



# STELLAR NEWS

SPIRIT | PEOPLE | PRIDE

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## IMPORTANT DATES

**Jul. 12 - Council**

**Jul. 13 - Heritage Committee**

**Jul. 20 - Accessibility Committee**

**Jul. 21 - Planning Advisory Committee**

**Jul. 26 - Committee of the Whole**

**Sept. 9 - Police Commission**

**Sept. 13 - Council**

**Sept. 14 - Heritage Committee**

**Sept. 15 - Planning Advisory Committee**

**Sept. 27 - Committee of the Whole**

**Sept. 28—Accessibility Committee**

## Mayor's Message

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

The summer weather is upon us, sunshine and warm air. Nova Scotian communities are opening back up, hopefully the reduction in COVID-19 restrictions and cases is a sign the pandemic is nearing its end.

The pandemic did not stop your council and staff team from accomplishing many goals over the last 16-months. We continued to work hard on your behalf, be it at Town Hall or through virtual meetings. The effort put forth did not diminish. And the results prove it. Let me explain:

The Water Treatment Plant (WTP) has improved processes and procedures. As a result, the product (our water) is now improved and more consistent. Before I go any further, we still have a real taste and odor issue that starts in June and ends when the hot weather does. This is due to the presence of compounds in the East River. We are identifying which compounds are causing the issue. For decades it was assumed gaspereau was the culprit, our testing has determined that is not the cause of the poor taste and smell. The compounds 2-MIB and Geosmin appear to be the issue from our testing results to date. Our Town Engineer is researching solutions that we hope will be affordable. Truth be told, as long as we draw water from the East River, my belief is we will have at least seasonal water issues. Our water source is fragile and continues year over year to decline in quantity and quality during the summer months. That being said, we are doing our best to deliver a high-quality product to your taps. We revamped personnel and the organizational chart at the WTP to realize improvements. Andy Hartery now leads the team; Council and the Engineer are very impressed with the turn around at our WTP because of Andy's leadership. He has a strong team with Brad Green and Joe Landry. The transition and revamp happened in late 2020. During that time, several members of our Public Works Team stepped up to keep our water safe until new hiring was complete. Vince Conway, Lee Caldwell, and Jarret Campbell deserve our thanks for going above and beyond their regular job description.

During the pandemic, we formed a Heritage Committee, developed a Heritage Plan, put work in on a Heritage Room (previous Dream Candy location), and we plan in the near future on hiring an "Historian Laureate", a person who can showcase and promote our heritage. They will receive an annual honorarium of \$2,000. If you or someone you know may be a good fit, keep an eye out for the posting!

An Accessibility Committee was struck in early 2020 and we have been developing and implementing a plan well before the legislated provincial



*Continued on page 2 .....*

deadlines in 2022. They offered an extension for some requirements, because of COVID-19, but we did not need the extra time. We are ahead of the game and our number one priority is making the Town Hall accessible – with an elevator. We are researching grant opportunities, with the help of our MP Sean Fraser and MLA Pat Dunn, as revamping a 91-year-old building is not cheap, especially since it has never been modernized. The wiring needs to be updated, along with most every other aspect of the building.

The Albion Business Park continues to grow. There is a development proposal for council's consideration at our July meeting, a new building and business behind the Petro Canada, where you see U-Haul trucks parked now. Also, we plan to announce a major tenant addition to our park. The i's are being dotted, and the t's crossed, as I write. It is a public body that should help with the Albion Business Park's continued growth.

Last but certainly not least, I want to highlight the Stellarton Police Service. Council is officially commending them at our next meeting for their recent work reducing the number of houses in our town that entire neighborhoods complain about. We closed one on St. Bernard Street that had a lot of suspected drug activity, it was demolished and has been replaced with new housing. We closed one on Hudson Street that was also deemed as unsafe, and the structure was demolished. A house on MacKay Street ceased illegal activities, and our Stellarton Police Service initiated and participated in a major bust of a house within 25 meters of the GR Saunders property. There is still work to do, but the message is getting out there, we will do our best to shut them down. Your Council, and your Police Service, have no patience for those who destroy the peace of a neighborhood.

Pandemic or not, we continue to work and achieve our goals, making Stellarton an even better place to live. We are among the very top towns in our province in most any category or ranking, and your council aims to keep it that way.

Enjoy your summer!

*Danny*

## ***Bike Safety***

With the warm weather now upon us, Stellarton Police would like to remind citizens of the rules of the road:

- Cyclists of all ages must wear a helmet.
- Every bicycle must have a bell or horn.
- Cyclists must use hand signals for intention to turn and when making lane changes.
- When cycling 30 minutes before sunset or 30 minutes after sunrise, you must have a front white light and a rear red light or reflector.
- Cyclists may not ride on the sidewalk or crosswalks while riding unless they are aged 16 or under.
- Cyclists must follow the same laws as motor vehicles, unless the law has made specific exemptions.

More info available: <https://bicycle.ns.ca/>

## ***Burn By-Law***

The Stellarton Fire Department have received reports of fires at residential properties where owners were unaware of the Town's existing Fire Burning By-Law. This by-law is in place to help keep residents, properties, and the general public safer from fire-related incidents.

