

Photos by Adam Cornick & Karla Kelly



PRESERVING OUR PAST - DEVELOPING OUR FUTURE

## Digby Area Engages with China

**The Digby - Clare area now has a Friendship Agreement with sister municipality in China.**

On September 9, Warden Jimmy MacAlpine of the Municipality of the District of Digby and Warden Ronnie LeBlanc, representing the Municipality of the District of Clare, signed the Agreement with Mr. Wang Tianqi, Mayor of Jingjiang, a county level city in the province of Jiangsu, China, located on the northern (left) bank of the Yangtze River.

The Agreement is a coordinated effort by the Municipalities of Digby and Clare, along with the Town of Digby, to establish trade, development, education and tourism links with one of the most prosperous areas of eastern China.

The signing was witnessed by Premier Stephen McNeil who congratulated the three municipalities on their foresight and initiative in establishing a solid relationship with what is now Nova Scotia's second largest trading and export market.

"While this initiative does not commit our area to any obligations, it does give us a gateway into a key emerging market, especially in the areas of seafood exports, tourism promotion, port development concepts and educational exchanges",



Premier Steven MacNeil; Foreign Exchange Teacher from Digby, Jamie Lee Berends; Warden Jimmy MacAlpine



A Friendly Handshake  
Warden MacAlpine; Mayor of Jinjiang, Mr. Wang Tianqi;  
Warden of Clare Ronnie LeBlanc



Warden MacAlpine Signing the Friendship Agreement with Chinese Government Representative

said Warden MacAlpine.

The agreement stresses principles of equality and mutual benefit and encourages the participating parties to seek exchanges and cooperation in various forms in the fields of economy, trade, culture, education, and tourism.

Jingjiang is a busy river seaport and a major shipbuilding, fishing, lumber importing, tourism centre, and like the Digby area is a significant transportation hub.

While the Jingjiang area has traditionally relied on its agricultural and aquatic industries, it has been working to expand and diversify its economy. The area also has numerous tourist attractions including historical sites, parks and temples, and a growing eco-tourism strategy.

Warden MacAlpine and Warden LeBlanc were part of a delegation that also included representation from the County of Annapolis, the President of Universite Sainte-Anne, and area business and career training leaders. The meeting was coordinated to coincide with the visit of Premier McNeil and Nova Scotia Business Inc.

Annapolis County had previously signed Friendship Agreements with two municipalities in the same area of China and Warden LeBlanc also signed a separate Agreement with the Municipality of Taicong, located near Jingjiang.

# Van Tassel Lake Trail and Municipal Wind Turbine Public Opening

A short distance from the Town of Digby is a new trail experience that will give residents the opportunity to enjoy the natural splendor of our area. The newly developed Van Tassel Lake Trail is the creation of the Van Tassel Lake Trails Association with support from the landowner, the Town of Digby have spearheaded community efforts to install trail signage and benches and make the trail safe for visitors. The trail takes you around Van Tassel Lake to a look off with a beautiful view of the area. On October 11 the Van Tassel Lake Trails Association and the Municipality jointly conducted an open house and unveiling event. That included tours of the turbines and the trail. Warden MacAlpine;



Trailhead Information Panel



Trail Signage



Deputy Warden Gregory and Mayor Cleveland were on hand for the occasion.

## Fire Departments

**Brighton Barton Fire Department**  
Fire Chief Cliff Surrette 902-245-6466

**Bear River Fire Department**  
Fire Chief Darryl Jelfs 902-467-0909

**Digby Fire Department**  
Fire Chief Robert Morgan  
902-245-4632

**Digby Neck Fire Department**  
Fire Chief Lee Wentzell 902-245-2651

**Freeport Fire Department**  
Fire Chief Kevin Guier 902-247-2257

**Plympton Fire Department**  
Fire Chief Colin Marshall  
902-837-4280

**Smiths Cove Fire Department**  
Fire Chief Sue Hogan 902-245-5557

**Southville Fire Department**  
Fire Chief Doug Cromwell  
902-308-2258

**Tiverton Fire Department**  
Fire Chief Richard Crocker  
902-839-2551

**Westport Fire Department**  
Fire Chief Jim Outhouse 902-839-2913

**Weymouth Fire Department**  
Fire Chief Roy Mullen 902-837-5171

**“Every Second Counts”  
Plan 2 Ways Out of  
Your Home.**



**\*Draw a map of your home interior with all members of your household, marking two exits from each room and a path to the outside from each exit.**

