



# NEWSLETTER

"A PERFECT PLACE TO LIVE, WORK AND PLAY!"

## MESSAGE FROM COUNCIL

I hope you're enjoying our warm summer weather. This summer has already confirmed that we are in an era of climate change and greater weather unpredictability. On July 6th and 7th, the Magnetawan and Seguin River watersheds, to which most of the lakes in Whitestone belong, received over 60mm of rain – about a month and half's worth of normal rainfall - causing water levels to rise rapidly and displacing many docks. (The lake level on WahWashKesh rose 3 feet in 2 days as a result, and still has not returned to normal summer levels). As there is little anyone can do to predict or prevent such extreme weather events, we all need to plan for them and consider what steps we can take to mitigate against them.

As noted elsewhere, the Municipality is moving forward with an update of its Official Plan and the subordinate Zoning By-Law, which will govern land use planning in Whitestone for the next 5 years. We are encouraging residents to monitor progress on this project and provide their input. This is your opportunity to weigh in on how we can encourage growth, and at the same time preserve the assets that make this a special place for all of us.

Whenever possible, please support our local economy this summer by patronizing businesses in Whitestone and the surrounding area. Buy local! Buy Canadian!

Best wishes for a safe and happy summer. Hope to see you at the Agricultural Fall Fair in Dunchurch on August 16th and 17th.

*Mayor George Comrie on behalf of Whitestone Council*

## YOUR COUNCIL

**Mayor George Comrie**  
705-773-8211  
mayor.comrie@whitestone.ca

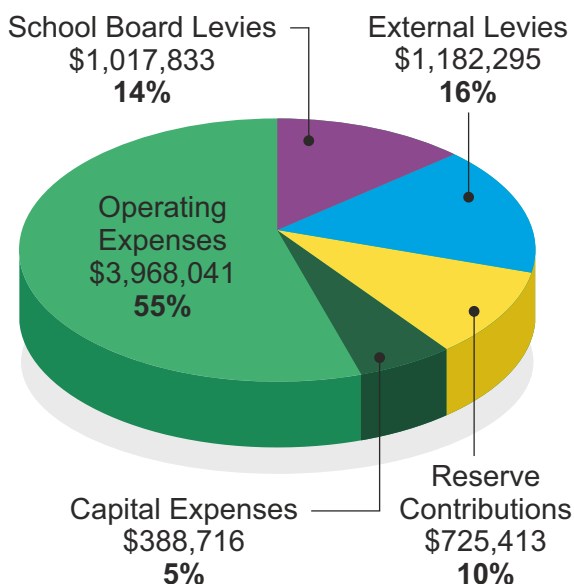
**Councillor Janice Bray**  
705-774-8796  
councillor.bray@whitestone.ca

**Councillor Joe Lamb**  
(Deputy Mayor)  
905-333-5951  
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councillor.lamb@whitestone.ca

**Councillor Scott Nash**  
705-346-4367  
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**Councillor Brian Woods**  
705-774-8492  
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## TAX HOW YOUR 2025 TAXES WILL BE ALLOCATED



## BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

Council has officially passed the 2025 budget, striking a balance between keeping taxes affordable and investing in the services and infrastructure that matter most to our community.

This year's tax increase comes in at 2.43% after education taxes—just \$29.48 more annually for the average residential property—while assessment growth and a 13% boost in provincial OMPF grant funding are helping us stretch every dollar further.

We're moving forward with over \$388,000 in capital investments. That means safer roads and bridges, updated fire equipment, improved municipal facilities, and progress on key planning initiatives like the Official Plan and Asset Management Plan. Funding has also been set aside for improvements to playground space, with details to be confirmed. With increased contributions, reserves are on track to surpass \$2 million.

The 2025 budget reflects Whitestone's commitment to smart growth and community wellbeing. Want to know more? Visit <https://whitestone.ca/p/budget-and-financial-information>

## PLANNING DEPARTMENT Official Plan Project Update:

At the Council meeting held on **July 15, 2025**, MHBC Planning Limited presented a draft Official Plan Background Report summarizing the work completed so far, including Section 26 Public Meeting and required pre-consultation with relevant Provincial Ministry departments.

A **Public Open House** is scheduled to take place on **July 29, 2025**. A copy of the **First Draft of the Official Plan** will be available in advance for public review and feedback. Additional input from residents will be collected at the Public Open House.

Following the review of the First Draft of the Official Plan, it is expected to be presented to Council in **August 2025**. Council will then consider whether to forward the draft to the **Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing** for their first review.

**Stay informed!** Please visit our website for updates, draft documents, and key dates related to the Official Plan review process.

