



THE COASTLINE



August 2020



PRESERVING OUR PAST - DEVELOPING OUR FUTURE

Council Approves 2020-2021 Operating Budget of \$ 9,079,382

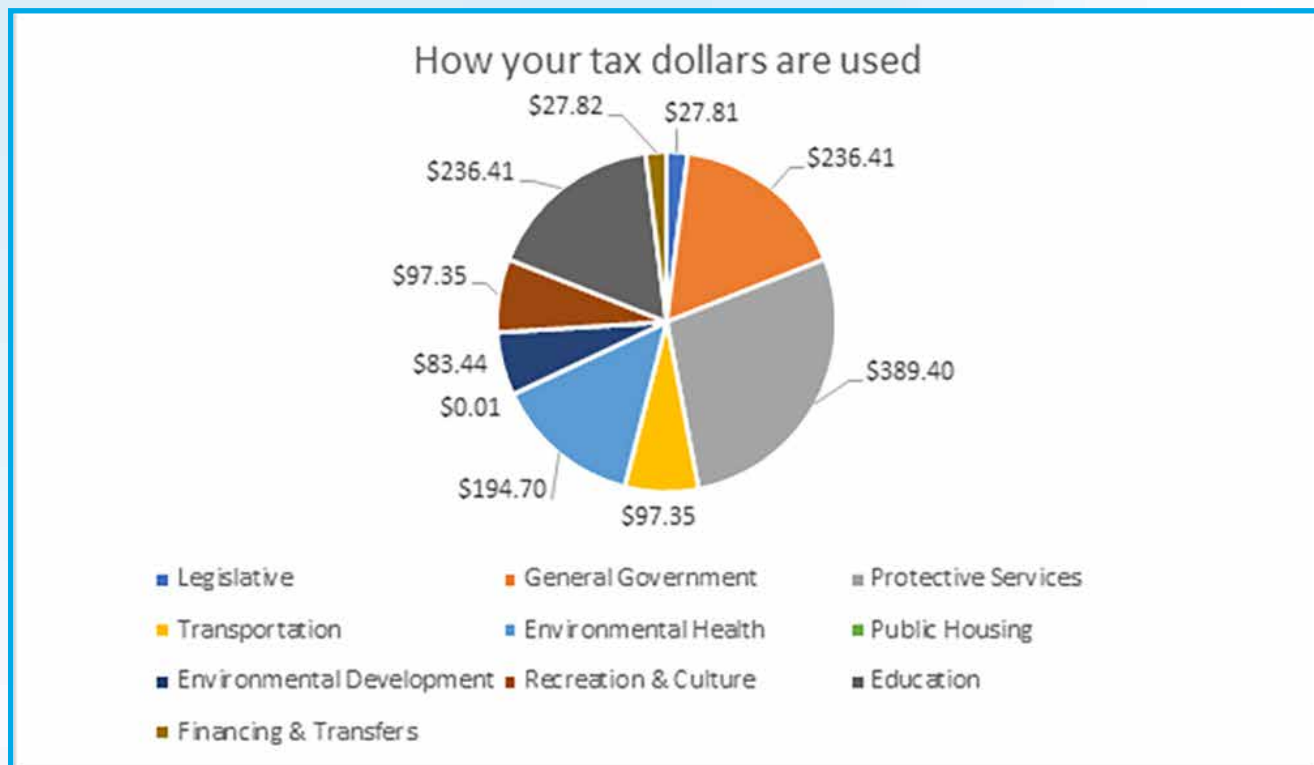
A copy of the budget presentation is available on our website at www.digbydistrict.ca.

On June 22nd Council approved the 2020-21 Operating Budget with no increase in the tax rate of \$1.30 per \$100 of residential and resource assessment and \$ 1.85 per \$100 of commercial assessment. In this budget, Council

approved a scaled Low-Income Tax Exemption of \$250 to \$500 for those whose 2019 income from all sources is less than \$27,000. Residential assessments increased by almost 3% and commercial assessments decreased by less than 1%.

To the owner of an average home assessed at \$100,000 the base budget would levy taxes of \$1,300 per household. If you factor in a .05 cent fire area rate and a .0407 street light rate that adds an additional \$ 90.70 for a total tax bill of \$1,390.70. This does not include any sewer charges that may apply.

How Are My Tax Dollars Used?



Municipal Tax Bills

Due to Covid-19 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 challenging 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%, a reduced rate from the 15% regular rate. 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, tele-banking and the municipal office is now open to accept payments or call the municipal office and staff will assist you – 902-245-4777.

Marshalltown Poor Farm Graves Receive Recognition with Memorial



Marshalltown Alms House 1909

It has been a long time coming. In 2003, the Provincial Department of Transportation informed Council that a new highway extension was to be built from Exit 26 to Marshalltown. This would be the start of the new proposed 101 series highway from Digby to Weymouth. Local residents informed council that the highway was very close to known burial



Digby Trails

The Lazy Bear Trail Runners have been running Digby area trails, including Van Tassel Lake pictured here, on Thursday nights this spring and summer.



The Van Tassel Lake Trails Association has been busy every Wednesday night this spring and summer improving the trails.



