



Photos by Karla Kelly

Warden's New Year Message

I think we can all agree that the year 2020 is certainly one that none of us in our community will ever forget.

We have confronted personal feelings of powerlessness, loss, inconvenience and most of all anxiety.

But our community has proven over centuries to be strong and resilient. We are determined to move on towards a better year in 2021. And together we will.

Although our Council has only recently been sworn in we can assure residents of the Municipality of the District of Digby that we are in a good place to move our community agenda forward, in both fiscal and policy terms.

And one of our major resolutions for 2021 will be to be even more accessible and transparent to our residents in sharing our possibilities. That's why, in addition to our regular



Warden Linda Gregory

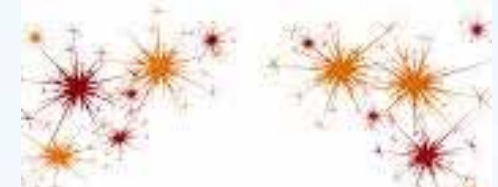
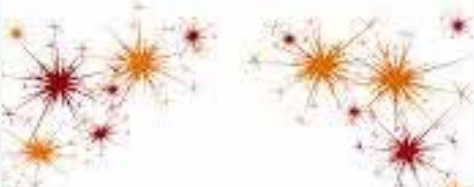
Council and Committee of the Whole meetings, Council will be having extra meetings, for us to discuss concerns, plans and events; working to keep better communication with our residents. There's no better way to put a difficult year in the past than to discuss ways to shape a bright future.

So, as we celebrate this Christmas

season let's focus on the many blessings we share and renew a sense of confidence in tomorrow. Let's turn our attention from lamenting what we're all used to, but we won't have this holiday season, to enjoying the one we can have together.

Please take time to help those in need, check on our neighbours, and visit or call on those who may be lonely or ill. And keep in mind our local businesses, those who always sponsored our events and teams, donated to our community campaigns, and contributed to our youth and social programs when we wanted their help. This year they need our support. Let's give it to them.

On behalf of the Council and staff of the Municipality of the District of Digby we wish you a blessed and peaceful Christmas holiday season; and a New Year full of success, happiness and fulfilled aspirations.



Welcome Angela Thurber New District #1 Councillor



Do you want a safe and sustainable municipality with a strong regional economy and communities where people are proud to live? I do and that is why I decided to get involved in Municipal leadership.

I am excited to be representing District 1 for the upcoming term.

Due to Covid -19 I did not have the opportunity to meet many of the constituents in District 1, so I encourage you to contact me to introduce yourself, update me on projects and events in your community and share your ideas and concerns.

This is not an entirely new venture for me since I served on Municipal Council from 2004-2008. I did not re-offer at that time due to career and time constraints, however I did remain active in the community. I served four years on the Western Regional Enterprise Network Board, Provincial Representative for the

RCMP Police Advisory Board, Citizen Representative for the Municipal Audit Committee and Member of Digby Area Tourism Association.

I reside in Bear River and manage my private woodlot. I am CFO at the Annapolis Basin Conference Centre, where I have worked for the past 22 years and I am the treasurer of the Digby Wesleyan Church.

I look forward to working with the communities in District 1 and I will be representing Council on various boards and committees. Please visit www.digbymun.ca for updates and contact information.

A special thanks to Jimmy MacAlpine for your 20 years of municipal service, strong leadership and laying groundwork for many future projects. You have contributed immensely to District 1 and the entire Municipality of Digby.

High Speed Internet for Digby Neck



The Western Regional Enterprise Network has been leading the rural internet file with the partnering Municipalities of the Districts of Argyle, Barrington, Digby and Yarmouth. The Internet Service Provider partner on the projects is Bell Canada. Develop Nova Scotia supplied provincial funding for the project through the Nova Scotia Internet Funding Trust, and the federal government provided funding through the Connect to Innovate program, which was funded by Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada.

Digby Neck was an area that was underserved with no high-speed access, and was eligible for

funding through the two funding partners. In addition, Digby Neck may serve as a stepping stone towards reaching the Islands with high-speed access as well.

The project will reach over 556 civic addresses between Waterford and East Ferry. Construction on the project began in spring 2020, and is anticipated to be completed by the time of this publication.

Project Funding Partners

Federal Connect to Innovate funding through Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada

\$130,000

Municipality of the District of Digby funding

\$100,000

Bell

\$410,000

Develop NS

\$180,000

Total project cost: **\$820,000**



Continuous Improvement (CI) is one of the Western Regional Enterprise Network's (Western REN) programs. This program has been an important opportunity for business within the region. The purpose of CI is to bring in a consultant that will work one-on-one with you and your team to identify areas that can be improved to help your business save time and money. This program is for any type of business that wants to make improvements large or small. Businesses that have taken part in this program have seen positive improvements that range from manufacturing processes to improved billing processes. If you have any questions or want to learn more about what Continuous Improvement offers, reach out to our project lead Rob Stephenson at:



rstephenson@westernren.ca

EMO File

Be Aware of Creosote Build Up in Your Wood Burning Stove Pipes



Why chimney safety and cleaning matter

A large number of house fires start when creosote builds up on the interior of your chimney. Even so, some homeowners continue to disregard this significant risk, and don't take proper measures when it comes to chimney cleaning.

