



Stratford Town Crier

January 3, 2026

Public Information, Notices and Meeting Schedule

CHRISTMAS TREE COLLECTION

Christmas Trees will be collected the week of January 5 to January 9, 2026, on your regular collection date.

2026 PET TAGS NOW ON SALE

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:

Type of Pet Licence	Before March 1, 2026	As of March 1, 2026
Dog/Cat – sterilized	\$20.00	\$30.00
Dog/Cat – not sterilized	\$50.00	\$60.00
Dog or Cat under 1 year	\$20.00	\$20.00
Special Needs Dog	No charge; registration required	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 can be purchased at the following locations:

- Stratford-Perth Humane Society – 125 Griffith Road, 519-273-6600
- City Hall, Clerk's Office – by calling 519-271-0250, extension 5237

EXOTIC ANIMAL REGISTRATION

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.

2026 BUSINESS LICENCES

Stratford business licences expire annually on December 31st and applications are now being accepted for 2026. The City of Stratford licenses certain businesses providing goods or services in the City. Licences are issued in order to regulate businesses, ensure compliance with land use and building regulations and for consumer protection. Being granted a City of Stratford business licence does not relieve the applicant from complying with all Municipal By-laws and/or with Provincial or Federal legislation.

The Clerk's Office issues licences for the following types of businesses: adult entertainment, auctioneers, body piercing, body rub, circus, old gold, precious metals and old jewellery sales, outdoor cafes on municipal property, refreshment vehicles, mobile food vendors, bicycle ice cream vehicles, hawkers and pedlars, flea markets, craft/antique/trade shows, transient traders, door to door sales, tattoo parlours and pawn shops.

For more information, contact the Clerk's Office at 519-271-0250 extension 5237. Applications and fees may be submitted in person, in the drop-box located at the back of City Hall or by mail to the Clerk's Office. Check the City's website at www.stratford.ca for more information and for application forms.

RECYCLING CHANGES EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2026 - REMINDER

Effective January 1, 2026, Ontario begins a new Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) recycling system. This means that the companies that make or import products will take full responsibility for collecting, managing, and recycling their packaging materials, rather than the municipality.

Circular Materials is the administrator of this new system, and Emterra is the contractor collecting the curbside recycling in the City of Stratford.

However, not everyone is included in the new program, such as businesses, places of worship, municipal buildings, and other industrial, commercial and institutional (ICI) stops. The City of Stratford will continue to service these locations from January 1, 2026, until October 31, 2026.

Blue Cart Program

Effective January 1, 2026, the City of Stratford shifts to a cart-based automated collection system for recycling, using 360-litre wheeled recycling carts.

A smaller (246-litre) cart is also available as an option for those who request it through an online Recycling Cart Exchange Request Form at <https://www.circularmaterials.ca/stratfordcarts/>

Please keep in mind that it is a one-time cart exchange.

Circular Materials recommends using your 360-litre recycling cart for at least three bi-weekly collection pickups to understand your needs before requesting a smaller size.

These new carts will replace the City's current open-top boxes and will be compatible with the automated arms used on collection trucks.

One of the reasons to consider keeping your 360-litre cart is that there is a new expanded list of accepted materials, such as beverage cups, black plastic containers, frozen juice containers, ice cream tubs, deodorant and toothpaste tubes. This expanded list of materials will increase the volume of recyclable materials generated and collected from households. In addition, all materials must be inside the recycling cart for collection.

Please have your recycling cart at the curb by 7 a.m. for collection.

For more information about the new recycling program, please visit <https://circularmaterials.ca/stratford>

CLEARING SIDEWALKS OF SNOW AND ICE IN THE CORE AREA AND CLEARING OVERHANGING SNOW AND ICE FROM ROOFS IN THE CITY OF STRATFORD - REMINDER

The purpose of this notice is to advise you that under the conditions of the City of Stratford By-law #225-2005, the owner, occupant or person in charge of any property in the core area as designated in the By-law is

required to clear the sidewalks adjacent to their property of all snow and ice throughout the winter.

The sidewalks shall be cleared of snow and ice prior to 10:00 a.m. everyday, except Sundays and Holidays as defined in the Retail Business Holidays Act. Sidewalk conditions must then be monitored between 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., and to continue to keep the sidewalks cleared at all times. The By-law also requires that icy conditions be treated with sand and/or salt or other suitable substance.

Also, the owner, occupant or person in charge of an occupied or unoccupied building is required to clear away and remove snow and ice from the roof of a building where such snow and ice may fall on a sidewalk or street. All snow or ice from roofs must be removed by 10:00 a.m. every day except Sundays and Holidays as defined in the Retail Business Holidays Act. The person clearing away the snow and ice shall take all necessary care and precautions for the warning and safety of passers-by and other persons.

Any snow and ice which falls onto the sidewalk shall be placed at the edge of the street immediately adjacent to the curb. Snow should not be placed on the travelled portion of the roadway or in such a way as to obstruct access to any fire hydrant.

Regular inspections will be made of the core area sidewalks after snowfalls and to identify any buildings which have snow and ice which may fall on the sidewalk or street. The set fine for contravention of this By-law is \$115.00 for each occurrence, exclusive of costs. The snow and ice may be removed at the discretion of the Infrastructure Services Department or the Chief of Police, and charged to the owner.

The Town Crier is available on the City of Stratford's website.

www.stratford.ca