

THE COASTLINE



June 2026

Photos by Karla Kelly



PRESERVING OUR PAST - DEVELOPING OUR FUTURE

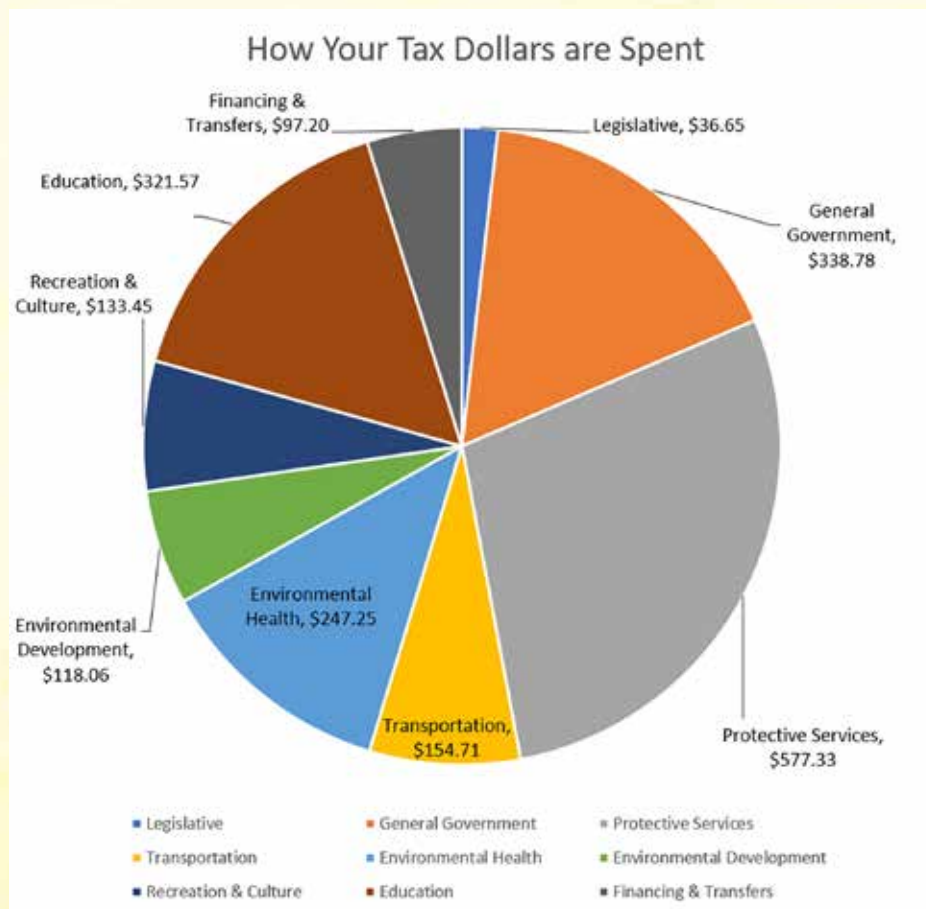
Council Approves 2026-2027 Operating Budget \$14,006,749

A copy of the budget presentation is available on our website at <https://digbymun.ca>

On May 19th Council approved the 2026-27 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 \$350 to \$600 for those whose 2025 income from all sources is less than \$34,000.

How Are My Tax Dollars Used?

To the owner of an average home valued at \$150,000, the base budget being brought forward would levy taxes of approximately \$1,950 per household. If you factor in a .05 cent fire area rate, that adds an additional \$75.



Farewell to Rob

Robert Hersey our Program Development Coordinator, has retired from his employment with the Municipality. He has been working for the municipality for 27 years, starting in 1999 as a full-time employee. Rob was initially hired to conduct a heritage property survey to identify heritage buildings in the district. This evolved into other heritage related projects that are all now available online at:



www.heritagehub.ca. For over 20 years he coordinated the National Flag Day ceremonies in district schools and the opening ceremonies for Weymouth Canada Day. Rob has participated on many committees as an advocate to further telling the Digby area story. "I would like to thank all the councils and staff members over the years for their vision and commitment to giving heritage a place at the municipal table. It has been a sincere pleasure to work with them all", concluded Mr. Hersey.

