

December 2023

Photos by Karla Kelly



PRESERVING OUR PAST - DEVELOPING OUR FUTURE



Christmas Message from Warden Linda Gregory

Christmas is traditionally a season of goodwill and a time when we reflect on our individual blessings while at the same time so many folks plan to do something for others.

Across our community we have wonderful people who give their time and effort to bring cheer to those for whom life can be difficult or lonely – and not just at Christmas.

That's why when we celebrate with friends and family, this is a particularly appropriate time of the year to recognize and thank those many volunteer organizations who deserve our support for their work in the community. And let's also remember with gratitude the dedicated staff in our emergency services, hospitals, long term care facilities, and all those continuing to provide essential home care, many of whom will be working throughout the festivities.

We have been fortunate over the past year that progress is being made in the provision of doctors and health care providers giving us hope for continuing improvements in this area.

I would be remiss in acknowledging those who contribute so much in public service if I did not give sincere

thanks to our Municipal staff team. Council and I are grateful for their hard work and experienced advice in making this a special place to live. That dedication is one of the contributing reasons for the fact that once again



we have been able to hold the residential tax rate, something we have been able to do for over twenty years.

There have been some changes, a major one being the retirement of Pat Stevens after 31 years of service and one of the familiar friendly faces that greet you in our office. While Pat will be sorely missed by all we are delighted to welcome Taylor Robinson to our staff family and invite all to drop by and say hello.

Council and staff continued this year to work with our provincial and federal government representatives and departments to bring improvements in areas such as the provision of improved internet capacity, very timely during this season when communication with each other is especially important.

And we remain very aware that inequities remain with regard to housing and food insecurities in our community. While Christmas is about acclaiming a message of hope for a brighter future that overcomes despair, regardless of our individual circumstances, backgrounds, or beliefs, it's a season to care for one another and to embrace a spirit of togetherness. Let's all commit to this resolution.

To celebrate that togetherness the Municipality will once again be hosting a New Years Day levee at the municipal office on January 1 from 1 to 3 PM. I hope to see you there.

On behalf of the Council and staff of the Municipality of Digby we wish you a blessed and peaceful Christmas holiday season and a Happy New Year and may this be a time of good cheer, companionship and celebration for you and those you love.

Digby Ground Search and Rescue

Making a Difference in Our Community for 50 years

2023 is a milestone for the Digby Ground Search and Rescue Organization. This year marks its 50th anniversary. Back in 1973, a dedicated group of local citizens decided it was time to formally organize an official search and rescue team. The group consisted of Irving MacWhinnie, Buddy Barr and Mason Vantassell, who led the way with several others at that time. Over the years the organization grew and currently has 33 members. There are 23 community-based ground search and rescue organizations in the province.

Over the past 50 years there have been many incidents, but one stands out as the most dramatic and impactful, and that is the Swiss Air 111 crash in September 1998. 229 passengers and crew lost their lives that day. It took a momentous effort from RCMP, Coast Guard, Armed Forces, Fire Departments, Emergency Health Services and many community volunteers and Ground Search and Rescue Teams from across Nova Scotia to retrieve casualties and debris from the crash.

The Digby Ground Search and Rescue team meets every Thursday night at 7pm at the Municipal Airport to train and conduct general meetings. If you would like to volunteer, love the outdoors and want to make a difference in your community, contact Larry Brooks at: 902 837-7228 or email: digbysar@hotmail.com for more information.



Front Row L/R: Felix Dugas - Jordan Jacobs
Second Row: Gaye Morrell, Marlene Haight, Sue Dexter White, Alice Amero, Sheila White, Larry Brooks, Kevin Morrell
Third Row: Victor Morrell, Ian Ferguson, Wendy Morrell Pyne, Hope Mullen, Shawna Jefferson Melanson, James Melanson
Fourth Row: Ben Doucette, Carl Pyne, Pierce MacKinnon, Ross Morrell, Nigel Rollo, Luke Thibault, Anthony Sostar.



Winter Rescue



CPR/First Aid Training



Map Training



Simulated Rescue Training



Mobile Base Station



Rescue Vehicles

A WALK IN THE WOODS
 Don't take search & rescue for granted

Searchers find missing cadet

Municipal Council would like to congratulate and thank this important vibrant organization for 50 years of service to our community.

REMO

Regional Emergency
Management Organization

Special Winter weather alerts. What do they mean?

When severe winter weather threatens, Environment Canada issues special alerts that notify Canadians in affected areas so that they can take steps to protect themselves and their property from harm. These weather alert bulletins are issued through the media, as well as through the weather radio service, and the Government of Canada's weather website.

***Special Weather Statements** are the least urgent type of alert. These are issued to let you know that conditions are unusual and could cause concern. They provide a heads up of what weather may be coming.

***Advisories** are issued for specific weather events (like blowing snow, fog, freezing drizzle and frost) that are less severe, but could still significantly affect residents.

***Watch alerts** advise you about weather conditions where there is potential for a significant storm or severe weather to occur. As certainty increases about the path and strength of a storm system, a Watch could be upgraded to a Warning.

