

Council Approves 2013 - 2014 Operating Budget

On May 27, 2013 Council approved their 2013-2014 operating budget of \$ 7,771,592. The budget was prepared based on the best information available to date, and represents the goals and priorities of the Municipality as a community and as a corporation.

There are no changes to the residential tax rate of \$ 1.30 and commercial rate of \$ 1.85.

However, some may see an increase in their tax bills as a result of a 3.11% assessment increase due to capped market assessment increases and other growth such as new construction or additions.

Council increased the Low Income Tax Exemption from \$150 to \$ 175 for those whose 2012 income from all sources was less than \$ 22,000. Deadline was June 30th.

A copy of the budget presentation is available on our website at www.digbydistrict.ca Council is often asked “Where do my tax dollars go?” Let’s assume your property is assessed at \$100,000. Let’s also assume you are connected to a municipal sewer system and you are in a street light zone and pay a fire area rate. Your total property tax bill would be \$1,660.00

- General Government Services- Legislative, Administration, Community Grants, Communication	\$299.00
- Protective Services- RCMP, Fire Protection, By-Law Enforcement, Dog Control, Emergency Management	\$465.00
-Transportation Services- Road and Streets, Sidewalks, Street Lights, Snow Removal, Airport, Public Transit	\$183.00
-Environmental Health Services- Wastewater Collection & Treatment, Solid Waste	\$199.00
-Environmental Development Services- Planning & Development, Economic Development, Tourism, Other Economic Development Projects, Business Mentoring Services	\$100.00
-Transfer to Education-Tri- County Regional School Board	\$266.00
-Recreation & Cultural Services- Recreation, Heritage, Libraries	\$83.00
-Financing and Transfers - Transfers to own Reserves, Transfers to Villages	\$65.00
Total	\$1,660.00

Municipality of Digby Moves Towards Owning Its Own Streetlights



In September 2012 the Province of Nova Scotia, as part of new legislation, informed all municipal units that by June 30, 2013, they must submit a plan outlining how each municipality intends to convert all streetlights to LED (Light Emitting Diodes) and to be totally converted by

December 31, 2022. Converting streetlights to LED is obligatory. The Department of Energy, who are overseeing the conversions on behalf of the government, report that cost savings by switching could be in excess of 50% and would lower greenhouse gas and mercury emissions. Strategic objectives are part of our ICSP (Integrated Community Sustainability Plans).

The Municipality of Digby has 859 streetlights in the district for which it pays monthly utility charges to Nova Scotia Power. Taking ownership of streetlights within the municipality would save approximately \$770,000 over the life of the new LED streetlight fixtures, anticipated to

last 20 years. The other option is to lease streetlights from NSP. Staff are also exploring the use of adaptive technologies which would create even greater energy savings such as timers and dimmer switches. Council has approved a recommendation by staff to take over the ownership of the lights. Council will ensure that every means to engage the public in the discussion, for their understanding of the decision to convert, takes place. Staff are preparing tender packages for streetlights, disposal of the old lights, installation, traffic control and maintenance. For more information, please contact Terry Thibodeau, Coordinator for Renewable Energy and Climate Change, at 245-4767 or by email tthibodeau@municipality.digby.ns.ca.

Communication Digby

Effective two-way communication strategies have become recognized as essential tools by local governments. Residents, the business investment and economic development sector, and other municipal stakeholders need to get relevant information in a timely, efficient and technologically convenient manner.

Accordingly, the Municipality of the District of Digby, along with the Town of Digby, have identified a need to revisit and revitalize their communications structure.

Coordinating their efforts through the Digby Industrial Commission (DIC), the Municipality and the Town have asked Peter MacLellan to prepare a comprehensive communications plan to address

this challenge.

A resident of Smiths Cove, Peter has a communications management background as a senior corporate communications advisor in the private sector, government



Peter MacLellan

relations experience as a former director of communications for the Premier of Nova Scotia, and career positions as a university professor, media analyst and writer.

Upon establishing a public affairs consulting practice in this area he became involved in creating and

managing communications strategies for businesses and rural development agencies in southwestern Nova Scotia, including the former Annapolis Digby Economic Development Agency, and is currently the President of the Digby and Area Board of Trade.

“At home: If our citizens are to participate more in civic life, government officials must meet the growing challenge of disseminating essential up-to-date public information in a timely fashion, and facilitating citizen input,” said DIC Chair Ben Cleveland. “Identifying challenges and incorporating the needs to fulfill our communication structure adequacy, is utmost in the growth and development of our municipality and stakeholders,” said Warden Linda Gregory.

