

# St. Lawrence Municipal Newsletter 2023

## Merry Christmas and Happy New Year



Christmas is, for most, a time of reflection. We take time to remember loved ones that are no longer with us and take time to enjoy time with family and friends. Council is now at the halfway point of our mandate and we continue to work with many organizations to support our residents. However, 2023 has not been without its challenges. We are at a time when our community is affected by rising costs and household bills, and with it comes new worries and pressures, at what can be a difficult time of year for so many. Over the past year I have spoken with many different groups and organizations. I have been amazed by the generosity and acts of kindness I have seen in our community. My thanks go to these wonderful people, the majority of whom are volunteers, who give of their time freely to help others and ensure that the most in need are looked after. Christmas is the season of goodwill and a time for us to look outwards and do something for others. I believe our residents do that all year round and especially in difficult times. So, offer whatever you can, time, friendship, kindness and it is that sense of togetherness that will take us forward into next year. Spend time with your family, loved ones and friends in togetherness and celebration. We have so much to look forward to and as I look forward to 2024, I do so, knowing that our community will move forward with ever more resilience and optimism to embrace the challenges and opportunities ahead of us. That is our strength!

I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a healthy and peaceful New Year.

*Mayor Kevin Pittman*

### Special Notes

- Reminder: Our second Town Hall Meeting has been rescheduled for Monday, January 15, 2024.
- A big Thank You to the Community of Lawn who stepped in to provide our residents with the use of their Potable Water Dispensing Unit while ours was down for a lengthy period.
- Thank you to two of our firefighters who have left our department with a total of over 40 years of service to the community. Good luck in all your future endeavours!



Corey Walsh



Hubert Stacey

**"Christmas is a  
togethery sort of  
holiday. That is  
my favourite kind."**

*Winnie the Pooh*



Four new bunker suits were provided to the St. Lawrence Fire Department this year through the efforts of MHA Paul Pike, government and FSD. Congratulations to the fire dept. on celebrating its 60<sup>th</sup> annual banquet and dance. Special congratulations to those firefighters on receiving awards honoring their years of firefighting service.



Health Care has been front and center all year and Council has worked tirelessly to ensure quality health care is available at US Memorial. Several meetings with Minister Tom Osborne and MHA Paul Pike, including one they both attended at the town's Rec Centre, has seen USM being designated as both an Urgent Care centre as well as a Family Care facility. While having full time services, with physicians and nurse practitioners in permanent roles is the goal, attaining this has been difficult, and virtual care is often the route residents need to take. There has been some confusion as to whether primary care or urgent care is available at various times and residents are being advised to call the hospital, prior to coming in, and they will be guided on the correct route to take.



Once again, the Canada Fluorspar Mine was one of the hot topics during 2023. The mine; which had been placed into receivership early in 2022, was purchased by African Minerals Exploration & Development Funds (AMED) through a new subsidiary called Fluorspar Holdings PTE. Ltd. for \$25 million. Some hiring has taken place during the last quarter of 2023 and the operators of the mine have stated that they are preparing to hold a public meeting early in the new year to lay out their full mine plan and provide details on how they will be proceeding towards production during 2024.



### Thank You to our MHA and MP

During the past year we have received tremendous support from our local MHA and now Minister of Children, Seniors and Social Development Paul Pike, as well as our MP Churence Rogers. Through the efforts of our Town Manager, Amanda Edwards, we have attained a great deal of both provincial and federal funding which has enhanced our town greatly. These include:

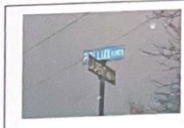
|   |   |
|---|---|
| New Horizons Seniors Grant (New Roof for 50+ Club) – \$12,000                 |   |
| Chlorination Building Additional Funding \$280,000 (Total now \$1.15 million) |   |
| Age Friendly Initiative \$9,000   | Building Age Friendly Initiatives \$16,000  |
| Hurricane Larry Repairs \$540,000   | Summer Age Friendly Students \$5,000        |
| Pollux 3 Completion \$585,000   | Laurentian Grounds Capacity Grant \$50,000  |
| Community Garden Grant \$750.00   | Pike's Drive Water and Sewer \$670,000      |
| CEEP Workers program \$46,000   | Fire Services and Dept. of Justice \$17,000 |
| FCM (Asset Management) Funding \$50,000                                       | Total <b>\$2,280,750</b>                    |



### From The Town

In 2023, the Town of St. Lawrence have undertaken some major projects.