## FIRE SAFETY REMINDER!

**Smoke Alarms:** Smoke alarms save lives—only if they work! Install working smoke alarms on every level of the home and outside of sleeping areas. Test them monthly, replace batteries twice a year and replace your smoke alarms every 10 years or according to manufacturer's instructions.

## WHITESTONE PUBLIC LIBRARY & TECHNOLOGY CENTRE

We are having a busy summer at the Whitestone Public Library! Keep an eye on our programming calendar for up to date information on weekly programs including storytimes, crafternoons, clubs, and more. Some programs require registration to attend due to limited space: <https://whitestone.olsn.ca/calendar/>

The Giant Book Sale is being held at the Dunchurch Community Centre on Saturday, August 2, 2025 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Visit the pop-up library in Ardbeg at the Ardbeg Community Club every Monday from noon to 6:00 p.m.

## SAVE ON ENERGY BILLS AND MAKE YOUR HOME OR COTTAGE MORE COMFORTABLE

As a member of ICECAP (the Integrated Community Energy & Climate Action Plans), the Municipality is committed to improving energy performance within its own operations, reducing energy costs and supporting a greener future for all.

The Home Renovations Savings Program, launched in January 2025, offers rebates to eligible primary and seasonal residences in Ontario for energy-efficient and fuel-switching upgrades. Available incentives include:

- Heat Pump, water heater
- Insulation and air sealing
- Windows and doors
- Solar panels and battery storage
- Smart thermostats

These upgrades can help lower your energy bills, improve year-round comfort, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

For eligibility requirements, information, and questions about the Home Renovations Savings Program, visit: [www.homerenovationsavings.ca](http://www.homerenovationsavings.ca)

Some improvements may also qualify for **interest-free financing** through the **Canada Greener Homes Loan**, visit **Canada Greener Homes Loan**

## WHITESTONE ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

### Pollinator Garden at Ardbeg Fire Station

The WESC Committee has installed a new pollinator garden featuring native plants, along with two new flagpoles and flags at the Ardbeg Fire Station.

### Invasive Species Signs Installed

With support from the Invasive Species Action Fund, WESC has begun installing signs at Bolger Landing, Gooseneck Landing, and Whitestone Lake. These signs include tools and information to help clean boats and gear, supporting efforts to keep our lakes healthy.



## DUNCHURCH KNOX UNITED CHURCH

### Upcoming Fundraising Events – Supporting Community Outreach

#### Events:

#### Bake Sale, Yard Sale and BBQ

**Date:** Saturday, August 2, 2025 - 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

**Where:** Knox United Church

**Homemade pies and sandwiches** will be sold in the kitchen at the Dunchurch Community Centre on Fair Day

**Date:** Saturday, August 16, 2025

**Time:** 10:00 a.m. until sold out!

#### Thanksgiving Supper

**Date:** Saturday, October 11, 2025

**Seating Times:** 4:30 p.m. and 5:45 p.m.

**Where:** Dunchurch Community Centre

Take-out meals available from 3:30 to 4:10 p.m.

For reservations, tickets, or to volunteer, contact MaryAnne at 289-968-7425

\$ Adults: \$25 | Ages 6–12: \$10 | Under 6: Free

#### Christmas Luncheon & Bake Sale

**Date:** Saturday, November 15, 2025

**Time:** 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

**Where:** Knox United Church



## THE 137TH DUNCHURCH FALL FAIR – AUGUST 15–16, 2025

The Dunchurch Agricultural Society is looking for volunteers to help out at this year's Dunchurch Fall Fair.

If you have an hour or more to spare between August 9 and 16, please email Terry Whitmell at

[twhitmell@gmail.com](mailto:twhitmell@gmail.com) or call her at **(905) 781-8181**.

We'd love to have you join us!

#### Friday, August 15 – 5:00 p.m. until dusk

Come enjoy dinner at the food booth, take part in the Farmers and Junior Farmers Olympics, and enjoy live music by the Sunny Slope Bootleggers.

#### Saturday, August 16 – 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Join us for games, a parade, delicious pies and food booth treats, exhibits, vendors, a petting zoo, and so much more!

#### Saturday, August 16 – 8:00 p.m.

Don't miss the square dance!

**Entry Fees:** \$5 per adult. Children under 12 are free!

The Special Prize List for exhibitors and a detailed schedule of events are available on our website:

[www.dunchurchagsociety.ca](http://www.dunchurchagsociety.ca)



## TAX DEPARTMENT

Tax Installment Due Dates – August 31, 2025, and October 31, 2025

Any payment received in our office after the due date will be considered late, and any outstanding taxes will be subject to penalty and interest charges in accordance with the Municipal Act. If paying by online banking, **please allow 2 to 3 business days** for your payment to reach the municipal office in order to avoid late charges.

For more information, visit **Municipality of Whitestone - Pay My Property Taxes**