

June 2020

Photos by Karla Kally



PRESERVING OUR PAST - DEVELOPING OUR FUTURE

Moving forward during this Pandemic

On behalf of Council I would like to thank all of our Health care professionals, first responders and front line workers for the tremendous job that they have been doing as we cope with the COVID-19 pandemic. I know these past weeks have been very difficult for everyone, not able to socialize with family and friends, but we must abide by the State of Emergency restrictions so that we can overcome this deadly virus. We hope to see the restric-



Warden Jimmy MacAlpine


tions lifted soon and hopefully start to get back to a state of normalcy in our lives.

Economically, it has been very challenging for many people and our businesses need your support at this time. I encourage you to shop locally and when travel is allowed for vacations, that you consider travel options closer to home.

Take care,

Jimmy MacAlpine

Municipal Tax Bills

 Due to Covid-19 and the provincial state of emergency the Municipality of Digby will be sending out ONE tax bill for the 2020/2021 tax year. This tax bill will be sent the first week in September with a due date of September 30th, 2020. Council recognizes the chal-

lenging times we are in and has stopped charging interest on all overdue tax bills from April 1st, 2020 until December 31st, 2020. As of January 1st, 2021 the interest charged will be 10%, which is a reduced rate from the 15% regular rate.

Council is currently working on a plan to assist individuals and businesses who have been

directly affected by Covid-19 more information on this program will be released prior to the September tax billing.

If you would like to make a payment on your tax account prior to the September bill, the following payment methods continue to be accepted: internet banking, telebanking or call the municipal office and staff will assist you – 902-245-4777.

Message from the Nova Scotia Health Authority

Many Nova Scotia Health Authority services have been reduced or suspended until further notice. Other services are being provided over the telephone when possible. This includes services at Digby General Hospital and the Digby & Area Health Services Centre. This is part of our plan to contain the spread of COVID-19 and to keep the public, our patients and staff safe. Impacted hospital services include:

* Urgent out-patient blood collection services at Digby General Hospital are now by appointment only. Patients requiring urgent and essential bloodwork can call for an appointment: 902-740-2320

* Non-urgent diagnostic imaging appointments will be rescheduled and walk-in x-ray services will be closed.

* Strict visitor restrictions are also in place at Digby General Hospital.

If you have an emergency, please call 911 or visit the emergency department. The Mental Health Crisis Line operates 24/7 at 1-888-429-8167. For updated, factual information about COVID-19, and NSHA services, visit: <http://www.nshealth.ca/coronavirus>



Digby General Hospital

Here to Help

The Municipality and Town of Digby are here to help during the COVID 19 Pandemic. Although our offices are closed to the public our staff are still working for you. Contact us at:

Municipality of Digby
administration@municipality.digby.ns.ca
902-245-4777

Town of Digby
townhall@digby.ca
902-245-4769



Do you have a question related to COVID 19? Send an email to covid19@municipality.digby.ns.ca We will either answer the question or give you the information on where to get the correct advice.



Sharing Important Information

COVID-19 Business Support

The Western Regional Enterprise Network focuses on connecting people from any industry or sector to the supports and resources they need to succeed. We know that right now, this is more important than ever to our business community across the region.

We are working in collaboration with many of our partners such as the Town of Digby, Municipality of Digby, the Digby Area Board of Trade as well as many other local and provincial contacts to bring you the answers you need.

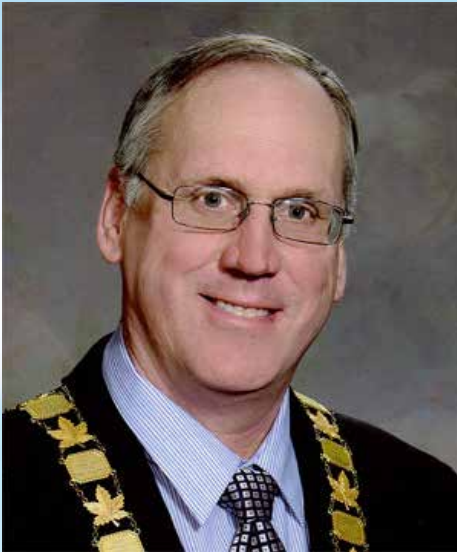
Our online Frequently Asked Questions page is continually updated and includes supports and resources available for both businesses and individuals, please visit: <https://westernren.ca/covid-19-information-and-resources/>

For business owners who would like a one on one free consultation with one of our staff members, contact us at:

**wren@westernren.ca
or 902-881-3008**

Connecting, informing, and accelerating regional economic development for Argyle, Barrington, Clare, Digby and Yarmouth

Message from the Mayor of Digby



Mayor Ben Cleveland

As we are entering yet another month of Covid-19 restrictions and challenges I am proud of all that we have done as a community to come together to reduce the spread of Covid-19. I also wish to thank everyone who continues to go to work each and every day. This cannot be an easy thing to do but your work is greatly appreciated. These are times which are unprecedented and I am hopeful that restrictions will soon begin to slowly lift and we can transition to a new normal.

