

SH HOMECOMING SCHEDULE 2023



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Town of Stellarton

WEDNESDAY, JULY 26

First Presbyterian Church | Coffee Party | 10:00

Albion Ball Field | Family Water Day | 11:00

Allan Park | Mayor's Garden Party | 7:00

ft. EB Anderson & the Resolutes

THURSDAY, JULY 27

Town Square | Kids Foam Party | 11:00

RCAF Club | Seniors' Lunch | 11:00

Abercrombie Golf Club | RCAF Golf Tournament | 1:00

Sobeys Sport Fields | Firefighters' Competition | 6:00

Sample Ball Fields | Comedy Out of Left Field | 8:00

in support of Pictou County Challenger Baseball

RCAF Club | Trivia Night | 8:30

FRIDAY, JULY 28

Stellarton Legion | Fish & Chip Takeout Dinner | 12:00

Foord St | Kids Parade, Car Show & Street Party | 6:30

ft. Out on the Weekend

Albion Ball Field | Albion Baseball Tournament Begins | 7:30

Stellarton Legion | Dance | 8:00

ft. Eddie Coffey & the Grey Foggy Dew'o

SATURDAY, JULY 29

Fire Hall | Pancake Breakfast | 7:00

First Presbyterian Church | Yard Sale | 8:00

Albion Ball Field | Albion Baseball Tournament Continues | 10:00

Foster Ave Park | Washer Toss Tournament | 11:00

Allan Park | Family Fun Day | 11:00

RCAF Club | RCAF Pork Chop BBQ | 3:30

Town Hall Parking Lot | Dance & Beer Garden (19+) | 9:00

ft. Next Exit | Neon Soul Machine

SUNDAY, JULY 30

Our Lady of Lourdes | Cemetery Mass | 9:00

Sharon St John United | Ecumenical Service | 11:15

Albion Ball Field | Albion Baseball Tournament Continues | 12:00

Allan Park | Concert in the Park | 1:00

ft. Heather Cameron & Kenny Stewart

Heritage Room | Open House & Reception with Council | 5:00

Sobeys Sport Fields | Final Concert | 8:00

ft. Rabbit Town

Sobeys Sport Fields | Fireworks | 10:00



STELLAR NEWS

SPIRIT | PEOPLE | PRIDE

CONTACT US

Mayor, Danny MacGillivray

(902) 759-6840

Deputy Mayor, Bryan Knight (Ward 1)

(902) 755-2904

Councillor, Simon Lawand (Ward 1)

(902) 752-4766

Councillor, Susan Campbell (Ward 2)

(902) 752-2873

Councillor, Garry Pentz (Ward 2)

(902) 752-3137

Chief Administrative Officer, Susan Higdon

(902) 752-2114

Town Engineer, Blaine Murray

(902) 752-2946

Marketing & Communications, Paige Draper

(902) 752-2114

Active Living Coordinator, Noah Delorey

(902) 752-2114

Fire Chief, Mike O'Sullivan

(902) 754-6999

Chief of Police, Mark Hobeck

(902) 752-6160

Planning Dept, Roland Burek

(902) 752-4476

IMPORTANT DATES

Jul. 3: ADMIN OFFICE CLOSED

Jul. 6: Police Commission

Jul. 10: Council

Jul. 24: Committee of the Whole

Jul. 26-30: Homecoming Week

Aug. 7: Natal Day—ADMIN OFFICE CLOSED

Sept. : Labor Day—ADMIN OFFICE CLOSED

Sept. 7: Police Commission

Sept. 11: Council

Sept. 25: Committee of the Whole

Sept. 30: National Day for Truth

and Reconciliation

Mayor's Message

Dear Friends and Neighbours:

The Summer of 2023 is upon us. Warm weather, beautiful flower displays, excitement for the approach of Homecoming, are but a few signs of a Stellarton summer.

