

Mayor Lloy Praises Stewiacke

Truro & Colchester Chamber of Commerce hosted the Mayors & Chief Breakfast on April 24th at Inn on Prince. which included Mayor Christine Blair, Mayor Bill Mills, Chief Bob Gloade and Mayor George Lloy.

The following contains the highlights of Stewiacke Mayor George Lloy, who said he was accompanied by CAO Dale Bogle, Deputy Mayor Rosanne Chapman, Councillor Susan Creelman & Councillor Pam Osbourne.

The speech highlights are as follows: I am proud to share with you an overview of what's been happening in Stewiacke and the exciting initiatives we are working on as we move forward.

Total building permits eclipsed \$20-Million in 2021. The past two years has seen more growth in the Town of Stewiacke than the previous 25 years combined. This calendar year we have reached \$6-Million in building permits.

Financial Condition Indicators for 2020 - 2021 provided the Town of Stewiacke with a low risk assessment.

MGM Automated Doors have started operations at the new 21,000 tempered square-foot glass fabrication facility in the Perry Lake Development. New qualified positions have been hired at the location. This location is the first commercial glass tempering facility in Nova Scotia with plans for future expansions. The business owner Sandi Martin is a welcome addition to the Town of Stewiacke and business community.

Last year I teased, this audience, with the worse keep secret in Stewiacke which became reality when the ground breaking ceremony for the Foodland took place December 15th.

I was proud to represent Stewiacke with Deputy Mayor Chapman, CAO Mr. Bogle, Erin Richards, Director of Community Development, Larry Gibson, Perry Lake Development, representative from Sobey's, MLA Larry Harrison, MP Dr Stephen Ellis and other dignitaries for the sod turning ceremony.

On the matter of Sustainable Community Growth, the town hired CBCL consultants to help develop a Sustainable

Community Growth Strategy to explore the emerging directions for the downtown core, housing, recreation, utilities and transportation in Stewiacke. Public engagement sessions and surveys were utilized to gauge residents input. We are waiting for the final report from CBCL.

Currently Stewiacke occupies approximately 35% of our land mass. This presents an opportunity to partner regionally for future projects given the land mass available and our location. We can work with neighboring municipalities to explore future projects.

Inflation and affordable housing continues to be an issue for the Town of Stewiacke as we face the same challenges as other municipalities. Affordable housing affects business communities and their efforts to solve workforce shortages. To address housing and workforce problems we have met with Minister Lohr, MLA Larry Harrison & MP Dr. Stephen Ellis.

Another ongoing issue is the Federal Government negotiating a new collective agreement with the RCMP without consulting the municipalities dependent on RCMP services for local policing leaving municipalities with significant budget challenges ranging from \$-Hundreds of 1000's to \$-Millions for RCMP back pay.

New Programs in Stewiacke
A reflection of the growth we are experiencing is the additions of new and exciting programs in our town. The Rising Tides Arts Society is working with the Town of Stewiacke to strengthen the social fabric of our community and enhance the wellbeing of citizens which will provide a collaborative & inclusive environment utilizing the transformative power of the arts.

Another program being offered is the Bushinkan Dojo which was started by Todd Fleck in 2020 at the Stewiacke Legion now has classes for both youth & adults on Tues-

day & Thursday pm.

The Stewiacke Library continues to increase the programs offered. We are in discussions with Colchester County to explore a new jointly owned & operated Library in Stewiacke.

Our property evaluations lead the province @ 28.5 residential properties in Stewiacke signifying the growth has taken place. A new 24 unit apartment building is under construction and multiple residential developments are taking place.

Council also voted to reduce the size of council from 7 -5. This is before the NSUARB.

We are also in the process of reducing and streamlining the number of committees. Fiscal responsibility is paramount on all levels of governance.

I am pleased to announce this morning we received critical ICIP funding needed for the Town of Stewiacke March 3rd. MP Dr. Ellis was instrumental to ensuring these allocated funds were realized in a timely manner.

As Mayor I will be representing the Town of Stewiacke as we have joined the Atlantic Mayors Congress. This gives Stewiacke a voice at these bi yearly meeting to network with the other 49 Mayors from the Atlantic Provinces.

David Phillips Executive Director of TCPEP continues to deliver support in the growth to over 250 businesses ensuring they reach their full potential.

Councillor Susan Creelman has been elected the oversight committee chair for TCPEP.

I want to take some time to acknowledge the individuals and organizations who volunteer their time: The Stewiacke Storm Baseball Association; Community Meals Program which provides up to 150 meals monthly to our residence of which Deputy Mayor Rosanne Chapman is an integral part are examples of the amazing volunteers in the Town of Stewiacke.

I would be remised if I did



An array of owners, politicians, mayors and councillors turned out on a cold winter day on December 15th for new Foodland sod turning ceremony. (Stewiacke Photo)

not recognize the Stewiacke Volunteer Fire Department members who go above and beyond on a daily basis as was also evident during Hurricane Fiona. We are fortunate to have dedicated volunteers with the fire department who also volunteer for Town Day activities, Food Bank Drive @ Christmas in Stewiacke.

I want to take a moment and recognize the contribution of Councillor Mary Commo who unfortunately passed away after a very long battle with cancer. Mary's dedication to our town as an individual and councillor will never be forgotten. Mary is missed by all who were privileged to know her.

Councillor Pam Osborne was sworn in March 9th as a result of the special election to fill the vacant council seat.

It is important I take the time to acknowledge our CAO Dale Bogle, town staff and public works department. We are fortunate to have small but dedicated work forces in Stewiacke.

We have meet the challenges of Covid 19 and continue to make the necessary adjustments so we can move forward together in a safe and productive environment. We must remain diligent with the knowledge the Pandemic is still present.

I constantly strive for positive change and respectful governance in this elected position. I am surrounded by a diverse group of dedicated council members who have elected to serve Stewiacke to the best of their abilities. A core of Councillors continuously goes above and beyond in the elected service to Stewiacke.

Come for a visit to Stewiacke. Stop in and join me for a coffee. Join us for Town Days and the Tree Lighting Ceremony. See all the changes that are taking place, the growth that is evident and support our local business community.

We will continue to build on the past accomplishments in Stewiacke, remain dedicated to work in the present and I anticipate an amazing future for our town.

Mayor George Lloy can be reached at the Town office 902- 639-2221 or glloy@stewiacke.net

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A new sign proudly displays Town of Stewiacke as received \$6.2-Million ICIP federal funding for Water & storm water renewal. (Stewiacke Photo)



Sandi Martin's MGM Automated Doors has started operations at new 21,000 square-foot tempered glass fabrication facility in the Perry Lake Development. This is the first commercial glass tempering facility in Nova Scotia. (Stewiacke Photo)



Darren & Sherri Shriver standing on what will be the new Foodland in Stewiacke. (Stewiacke Photo)