

The Coastline



December 2015 Preserving Our Past ~ Developing Our Future

2015 Christmas Greetings from Warden Linda Gregory

The holidays are a wonderful time to be with loved ones, to gather and reflect on the blessings of the year gone by.

As a community we were able to accomplish much in 2015. We continued our commitment to establish our municipality as one of Canada's leading sustainable communities, something evident at this year's expanded Digby Port Days and Renewable Energy Symposium, "Ride the Green Wave", which experienced record attendance.

Shortly after that event the Municipality hosted heritage experts and delegates from across the continent at the Nova Scotia Heritage Conference, along with the Recreation Nova Scotia Conference. These three events broadly showcased the exciting opportunities presented by both our past and our future. We are indeed a unique and fortunate community in this world.

The holidays also give us cause to support those who are less fortunate. And in a world much troubled of late we showed our compassion, as local faith communities reached out to welcome refugees seeking the peace and opportunities with which we have been blessed.

For those of us who have long called this community home

we were encouraged to see the continuing growth of traditional industries and new developments including opening our new health services centre and a start on completing the long overdue work on Route 101.

We are extremely fortunate to



have countless numbers of caring residents who give up their valuable time to help others throughout the year. I would like to recognize the committed and active volunteers, community groups and organizations who work tirelessly during this time of the year to support those in need.

And as we gaze this season upon the Christmas manger scene, let's particularly salute the wonderful work being done by those who care for our animal friends,

especially the TLC Animal Shelter, Friends of Ferals and individuals like Melissa Comeau of Foster for Cats.

Christmas should be a happy time of year, but it is often filled with worry, frustration, and stress. Let's reconnect with the meaning of Christmas. Look for those who might need that extra helping hand. Remember to thank the veterans for their service, the elderly for their examples, and our youth for their hope and optimism. On a personal note, I want to thank staff and Council for working together to make a positive and lasting contribution to our community. Representing our area I was honoured recently to be appointed to the Rural Caucus of the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities. And, finally, in terms of elected service I want to thank our former Member of Parliament, Greg Kerr, for his many positive and lasting contributions to our community; and wish his successor, Colin Fraser, every success with his new responsibilities on our behalf.

From my own family, and our collective family here at the Municipality of the District of Digby, may the spirit of this wonderful time of year be with you and yours throughout the Christmas season.

Local Church Groups Sponsor Syrian Refugee Families

Prior to the federal government's release of its plan for settlement of Syrian refugees in Canada, several local groups had already been busy planning their own settlement initiatives.

Two faith communities in the Municipality of Digby have been working over the past few months to sponsor Syrian refugee families.

The Hillgrove United Baptist Church, with support from a half-dozen nearby congregations, has chosen a Syrian family of eight, six children under the age of 12 and their parents, and secured a house in Digby. It has been gathering donations, both monetary and in-kind. The family still must pass final health checks and secure official approvals before they can finally be approved. They have been working with the Convention of United Baptist churches. Renovations are already underway at the Grace United Church Rectory in Digby to accommodate the family. The Digby and Rossway Baptist churches,

along with the Advent Christian Church in Bear River, and the South Range Christian Church have been supporting the Hillgrove initiative. Folks wanting to support this endeavour can visit the group's Facebook page,

Hillgrove Baptist Church



There are 4.3 million Refugees in the Middle East
Canada plans to accept 25 thousand refugees by early 2016

Refugee Sponsor, or contact Wendy Bradley at: 245-1616.

Meanwhile, there's also an undertaking by a Smith's Cove / Bear River area group to also spearhead a refugee sponsorship initiative. There are 6 church groups joining forces to sponsor a family from Syria. They call themselves the A B C D S' Sponsorship group. They include: Advent Church of Christ in Landsdowne; Bear River

Baptist Church; Bear River East Baptist Church; Clementsvale Baptist Church; Deep Brook Baptist and the Smith's Cove Baptist Church. This initiative is in early stages at the moment and further plans need to be developed. They are working with the Convention of United Baptist Churches as well. If you are interested in supporting their effort you can contact Niki & Mark Cress 467-4114.

The Digby Wesleyan Church also has a committee working to sponsor refugees, working in concert with the Immigrant Services Association of Nova Scotia,

and their progress can be checked out on their Facebook group [Digby Welcomes Refugees.](#)

Refugee photosCBC News.ca



Digby Fire Department's new fire truck will soon arrive to replace Old #7.

Municipality Deeply Involved in Weymouth Doctor Recruitment

The Municipality of the District of Digby remains very active and wholeheartedly committed in efforts to finding a doctor for the medical clinic in Weymouth.

The community is seeking to find a replacement for Dr. Don Westby who has retired. Dr. Westby, originally from Ireland, began practicing in Weymouth in 1984 and moved into the Weymouth Medical Centre when it opened in 2003. He has been the only long-term doctor in Weymouth since then and announced his retirement two years ago to allow ample time for recruitment of a replacement.

At a recent meeting of the Weymouth Doctor Recruitment Committee Warden Linda Gregory said that all members have been working diligently with the community and the provincial government to ensure continuation of service in Weymouth. The Municipality of the District of Digby had already approved \$25,000 for a recruiter to start looking for a doctor for

Weymouth.