Homecoming will run this year from July 26-30. It kicks off with the Mayor's Garden Party Wednesday evening at Allan Park. A perfect venue to begin four days of celebrating everything 'Stellarton'. Homecoming will wrap up Sunday night at the soccer fields with what promises to be another impressive fireworks show. Keep an eye out, we added some new events and are opening our Heritage Room (top floor of Library building, former Dream Candy space) to the public. Staff have been working diligently on the Heritage Room, Paige Draper (Marketing and Communications), and the Public Works Team all contributed to the completion of the room. Our Heritage Committee provided direction and oversight. The committee is comprised of myself, Deputy Mayor Bryan Knight, Judith Hoegg Ryan, Gary Stewart, Denise Taylor, Ed Stewart, Craig MacDonald, Dave Freckelton, and Paula Cunningham.

Communities in Bloom (CIB) are once again beautifying Stellarton. All their volunteer work really highlights our quaint little town. The flowers are amazing, year after year. We hire summer students to plant, water and weed. CIB oversees the work of the students to ensure all flower beds and pots are kept up and displayed prominently. Every summer, I am inundated with compliments about how great our town looks. It's a nice feeling to drive down Foord Street and appreciate the work of our volunteers and staff. We have the most vibrant main street in Pictou County. The current CIB committee consists of several members who will soon step down. They have accumulated decades of serving Stellarton in this manner and are ready to pass the torch. If anyone is interested, please reach out to CIB Chair Jane Taylor, jane.taylor@eastlink.ca or 902-752-2114. My partner and I joined last year and find the experience thoroughly enjoyable. The meetings are once a month and last about an hour. The time passes quickly due to interesting agenda items, tasty tea/treats, and good company. The committee really know their stuff and enjoy sharing their vast horticultural knowledge. Our own property has seen much improvement since we became members of CIB. If we do not find new members, the Town will have to add a significant new expense of a staff position, to replace the work of this volunteer group.



Town of Stellarton



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Water meter installation is almost complete. Thank you for your cooperation with the installations, the project has gone very well to date. Neptune is the company we contracted to carry out the project, with significant help from Public Works (almost 50% of our staff daily). We are the last town in Nova Scotia to install water meters. The main reason is environmental, the East River historically gets dangerously low in the summer months, the Nova Scotia Department of Environment is watching us closely, we did the responsible thing and installed meters, which should reduce consumption approximately 25%. A significant savings for our precious East River. She will appreciate the reduced draw, and so will all the living organisms, such as fish, that depend on her for their survival.

Our Water Rate Study was approved. The last study (and rate change) was in 2006. Our financial water reserves have dwindled significantly over the last few years, this trend cannot continue, or our Water Utility will soon be out of funds. Thus, we applied for a Water Rate Study with the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board (NSUARB). After public consultation, the NSUARB agreed the best course of action was to raise the current flat rates \$5 per month in year 1, and another \$5 a month in year 2, by year 3 billing will be based on meters and bills can controlled by monitoring consumption. The meters will be active a full year before metered billing begins, giving residents the time to find leaks and fix them. The Town will alert you if they suspect a leak based on meter information. The experts tell us toilets are the main culprit for lost water due to leakage.

Town Council, after much deliberation, passed a balanced budget, that includes a tax rate increase, the first since 1997. As with the Water Utility, the Town’s General reserves have been brought down in the last few budget cycles, to avoid a tax increase. We cannot continue this practice, doing so would jeopardize our towns strong financial position. We implemented cost savings measures in the new budget, but a tax increase was still needed, there was no fat left to trim. Your council did not want this, but felt it was our fiduciary duty to do so. Our consolidated residential tax will still be the lowest in Pictou County (we have no user fees, others do), and our commercial rate will continue to best New Glasgow’s. If your house is appraised at \$100,000, your residential tax bill will increase \$60 annually. If you’re a business, you will see an additional \$150 charge annually on \$100,000 of assessment. Since we did not pass the budget until June, you will see pay the full 2023 increase on October’s tax bill. By 2024, the increase will be spread evenly over the two billing periods.

