

Hubert Vroom Retires After 25 Years of Service

It was back in August of 1987 when Hubert came to work for the Municipality as Chief Building Inspector. Prior to this, he owned and operated a contracting business in Deep Brook where he still lives with his wife Brenda.

We asked Hubert about changes he has seen in construction over the years.

The biggest change would be in the materials used. We still have the tried and true wood frame systems but now we have ICF systems (Insulated Concrete Forms). These provide a fast, simple method that yields a tight, comfortable and efficient home. The introduction of vinyl has also made a lasting difference in the performance of doors and windows.

How have the Building Codes changed over the years?

With the advent of new and exciting materials comes a need for updated codes. The first codes were prescriptive in nature. They dictated the minimum size of structural supports and limited the materials used. The new codes include an 'equivalent' clause

which allows the designer / builder to use new materials as they become available.



Is there still a need for Building Inspection?

Oh yes, the construction trade (carpentry) is still a trade that is largely unregulated. They do have a system of licenses, however, it is not required to be licensed.

The electrical trade, as well as the plumbing and masonry trades, are certified trades. In order to work in these trades one is required to be certified. The inspection process insures that the minimum standards are met and provides a level of confidence to the owner and future buyers that the home was constructed to an acceptable standard. Anyone can pick up a hammer and call himself a carpenter.

What are the future plans for the Department?

Alfred Doucet, 15 years with the Municipality, will be taking over my place and Cathy Barr, who has been with us for 25 years and having recently completed her training, will be the new Assistant Inspector. Her former position as administrative assistant has been filled by Norma Wamboldt.

Hubert concludes, " I am going to miss all the staff at the office as well as working with and assisting the contractors and the public. And if you feel the need to blow off steam, call me and give me heck, cause I'll miss that too."

The municipality and staff wish Hubert all the best in his retirement.

Municipality of the District of Digby Application Respecting 2012 /2013 Tax Exemption

Be it resolved by the Municipal Council of the Municipality of the District of Digby, that an exemption from taxes for 2012/2013 be granted pursuant to Section 69 of the Municipal Government Act in an amount not exceeding \$150 and that the exemption be granted to every person with respect to taxable property in the Municipality of the District of Digby whose total household income from all sources in 2011 does not exceed \$20,000. That the exemption be granted only in respect of property owned and occupied as his/her home, and that the property have no outstanding tax arrears from previous years.

Application forms are available at the Municipal Office and must be returned no later than June 30, 2012

2012 Municipal and School Board Elections Internet and Telephone Voting

Council of the Municipality of the District of Digby voted unanimously in favour of Intelivote Systems Inc proposal to provide the technology for electronic voting in October's municipal and school board elections. Electors can cast their vote using either the internet or the telephone. On Election Day, electors will also be able to cast their vote at one polling station per district using a computer or if they prefer, a paper ballot. Those locations will be determined closer to the election.

Council felt that it was important to provide one poll per district for those electors who were not comfortable using a computer or phone to cast their vote. From 8:00 am on October 12th until 7:00 pm on October 20th voters can have their own personal polling station by using their telephone, wireless device or Internet to cast their vote. If you are eligible to vote in the Municipality of Digby you can vote from anywhere and anytime for nine full days. Whether you are in the military, traveling on business, a student, snowbird, disabled or infirmed, electronic voting provides the option of casting a ballot from anywhere in the world. Every person on the Final List of Electors will receive a voter information letter containing instructions on how to cast their

ballot and their electronic voting PIN.

By increasing the range of services available to electors and making voting more convenient for residents, it is Councils hope that e-voting will not only increase electoral involvement, but also have a positive effect on voter turnout.

The Municipality will be providing more public information on e-voting closer to the election.

