

The Future is Energy



Terry Thibodeau

Terry Thibodeau is the Coordinator for Renewable Energy and Climate Change for the municipality. One of the first projects Terry began to work

on was the feasibility of a biomass combined heat and power plant (CHP). The fuel for the plant would come from the vast supply of non-merchantable wood that is plentiful in the Digby area. The heat produces steam which powers an electrical generator. The residual hot water heat is in turn piped directly to local facilities such as the hospital, court house, the two Digby schools, the Digby Arena, RCMP office, Canadian Tire and two government buildings. This will lead towards energy security into the future to lower their overall heating costs and reduce their use of fossil fuels. The power generating system would employ approximately 30 people from harvesting the biomass to the processing of wood chips used to produce the heat to operate the steam turbine, including jobs in the plant. The burning process is highly efficient and emissions

need to meet provincial standards. The electrical power generated would be sold to NS Power through the Community Feed-in-Tariff program.

This past December the Minister of Energy, Charlie Parker, announced the first approved Community Feed-In Tariff (COMFIT) for the Digby area. Feed-in-tariffs are a financial incentive mechanism designed to promote renewable energy projects in the province. The province has a target of 20%



COMFIT Announcement
R-L Mayor Ben Cleveland, Terry Thibodeau, Councillor Randall Amero,
Minister Charlie Parker, Fundy Tidal Inc Jim Outhouse, MP Greg Kerr, Fundy
Tidal Inc. Dana Morian

renewable energy by 2015. This agreement will open the door to development of green power generation for small to large scale producers of electricity. The electricity generated will be fed into the existing power grid and sold to NS Power. This means that companies like Fundy Tidal Inc. from Brier Island have an opportunity to develop renewable green energy for profit. Digby is now recognized as one of the best places in the world to do

this. Tidal power generation is leading the way and in the next five years pilot sites will be developed and tested to determine the best possible location and design for tidal power generation. However, putting energy on the grid comes with complications. The distribution grid in Digby has limited capacity and cannot manage an additional electrical power supply. The overload could cause costly strains to the system. To overcome this problem a new

plan is being considered. Smart Grid technology would see locally generated renewable electricity using biomass, wind power or even tidal power to feed into the distribution grid. When the grid is unable to handle the extra power, energy is then stored in a battery cell facility. Homes and businesses connected to a Smart Grid would use energy that has

been stored in the battery power source when needed, seamlessly without interruption and in the “blink of an eye”. This is the Smart Grid concept which allows us to generate our own renewable energy and make it work for Digby. If you have any thoughts on Alternative Energy please feel free to contact:

Terry Thibodeau Coordinator
Renewable Energy and Climate
Change

If you want to drop a line, go to
Terry Thibodeau on Twitter.
@TerryTMOd

School Closures Pending in the District

This past August the Tri-County Regional School Board announced the proposed closure of three schools in the district of Digby. The closures are part of efforts to reduce the Tri-County

Regional School Board budget by \$1.4 million over a three-year period. The schools in question are Westport Village Elementary, Barton Consolidated School and Weymouth Consolidated. The Tri-County Regional School Board conducted assessment reports that outline the reasons why the three schools are considered for closure. The reports state the overall reasons for closure are the declining number of students in all three schools, the age of the schools and the cost to maintain and upgrade the schools to meet current and future needs of education. The Department of Education is considering closing 38 schools in the province.

The Barton school has been in this situation before. In 2006, the Tri-County Regional School Board was trying to cut operating costs and the Barton school was considered expendable. After considerable protest by the community, the school board decided to close the school. The Barton School Review Committee has indicated in their Rebuttal Report that the school is needed in the community and that the

quality of education for the students is currently very good and supported by the parents. Also, enrollment has leveled off and is not declining. Schools like Barton are becoming fewer and fewer as centralization by the school system pushes smaller schools out. Rural children are required to travel further distances to school and take part in larger classes. The Review Committee has created a report to



Barton Consolidated School

present to the Tri-County Regional School Board to keep the Barton school open. The report was completed on February 1st and there will be a public meeting to discuss the report findings on March 5th at the Barton school. The report will be presented to the school board on March 21st. In support of keeping the school open, several other presentations are also planned prior to the March 21st meeting.