We thank you for your contribution to Stellarton. It is our collective effort that raises us to what is commonly referred to as the best town in Pictou County. I hear it from non-residents frequently. People from across the county agree with what we have always known, that as Stellartonian, we have it pretty good.

Danny

Town Hall Updates

2023-2024 Budget

The 2023-2024 budget was approved at the Town Council meeting held on June 12. The General Operating Budget was approved at \$9,163,730; and the Capital Budget was approved at \$1,493,700. The tax rate for residential/resource is \$1.88 per \$100 of residential assessment, and \$4.30 per \$100 of commercial assessment. The remainder of the current year tax levy will be billed in September and due in November.



Low Income Property Tax Exemption

The Town of Stellarton has approved the low income property tax exemption for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. If your household income is \$28,429 or less, you are eligible for a \$300 rebate on your final property tax bill. This exemption will be applied to your tax account during the final property tax billing in September 2023. You must provide a copy of your 2022 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.

Swimming Pool Regulations

Owners of swimming pools are reminded that permits are required for new pools. As per the Common Land Use By-law, adopted in 2016 along with the other four towns in Pictou County, it is critical that swimming pools be fenced to ensure safety, and prevent young children from entering the pool area. Specifically, the Land Use By-law states:

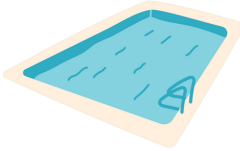
Swimming Pool means a permanent or portable water-filled Structure, above ground or in-ground, with a minimum depth of 0.6 metres (2 feet) below surrounding land level, used for swimming and bathing, and does not include Reflecting Pools or other Landscaping features, and is not an Accessory Structure.

21.7. Outdoor Swimming Pools and Reflecting Pools

Swimming Pools shall comply with the requirements of the Swimming Pool By-Law for the applicable Town. In addition, no Development Permit shall be issued for an outdoor Swimming Pool unless the pool conforms to the following requirements:

- a. A Swimming Pool, or the Yard in which it is located, shall be enclosed by a Fence or combination of Buildings and Fences, and for in-ground Swimming Pools, the Fence shall be situate no closer than 1.2 metres (4 feet) from the inside edge of the Swimming Pool;
- b. The enclosure shall:
 - i. completely enclose the Swimming Pool or Yard in which it is situate;
 - ii. create a barrier a minimum of 1.5 metres (5 feet) from the ground to the top of the Fence, gate, or enclosing Structure; and
 - iii. have no opening greater than 10 cm (4 inches) in any part of the Fence, gate, or enclosing Structure;
- c. Swimming Pools shall comply with the Setback requirements per section 21.25 and section 21.26 of this By-Law as well as Table 2: Permitted Encroachments in Yards;
- d. A Swimming Pool shall not be permitted in a required Front Yard in residential Zones;
- e. In Commercial, Institutional (I) or Recreation (P) Zones, the minimum Setback from any Lot line shall be 6.1 metres (20 feet), measured from the property line to the inside edge of the Swimming Pool; and
- f. Unobstructed public access to a Swimming Pool is not permitted, and access shall be limited via:
 - i. a self-closing and self-latching gate a minimum of 1.5 metres (5 feet) in height;

- ii. a main enclosing or partially-enclosing Building; or
- iii. an Accessory enclosing or partially-enclosing Building provided unobstructed access through the Structure is not permitted.



These requirements are in place to ensure the safety of all residents, but especially children. Contact Roland Burek, Acting Planner/Development Officer, at Roland.Burek@trenton.ca, or 902-752-4476, should you have any questions.

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)

Stellarton Heritage Corner

Heritage Room: July 30 Reception



(Artifacts on display in the Heritage Room)

On July 30 from 5-7pm, join Council in the new Heritage Room—located on the top floor above the library—for a Homecoming Reception!