**\*Practice your home fire drill twice a year. Conduct one at night and one during the day with everyone in your home, and practice using different ways out. Teach children how to escape on their own in case you can't help them.**

**\*Make sure the number of your home is clearly marked and easy for the fire department to find.**

**Close doors behind you as you leave – this may slow the spread of smoke, heat, and fire. Once you get outside, stay outside. Never go back inside a burning building.**

## Your Volunteer Fire Department Needs You

One of the most important ways to help your community is to be involved in your local fire department. Nearly all departments are in need of volunteer members especially younger members. Departments offer the opportunity to make new friends and be part of a new social fellowship. Other benefits would be training in firefighting; first aid/CPR and rescue procedures for vehicle and boat emergencies. Team work is an important part of fighting fires. Everyone does their part during a call. After a call there is a strong sense of accomplishment in knowing you have done something good for your community. Firefighting is a commitment and sometimes calls are in the middle of the night or during family events so make sure you have your family support before committing to a department.

All fire departments need to fundraise to assist with fire hall upkeep and firefighting equipment. If you can give a little bit of your time to assist your local department with their fundraising activities, let them know. Get your name on a helper list. Your time would be greatly appreciated.

*See contact information on this page and call your local Fire Chief to talk about how you can be a part of this vital service.*



Digby Fire Department responds to house fire on Lighthouse Rd

## Notice to Home Owners

### Why have a Building Permit ?



Building Inspector  
Alfred Doucet

Are you planning to having work done on your home? Here is some information on the requirements of having a building permit before you begin.

As most of you know building permits are required, with some discretion, for all jobs done by a contractor/ carpenter for the general public in the Municipality and Town of Digby.

The Nova Scotia Building Code regulations section 2.1.1.1(1) states that owners shall obtain all required permits or approvals prior to commencing any work. It has been an acceptable practice here at the Municipality of Digby and most other municipalities that the owner or agent of the owner, which can be the contractor or the carpenter doing the work, can obtain the permit. Ultimately it is the owner's responsibility to obtain the permit but the contractor or carpenter doing the work has the obligation under section 2.3.1.2(1) of the Nova Scotia Building Code regulations to make sure a permit has been issued before commencing any work.

The Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ), which is the building inspector, is empowered under his or her discretion to order work to stop if a permit has not been issued. This would be issued to the owner of the building and also any contractors or carpenters performing any work on the premises.

Your support in making sure the owner has an approved permit or by applying for the permit on behalf of the owner would prevent any work stoppage and costly stop work order fines which could range from \$100 to \$1,000 per day if work continues.

If you have any questions regarding the Building Code and wish to speak with a building inspector contact Alfred Doucet at 902 245-4492 or Cathy Barr at 902- 245-2756.

## Supporting Our Municipal Registered Heritage Properties

There are twenty-six Municipal Registered Heritage Properties in the district. Eleven of the properties are privately owned. Heritage property owners contribute to the historical fabric of our communities by maintaining the architectural merits of their property. Our built heritage is a direct connection to our ancestors and a testament to the craftsmanship of its time. **"Built heritage is one of our most tangible reminders of our past. It is in our villages, it is on our streets, it is our neighbor. To respect our built heritage is a direct reflection upon the integrity of a community,"** said former Warden, David Irvine. Starting this year the municipality has created a grant program to assist Municipality Registered Heritage Property owners with exterior repairs. Each owner is eligible to receive up to \$1000 per year for the next five years. Homeowners also have the option to bank the \$1000 for future repairs within the mandate of the program. This program follows a very similar assistance initiative the municipality created for Municipality Registered Heritage Churches in the district. Both programs are unique in the Province of Nova Scotia and take a proactive approach to the preservation of built heritage.

