

Stratford Town Crier

Town Crier, January 14, 2023

Public Information, Notices and Meeting Schedules

2023 PATIO SURVEY

The City of Stratford is seeking feedback for the future of the Outdoor Patio Program. Since 2020, the City has been offering patio extension opportunities to eligible businesses seeking an Outdoor Café License. City staff are currently preparing for the 2023 season and want to hear more about your experience and suggestions in relation to the program. Whether you've sat on a patio, passed by them, been licensed and operated a patio, or just simply have opinions about them.

The 2023 outdoor patio survey is currently available on Engage Stratford at www.engagestratford.ca/2023stratfordpatios. Background information on the City's patio program, as well as key dates and important documents are also available through this link.

The survey will be open for responses until **February 2, 2023**, and paper copies are available for completion in the Clerk's Office at City Hall. Comments and feedback provided will be analyzed by staff in preparation for the 2023 patio season and ultimately combined into an information report to Council.

For more information, please visit the 2023 Outdoor Patio Program page on Engage Stratford.

2023 COMMUNITY GRANTS

The 2023 application process for the City of Stratford Community Grants Program is open. The online application and instructions are available on the City's website under "2023 Budget". Please note that applications are due January 31, 2023. Questions about the program can be sent by email to stfdbudget@stratford.ca or by phone at 519-271-0250 extension 5202.

CHANGES TO SET FINES FOR OVERNIGHT PARKING AND OBSTRUCTION OF SNOW CLEARING - REMINDER

To help enhance the City's overnight parking and winter maintenance strategies, Stratford City Council approved updates on August 8, 2022, to the City's Traffic and Parking By-law to prohibit parking in a manner that obstructs municipal snow clearing operations. In doing so, Council also approved an increase to the set fines for overnight parking. Effective immediately, parking in a manner which obstructs municipal snow clearing operations and/or parking overnight (between 2 a.m. and 6 a.m.) will each carry a set fine of \$80, or \$60 voluntary payment if paid within 7 days.

Drivers are reminded that overnight parking in the City of Stratford is not permitted on any roadway, shoulder, or City parking lot between 2:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m., unless otherwise designated. The City of Stratford also has a winter maintenance strategy in place to provide safety and mobility to motorists and pedestrians. Vehicles parked on the road overnight and during snowfall events often cause difficulty for snow clearing and winter maintenance activities.

For questions regarding this or other parking enforcement matters, please contact the Clerk's Office at 519-271-0250 extension 5237.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY – APPOINTMENTS TO ADVISORY COMMITTEES AND LOCAL BOARDS

The City of Stratford is looking for a diverse range of volunteers to lend their unique voices and perspectives to help guide the City's decision-making by joining various advisory committees and boards. Community members serving on an advisory committee provide advice and feedback to City Council in a variety of areas, including but not limited to the environment, accessibility, active transportation, heritage and safe communities. Boards have the autonomy to make decisions for the good of their organizations.

Why serve on an advisory committee or board? Volunteering makes a difference in our community and is a great way to give back. It's also an opportunity to help influence decision-making in your local government and be part of democracy in action. You will learn new skills, build your understanding of how municipal government works, and make connections with other passionate members of the Stratford community.

These opportunities are open to Stratford residents and eligible electors who are at least 18 years of age (with the exception of the Youth representatives who can be under 18 years). Additional qualifications may apply depending on the advisory committee or board you are interested in. Experienced and new members are encouraged to apply.

If you are interested in volunteering on one of the City's advisory committees or local boards listed below, please complete and return no later than Monday, January 30, 2023, an application to the attention of the City Clerk through the following:

Email: clerks@stratford.ca

In-person or mail to:

The Corporation of the City of Stratford,
Attention City Clerk,
Clerk's Office, Ground Floor, Stratford City Hall
P.O. Box 818,
Stratford, ON N5a 6W1

The application form is available through the City's website or by pick-up at the City Clerk's Office.

Available Opportunities:

1. **Downtown Stratford Business Improvement Area (BIA)** - The Downtown Stratford BIA Meets the fourth Tuesday of the month at 6:15 p.m. The BIA deals with matters concerning promotion and beautification of the downtown core. To be eligible for appointment, you must be a downtown property owner or business operator. There are eight (8) positions available for 4-year terms concurrent with the term of Council. Provincial eligibility requirements for persons who may be appointed to the Downtown Stratford BIA are:
 - a. persons who own property that is in either the commercial or industrial property class in the designated City Centre and who are shown on the last revised assessment roll;
 - b. persons who operate businesses, either owning the business premises or holding them under a lease requiring the payment of property taxes;

- c. persons operating businesses in leased space under a gross lease entered into on or before June 11, 1998;
 - d. nominees of persons who qualify under (a), (b) or (c).
 - e. Incorporated members shall be represented only by a named person so designated in the corporation's official designation letter for that purpose filed with the City of Stratford.
2. **Energy & Environment Advisory Committee** - Meets on the first Thursday of the month at 4:00 p.m. This Committee provides advice to Council on matters relating to waste reduction initiatives, water and energy conservation and preservation of natural areas. There is one (1) youth representative position available for a one-year term ending November 30, 2023.
 3. **Heritage Stratford Advisory Committee** - Meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. Heritage Stratford deals with matters relating to the promotion of architectural designing and conserving of heritage architecture and heritage designations. There are two (2) citizen representative positions for 2-year terms available.