The Weymouth Consolidated School received a more favorable rating in the Tri-County Regional School Board assessment report. The report indicates that the school has a declining student enrollment with 249 students currently enrolled but, in fact, the enrollment numbers have been increasing. The assessment report also states that there will be substantial capital upgrades needed to meet operational requirements

for the near future. Like Barton, the community has formed a review committee to create a report of recommendations regarding keeping the Weymouth school open. If the school is closed, students would be transferred to the St. Mary's Bay Academy in St Bernard.

A review committee has also been formed in Westport. The committee has developed a report for the School Board that will be submitted on February 1st. This report will be reviewed by the board on March 21st. In September, the Westport school moved grades four, five and six to the Islands Consolidated School.

The Westport school has now been reduced to only three students. The Tri-County Regional School Board will make their decision regarding all three schools on March 31st.



Celebrate
National Flag Day!
Please join the Town and Municipality of Digby for an official flag raising ceremony at
Islands Consolidated School
Freeport, Long Island
Special Guest, Boxer Cyrus Taylor
Wednesday February 15 at 2 pm.

Reminder!

Renew your Dog Tag
100% of the Fees in the Municipality go to the TLC Annual Shelter.
Pick up your tags at the Municipal office \$10



Municipality of the District of Digby RCMP Advisory Board

The function of the Advisory Board is to provide advice to Council in relation to the enforcement of law, the maintenance of law and order and the prevention of crime in the Municipality of the District of Digby. The board shall not exercise jurisdiction relating to complaints, discipline, personnel conduct or the internal management of the RCMP. The legislative authority for Advisory Boards is provided in the Police Act (2004).

The RCMP Advisory Board assists Municipal Council, the RCMP and the Community through:

- > Community consultation
- > Identifying community policing issues
- > Being a conduit between the RCMP and the community so that policing priorities and objectives are reflective of the community's needs and values

> Advising, in consultation with the Digby Detachment Commander, the setting of priorities and objectives of the police service and to ensure the Detachment Commander establishes programs and strategies to implement the determined priorities and objectives

Please feel free to contact any of the Advisory Board members to discuss community policing issues. The RCMP Advisory Board consists of seven members:

> **Three members of Municipal Council, appointed by Council**

- 1) Warden Linda Gregory, Chair 245-4253 (w) 245-2616 (h) 247-0356 (c) lgregory@municipality.digby.ns.ca
- 2) Councillor Randall Amero 837-7324(h) ramero@municipality.digby.ns.ca
- 3) Councillor Maritza Adams 245-6671 (h) madams@municipality.digby.ns.ca

> **Three members of the community, appointed by**

Council

- 4) Victoria Wilson 245-6687 (h)
 - 5) Ryck Miller - 308-9406 (h) islerycardo@gmail.com
 - 6) Thomas Haynes-Paton - 245-2347 (h) japanesegallery@gmail.com
- > One member appointed by the Minister of Justice
- 7) Angela Lombard 245-4856 (h) 247-2785 (c)

THE RCMP ADVISORY BOARD COUNCIL AND RCMP WILL BE HOLDING A SERIES OF PUBLIC MEETINGS IN FEBRUARY

- February 15th** – Bear River Fire Hall 7:00 pm
- February 21st** – Weymouth Library 7:00 pm
- February 21st** – Barton School 7:00 pm
- February 22nd** – Digby Neck Consolidated 7:00 pm
- February 28-** Municipal Building 7:00 pm
- February 29th** – Tiverton Community Hall 7:00 pm

Tiverton Fire Department

Keeping a fire department operating in an island fishing community has its own unique challenges. Most, if not all, of the volunteer firefighters are fishermen who can be on the sea for long periods of time. A coordinated effort is needed to make sure there are enough volunteers to respond to a call. "We need to work as a team to get things done and function

effectively," said fire Chief Richard Crocker.

"The Tiverton Fire Department has 22 members and the department has recently upgraded their equipment and conducted several hall improvements. A 1987 Pumper truck was purchased from the Port Maitland Fire Department. The Pumper has an 800 gallon tank and a lot more storage space. The old pumper had a 300 gallon tank and very little storage. This fire truck is 70% better, with more pressure and

more water. The department has also purchased used bunker gear from the Halifax Fire Department. We also purchased a new hose and installed new bay doors. A lot of this couldn't have happened if it was not for the Ladies Auxiliary, who have raised most of the money through breakfasts, suppers and bingos," concluded Chief Crocker. Breakfasts are held the first Sunday of every month at the Tiverton Community Hall. Bingo is every Tuesday night at 7 pm at the Community Hall.