Water and sewer upgrades were completed for Phase 3 of Pollux Crescent. Work was completed on the area from the end of Laurentian up the hill leading towards the area of the Cape Trail.



Congratulations to Mr. M. Brendan Hynes on receiving the provincial Seniors of Distinction Award. Mr. Hynes is well known for his outstanding work with RCSCC 269 Endeavour cadet corps as well as for the work he continues to do with our Remembrance Day celebration and the historical gathering of information on local residents who served in the various wars.

A new John Deere backhoe has been purchased and will be arriving for use in 2024. This purchase has been planned and is part of the Capital Investment Plan for the town's sustainability.



An extension to the firehall was completed during 2023. This extension allows the new rescue vehicle to be housed at the firehall and be ready for use at a moment's notice. A big thank you to the Town of St. Lawrence workforce who worked with the volunteer fire department members to complete this project.

This year we received a capacity grant of \$50 000 to purchase inclusive playground equipment. The equipment has arrived and is being stored until it is installed in Spring. These new pieces will certainly enhance the activities that occur and will make our playground very inclusive. We are currently looking for new members to form a new playground committee and help decide the placement and use of the equipment at the park.





### "Tis The Season"



Volunteerism is the life-blood of our community. Thanks must go out to the various groups who give freely of their time to make our town a better place.

With help from the Town and Volunteer Fire Department, CYN, under the guidance of Paulette Isaacs and her elves, organized a wonderful evening for the annual Tree Lighting Celebration on Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Many thanks must go to the local Lions Club for the great Santa Claus Parade which took place on Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>. The Lions continue to do terrific work despite small numbers.

It is great to see the reactivation of the Fire Flames under the leadership of Ashley Churchill and Krista Lundrigan. This year they provided safety lights to FD members costing \$5,000+

## St. Lawrence Academy



St. Lawrence Academy has had another fantastic year of athletics. Congratulations to the students for capturing the provincial championships in Girl's Basketball, Girl's Outdoor Soccer, Girl's Indoor Soccer, and Boy's Indoor Soccer, as well as a number of regional championships. WTG Blues!

## Collin's Ambulance

The Town of St. Lawrence would like to extend a special "THANK YOU" to the management and staff of Collin's Ambulance, St. Lawrence. With the closing of the ER at US Memorial it was a priority of council to ensure prompt emergency services were maintained. Ensuring that a second ambulance remained on stand by in the community meant the additional use of an already limited crew. Your time, sacrifice and efforts have not gone unnoticed! Merry Christmas to you all! Missing from Photo: Lucas Farrell & Scott Head



## Looking Forward - 2024

Budget 2024 – Council adopted and passed this Budget on December 12, 2023. Highlights include:

- Complete the next phase of water and sewer upgrades which includes the area of Pike's Road.
- No increase in either the property mil rate or water and sewer rates.
- Addition of a payment plan for individuals who want to pay monthly. No interest fee will be added to accounts using this plan as long as the plan is being followed.
- The Town of St. Lawrence will continue to pay 50% of each resident's garbage collection fee.
- A developer is being sought to start senior housing construction. The Town may provide both land and a business tax holiday to promote this venture.
- Upgrade and replace the complete water intake system and chlorination building. Additional funding of approximately \$280,000 has been approved to cover increased cost estimates for completion. The project total is now \$1.15 million. A big thank you to MP Churence Rogers and MHA Paul Pike for their work on this project.