

Town Crier, March 7, 2020

Stratford Town Crier

Public Information, Notices and Meeting Schedules

INCOME TAX CLINIC FOR LOW INCOME PERSONS/COUPLES

TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2020

FREE SERVICES PROVIDED BY:

BDO Canada LLP, 380 Hibernia Street - Afternoon and evening appointments

Famme & Co. Professional Corporation - Afternoon appointments at Stratford City Hall, Auditorium

McCutchen & Pearce Professional Corporation - Afternoon appointments at 82 Erie Street, 1st Floor (Avon Room)

Total annual gross income restrictions to participate in the clinic are \$18,000 or less for single, or \$28,000 or less for couples. Disability income received should be included in your total gross income. Please ensure you are within the limits stated. Only current year tax returns will be completed.

Appointments must be made in advance, and are at 15 or 20 minute intervals. Couples require two (2) appointments. To register, please contact the Social Services Clerks at 519-271-3773 Ext. 278, Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Participants will be required to bring to the Clinic, Identification and the following, if applicable: T4's, T5's, Medical Receipts, Donation Receipts, Rent Receipts and/or Property Tax Receipts, Disability Form (T2201), Date of Entry to Canada, etc.

MUNICIPAL ACCOMMODATION TAX – PUBLIC CONSULTATION

On February 10, 2020, Stratford City Council approved in principle the establishment of a mandatory Municipal Accommodation Tax (MAT) for accommodators in the City of Stratford, effective January 1, 2021.

The City is looking for feedback on this project which can be provided in the following ways:

1. Comment Form:
 - A comment form can be filled out on the City's website at <https://www.stratfordcanada.ca/MAT> or by visiting the main reception desk at City Hall for a paper copy.
2. Mail or email:
 - Comments can also be sent to the attention of Corporate Services, P.O. Box 818, 1 Wellington St. Stratford ON N5A 6W1; or by
 - Email: corpserv@stratford.ca
3. Public open houses have also been planned for Tuesday, March 24 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the City Hall Auditorium, and Wednesday, March 25 from 6-8 p.m. in the Tim Taylor Lounge at the Rotary Complex.

Comments are being accepted until March 31, 2020.

Background on the Project:

What is a Municipal Accommodation Tax?

A Municipal Accommodation Tax (MAT) is a fee levied on short-term, overnight accommodations to help support local tourism. It is paid by visitors when they book a room with a local accommodation provider.

How much is the tax?

Stratford has not determined a rate yet, but municipalities in Ontario who have implemented a MAT are collecting at a rate of 4%. That tax would be payable on the purchase price of the accommodation only (the room rate). It would not apply to other associated services and amenities, like meeting room rentals, food and beverages, room services, Internet and phone charges.

Are other municipalities collecting a MAT?

Yes. More than a dozen towns and cities in Ontario have a Municipal Accommodation Tax, including Ottawa, Toronto, London, Waterloo Region, Windsor, Oakville, Kingston, Barrie and Sudbury.

Is the MAT optional?

No. The MAT is a mandatory fee, and must be paid to the accommodation provider when paying for the booking. The fees collected by accommodation providers are then remitted to the municipality.

Under what authority does a municipality collect the MAT?

The Province of Ontario gave municipalities the ability to levy a Municipal Accommodation Tax through the Municipal Act, Ontario Regulation 435/17: Transient Accommodation Tax.

Will the MAT only apply to hotel and motel rooms in Stratford?

City Council still needs to determine if and how the MAT will be implemented, and what types of accommodators would be required to collect it. A public consultation process will be launched shortly to gather input on the MAT.

Where would the money go?

At least 50% of the net revenue from the MAT must be shared with an eligible not-for-profit tourism entity, and reinvested in tourism promotion. In Stratford, that portion would go to the Stratford Tourism Alliance. The remainder may be used for municipal purposes at the discretion of Council. Revenue may be used to fund municipal initiatives, lower the overall tax levy or be placed in reserve for future use.

NOTICE OF NOISE BY-LAW EXEMPTION

The following organizations have requested an exemption from the Noise Control By-law 113-79:

- The Stratford Blues & Ribfest Committee for the 2020 Stratford Blues and Ribfest on Veteran's Drive and in the York Street Parking Lot on Friday, June 19 and Saturday, June 20 until 11:59 p.m. and Sunday, June 21 from 12:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- The Stratford Kinsmen Club for the 2020 Stratford Kinsmen Car Show on Lakeside Drive from Front Street to Lakeside Drive North on Sunday, June 21, 2020 from 6:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

Anyone wishing to comment on this application for exemption should provide their concerns in writing or email by March 16, 2020 to: The Corporation of the City of Stratford, Attention: Events Coordinator, Community Services, P.O. Box 874, 353 McCarthy Rd., Stratford, ON N5A 6W3. Email: ajordan@stratford.ca

An exemption from Noise Control By-law 113-79 has been approved for The Bruce Hotel for the Movies Under the Stars events at their property from 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. on the following dates:

- Sunday, June 7, 2020 (rain date of Sunday, June 14, 2020)
- Sunday, September 6, 2020 (rain date of Sunday, September 13, 2020)

If you require this document in an alternate format, contact City Hall at 519-271-0250 ext. 237 or TTY at 519-271-5241 or email clerks@stratford.ca

EVENING HOT MEAL PROGRAMS IN STRATFORD—OPEN TO ALL—DROP IN

Mar 6	St. James Anglican Church, 6 Hamilton Street	5:15pm
Mar 9	The Local Community Food Centre, 612 Erie Street	5:15pm
Mar 10	St. Paul's Church, 9 Douro Street	5:15pm
Mar 12	Avon Mennonite Church, 90 Greenwood Court	5:15pm

Additional Weekly Meals at The Local Community Food Centre, 612 Erie Street. Breakfast is served every Thursday morning at 8:30am. Seniors' Lunch, 60 years and older, is served every Wednesday at 11:30am.

MEETING SCHEDULE

Mar 9	Committee of the Whole In-camera	5:00pm	Council Chamber
Mar 9	Regular Council and Standing Committees	7:00pm	Council Chamber
Mar 10	Social Services Sub-committee	CANCELLED	
Mar 12	Community Services Sub-committee	4:30pm	Council Chamber

Meetings are open to the public to attend with the exception of In-Camera sessions. Agendas can be accessed from the City's website or may be picked up from the City Clerk's Office the Friday before the scheduled meeting. Also, check the City's website for the Sub-committee, Standing Committee and Council Meeting Schedules, Agendas, and Advisory Committee Schedules as the schedule is subject to change. The Town Crier is also posted on the City's website.

Telephone: 519-271-0250 www.stratfordcanada.ca TTY: 519-271-5241