



PRESERVING OUR PAST - DEVELOPING OUR FUTURE

The Municipality of the District of Digby Highlights From 2025



2025 was a busy year with new staff and initiatives moving forward. The following is a variety of municipal initiatives carried out in 2025. If you want more information on any of the topics, please feel free to contact the municipal office at 902-245-4777 or email: admin@digbymun.ca or go to: www.digbymun.ca for more details.



2025 Tax Rate

Council approved an operating budget of \$12,844,185 in May, with no increase in the tax rate for the 19th consecutive year.



Community Grants

Increased our community grants program amount from 1% of total revenue to 1.5% which will result in an additional \$63,000, for a total of \$189,000 each year, towards community grants. In 2025, we approved approximately \$112,000 in community grants, which support non-profit organizations and goes towards festivals, events, housing, recreation, tourism, food banks, and many other programs.



Planning for the Future

Council approved the Strategic Plan. This included a focus on advocacy and partnerships, with priorities such as fire services, transit, recreation, economic development, asset management, and shared services.



New Team Member

Hired **Chris Kingston** as the Director of Municipal Services in April. He is a professional engineer and land surveyor with eight years of experience.



Supporting Fire Services

Provided approximately \$900,000 towards fire services. This includes funding for operating grants, radio licenses, dispatch services, suppression foam, WCB insurance, dry hydrants, and insurance.



New Fire Services Coordinator

Created the Fire Services Coordinator role, and Bruce Snell, who is also our REMO Coordinator, has taken on this role. This role was created to assist the fire departments in our area and provide support as needed.



Low Income

Increased the low-income tax exemption income level, so more residents qualify.



Asset Management

Transferred \$1,000,000 to the capital reserve from the operating reserve surplus. This money will be used towards our asset management account, that will be needed for the upcoming end of life assets.



New Development Officer

Moved the Development Officer role to an in house position. This role was previously done by a consultant and this new arrangement will better serve our residents. Our consultant will still assist with subdivisions and with the Planning Advisory Committee.



Health Worker Retention

Continued to be a funding partner in the Community Navigator Program, which works to attract and retain health professionals in our area.

Chief Administrative Officer

Tyler Pulley was hired in January. He brought with him five years of senior management experience as Deputy CAO. Prior to that he was a lawyer for five years.



Water Support during summer drought

Implemented a water voucher program, which provided bottled water to residents whose wells had run low or dry. We distributed 2,247 water vouchers in total.





New Partnership

Executed a new agreement with the Western Regional Enterprise Network to promote and support business and economic development.



Garbage Contract Renewal

Executed a five-year agreement with Digby Salvage & Disposal for the collection of solid waste.



Plans Approved

Council approved an Anti-Racism and Equity Plan, they also approved an updated Accessibility Plan.

Regional Emergency Management Organization

Received \$60,000 through the provincial REMO Capacity Grant Program towards the installation of a generator at the municipal office and the purchase of TMR radios.



Capital Projects

Completed several capital projects that include recreation, lighthouses, emergency management, and accessibility.



New Agreement

Executed an Inter-Municipal Emergency Services Agreement with the Town of Digby and the Municipality of Clare to create a Digby County EMO.



Balancing Rock Development

Received \$37,452 through the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency and \$18,990 from the Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage towards engineering and design work at the Balancing Rock trail.



Transit Partnership

Negotiated a new transit agreement to become a core partner of Kings Transit. The new agreement reduced our costs by approximately 42% on operational and 90% on capital expenditures. We received higher than market value for the bus we previously owned.



Free Transit Days

Council agreed to provide free transit days during Scallop Days, Lobster Bash, Wharf Rat Rally, and for the two weeks leading up to Christmas.

Digby Ground Search and Rescue



New Building and Fire Inspector

Hired Cory Rice as Building Inspector in April. He is a red seal certified carpenter with over 15 years of experience. After months of training, he is now a certified Fire Inspector and soon will be a certified Building Inspector.



Recycle Waste Collection Services

Extended producer responsibility for residential recycled materials took effect in December and we executed contracts with Circular Materials. This has reduced our costs for blue bag collection by approximately 33%.



Thursday Night Training Session

The Digby Ground Search and Rescue was incorporated in 1973. We are located at **1266 Bloomfield Road** Digby County. Our Business meetings are on the first Thursday of each month. We train on the other 3 Thursdays of the month and occasionally also on the weekends or evenings. **Email: digbysar@hotmail.com**

Phone contacts are as follows:

- President Kevin Morrell** (902)245-8017
- Vice President Luke Thibault** (902)841-0512
- Secretary Alice Amero** (902)247-2412
- Training Officer Pierce MacKinnon** (902)308-6877

We are a volunteer organization and are always looking for new members, so just phone, email or stop by on a Thursday night at 7pm at The Hanger, we'd love to have you become apart of our happy family!

Directory of Municipal Services

- Councillors
- Warden Linda Gregory**
902-245-2616/247-0356 lgregory@digbymun.ca
- Deputy Warden Matthew Ross**
902-247-5555 mross@digbymun.ca
- George Manzer**
902-837-4353 gmanzer@digbymun.ca
- Peter Scherer**
902-247-0530 pscherer@digbymun.ca
- Joan Ross**
902-245-1855 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

Council Meetings

- COTW – March 10th @ 5pm
- Council – March 24th @ 5pm
- COTW – April 14th @ 5pm
- Council – April 28th @ 5pm
- COTW – May 12th @ 5pm
- Council – May 26th @ 5pm

Get your Coastline by email Send request to: heritage@digbymun.ca

Or go to: www.digbymun.ca look under: **Departments/Information**

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