As we look into the future Town-Council is working on a Covid-19 property tax finance plan that will

help you during these times. More information will follow in the coming weeks as we are working hard to be able to provide assistance to those who will require it. Council is also discussing steps to reduce the operating budget expenses where possible as we recognize that the financial impact of this pandemic will be a challenge for both businesses and residents.

Although you may not be able to attend gatherings and celebrations with family and friends at this time, reach out in other ways and let them know you are there for them.

Sincerely, Mayor Cleveland



The Town of Digby Administration office remains closed to the public

until further notice, however:

*All essential services will continue to be delivered.

*Bill payments can be made online, by mail or a convenient drop off box located at 147 First Avenue. Documents that need to be delivered, can also be deposited into the drop box.

* We are here for you by phone 902-245-4769 Monday to Friday from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM or contact us by email at townhall@digby.ca

* Next meeting of Council will be June 1st, 2020 and all meeting minutes will be posted within 24 hours of a meeting on the Town of Digby website at www.digby.ca

COVID-19 TAX PAYMENT ASSISTANCE

The Town of Digby interim tax bills are now in the mail. Due to financial challenges associated with COVID-19, the due date of the

interim tax bill will be August 31, 2020. Interest on overdue taxes will be lowered to 15% from 18%

Low income property tax rebate:

You may qualify for the low income property tax rebate. Information and forms are available on the website for printing or can be mailed if you contact us. The deadline to apply is July 31, 2020.

Council is currently working on a Property Tax Finance Program to assist those property owners who are directly affected by Covid-19. More information on this program will be released as it becomes available.

COVID-19 CANCELLATION

The Mayor and Council July 1st Canada Day Celebration has been cancelled at this time.

Town of Digby Visitor Information Centre will not be opening for the 2020 season. We look forward to welcoming you back in May of 2021.

Reminder about collection of yard waste:

All accumulated leaf waste, not placed directly in green-carts, shall be placed in paper leaf and yard waste collection bags. The use of plastic leaf and yard bags or biodegradable (compostable) plastic bags is prohibited.

The Town of Digby invites nominations for the **Joe Casey Humanitarian Award**. This award is presented annually to a person(s) who has made significant contribution to the betterment of the Town of Digby. Nomination forms can be downloaded from the website at www.digby.ca

Nominations can be mailed to: Town of Digby P. O. Box 579 Digby, NS B0V 1A0

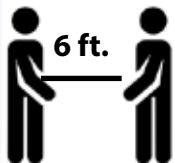
Deadline for submission is June 15, 2020

Town Hall Administration
Office and Digby Water
Commission 902-245-4769
Public Works Department
902-245-4683
By Law Enforcement Officer
902-245-5425

Everyone Can Help Prevent the Spread of COVID-19



Stay home and self-isolate if you've travelled outside of Canada or Nova Scotia or have symptoms



Follow the latest social distancing and self-isolation advice



Wash your hands often



Be kind to others and look out for your neighbours

**If you have symptoms go to:
novascotia.ca/coronavirus
or call 811 and take the survey first**



**Digby & Area Covid Hotline
For Older Adults**

902-308-3300

Monday to Friday 1pm - 5pm
covid19@municipality.digby.ns.ca

Helpful Links:

Latest information on COVID 19 or if you feel you have the virus take the survey first go to: novascotia.ca/coronavirus or call 811 or 1-800-670-4357

Call **211** for a free helpline that connects you to community and social services in your area 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, in over 150 languages.

If you need financial assistance go online to: **Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan**

Here you will find links to financial support for individuals regarding child benefits - Mortgage support -EI support -Emergency Assistance and many other COVID-19 programs. As for businesses there is support for small businesses like: wage assistance - extension to your income tax filing - interest rate reduction and many more helpful initiatives.

Garbage Collection Reminders

- * Solid Waste needs to be placed curbside at 7:00 a.m. on the day of collection
- * Corrugated Cardboard must be flattened, securely tied, weigh no more than 20 kg and be no more than 60 cm by 60 cm.
- * There should be no plastic put into green carts.



Municipal Offices

General Inquiries
Building & Fire Inspector
Airport
Dog Control Officer
REMO
Heritage
Renewable Energy/Climate Change
Economic Development, Dan Harvey
Trails Coordinator, Jonathan Riley

902-245-4777
902-245-6776
902-245-5885
902-245-5885
902-245-6252
902-245-4757
902-245-4767
902-847-1217
902-245-2861

Directory of Municipal Services

Councillors
Warden Jimmy MacAlpine
902-245-8746 jmacalpine@municipality.digby.ns.ca
Deputy Warden Linda Gregory
902-245-2616-902-247-0356 lgregory@municipality.digby.ns.ca
Matthew Ross
902-247-5555 mross@municipality.digby.ns.ca
George Manzer
902-837-4353 gmanzer@municipality.digby.ns.ca
David Tudor 902-308-9934 dtudor@municipality.digby.ns.ca