



# STELLAR NEWS

SPIRIT | PEOPLE | PRIDE

## CONTACTUS

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(902) 759-6840
- Deputy Mayor, Bryan Knight (Ward 1)  
(902) 396-7488
- Councillor, Susan Campbell (Ward 2)  
(902) 752-2873
- Councillor, Simon Lawand (Ward 1)  
(902) 752-4766
- Councillor, Garry Pentz (Ward 2)  
(902) 752-3137
- Town Clerk, Susan Higdon  
(902) 752-2114
- Town Engineer, Blaine Murray  
(902) 752-2946
- Community Development & Recreation  
Director , Paul Corbin  
(902) 752-8944
- Fire Chief, Dwight Campbell  
(902) 759-6662
- Chief of Police, Mark Hobeck  
(902) 752-6160
- Planning Dept, Roland Burek & Emily  
Jones (902) 752-5311

## IMPORTANT DATES

- OCT 3 -** Police Commission
- OCT 3 -** Police Chief Meet and Greet
- OCT 14 -** Thanksgiving  
(Administration Office Closed)
- OCT 15 -** Council
- OCT 28 -** Committee of the Whole
- NOV 7 -** Police Commission
- NOV 11 -** Remembrance Day  
(Administration Office Closed)
- NOV 12 -** Council
- NOV 25 -** Committee of the Whole
- NOV 29 -** Christmas Tree Lighting
- DEC 5 -** Police Commission
- DEC 09 -** Council
- DEC 24 (noon) - JAN 2**  
(Administration Office Closed)

## Mayor's Message

Dear Friends and Neighbors;

The leaves are beginning to show their bright fall colors, and a hurricane has passed, both strong indications that the beautiful autumn season has fully arrived in northeastern Nova Scotia. It is a time of moderate temperatures and crisp, clean air.



September 30<sup>th</sup> is the first day on the job for our new Chief of Police. Mark Hobeck comes with over 30 years of experience in the policing world. He started on the front lines with Halifax Regional Police, advanced through the ranks to Staff Sergeant, and for the past few years has been with the Department of Justice performing audits on Police Services across Nova Scotia. Council was very pleased to land Mark as Chief of Police, we feel as though we once again struck gold filling a senior management role for the town.

Your current council has recruited new individuals for the top three senior management positions within the Town's staff team. Susan Higdon, Town Clerk, hired in February 2018. Blaine Murray, Town Engineer, hired July 2017. Now, Mark Hobeck, as Chief of Police. Council feels confident in, and proud of, all three individuals that lead our staff team. The Town of Stellarton will continue to see the positive impact of these leaders for many years to come.

Strong employees want to work for strong towns. Excellence attracts excellence. Our town, your town, Stellarton, draws top caliber candidates to our job postings. Stellarton is a town with lots of positive things happening, and people are taking note. It is nice to be part of something good; it is nice to be part of Stellarton.

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The stop signs have gone up on Foord Street, and seem to be having the desired effects. Slower traffic, safer usage of the crosswalk in front of the library, and an easier left turn from Jubilee Avenue onto Foord Street. They take a little getting used to, that is to be expected. Still to come as part of the Pedestrian Safety Improvement Initiative is a flashing crosswalk sign in front of the Post Office, and the painting of parking stalls along Foord Street. Parking stalls will more easily identifying where parking is, and is not, allowed.

The Pedestrian Safety Improvement Initiative can only do so much to protect residents and visitors. It is common to see jay walking on Foord Street. In order to guard against vehicle / pedestrian accidents, we must all do our part, and follow the rules that are in place, to keep us all safe. No rule or painted line can stop a 3,000 lb vehicle on a dime. Please keep your eyes and ears alert, pedestrians and drivers alike.

Hope everyone enjoyed the summer of 2019, Homecoming was another huge success. It was great to see all the familiar and new faces at the events. Homecoming just keeps getting better! For next year, the Homecoming Committee is working on a possible outdoor venue for the Saturday night dance. That sounds like fun!

Stellarton is a great community to be a part of, I am sure you agree!

