



PRESERVING OUR PAST - DEVELOPING OUR FUTURE

Karla Kelly Photos

## Volunteers from across Canada travel to Brier Island to restore Peters Island Lighthouse

Peters Island Lighthouse is one of three historic lighthouses situated around Brier Island. There has been a lighthouse on Peters Island since 1851. This current light was constructed in 1909. The light stands 44 feet tall and is an octagon tower. The lantern light has been removed and replaced with a separate harbor light pole located close to the existing lighthouse. For nearly 30 years, the light has received nearly no repairs and over time the weather has deteriorated the exterior and substantial rot has developed in various parts of the tower. In 2023, Peters Island Lighthouse and two other Brier Island lighthouses were divested to the Municipality of Digby. The Islands Historical Society and Save an Island Lighthouse (SAIL 2 Committee) have been preparing to restore the light to keep this structure in the visual landscape and preserve this iconic landmark. Last year, an application was made for funding support from Parks Canada, but did not materialize, so plan B needed to be put into action. Plan B involved securing the structure from the weather and repairing the rot and the lantern deck. The deck was in such bad condition that the lantern housing could have blown off during a windstorm.

Island resident, John Schinghamer, came up with an idea. Why don't we ask volunteers to donate their build



Peters Island Lighthouse Photo: David Matthews



Volunteers, Dawn Rellinger and Pierre Laurin, are using their building skills to conduct the immediate repairs. John had heard of this being done before, where a call for volunteers is posted online worldwide. The volunteers would travel to Brier Island and from there their food and accommodation would be covered for a four-week period. The volunteers

would be taken in by the community, where they would experience Island life firsthand. Special activities like hiking excursions, whale watching tours, and live music events would also be part of the experience. Two professional chefs from away, volunteer as well, preparing breakfasts, lunches and dinners for the volunteers daily. All food provided by the community.

Fourteen volunteers signed up for the project. They come from across Canada, including British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec and Nova Scotia. They are divided into two teams, each working and staying for a two-week period. John Schinghamer said **"Once we had the liability insurance secured, we created a facebook post saying that we were looking for volunteers to rebuild an iconic lighthouse on a remote island. The interest starting coming in. People shared the Facebook post over 250 times and then we went through the applicants and selected the most qualified"**.

This approach has never been done before in this region and may be an option in appropriate situations in the future. Municipal council applauds the Island communities for taking on such an innovative approach. The endeavor is supported in part by the Province of Nova Scotia and the Municipality of Digby. Keep updated at SAIL2 on facebook.

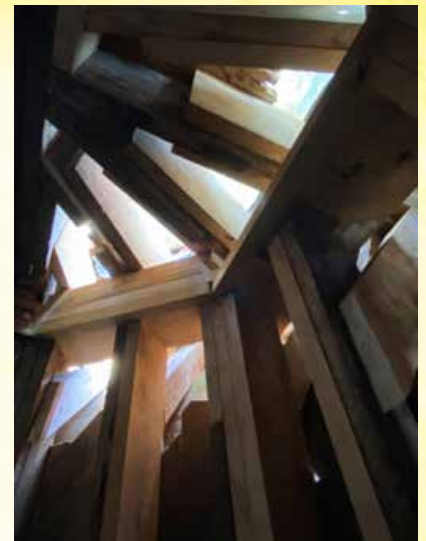
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Shingle Repair





Lantern floor before repairs



Lantern floor repairs in progress

**Lower Interest  
Longer Payment Plans**

Solar Panels    Insulation    Draft Proofing    Heat Pumps

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Thanks to financing from your municipality, you can pay for the upgrades over a 15-year period. We'll make sure you save as much or even more in energy expenses than the cost of the retrofits. Your investment pays for itself!

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**1-844-727-7818 [Clean EnergyFinancing.ca](http://CleanEnergyFinancing.ca)  
[www.digbymun.ca](http://www.digbymun.ca)**



**Digby Nurses - the faces of rural healthcare**

For nurses Brandi Jenkins and Melissa Morgan, practicing at Digby General Hospital brings both challenges and deep rewards. Brandi, a licensed practical nurse on the Restorative Care Unit, finds purpose in every part of her job. When her patients are friends, neighbours, or familiar faces, the work becomes even more mean-

ingful. "It's an honour and a privilege to care for people when they need it the most," she said. "In the emergency department,

registered nurse Melissa Morgan's calm presence reassures patients in their most uncertain moments. Knowing the people she treats



*Brandi Jenkins and Melissa Morgan*  
<https://www.nshealth.ca/news-and-notice/digby-nurses-shape-rural-healthcare>

adds depth to her care. "I've found a much better work-life balance since moving to a rural community," she says. Together, Brandi and Melissa embody the spirit of rural nursing: skilled, compassionate, and deeply rooted in their community. Learn more about how rural nurses shape healthcare:

# REMO

Regional Emergency Management Organization



## This Fall & Winter

As the seasons change from fall into winter, our region faces a variety of hazards. Here are some simple, practical steps you can take to stay safe from September through December

### Hurricanes & Fall Storms (September–October)

Fall is still storm season in Nova Scotia. Strong winds, heavy rain, and coastal storm surges can impact our communities.

\* Stay Informed: Sign up for Alert Ready updates and monitor weather forecasts.

\* Prepare Your Property: Secure outdoor items, clean gutters, and have flashlights and batteries ready.