The area’s municipal communications strategy, guidelines and objectives are expected to be available and publicly posted by early autumn.

Digby Annapolis Regional Airport

Amateur Radio Promotes Science...

Amateur radio modes, such as Ballooning Repeaters, promote science... Local VHF and UHF repeaters are the bread and butter for local communications. The Fundy Amateur Radio Club, for instance, has a 2-metre repeater on the North Range tower southwest of Digby. But the urge to extend the normal range of operations sees amateurs attaching a small repeater to a weather balloon and launching it into the sky. As the balloon rises, the repeater covers a larger and larger area of potential contacts. This procedure is fascinating to listen to when conducting such experiments.



Then there's "Foxhunting"... This is a popular name for the pursuit of "radio direction finding" of a hidden transmitter. Small power transmitters are "hidden" and give off an intermittent signal identifying their location. The "hunters" use direction sensitive antennas and drive around the countryside trying to be the first to locate the hidden location of the "fox". While this is all good fun, the exercise has a very serious side to it as it is the same skill set required to find lost children, hunters, boaters, or even downed aircraft. So amateur radio clubs staging "foxhunts" often invite local search and rescue organizations and the police to also take part and hone their "find the hidden transmitter" skills.

Weather Monitoring... The Dartmouth office of Environment Canada gets dozens of daily local weather reports from radio amateurs across Nova Scotia. This is a valuable public service since there are so many "micro-climates" across our province, as we all know, making local weather forecasting in Nova Scotia a real challenge. **More on this vital hobby in the next issue...**

Ron Cooper Memorial Fly- In July 6th

Many people enjoyed the breakfast. Special thanks to all the volunteers.



Linda Fraser,
John DeMings &
Gordon Wilson

Marg Cooper displays the plaque in honour to her late husband Ron Cooper



Municipal Heritage Property Award Presentation

On July 21 the Municipality presented its Heritage Property Award to the Bay-view United Church for excellence in building preservation. The Church also celebrated it's 140th anniversary.



Warden Linda Gregory, Tony O'Neill & Dwight Harris unveil plaque



Lisa Selig, Dwight Harris & Phillip Harris perform

Council Activities

District #1 Deputy Warden Jimmy MacAlpine

* Public meeting was held in Bear River on June 25th with Warden Ritchie to update the community on the changes to the central sewage system and also an update on the Creative Communities and parking lot projects.

* Attended the announcement at Bay Ferries on the replacement of the Princess of Acadia.

District #2 Maritza Adams

* The contract for the paving on the North /South Range road has been awarded.

* Garden beds, signage and interpretive panels have been placed at the Maud Lewis site to make it more visually appealing to passers by.

District #3 Warden Linda Gregory

In Attendance of:

*Announcement of the replacement of the Princess of Acadia.

* Joe Casey Humanitarian Award Ceremony.

* Weymouth Canada Day Opening Ceremony and Festivities.

* Opening Ceremony of Lobster Bash.

* Ron Cooper Memorial Fly In.

* Met with a new physician looking at our area.

* Digby Neck Fireman's Day.

* Althouse Look Off Trail Opening.

* Brian Henshaw Supper and Concert.

* Municipal Heritage Property Award to the Bay View United Church.

* Met with various Provincial Departments to discuss citizens concerns.

District #4 David Tudor

*The community input portion of the District revitalization plan has been completed.

*Internet assessability issues have been identified as the prime concern and solutions are being worked on now.

*Additional issues and ideas resulting from the community meetings will be presented to the district in early fall and next steps will be identified then.



It's back to school for the Digby Community Education Centre

Our Adult Learning Programs and the Adult High School begin in early September. If you plan to attend the Adult High School (grades 10-12), you must enroll within the first 5 days of the beginning of the semester.

The Adult Learning Programs have continuous enrollment – you can enroll at any time throughout the school year.

The Learning Grove Childcare Centre offers Early Childhood Education programs.

For more information, please call 245-7530.

Municipal Council Meetings 6 pm

August 12 Committee of the Whole

Sept. 9 Committee of the Whole

Sept. 23 Council

Milestone Certificates

Congratulations to **Rosalind Rice** for 40 years of service with the Bear River Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary.

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

George Manzer

837-4353 gmanzer@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
Heritage	245-4757
Renewable Energy/Climate Change	245-4767

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

District #5 George Ma