As always, please feel free to contact me by phone (902-759-6840) or email [Danny.MacGillivray@stellarton.ca](mailto:Danny.MacGillivray@stellarton.ca).

All the Very Best;

*Danny*

## Town Hall Updates

### Administration

#### Tax Billing

The final tax billing was sent out during the second week of September. The due date is November 19, 2019. Tax sale procedures for any account that is 2 years in arrears will be commencing in October.

#### 2019-2020 Operating Budget

The Town of Stellarton has approved the operating budget for the 2019-2020 fiscal year. The estimated revenues and expenditures for 2019-2020 are \$7,984,331.

#### Fixed Transit Route

On September 23, Stellarton Town Council voted to support a fixed route transit proposal. The fixed route will be owned by the Towns of New Glasgow and Stellarton. CHAD Transit will be contracted to manage the operation and provide a backup bus as needed. Stops will include: NSCC, Foord Street, Aberdeen Hospital, Aberdeen Business Centre, North End New Glasgow, New Glasgow Library, Highland Square Mall, and the Pictou County Wellness Centre. This is a pilot service to the community and Stellarton's share will cost \$50,680 in 2022 and \$51,766 in 2023. The pilot project costs for the first year are covered by both Provincial and Federal government grants.

### Police Department

#### New Chief of Police

Monday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, Stellarton will again have our own Chief of Police, Mark Hobeck. Mark is a 30 year veteran of the Halifax Regional Police Service and most recently Mr. Hobeck was employed with the Nova Scotia Department of Justice as a consultant with the Policing Services Branch.



This will bring the strength of the department back to 10 officers. The Department consists of the Chief of Police, Inspector, 3 Sergeants and 4 regular Constables. There is also a Constable seconded to the Pictou County Street Enforcement Unit. Along with the regular members there is a term Constable that is employed to back fill the strength when full time officers are on vacations, training etc.

Dispatch service is provided by the Nova Scotia Corps of Commissionaires that is managed within the Police Department by the Chief of Police. The Dispatch Center handles all calls for Service for the Stellarton Police Service and Stellarton Fire Service, as well as the Westville Police Service and 16 other Fire Departments within Pictou County.

Dog Control Service is provided by a By-Law Officer who also reports to the Chief of Police.

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## *Police Department continued..*

The Police Service handles over 2000 complaint calls for service each year. Along with the calls the department also provides services such as record checks and fingerprinting for citizens who require them for work, travel or volunteering.

The Department has a community service program to assist citizens, schools and organizations with topics to prevent crime, promote safety and battle addictions. The department works closely with all other emergency services and community organizations to provide a high quality service to the community. Regular patrols are carried out by two marked patrol vehicles, bicycle and foot.

The Department provides a youth program for youth ages 12 to 18 years of age. The Youth Corps is a uniform organization that provides the youth with an opportunity to experience the Police Career and receive training in citizenship, leadership and adventure training. The Corps meets once a week. Any youth interested can sign up by contacting the department.

Contact information: Dispatch	902-752-6160
Chief of Police	902-752-1125
Emergencies:	911

## *Meet the Staff...*

### **Spotlight Administration Office**

There are four staff in the Administration office that is Council's front line to the citizens.

Tracey Fitzpatrick has been with the Town for 29 years. She is the Office Manager and is responsible for Accounts Payable.

Gina Markie has worked for the Town of Stellarton for 25 years. Her main responsibilities include payroll and water billings.

Lori Best has worked with the Town for 4 years. She is primary on the counter and is responsible for tax billings.

Susan Higdon, Town Clerk Treasurer, has been with the Town since February 2018. She is responsible for the administration of all departments and is responsible to Town Council for the proper administration of the affairs of the Town.