Members of the Digby County ATV Club volunteered their time and carpentry skills to redeck a bridge on the Digby Railbed Trail over Youngs Brook at the Van Buskirk Meadow this spring.



Digby Area Recreation day camps visited the beach and trails of Van Tassel Lake this summer.

areas associated with the former Alms House/ Poor Farm (1891 – 1963). Municipal staff identified the areas with the help of local and former residents of the farm. The Department of Transportation was informed and the highway was redirected to avoid the gravesites. Now that the new extension is completed the municipality is moving forward with the installation of memorials for the two sites. With assistance from the

community group, Marshalltown Alms House-Voices of Hope, the first of two memorials has been installed. An unveiling and prayer circle is planned once the COVID 19 pandemic is over.

Inscription:

For all those souls who rest here, both known and unknown. May they have abundant blessings and rest in peace.



Marshalltown Alms House 1891 - 1963

Emergency Management Organization



Feeling the Heat

How to avoid heat-related illness:

Drink lots of water and natural juices even if you don't feel very thirsty. Avoid alcoholic drinks and drinks that have caffeine (such as coffee or cola). If you have to go outside in severe heat, stay in the shade as much as possible and go out early in the morning or evening when it is cooler. Wear a hat and light, loose fitting clothing - Take advantage of air conditioned or cool places like shopping malls libraries.

Fans alone may not provide enough cooling when the temperature is high. - If you don't have air conditioning, keep curtains or blinds closed on the sunny side of your home, but keep windows slightly open. Keep electric lights off or turned down low. Take a cool bath or shower periodically or cool down with cool, wet towels. Avoid using your oven and eat light meals. Avoid intense or moderately intense physical activity, when humidex levels are above 35°C.

Water Conservation tips

Turn off faucets. Start saving by breaking a bad habit: never let faucet water run needlessly as you wash or rinse dishes, wash your hands or face, brush your teeth or shave. Bathroom faucets run at about 2 gallons of water a minute, according to the EPA. Turn off the tap while you brush your teeth

and shave, and you can save hundreds of gallons a month.

Be sure to fix leaks. A slow drip from a leaking faucet can waste as much as 20 gallons of water a day. A leaky toilet can waste 200 gallons a day.

Shorten your showers. Use a kitchen timer to time your showers. Aim for five minutes or less

Cover up. Pool covers can be a pool owner's best friend. Not only does a cover retain a heated pool's temperature, but it reduces evaporation. The Department of Energy reports that a pool cover cuts the amount of replacement water needed by 30 to 50 percent.



Nurse Practitioner,
Yarrow Merritt

The Digby Collaborative Family Practice Team welcomed a new team member in June.

Nurse Practitioner Yarrow Merritt's experience has largely been in the Digby Emergency Department where she recognized the need for Primary Care to promote and protect wellness in the community. This is one of many reasons why she continued toward a Masters of Nursing.

Yarrow completed her Masters of Nursing, Nurse Practitioner with Dalhousie in 2020. "I look forward to developing a practice in the place I've called home for most of my life," she said.

For more information on the Family Practice Team at the Digby Health Services Centre, follow our Facebook page and visit <https://www.digbyhealthhome.ca>



Getting Back to Business

Delivering service to business through a variety of programs including:

Growth

BusinessNow- working directly with business owners to connect them to the right resources

Continuous Improvement- increasing productivity and profits by reducing waste of all kinds

Labour

Immigration for Employers- providing access to foreign labour markets through the AIPP

Connector Program- retaining skilled talent by building networks between job seekers and business leadership

Transition

Succession-building stability during business changeovers by matching buyers and sellers

For more information, contact us at :

902-881-3008 or

wren@westernren.ca

The Municipal Office is Open for business. Please feel free to visit us from 8:30 - 4:30 Monday to Friday



Along the Coastline

* Council and Staff wish to welcome Nicole Theriault to the municipal staff as the new the building department administrative assistant.

* The municipality is pleased to have two summer students working with us this summer on trail maintenance and public works duties, Matthew Bailey and Steven Mimms.

* Council continues to meet monthly. These meetings are held via video conference and following the Minister of Municipal Affairs directive the minutes from the meetings are posted on the municipal web site within 24 hrs of the meeting.

* Council passed the municipal operating and capital budget's at the June 22nd council meeting. More information on these can be found on the municipal web site. (digbydistrict.ca)

* The Digby Development Agency continues to work with Scotia Harvest Inc. on the development of the new fish plant in the industrial park, in behind the municipal office.



In the picture L-R Drivers Gary Blinn; Deputy Warden Linda Gregory; Leeman Doucette and Aaron Colwell.



Above picture shows Aaron cleaning the bus. The bus is cleaned every 2 hours

On behalf of Council we gave them a Municipal golf shirt in appreciation of their service during this pandemic.

Helpful Links

COVID 19

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.

www.heritagehub.ca

discover and explore Digby history

Washing your hands frequently is one of the best ways to prevent getting COVID 19



Directory of Municipal Services

Councillors

Warden Jimmy MacAlpine

902-245-8746 jmacalpine@municipality.digby.ns.ca

Deputy Warden Linda Gregory

902-245-2616 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



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

Trails Coordinator, Jonathan Riley

902-245-2861