

# Stratford Town Crier

Town Crier, January 28, 2023

Public Information, Notices and Meeting Schedules

## **ASK ME ANYTHING – MUNICIPAL ACCOMMODATION TAX SESSION**

Are you an accommodator in Stratford with questions about how the new Municipal Accommodation Tax (MAT) will work? The City of Stratford has partnered with the Ontario Restaurant Hotel and Motel Association (ORHMA) to offer an Ask Me Anything MAT session online through Zoom on Monday, January 30, 2023, starting at 1:00 p.m.

A brief introduction of the MAT will be provided by staff, followed by an opportunity for participants to ask questions of ORHMA about the administration of the MAT. Registration is not required, and participants can either type their questions in through the Zoom chat function, or speak using the "raise hand" feature.

To join the session on Monday, please click the link available on the Municipal Accommodation Tax webpage at: [www.stratford.ca/MAT](http://www.stratford.ca/MAT)

For those unable to attend, the session will be recorded, and a link to the video will be included on that same webpage.

## **ATTENTION STRATFORD PROPERTY OWNERS**

### **PROPERTY TAX – 2023 INTERIM LEVY DUE DATE FEBRUARY 24, 2023**

Your 2023 Interim Tax Bill has now been mailed. If you have not received a Tax Notice or to inquire about the pre-authorized monthly/quarterly payment plan, please call the City Tax Office at 519-271-0250 extension 5209 or 5213. For your convenience, property tax payments by cheque may be deposited in the mailbox at City Hall, Rear Entrance. Payment may be made at your bank or on-line/telephone banking is also available. Please make cheques payable to "City of Stratford" and mail to P.O. Box 818, Stratford ON N5A 6W1. Pre-authorized payment is available monthly or quarterly, call to inquire. Contact: Tax Department, 519-271-0250, extension 5209, 5212, or 5213.

## **2023 PATIO SURVEY – FINAL REMINDER**

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](http://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 – FINAL REMINDER**

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](mailto:stfdbudget@stratford.ca) or by phone at 519-271-0250 extension 5202.

## **APPOINTMENTS TO ADVISORY COMMITTEES AND LOCAL BOARDS – FINAL REMINDER**

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](mailto: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:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>
February 7, 2023	5:30 p.m.	Council Chambers
February 21, 2023	5:30 p.m.	Council Chambers

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](mailto:wpartridge@stratford.ca).

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

**[www.stratford.ca](http://www.stratford.ca)**