To view a demo of e-voting go to www.intelivote.com

Environmental Services

The Municipality continues to expand its collections system throughout Smith's Cove. A section of West Old Post Road and The Avenue are nearing completion and residents will be able to connect to the Municipality's *Wastewater Treatment Plant* (WWTP). At present the Smith's Cove WWTP is underutilized, but this will change this year when the Municipality and the Town will be utilizing the plant as the central pollution control centre for all the Town and surrounding Municipality. This will have a positive effect on the Annapolis Basin and the environment. The Municipality is also investigating having Bear River's collection system

connect to Smith's Cove WWTP. Initial reviews indicate there are considerable environmental and economic benefits in using the Smith's Cove WWTP.

The Municipality has converted the Recycling Transfer Station into a Garbage Transfer Station. Previously, the recyclables were transported to Yarmouth. The Municipality of Clare recently opened a recycling processing centre, so this has allowed the Municipality to direct haul the recyclables to Clare. Our garbage had been collected at curb-side, trucked to Clare then to Queens. Now, the garbage is picked up in Seabrook and goes directly to Queens. Not only is this a less expensive way to handle our solid waste but it also decreases our carbon footprint by not having as many garbage trucks on the roads.



Simon Doiron Environmental Services Manager and Barry Faulkner Public Works add chlorine to the lagoon to prevent a E.coli discharge.

BALANCING ROCK ATTRACTION HAS FOUND NEW FRIENDS

During the fall of 2011 meetings were spearheaded by the Municipality of the District of Digby to talk with local parties interested in the sustainability of the Balancing Rock Trail and other trail development in the area. The meetings were well attended and it was agreed that the best way to proceed would be to ask the Municipality if it would assist local interest groups in establishing a not-for-profit society. The objectives of this society would be to work toward the future planning



Balancing Rock Volunteer Maintenance Crew
L- R Gordon Wilson-Rob Hersey-Roger Outhouse-Bob Powell
Back Barry Faulkner

and operation of this world famous attraction.

It was generally accepted by everyone at the meeting that there are probably 12,000 visitors at the Balancing Rock each year. It was also considered that with all the physical improvements to the trail,

including signage, that there could easily be an increase to 15,000 visitors.

The Municipality of Digby and the Digby Area Recreation Commission have both been huge supporters in this development and continue to be a great resource and assistance as this process continues. If you are wondering how this type of recreation, green space, and recreation development can

help our region you only need to check surveys as to why tourists visit Nova Scotia. You will see tides, coastal hiking, breathtaking seascapes, and adventures like whale watching are all high on the list. We have all of these BIG TIME and few could argue with that.

Digby Fire Truck Rally

The Digby Fire Department, with help from surrounding departments, is holding a fire truck rally June 15-17.

Mike Bartlett is chairing the rally committee. They hope to bring in 50 trucks this first year.

They have been touring the province to invite other departments and to get their help running different events.

Nova Scotia Premier Darrell Dexter will be on hand Friday to officially open the event.

Saturday will be the biggest day with a fire truck parade, a firefighting trade show with CTV's Heidi Petracek as the guest speaker, a fireboat rescue challenge, buskers, bingo, fireboat parade of

lights, a live band at the marina and fireworks.

The rally is also in final negotiations to bring the first midway rides to Digby in over a



dozen years.

Check out www.digbyfire.ca for a full schedule of events like the bucket brigade challenge, jaws of life challenge and a fire truck show and shine.

“We’ll be looking for support and volunteers from the community,” said Bartlett. “This has the potential to grow into 100 or 200 trucks. It should be a fun weekend and a great start to the summer season here in the area.”

Civic Numbering

Make it Clear Where You Are

The importance of posting your civic number cannot be understated. The number should be positioned in a clear location easily visible by emergency personnel arriving in your vicinity. Civic numbers should be placed no lower than four feet or 1.3 meters off the ground. The civic number should also be placed close to the road directly in front of the premises. Keep brush and tree limbs away from your civic number so visibility is not obstructed.