\*Be Ready to Evacuate: Know your evacuation routes if you live near the coast.

### Flooding (September–November)

Heavy rain in the fall can lead to flash flooding, especially in low-lying areas.

\*Protect Valuables: Elevate items in basements and move vehicles to higher ground.

\*Avoid Floodwaters: Never walk or drive through flooded areas—it takes just 6 inches of water to sweep a person off their feet.

\*Emergency Kit: Keep your kit ready with essentials for 72 hours.

### Wildfire Risk (Early Fall)

Even into September, dry conditions can still spark brush or forest fires.

\*Follow Fire Bans: Pay attention to provincial burn restrictions.

\*Create Defensible Space: Keep grass cut, clear brush, and remove combustibles near your home.

\*Report Early: Call 911 immediately if you spot smoke or fire.

### Winter Storms (November–December)

As temperatures drop, snow, freezing rain, and high winds can affect travel and power supplies.

\*Emergency Heat: Keep extra blankets, warm clothing, and safe heating options ready.

\*Travel Safely: Check road conditions, carry an emergency car kit, and avoid non-essential travel in severe weather.

\*Check on Neighbours: Seniors and vulnerable people may need extra help in cold and power outages.

### General Preparedness Tips

\*Refresh your emergency kit with seasonal items (warm clothing, candles, extra water).

\*Make sure your emergency contacts list is up to date.

\*Review your family emergency plan, including shelter-in-place and evacuation steps.

**Preparedness saves lives. A little planning now means you'll be ready if a hazard strikes this fall or winter.**

 Western Regional Enterprise Network



## BusinessNow: Support When You Need It

Running a business means balancing endless priorities — and sometimes one challenge keeps nagging at you. That's where the **BusinessNow Program** from the Western REN can help.

Our *BusinessNow* Lead, **Keval d'Entremont**, is here to make your life easier. Think of her as your legs: while you focus on running your business, she does the legwork to research solutions, connect you with the right people, and uncover opportunities you may not know exist.

Here's how it works: Keval meets you at your business (or wherever's convenient) for a 30–45 minute conversation. You share your biggest challenge, and she goes to work finding answers.

The best part? It's completely **free and confidential**.

Whether it's staffing, regulations, funding, or growth, BusinessNow is here to help.

Email [kdentremont@westernren.ca](mailto:kdentremont@westernren.ca) or phone 902-881-2951

## ATTENTION

Please be advised the 2025/2026 Tax Bills were mailed out the first week of September. If you have not received your tax bill it is most likely due to the fact that Canada Post has amended their addressing requirements.

Please contact our office by phone at 902-245-4777 to update your address for future mailings and request a reprint of the 2025/2026 Tax Bill.



# On the Trails

**As we move into fall, here's a look at what's new on the trails:**

New Trail at Van Tassel Lake – The Van Tassel Lake Trails Association (VTLTA) has expanded their trail system with the latest addition of the Windmill Wilderness Trail, a 1.4 km loop offering views of wind turbines and a glimpse over the North Mountain to the Bay of Fundy. While the grand opening, originally set for August 16, has been postponed, the trail will be ready for hikers once access reopens.

Conway Workshop participants lend a helping hand – Earlier this spring, VTLTA and partners began restoring a struggling patch of forest. The effort continued on May

29, when members of Conway Workshop planted over 50 seedlings. Each tree was marked with a plaque bearing the participant's name, leaving behind a personal legacy and a lasting connection to the forest they helped nurture.



*Tyler Wyman, Shane Mullen, Candace Levings, Kaitlynn Benedict, Alex MacDonald, Mark Durkee, John Lefebvre, Krista McGirr, and Michelle Bohemier at Van Tassel Lake Trails just before tree planting*

## Community Giveaway

We'd love to hear how you're staying active and connected with nature! Share your favorite outdoor activities, photos, or stories by emailing [clevings@digbymun.ca](mailto:clevings@digbymun.ca) Everyone who participates will

be entered into a community giveaway for a Fun Outdoor Activity Kit — to help you make the most of your time outdoors.

**Submission deadline:** October 17 at 12:00 PM.

**Draw:** The winner will be announced at the Hallo-Harvest on October 18th and will also be contacted directly.

This giveaway is brought to you by the Municipality of Digby and Digby Area Recreation Commission, working together to celebrate community, nature, and outdoor fun.



## Council Meetings

5 pm

**COTW** - Oct 14

**Council** - Oct 28

**COTW** - Nov 18

**Council** - Nov 25

**COTW** - Dec 9

**Get your Coastline by email Send request to:** [heritage@digbymun.ca](mailto:heritage@digbymun.ca)

Or go to: [www.digbymun.ca](http://www.digbymun.ca) look under: **Departments/ Information**

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

## Directory of Municipal Services

Councillors

**Warden Linda Gregory**

902-245-2616/247-0356 [lgregory@digbymun.ca](mailto:lgregory@digbymun.ca)

**Deputy Warden Matthew Ross**

902-247-5555 [mross@digbymun.ca](mailto:mross@digbymun.ca)

**George Manzer**

902-837-4353 [gmanzer@digbymun.ca](mailto:gmanzer@digbymun.ca)

**Peter Scherer**

902 247 0530 [pscherer@digbymun.ca](mailto:pscherer@digbymun.ca)

**Joan Ross**

902-245-1855 [jross@digbymun.ca](mailto:jross@digbymun.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

Trail Coordinator /Candace Levings 902-245-2861