If you burn wood you are susceptible to creosote buildup in their dampers and flues. Homeowners are urged to have their chimneys inspected for creosote buildup and cleaned if necessary, in the spring and fall of each year.

Chimney fires are characterized by loud cracking or popping noises and a lot of dense smoke from the flue, but often times go undetected by the homeowner. Chimney fires can be explosive, and it is common for neighbors to hear the explosions and alert the homeowner. Chimney fires can produce extremely high temperatures (up to 1,000 degrees C).

These super-hot fires will weaken the masonry in brick chimneys. The conditions that tend to attract creosote buildup include the natural lack of air supply in chimneys, burning wood that lacks enough seasoning, and cool chimney temperatures that occur in four-season environments like ours. Overloading your firebox to get longer fires can also contribute to creosote residue buildup in your chimney.

How to inspect and clean your chimney for creosote

Remove any flue pipes from the back of the stove and inspect their interior for hard shiny black tar build up. Use a wire brush to remove any debris. Then open the clean out hatch at the bottom of your chimney. Clean out any ash that is there. Place a small mirror inside the chimney so you can see the top of the chimney opening. If you can see that the sides of the interior has creosote build up a chimney brush will be needed to clean your chimney. These brushes can be purchased at any hardware store. The brush is attached to a fiberglass/metal rod and the brush is pushed up the chimney to clean out tar and creosote. You may need to hire a professional to clean the chimney from the top opening if the bottom hatch is not large enough for a brush.

There are also products that can be purchased to help reduce the build up of creosote, but these products do not prevent creosote, they slow down the build up.

Preventative maintenance

*Do not let ashes gather in the firebox. Clean them out if they are accumulating.

*Only use seasoned firewood in your fireplace. If you gather it yourself, season it for a year or more before you burn it. If you buy it from a vendor, ensure that the firewood company only offers seasoned wood.

*Annually inspect your stove pipe and chimney yourself or by a professional. If you choose not to clean it yourself then hire an experienced, chimney sweep to remove tar and creosote.

Remember
Replace your smoke alarm batteries every year
It may save your life



Choosing Digby General Hospital

For Registered Nurse Stephanie Dillon, working at the Digby General Hospital emergency department was her top choice after finishing university.

She worked in the emergency department throughout her student rotations and is now pleased to work with new nursing students in Digby. She enjoys seeing their growth, from freshly working in the hospital only observing patient care, or being walked through the steps, to being able to teach the work back to her without any guidance.

Initially, Stephanie thought she would move on to a bigger hospital with a bigger emergency department to continue her career. However, after working in Digby she realized how valued her work is in the community.

"...once I really found out what goes on in Digby and that sometimes the need for us [emergency nurses] in smaller towns can be more than in the regional centres, it drew me to stay," concluded Stephanie.

Welcome home Stephanie!

Along the Coastline



* Council is resuming their regular in-person meeting schedule. Committee of the Whole takes place the second Monday of every month, 5pm in council chambers. Seating is limited so please call ahead to register. Council meetings are the fourth Monday every month, now at 5pm, in council chambers. Seating is limited so please again call ahead to register. These meetings will take place in-person unless council has concerns about public safety, then we will revert to video conference meetings.

* The new municipal council was sworn in on November 2nd by Charles Haliburton. Congratulations to Warden Linda Gregory, Deputy Warden Matthew Ross, Councillors David Tudor, George Manzer and Angela Thurber.

* The Digby Development Agency continues to work with Scotia Harvest Inc. on the development of the new fish plant in the industrial park, behind the municipal office, construction is moving along with roof and windows now in place.

* Due to Covid-19 the New Year's Levee at the Municipal Office is cancelled.

Council Meetings

COTW January 11 5pm

Council January 25 5pm

COTW February 8 5pm

Council February 22 5pm

Get your Coastline by email :

Send request to:

heritage@digbymun.ca

Or go to: *www.digbymun.ca* look under *Living Here/ Coastline*

**Check us out on facebook:
*municipality of digby***

Digby Trails



Co-op students from DRHS helped Larry Goodwin, president of the Acacia Valley Trails Association, rebuild a platform by the stream this fall. More work is planned for other aging platforms on this trail.

Photo: Jonathan Riley



Directory of Municipal Services

Councillors

Warden Linda Gregory

902-245-2616 lgregory@digbymun.ca

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

Economic Development, Dan Harvey 902-847-1217

Trails Coordinator, Jonathan Riley 902-245-2861