New member of the crew



With the retirement of Robert Hersey, the Heritage Department has a new Program Coordinator, Amber Gillis. As part of her job, Amber will be taking over the heritage duties for the municipality. She will also be handling front counter duties and assisting the director of finance with projects. Amber lives in Freeport and is a graduate of the Island Consolidated School. She went on to get a diploma at NSCC Kingstec in Tourism Management and has worked for 10 years at the Scotia Bank in Digby. Amber has a keen interest in local history and looks forward to learning more as part of her job duties at the municipality.



The Western REN Connector Program is all about building meaningful relationships that support career growth across Western Nova Scotia. Being a Connector isn't about hiring. It's about offering guidance, making introductions, and helping someone feel less alone as they navigate their career path. Designed for post-secondary

graduates, newcomers, and emerging professionals, the program helps participants build local connections, better understand the regional labour market, and access opportunities that are often out of reach without a personal introduction.

It's built on conversation, connection, and shared insight, creating space for authentic relationships that open doors and strengthen our workforce. Whether you're looking to share your experience or grow your network, there's a place for you in the Connector Program. Interested in becoming either a Connector or a Connectee? Reach out to Shelley Bellefontaine at connector@westernren.ca.

Stop Searching. Start Connecting.

The WesternREN Connector Program connects you with pre-qualified, motivated talent ready to make an impact.

REMO

Forest Fires. Is Your house fire smart?

It only takes few moments of time to become aware of the safety measures that can reduce the risk of losing your home to wildfire. Only you can decide if it's worth the effort!

Just 10 metres of defensible space may save your Home!

(Defensible space is an area around a structure where fuels and vegetation are treated, cleared or reduced to slow the spread of wildfire towards the structure)

[1] Store gasoline and other flammable liquids in approved safety containers and away from occupied buildings.

[2] Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) tanks should be far enough away from buildings for valves to be shut off in case of fire. Keep area clear of flammable vegetation.

[3] Clean roof surfaces and gutters regularly to avoid accumulation of flammable materials.

[4] Maintain a screen constructed of non-flammable material over the flue opening of every chimney or stovepipe. Mesh openings of the screen should not exceed one cm.

[5] Remove portions of any tree extending within 3 metres of the flue opening of any stove or chimney.

[6] Remove branches from trees to a height of 3-4.5 metres.

[7] Have fire tools handy such as: ladder long enough to reach the roof, shovel, rake, and bucket for water.

[8] All roads and driveways should be at least 5 metres in width.

[9] Name and address should be posted at driveway entrance.

[10] Clean leaves and flammable debris from around structures.

[11] Each home should have at least two different entrance and exit routes.

[12] Fire resistant shrubs should be spaced at least 4.5 metres apart.

[13] Names of roads should be indicated at all intersections.

[14] Garden hose should be connected to outside water outlet.

[15] Dispose of stove or fireplace ashes and charcoal briquettes in a fire safe container.

[16] All combustibles such as firewood, picnic tables, boats, etc., should be kept away from structures.

NS Health

Better access to care at Digby General Hospital

Virtual Urgent Care continues to be an effective way to get treatment for certain healthcare issues at Digby General Hospital. Virtual Urgent Care is open every day at Digby General, from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., even if the emergency department is temporarily closed. People with urgent, non-life-threatening health issues are connected with a live emergency doctor or nurse practitioner online, rather than in person. Someone from the Digby General Hospital team will help you every step of the way, if you need it. For info, visit: <https://www.nshealth.ca/emergency-care/virtual-urgent-care>



Digby Trails

The Municipality would like to recognize the hard work, community spirit, and environmental stewardship shown by the Options and Opportunities (O2) students from Digby Regional High School this spring.

The students recently assisted with trail improvements at Van Tassel Lake Trails by spreading approximately 550 feet of woodchips, helping to improve trail conditions for residents and visitors alike.

They also partnered with Scotian Shores and the Sandy Cove Conservancy for a shoreline cleanup in Sandy Cove, where volunteers collected 585 lbs of garbage and marine debris — including 4,000 lobster bands, rope, plastic, and other waste. An impressive 66% of the material collected was diverted from landfill for recycling.



Digby Regional High School O2 Class Members

If you are interested in getting involved and giving back to our coastal communities, join us for another Sandy Cove beach cleanup this time on the Fundy side taking place July 11 as part of Coastal Appreciation Week.

For more information, email clevings@digbymun.ca or call 902-245-2861.



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 / Amber Gillis	902-245-4757
Trail Coordinator / Candace Levings	902-245-2861

Council Meetings 5pm

Council June 23

Council July 28

COTW August 11th

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)