



# MUNICIPALITY OF WHITESTONE 2022 – A YEAR IN REVIEW

---

January 2022  
Michelle Hendry, CAO/Clerk





## INTRODUCTION

The following '2022 Year in Review' report provides a high level summary of the accomplishments and activities of the Municipality. There is much to be proud of.

The year was a busy and interesting year for Whitestone. An office renovation and the expansion/renovation of the Nursing Station made Dunchurch a hub of construction and contractor activity for much of the year.

The Municipal Election dominated a good portion of the year with nominations beginning May 2, and Election day on October 24. The inaugural meeting of the New Council was November 15 (meet your New Council on the next page).

With the waning of the COVID-19 pandemic and restrictions, the Municipality was able to open the Municipal Office and the Public Library to the public and start to reintroduce some of the in-person programming that had been suspended for the past two years. A number of recreational activities including walk fit, pickleball, movie nights, board game night and various youth and family events resumed. We welcomed a well-attended Fall Fair back to the Community in August.

In person Council meetings resumed in the Community Centre with the hybrid opportunity to access the meetings via Zoom. Technical challenges are still being worked through as we adapt to doing business differently.

A dedicated staff complement, the many volunteers who continued to work behind the scenes, and a Community who were engaged and interested in the decisions made, supported the Municipality in its 2022.

Michelle Hendry  
CAO/Clerk



## 2022 MUNICIPAL ELECTION

Elections for municipal government are held every four years on the fourth Monday of October. Prior to the passage of the Good Government Act, 2009 and the vote in 2006, the period between elections had been 3 years.

On May 3, 2021, the Council of the Municipality of Whitestone adopted By-law No. 18-2021, Being a By-Law to Provide for the Use of Alternative Voting Methods, that being the Telephone/Internet Voting and Vote by Mail for the 2022 Municipal Election.

May 2, 2022 to August 19, 2022 was the nomination timeline. Candidates were certified as of August 22 and voting commenced on October 11 with Election Day being October 24. The inaugural meeting of the New Council was November 15.

### **A few statistics:**

Number of eligible electors **3,722**

Number of electors who cast a ballot **1,512**

Participation rate **40.6%**

Voters who used the internet to vote **910 (60%)**

Voters who used the phone to vote **87 (6%)**

Voters who used the mail-in ballot **515 (34%)**



### **Meet your 2022 to 2026 Members of Council**

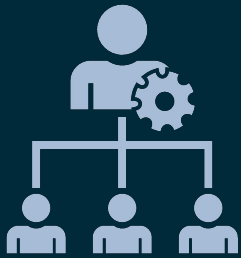
Councillor Janice Bray

Councillor Brian Woods

Mayor George Comrie

Councillor Scott Nash

Councillor Joe Lamb



# ADMINISTRATION

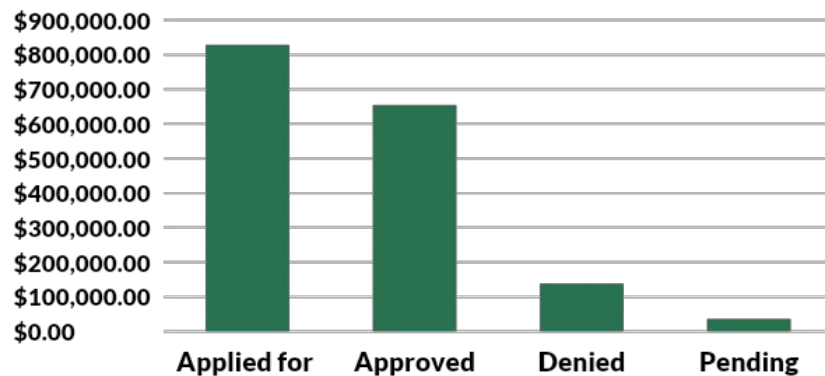
The Administration role at the Municipality is to support Council, Council meetings and Council initiatives, as well as, oversee the various departments and manage our much valued human resources. Department heads report directly to the CAO/Clerk in addition to the By-law Enforcement Officers, the CEMC and contract Communication staff.

## 2022

### GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

A number of grant opportunities (thirteen) were applied for in 2022. Of the thirteen grants applied for in the amount of \$828,730, the Municipality was successful in being approved for \$655,145 with \$25,960 pending a response.

#### Grant Applications



### COMMUNICATIONS

A Communications Strategy was approved by Council in 2020. A number of important initiatives were implemented in 2021 including an enhanced website and Facebook messaging, a bi-weekly e-newsletter and a Council meeting highlights feature. Improvements continued in 2022 featuring the popular Flash Back Friday and Whitestone Wildlife.

### OFFICE RENOVATIONS

Work commenced in early 2022 and administrative support staff were relocated to the Library and the CBO to the Roads Garage, for a number of months. The renovations allowed for an office for the CBO, a small meeting room, improved support staff space and safety/access improvements.

### PUBLIC WATER TAP

The Public Water Tap system at the Community Centre now allows for public access year round.





Honouring Jane Bottrell – 35 years of  
Volunteer Service

## VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

Council hosted the annual Volunteer and Staff Appreciation event for the first time since 2019. It was a full house at the Community Centre - over 100 people enjoyed dinner and a celebration of Volunteers, Staff and Council.

## NEW STAFF

We welcomed Treasurer Maneesh Kulal, Chief Building Official Jamie Osborne and Municipal Office Assistant Sylvia Buckingham.

## ELECTRONIC SIGNS

Electronic information signs were approved in the 2021 budget; one for the Community Centre and one for the Library. A significant portion of the costs for the Library sign is being funded by a grant of \$25,000. Both signs were installed in 2022.

## BROADBAND INTERNET ACCESS

In 2021, Cogeco announced that high-speed fibre-to-the-home internet is coming to an estimated 2,130 homes and businesses in the communities of Waubamik, Lake Manitouwabing, McKellar, Hurdville, Fairholme, Dunchurch and Whitestone Lake. Surveying and engineering began in 2021 and continued in 2022. Groundbreaking is planned for 2023 and the project will be finalized in 2025.

## ROAD GRANTS

Council continued to fund the popular Road Grant program. In 2022, the program supported 191.3 km of private roads and 835 households with a budget of \$87,649.

## MAPLE ISLAND THRIFT SHOP

The much loved Thrift shop reopened this year (after being closed for two years). A record \$16,250 of revenue was realized and these proceeds are donated to a number of deserving local and regional initiatives as recommended by the Thrift Shop Committee.