***Warnings** are urgent messages that severe weather is either occurring or will occur. These alerts are updated regularly so that you can stay informed and take appropriate action.

Winter alerts

***Snowfall** - significant snowfall

***Snow Squall** - when cold air moves across larger open bodies of water (such as the Bay of Fundy) creating nearly stationary bands of cloud and snow.

***Freezing Rain / Freezing-**

Drizzle - when rain or drizzle falls onto sub-zero surfaces and freezes on contact forming a layer of ice.

***Winter Storm** - issued when multiple types of severe winter weather are expected to occur together.

Cold alerts

***Extreme Cold** - extremely cold temperatures or very low wind chill values.

***Flash Freeze** - issued when a rapid drop in temperature causes water from rain or melted snow on streets, sidewalks etc. to quickly freeze.

Poor Visibility alerts

***Blizzard** - issued when winds are expected to create blowing snow giving widespread reduced visibility of 400 metres or less.



Looking to find a job in your field or find skilled job seekers?

The **WESTERN REN'S CONNECTOR PROGRAM** is a simple yet highly effective networking program designed to help broaden a skilled job seeker's network through one-on-one meetings with established local business and community leaders.

This program helps job seekers build their professional network, connect with career opportunities and find success in their chosen field.

Connectors are local business and community leaders who have a strong network. They can often be found making introductions within social, cultural, professional and economic circles.

Connectees are job ready newcomers & local and international graduates or underemployed skilled locals who are actively looking to launch their career in the Western Region. They are highly skilled individuals, proficient in English and/or French, legally entitled to work in Canada, and a graduate of a post-secondary program.

To find out more, contact Miranda Maclean at 902-340-8136 or by email at: connector@westernren.ca



YourHealthNS – new tool to access health services

YourHealthNS helps people in Digby County and across Nova Scotia navigate the healthcare system. Download the app for your own one-stop shop to book services and find information easier and faster, right from a mobile device or computer.

You can personalize the app with information most important to you, search for health services nearest you, book blood tests, x-rays, flu shots and COVID-19 vaccine appointments, chat with a care navigator to help you find the best service or information you need, and more.

Nova Scotians without a mobile device can access YourHealthNS online at: <https://www.yourhealthns.ca/>

Nova Scotians are reminded that for emergency care, they should go to an emergency department or call 911.

Download the
YourHealthNS
app today





The Municipality of Digby has started the annual purchase of art from local artists and artisans for 2024. The Digby Art Bank Acquisition is pleased to announce a call out to artists and artisans of the Digby area to submit original works for purchase. Artists can submit up to three pieces for jury selection. The value of each piece of art cannot exceed \$2,500.

Deadline for submissions is January 17, 2024.

Please go to the Municipality of Digby website: www.digbymun.ca and look under the Digby Art Bank posting for submission forms and brochure. You can email: heritage@digbymun.ca to request submission documents or contact Robert Hersey at: 902-245-4757

Get your Coastline by email
Send request to:
[**heritage@digbymun.ca**](mailto:heritage@digbymun.ca)

Or go to: [**www.digbymun.ca**](http://www.digbymun.ca) look under: **Departments/Information**

Check us out on Facebook:
[**municipality of digby**](https://www.facebook.com/municipalityofdigby)

On the Trails

Goodwins donate Acacia Valley lands to Nature Trust

Larry and Greta Goodwin have made sure at least one part of the Acacia Valley Trail system will be protected forever. The Hillgrove couple has donated 163 acres of their land to the Nova Scotia Nature Trust. The Acacia Valley Conservation Lands encompass about 6km of the 12km of trails in the Acacia Valley Trails system. This includes the Boundary Trail that runs by Picnic Rock, and Fred's Road and the Hardwood Ridge.

Even with the traditional recreational use and logging on this land, the land supports a mix of mature forests which are home to several species of conservation concern, including the Canada Warbler, Eastern Wood-Pewee, and Blue Felt Lichen.

Larry continues to serve as the president of the Acacia Valley Trail Society which takes care of the trails. The Nature Trust is planning a hike in the spring to celebrate this significant donation.



Larry and Greta Goodwin have donated their land around the Acacia Valley Trails to the Nova Scotia Nature Trust.

Council Meetings

5 pm

Committee of the Whole

December 12

Council December *no meeting*

Committee of the Whole

January 9

Council January 23

Committee of the Whole

February 13

Council February 27

Committee of the Whole

March 12

Council March 26



Directory of Municipal Services

Councillors

Warden Linda Gregory

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Deputy Warden Matthew Ross

902-247-5555 mross@digbymun.ca

George Manzer

902-837-4353 gmanzer@digbymun.ca

David Tudor

902-308-9934 dtudor@digbymun.ca

Angela Thurber athurber@digbymun.ca

902-467-3425

Municipal Offices

General Inquiries 902-245-4777

Building & Fire Inspector 902-245-6776

Airport 902-245-5885

Dog Control Officer 902-245-5885

REMO 902-245-6252

Heritage 902-245-4757

Renewable Energy/Climate Change 902-245-4767

Trail Coordinator, Jonathan Riley 902-245-2861