For more information contact Robert Hersey, Program Development Coordinator for the Municipality of Digby 902-245-4757



Old Gasch/Ward Home Centreville



### Economic Summit Focuses on Business Needs

Labour force challenges in Western NS are nothing new but the Western REN's approach is a three prongs approach to address the labour force gaps:

1. Access to the region's available workforce.
2. Productivity of existing workforce.
3. Backfilling true labour needs through immigration streams.

The Western REN's *BusinessNow* services, Connector Program, Productivity Projects, and a regional partnership in the new Atlantic Immigration Pilot form the basis of its approach to strengthening the region's workforce.

This is the focus of the October 17, 2017 Summit titled: **Landing Talent**. Summit participants will explore employee and employer expectations, learn about available Human Resource services, and how to make Western Nova Scotia's businesses the best places to work.



Photo: 2015-16 Networking Summit

Council Expenses  
are now Online

[digbydistrict.ca](http://digbydistrict.ca)



# Along the Coastline



- ✓ Good progress is being made to the extension of the municipal sewer collection lines in Smith's Cove.
- ✓ In August members of Council and staff met with Derek Mombourquette, the new Minister of Municipal Affairs to discuss local issues.
- ✓ The October regular meeting of Council is going to be held at the Weymouth Library on Oct 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00 pm. All welcome.
- ✓ Councillors have been busy in their districts meeting with constituents and attending various functions and events.
- ✓ Members of Council and staff volunteered for the Wharf Rat Rally. Many thanks to the WRR Board, staff and all the volunteers who made the rally such a huge success.

## Council Meetings

**Council** October. 23 at 6 pm Weymouth Library  
**Committee of the Whole** November 14 at 5 pm  
**Council** November 27 at 6 pm  
**Committee of the Whole** December 11 at 5 pm

### **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](http://www.digbydistrict.ca)** for details.

**Or call 902-245-4777 or e-mail:**  
**[heritage@municipality.digby.ns.ca](mailto:heritage@municipality.digby.ns.ca)**

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

# Digby Trails

Close to 75 people turned out for an Open House at the municipality's Haines Lake property on Sept. 23. Chris Hersey won the door prize of a Balancing Rock tee-shirt. Stay tuned for public consultation later this fall about making the most of recreational opportunities at Haines Lake.

**Trail Coordinator**  
**Jonathan Riley**  
**and Door Prize Winner**  
**Chris Hersey**



## Notice! **New Doctors in the Area**

Two new family doctors are accepting patients. **Dr. Genna Bourget and Dr. Jennifer Chang.** People in the Digby area who do not have a primary care provider, such as a family doctor or nurse practitioner, should register with *Need a Family Practice*. Please visit: [needafamilypractice.nshealth.ca](http://needafamilypractice.nshealth.ca) or call 811, Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. A third Doctor, **Dr. LaPierre** is also accepting unattached patients by appointment at 902 245-1307

## Milestone Celebrations

**Wallace P. Mullen** Celebrated 102nd Birthday on July 5

**Aldyth Iris Kaye** Celebrated 90th Birthday Sept. 1

**Jean & Michael Cole** Celebrated their  
50th Anniversary Aug. 13

**Mickey & Austin Denton** Celebrated their  
50th Anniversary Aug. 12

### Directory of Municipal Services

Councillors

**Warden Jimmy MacAlpine**

902-245-4651 [jmacalpine@municipality.digby.ns.ca](mailto:jmacalpine@municipality.digby.ns.ca)

**Deputy Warden Linda Gregory**

902-245-2616 [lgregory@municipality.digby.ns.ca](mailto:lgregory@municipality.digby.ns.ca)

**Matthew Ross**

902-247-5555 [mross@municipality.digby.ns.ca](mailto:mross@municipality.digby.ns.ca)

**George Manzer**

902-837-4353 [gmanzer@municipality.digby.ns.ca](mailto:gmanzer@municipality.digby.ns.ca)

**David Tudor**

902-308-9934 [dtudor@municipality.digby.ns.ca](mailto:dtudor@municipality.digby.ns.ca)

**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

Economic Development, Dan Harvey 902-847-1217