memories, the recollections of the days gone by will be forever in our hearts and minds. The Town of Stellarton is currently working on a Heritage Plan, which will include respectfully memorializing the history of our rink.

Thank you, Stellarton Memorial Rink, for serving our community proudly for 72 years.



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



STELLAR NEWS

SPIRIT | PEOPLE | PRIDE

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IMPORTANT DATES

Jul. 2 - Police Commission

Jul. 13 - Council

Jul. 15 - Planning Advisory Committee

Jul. 27 - Committee of the Whole

Sept. 3 - Police Commission

Sept. 8 - Nomination Day for Municipal Election Candidates

Sept. 14 - Council

Sept. 17 - Planning Advisory Committee

Sept. 28 - Committee of the Whole

Mayor's Message

Dear Friends and Neighbors;

Another Pictou County summer is here. We hope it brings calm and warmth to the year of 2020. The year, to date, has been challenging in many ways for the people of Nova Scotia. We will endure. Reconnecting with



nature and people, both hallmarks of summer, is just what the doctor ordered. We will find innovative ways to reconnect, in smaller groups, as health and safety remains top of mind.

Did you know why the Museum of Industry was built in Stellarton? I didn't, until I became Mayor. It is located on the site of the birthplace of the Industrial Revolution in British North America. The General Mining Association, an English Coal Mining Company, set up shop there in 1827. They extracted coal, utilized steam power, built a foundry and laid a railway. It was in these early years that Albion Mines, later known as the Town of Stellarton, established itself as the birthplace of the Industrial Revolution in British North America.

That is just the beginning of the rich history of our town. In order to showcase our past, for residents and tourists alike, the town has formed a Heritage Committee. We are pursuing a partnership with the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA), in hopes of developing a "Heritage Plan" that will detail exactly how Stellarton can capitalize upon our history, with a "Heritage Tour" of town. It will be a fun, educational piece for locals and a draw for tourists. We will align our plan with the Museum of Industry's offerings and develop it in such a way as to benefit businesses in town as much as possible.

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On a sad note, we are saying goodbye to the Stellarton Memorial Rink this summer. It served our town and the larger community for 72 years. It is emotional to say goodbye. There are so many memories that will never leave us. We must move forward in a manner that is best for our town. The Stellarton Memorial Rink is a big part of our heritage. Permanently ceasing operations was the most difficult decision this council has made. We will honour the rink in our Heritage Plan.

Stellarton not only has a rich history, but a promising future as well. Your council is making decisions that respect the past, while contributing to a better tomorrow, for all residents.

Sincerely;

Danny

Town Hall Updates

2020 Municipal Election



Municipal Elections will take place in Nova Scotia on October 17, 2020. Nomination day for candidates is September 8, 2020, but appointments can be made a week leading up to this date.

Returning Officer for the Town of Stellarton is Josephine MacDonald. She can be reached by calling 902-485-2248 or by emailing

The Town of Stellarton has decided that only telephone and electronic votes will be cast for the 2020 fall municipal elections.

Municipal elections in Nova Scotia are scheduled to take place on October 17, 2020. With the uncertainties surrounding COVID-19, the risk of a second wave, and the likelihood that strict restrictions will still be in place, Stellarton councillors voted 3:1 in favour of eliminating paper ballot votes for the 2020 year.

Some concerns were expressed by councillors that citizens may not have the ability to easily vote if they're required to utilize technology. However, there will be an accessible polling station set up, location to be determined, to help those that may need assistance place a secure and private vote.

The Town would like to emphasize that this decision is strictly for the 2020 election. The health and safety of Stellarton residents is the highest priority. During these challenging times, eliminating in-person paper ballots is the safest way to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 while still holding elections.

More information on telephone electronic voting will be released soon as details become available.

Virtual Homecoming

Calling all past Homecoming attendees!

Although we can't celebrate Homecoming the traditional Stellarton way, we still want to spread the love and fun that comes with our summer celebrations. We're putting together a video of Homecoming throughout the years and we need your help!

If you have pictures, videos, or even news clippings from past Homecoming events, we'd like to incorporate them into this video. If you'd like to send them along, you can do so using one of these methods:

1. Send digital copies directly through the Town of Stellarton Facebook page using the "Send Message" button. (Or through our Twitter or Instagram pages.)
2. Email digital copies to: paige.clarke@stellarton.ca
3. Bring hard copies directly to Town Hall reception.
 - If you choose to bring in hard copies, please ensure that you follow all COVID-19 safety precautions when visiting Town Hall.
 - Please put all hard copies into one envelope/bag when dropping off.
 - Ensure that you include contact information so that we can contact you to pick up your originals.



Administration

Low Income Property Tax Exemption

The Town of Stellarton has approved the low income property tax exemption for the 2020-2021 fiscal year. If your household income is \$25,786 or less, you are eligible for a \$200 rebate on your final property tax bill. This exemption will be applied to your tax account during the final property tax billing in September 2020. You must provide a copy of your 2019 Notice of Assessment received from the Canada Revenue Agency as proof of income. Forms are available by contacting the Town office at 902-752-2114 or from the Town of Stellarton website at: www.stellarton.ca.

Tax Billing

Property taxes levied by the Town of Stellarton are billed in instalments as follows: 50% of the assessed taxes are billed on April 1st of each year due in June. The remainder of the current year tax levy is billed on September 1st and due in November.

Tax Financing Policy

The Town of Stellarton is offering a one-time property tax financing program for owners of residential and commercial properties negatively affected by the COVID-19 global pandemic.

You qualify if you are the owner of:

- A residential property that is your primary residence and you have experienced a significant reduction in income due to the State of Emergency;
- A taxable commercial properties (shopping, office,) who have experienced financial hardship through loss of revenue related to the State of Emergency;
- A property that is used for tourist accommodations (e.g., hotels, motels, bed and breakfasts) and you are tourism operator registered under the Tourist Accommodations Registration Act.

Residents who believe they are eligible can apply through an online form at:

<https://nspropertytaxprogram.ca/>

Police Department

Bike Safety

Warmer weather is finally here, keep yourself and your community safe with these tips!

- Check your bike to make sure brakes, reflectors and lights are in working order.
- Always wear a helmet.
- Ride on the right side of the road, in the same direction as traffic.
- Ride in single file.
- Obey all road signs and traffic signals.
- Signal your intentions before turning or stopping.
- Be visible and stay alert for vehicles and cyclists.



Planning & Development

Construction season is quickly approaching! Do you need a permit?

Prior to the start of construction, the owner of a property is responsible for obtaining a permit. A building and/or development permit is required for new building construction, structural modifications, demolition, building relocation, change of occupancy or use, building repairs or renovations, interior alterations, accessory buildings greater than 20m² (215ft²), decks and stairs, and roof enclosures.

A permit is not required for cosmetic repairs such as paint, replacing roofing unless the structure is altered, replacing siding, and replacing windows and doors in existing openings unless the structure is altered.

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