Pictured Left to Right: Gina Markie, Tracey Fitzpatrick, Susan Higdon, Lori Best

## *Community Development & Recreation*

### **Fall Program Opportunities**

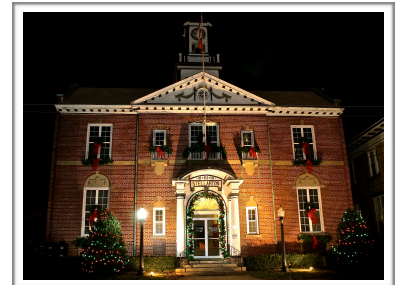
Indoor walking will start at the Sobeys Indoor Sports Complex at the end of Old Foxbrook Rd on October 15. Times are 8:30-9:30 am and 12pm-1pm Monday-Friday. For more details please contact 752-8944 or 752-3793.

The Stellarton Library has a number of programs for all ages. They have free internet access and are a hub of activities and information. Call for more info 902-755-1638.

Dream Candy is another partner delivering children's programming. They are located above the library on Jubilee Ave. Schedule available at [www.dreamcandy.org](http://www.dreamcandy.org).

### **Christmas Tree Lighting**

The Annual Christmas Tree Lighting is scheduled for Friday, November 29 at 6:30pm in Town Square. This is a great family event that features music, choir, horse and wagon rides, hot chocolate, games at the Library and a visit from Santa himself! Make sure you come out and enjoy this fun night.



## Engineering and Public Works

### Water Conservation

The East River has been the main source of drinking water for the Town of Stellarton since 1892. The river starts at the outlet of Hunters Lake, located approximately 45 Km to the east of the Town. From this point, up to the intake of the Town's water treatment plant (WTP), the river drains an area of approximately 410 Km<sup>2</sup>.

The WTP withdraws raw water from the river through an intake located upstream of a concrete berm which was built to control the water level in the river during low flow seasons. Withdrawal operations are subject to The Nova Scotia Guide to Surface Water Withdrawal. In cases where the source of water is a watercourse, such as for the Town of Stellarton, the guide requires that an Ecological Maintenance Flow (EMF) be maintained at the intake.

A period of severe drought, such as the one experienced over the summer of 2016, may limit the flows available to simultaneously meet the demands of the Town and maintain a minimum flow downstream of the intake. Conditions for water supply may worsen with the impact of climate change since, according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Fifth's Assessment Report, Climate Change may cause early spring thaw and increase the frequency of drought events. These impacts can potentially result in lower groundwater recharge and a reduction in summer flows.



As part of our water withdrawal permit, the Town is required to develop a water conservation plan to reduce outdoor water use throughout the Town. When flow rates reach low flow rates in the river, the following 3 stage outdoor

#### 1. STAGE 1 – ALTERNATE DAY WATER USE

When the East River flow reaches 1.7 m<sup>3</sup>/s the Town will give notice that a reduction in water use is necessary requiring Stage 1 restrictions. The following activities are restricted:

- Sprinkling, watering or irrigating of shrubbery, trees, lawns, grass, plants, vegetables, flowers, etc;
- Filling or topping of pools;
- Washing of motor vehicles;

The above uses are restricted to the following:

- Even numbered addresses are permitted on even calendar days ( 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, etc) from 6am to 11am and 7 pm to midnight;
- Odd numbered addresses are permitted on odd calendar days ( 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, etc) from 6am to 11am and 7 pm to midnight;

#### 2. STAGE 2 – TWICE A WEEK WATER USE

When the East River flow reaches 1.5 m<sup>3</sup>/s the Town will give notice that a reduction in water use is necessary requiring Stage 2 restrictions. The following activities are restricted:

- Sprinkling, watering or irrigating of shrubbery, trees, lawns, grass, plants, vegetables, flowers, etc;
- Filling or topping of pools;
- Washing of motor vehicles;

The above uses are restricted to the following:

- Even numbered addresses are permitted on Saturdays and Tuesdays from 6am to 11am and 7 pm to midnight;
- Odd numbered addresses are permitted on Sundays and Wednesdays from 6am to 11am and 7 pm to midnight;

#### 3. STAGE 3 – NO OUTDOOR WATER USE

When the East River flow reaches 1.4 m<sup>3</sup>/s the Town will give notice that a reduction in water use is necessary requiring Stage 3 restrictions. And the following shall apply:

- a) No person shall use water outdoors for any purpose.

**Further information can be found at** [www.stellarton.ca](http://www.stellarton.ca)

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