For more information on civic numbers go to: <http://www.gov.ns.ca/snsmr/access/land/land-services-information/civic-address.asp>

Sign up For Safety
7446
Post Your Civic Number

Along the Coastline

*The Municipality of Digby is installing LED streetlights at the Digby Annapolis Regional Airport from two different suppliers to evaluate the process and compare effectiveness of different streetlights. This pilot project will assist with reviewing options for impending replacement of streetlights within areas currently provided with streetlight services. The Province of Nova Scotia has legislated the changeover to LED lighting for all roadways within the province.

*Municipal Council had directed administrative staff to investigate concerns relating to the lack of internet services within the Municipality. Complaints regarding the provision of wireless broadband by Eastlink have been brought forward in the Digby Neck area. The broadband internet initiative has been ongoing since 2009 and is scheduled to wrap up December 31, 2014. Several customers have been waiting an extended time for connections and the Municipality is working towards resolving this. If any residents of the Municipality are experiencing issues with their broadband service they are encouraged to call Eastlink and/or call the municipal office.

*The Digby Annapolis Regional Airport is continuing to implement its business plan and residential fly in development opportunity by engaging Stonehouse Marketing Group. The Digby Annapolis Regional Airport like many other municipal services is being challenged to find ways to be sustainable. The plans for the residential development will include some interesting home and aircraft sharing opportunities. Stonehouse Marketing will be promoting this unique development through various media such as national publications, web sites and email contacts.

*The Municipality of Digby is currently applying for funding to upgrade the Maud Lewis site in Marshalltown. Enhancements to the site include expanding the landscaping, new highway signage, picnic tables, benches and redefining the parking area. It is hoped that this work will ensure the legacy of Maud continues to thrive through the popularity and value seen in the site.

*Municipal Council has approved the hiring of a summer student to collect digitized geographical data

to be incorporated into a Geographical Information System (GIS). GIS is a computer-based application which will enable the Municipality to collect, manage and utilize land and property based data. The Municipality of the District of Digby is involved in the delivery of a variety of services and the administration of a wide range of infrastructure. Unfortunately the Municipality does not have any means of efficiently managing data related to these activities. The Municipality does keep hard records relating to infrastructure and land related activities such as wastewater, land use zoning and heritage property designation. The ability to manage this type of data in an integrated manner is critical to responsible oversight of Municipal assets and resources.

*A review of the Conway Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use Bylaw is planned to begin early this spring. A review of the Conway MPS/LUB is a planned activity that occurs every five years. Public meetings will be scheduled and advertised for community engagement as a part of the process.

Public Waste Drop Off

Large & small household items such as: furniture, waste metal, Household Hazardous waste, recyclables.
Drop-Off Hours: April 1 - October 31 Monday - Friday 9 - 5 pm **Saturday** 8am - 12 noon
Fees: 200 kg(440lbs) free - over 200 kg to 400 kg \$23 over 400kg to one metric ton \$100 **Info: 245-2657**

Municipal Council Meetings 6 pm

COTW April 10 Council April 23
COTW May 14 Council May 28
COTW June 11 Council June 25

Directory of Municipal Services Councillors

Warden Linda Gregory

245-2616 lgregory@municipality.digby.ns.ca

Deputy Warden Jimmy MacAlpine

245-4651 jmacalpine@municipality.digby.ns.ca

Maritza Adams

245-6671 madams@municipality.digby.ns.ca

Randall Amero

837-7324 ramero@municipality.digby.ns.ca

David Tudor

839-2630 dtudor@municipality.digby.ns.ca

Municipal Offices

General Inquiries	245-4777
Building & Fire Inspector	245-6776
Airport	245-5885
Dog Control Officer	245-5885
REMO	245-6252
Environmental Services Manager	245-3186
Renewable Energy/Climate Change	245-4767

Milestone Certificates

Council provides a certificate of recognition to groups and individuals for significant milestones or achievements. To find out more go to: www.digbydistrict.ca for details.

The **Coastline** is published by the Municipality of the District of Digby. Any comments can be sent to: P.O. Box 429, Digby, N.S. B0V 1A0 or dropped off at 12548 Highway 217 weekdays from 8:30 - 4:30. Or call 245-4777 or e-mail heritage@municipality.digby.ns.ca