Along the Coastline

*The Municipality of the District of Digby is reviewing information regarding electronic voting for the upcoming municipal elections this year. Several options, including adding internet and telephone voting, are being looked at in an attempt to increase voter turnout and assist with access. Traditional forms of ballot voting will continue to be available. A decision is expected to be made early in the new year.

*Kings Transit will be expanding its service area to include the Town of Digby effective February 6, 2012. This joint venture between the Municipality and Town is hoped to improve service and increase ridership on the public transit bus.

*The Municipality is in the process of expanding wastewater collection to the West Old Post Road and The Avenue in Smiths Cove. This infrastructure expansion is part of a long term plan to provide centralized wastewater collection to densely populated areas within the municipality.

*Recyclable material collected within the Municipality of Digby will now be processed at a new facility in Meteghan. The Municipality of Clare, Town of Digby and Municipality of Digby have partnered in the joint venture to more efficiently process recyclable material for the three municipal units. Previously recyclable materials were shipped to Yarmouth for processing. This change also provided the Municipality and Town of Digby the option of utilizing the transfer station on the Upper Cross Road for storing and shipping clear bag solid waste to Queens County. Both initiatives are expected to be more efficient and provide cost savings.

*The Municipality of Digby is reviewing its options for the impending replacement of streetlights within areas currently provided with streetlight services. The Province of Nova Scotia has legislated the changeover to LED lighting for all roadways within the province.

*A small scale wind turbine is being purchased by the Municipality to offset energy costs for the Smiths Cove wastewater treatment plant. The Renewable Energy Coordinator is finalizing the project and plans for its completion this summer.

*Fire services within the Municipality are having a needs assessment completed as a result of a request from the Digby Municipal Fire Service Association. First steps in the process of collecting financial, human resource and infrastructure have been completed. A meeting with the fire service association is scheduled to discuss the next steps in the process.

*The Warden and Councillors for the Municipality of Digby will be conducting individual community meetings throughout the next two months. This is a good opportunity to meet and provide feedback to your local councillor. Please watch for a listing of councillor meetings in your area.

Milestone Certificates

Council provides a certificate of recognition to groups and individuals for significant milestones or achievements. To find out more go to:

www.digbydistrict.ca for details.

The **Coastline** is published by the Municipality of the District of Digby. Any comments can be sent to: P.O. Box 429, Digby, N.S. B0V 1A0 or dropped off at 12548

Highway 217 weekdays from 8:30 - 4:30. Or call 245-4777 or e-mail heritage@municipality.digby.ns.ca

Community Policing and District General Public Meeting Dates

Councillor **Jimmy MacAlpine**

Bear River Fire hall February 15 7 pm
This is a joint meeting with Annapolis & Digby Counties.

Councillor **Maritza Adams**

Bartobn School February 21 7pm

Councillor **Randall Amero**

Weymouth Library February 21 7pm

Warden **Linda Gregory**

Digby Neck Consolidated School
February 22 7 pm

Warden **Linda Gregory &**

Deputy Warden **Jimmy MacAlpine**
Municipal Building February 28 7pm

Councillor **David Tudor**

Tiverton Community Hall
February 29 7pm

Certificates of Recognition

Jack & Louise Gillespie

*In celebration of their
72 Wedding Anniversary
Jan. 13 2012*

Lila Gwendolyn Quigley

*In celebration of her 100th
birthday March 14*

Municipal Council Meetings 6pm

Committee of the Whole
Feb 13
Council Feb 27
Committee of the Whole
March 12
Council March 26

Directory of Municipal Services

Councillors

Warden Linda Gregory

245-2616 lgregory@municipality.digby.ns.ca

Deputy Warden Jimmy MacAlpine

245-4651 jmacalpine@municipality.digby.ns.ca

Maritza Adams

245-6671 madams@municipality.digby.ns.ca

Randall Amero

837-7324 ramero@municipality.digby.ns.ca

David Tudor

839-2630 dtudor@municipality.digby.ns.ca

Municipal Offices

General Inquiries 245-4777

Building & Fire Inspector 245-6776

Airport 245-5885

Dog Control Officer 245-5885

REMO 245-6252