2023 BUDGET MEETINGS

The Finance and Labour Relations Committee will meet on the following dates and times to formulate recommendations to City Council regarding the 2023 draft budget:

Date	Time	
January 24, 2023	5:30 p.m.	Electronic Participation
February 7, 2023	5:30 p.m.	TBD
February 21, 2023	5:30 p.m.	TBD

For the meetings to be held electronically, members of the public can watch the meeting while in progress by clicking the link that will be available on the agenda. Agendas and minutes of the meeting will be posted as available to the City website under the Council Calendar at <https://calendar.stratford.ca/meetings>.

If you have any questions regarding the 2023 budget process, please contact us by phone at 519-271-0250 Extension 5202, or by email at wpartridge@stratford.ca.

2023 PET TAGS NOW ON SALE - REMINDER

Register your dogs and cats before March 1 and save!

All dogs and cats in Stratford are required to wear a registration tag at all times. Dog and cat tag registrations expire each year on December 31 and are renewed annually to ensure your pet's information is up to date. A tag allows the Humane Society to return your pet to you should they ever be found wandering. The first time your pet is found wandering by the Humane Society, your pet receives a free ride home!

The cost for a pet tag is:

	Before March 1	As of March 1
Dog/Cat – sterilized	\$20.00	\$30.00
Dog/Cat – not sterilized	\$50.00	\$60.00
Dog or Cat under 1 yr.	\$20.00	\$20.00
Special Needs Dog - No charge; registration required		

Seniors (age 65 or older) receive a discount on annual identification tags. New residents to Stratford may exchange their current identification tag from another municipality at no cost for a current City of Stratford tag (one time only).

Identification tags may be obtained at:

- Stratford-Perth Humane Society – 125 Griffith Road, 519-273-6600
- City Hall, Clerk's Office – by calling 519-271-0250, ext. 5237
- Various Veterinary clinics and pet stores in Stratford (visit the Pet Ownership Page on the City's website for a complete list)

Owners of exotic animals are required by By-law 195-2002 to register their animals. Contact the Humane Society at 519-273-6600 to register your exotic animals. There is no cost for registration.

PARKING REMINDERS – FINAL REMINDER

1. **Payment is required** Monday to Saturday* from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. (November 1 – March 31)
2. For Sundays and Holidays payment is not required.
3. Those with accessible parking permits that are visibly displayed are not required to pay the meter but must be parked in a legally marked parking spot and abide by posted time limits.
4. Parking is prohibited across from a driveway when the road is less than 28 feet in width
5. Parking rates:
 - \$1.25 per hour off street
 - \$1.50 per hour on street
6. Pay by Plate machines are located in most lots and accept coin, debit and credit cards.
7. The HotSpot app can also be used to pay for parking.

If issues arise when attempting to make payment for parking the best course of action is to try a different meter/machine, try the HotSpot app, or to call the Clerk's Office at 519-271-0250 extension 5230 in order to avoid being ticketed.

*Every motorist on **Saturdays** from December 1, 2022 until April 30, 2023 will receive four (4) hours of free parking in the downtown core. This means that those individuals parking in the downtown core on **Saturdays** during this time will receive 4 hours of free parking and will not be required to pay the meters or machines.

After the 4 hours of free parking, motorists are required to pay the respective meter or machine. Compliance is required with all other provisions of the City's Traffic and Parking By-law including maximum parking time limits.

MEETING SCHEDULE

Jan 16	Special and Public Meeting	6:00 p.m.	Electronic Participation
Jan 17	Finance and Labour Relations Sub-committee	4:30 p.m.	Electronic Participation
Jan 19	Committee of the Whole Open Session	9:00 a.m.	Hall A, Stratford Rotary Complex
Jan 21	Committee of the Whole Open Session	9:00 a.m.	Hall A, Stratford Rotary Complex

Please check the City's website for the Sub-committee, Committee, Council and Advisory Committee Meeting Schedules as these schedules are subject to change. Agendas, including a link to watch the meetings while in progress, are available on the City's website.

The Town Crier is also posted on the City's website.