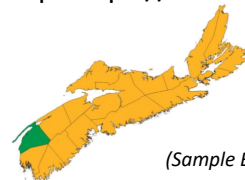
This by-law details what can and cannot be burned, all precautions required to have a fire, and the consequences of not adhering to the by-law.

Familiarize yourself with Stellarton's Burn By-Law and check Nova Scotia's Burn Restrictions map before planning to hold a fire. The province's burn safe map is updated daily at 2:00pm.

Help us keep Stellarton safe!

For full by-law: <https://bit.ly/2UiGZyA>

NS Burn Safe Map: <https://novascotia.ca/burnsafe/>



(Sample Burn Safe Map)



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## Community & Recreation

### Summer Day Camp

After a long year of challenges and tight restrictions, we're very excited to be able to offer an adapted day camp this year!

Given the unpredictability of the COVID-19 pandemic, plans may be required to be altered further as we progress through the summer. However, our Day Camp Team have made preparations to ensure a safe and fun camp experience for everyone—even if unexpected changes arise.

All children between 5-12 years of age that are currently in school are invited to take part. The cost is \$50/child, \$45/child for two in the same household, and \$40/child for three in the same household.

The first three weeks of day camp have already been filled, but families can still register for Weeks 4-8!

Registration will take place July 12 from 6-8pm and July 13 from 6-7pm. There are limited spaces available, so a priority will be given to Stellarton residents. Registration forms can be found on our



(Left to Right: Nick MacInnis, Jenna Rorison, Krista Cameron, Madison Sample)

2021 Camp Counsellors

## Administration

### Low Income Property Tax Exemption

The Town of Stellarton has approved the low income property tax exemption for the 2021-2022 fiscal year. If your household income is \$25,935 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 2021. You must provide a copy of your 2020 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](http://www.stellarton.ca).

### Tax Billing

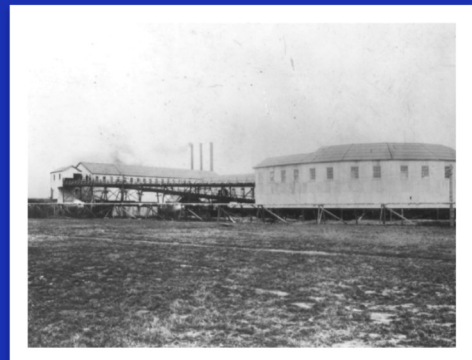
Property taxes levied by the Town of Stellarton are billed in instalments as follows: 50% of the assessed taxes are billed on April 1st of each year due in June. The remainder of the current year tax levy is billed on September 1st and due in November.

## Stellarton Heritage Corner

### Rear of the Albion Mines

"The view from the McGregor Mine, Stellarton. Various surface buildings are shown."

Date: ca. 1920



Credit: Museum of Industry

\*Have a historic photo you want in the next newsletter?  
Send it and your story to [paige.clarke@stellarton.ca](mailto:paige.clarke@stellarton.ca)

## Water Update

Stellarton residents may currently notice an odor/taste in the drinking water.

The water has been tested and the taste/odor is caused by two naturally-occurring compounds in surface waters called Geosmin and 2-MIB. They produce an earthy odor/taste and are also present in certain foods such as beets, spinach and mushrooms. These compounds are not harmful to residents.

The Town is currently performing testing on this issue to determine the best form of treatment.

For more information: <https://bit.ly/3xCB1XH>

## Water Contingency By-Law

As per By-Law #55 (East River Low Flow Contingency), we will closely be monitoring the Town's water levels as we navigate through the warmer months of 2021. Last year, we saw a decrease in water usage by 34% thanks to your help!

It's anticipated that these stages will come into effect during the summer months. The Town has several ways to inform residents of these changes: Via the Town app, social media, and on the Town's website, through a designated phone line, with the use of signage out front of Town Hall, and the local radio stations.

Water Line: 902-752-6168 Web: <https://bit.ly/3c0zBhM>

## Volunteer Lead Monitoring Program

Health Canada has developed the "Guidance on Controlling Corrosion in Drinking Water Distribution Systems". This requires all municipalities to regularly sample and test private taps within their respective homes for lead.

These requirements place an emphasis on the testing of private plumbing, which has a possibility of containing lead. Older homes may have been built with lead service lines or they may contain lead-based solder, as this was previously acceptable for private plumbing.

### How is the water tested?

Volunteers will be contacted by the Town and sample bottles will be delivered to the residence by Town staff. The homeowner will simply fill the sample bottle and hand it back to the staff member. The samples will then be shipped to a certified lab for analysis.

### When will the sampling take place?

The samples will occur over the summer months.

### What if lead is found in samples taken from my home?

If lead is found in a sample taken from your home or business you can expect the following:

- The Town will notify the property owner of the lead exceedance results.
- The Town may be required to do more thorough testing.

### Can everyone participate?

The Town is required to sample 40 residential households. If more than 40 households volunteer, staff will reduce the list to the 40 that will best represent all areas of Town. To volunteer for this program, please contact the Town Office at (902) 752-2114 between the hours of 8:30am-4:30pm.