The Warden said that the goal is the recruitment and placement of two doctors and a nurse practitioner in the Weymouth Clinic, something she admitted would be challenging but remained the ultimate objective for the Municipality and the Committee. She thanked Dr. Westby for his long and dedicated service and the Committee for its continuing determination to resolve this issue.

Clare Digby MLA Gordon Wilson will act as liaison with the Nova Scotia Health Authority.

In addition to the Warden, Committee members include Municipal Councillor George Manzer, and Municipality CAO Linda Fraser; Irwin Gaudet who is Chair of the Village of Weymouth, Village Commissioner Anthony Frizzell, Village Clerk Murray Betts; community members Dr. Don Westby, Nathan Hanna, Barry Faulkner, and Denise Theriault; along with representatives from the Municipality of Clare.

Understanding Your Property Assessment Notice

Municipalities use property assessments from Property Valuation Services Corporation (PVSC) as part of a calculation to determine tax rates and calculate tax bills. As a property owner, it is important to review and understand your assessment notice.

You can access detailed information about your property, including preliminary 2016 assessment values, using the "My Property Report" tool on the PVSC website www.pvsc.ca. If you have questions or wish to discuss your assessment we encourage you to speak with an assessor at 1-800-380-7775.

2016 assessment notices will be mailed during the week of January 11, 2016. If you prefer to go paper-free, you can receive your assessment notice online through Canada Post's epost™ service. Visit www.epost.ca for details and to register.

Council Meetings

Committee of the Whole

Dec. 14th 4:30 pm

Committee of the Whole

Jan. 11th 4:30 pm

Council

Jan 25th 6 pm

Post Your Civic Number!
It could save your life.

To order your civic
number call:

902-245-4958 ext #2



A graphic for a New Year's event. At the top, it says "Municipality OF Digby" with a sun icon. Below that, it says "New Year's Day LEVEE" in large, bold letters. Underneath, it says "at the Municipal Office". The address "12548 HWY 217 SEABROOK" and time "2-4PM" are listed. At the bottom, it says "Come Ring in the First Day of the New Year!" and features a large "2016" with stars. There are also images of balloons and stars throughout the graphic.



Ride for Free!!
From December 14th to Christmas
Weymouth to Cornwallis



Council Activities

Jimmy MacAlpine District #1

This fall I attended the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities annual general meeting in Halifax. I had the pleasure to attend the Remembrance Day services at St. Mary's Bay Academy in Weymouth and at the Digby Regional High School on November 11th, and on that day I attended services in Bear River and Smith Cove; both services were well attended by the communities.

With this year coming to a close I would like to say that I am very pleased that Council was able to have a crosswalk placed in Conway for the safety of those trying to cross the 303, and with partnering with the Bear River Board of Trade in a First Impressions project that enhanced Bear River and helped to promote the local artists in the Bear River area. Also it is great to see that after a number of years of volunteer efforts, a new skate board park is being constructed on Victoria Street in Digby. Our Council supported this build and believe that this park will be enjoyed by many in the years to come.

I wish everyone a safe, enjoyable Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Maritza Adams District #2

I was part of the organizing committee for the Provincial Heritage conference held at the Pines in early October.

Laid a wreath at the Remembrance Day service at St. Mary's Bay Baptist Church on behalf of the Municipality; attended the Festival of Trees in Weymouth. Was present at the public meeting in Weymouth concerned with recruiting a Doctor for the clinic. Also attended the Open House for Dr. Westby. Participated in a workshop on community immigration held in Halifax.

Warden Linda Gregory District #3

* As the fall winds dissipate, Winter is upon us. I hope everyone is prepared. As always, it has been a busy time. I have been attending the monthly DARC Senior Days. This will be a lot of fun for everyone attending.

I also took part in the Provincial Heritage Conference and Recreation Nova Scotia Conference. Both were held in Digby. They were great learning experiences. I also attended the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities Conference where all the municipalities in the Province meet to discuss issues and concerns. We also got the opportunity to listen and ask questions of vari-

ous Provincial Ministers who attended our conference. I was honored to attend the Remembrance Day service in Digby as I feel it is very important to honor our veterans. I was very proud that my mother, Edith Trimper was the Silver Cross Mother. I also attended a Cultural Awareness workshop. I attended a Nova Scotia Power Corporation Regional meeting. I went to the Festival of Trees in Weymouth. There were many beautifully decorated Christmas trees. Also in Weymouth, I went to a community meeting regarding health care concerns including the need for doctors. I attended a musical evening as a fundraiser for Epilepsy Nova Scotia as well as a dinner theatre for St. Patrick's Catholic Church. I attended the retirement party for Dr. Don Westby. It was a wonderful afternoon where the community had the opportunity to say goodbye to Dr. Westby. He will be greatly missed. I have also attended various meetings. On-going, I try to stay in constant communication with our MLA. *If you have any issues or concerns please feel free to contact me.

David Tudor District #4

- If you need help with government forms or accessing government programs

- Are low on food or wood

-Help with any business ideas

- Any concerns or worries that you think I might be able to give advice Call David Tudor 902-839-2630

George Manzer District #5

Volunteered at the Tour de New France bike rally.

-Attended the following: Recreation conference at the Digby Pines,

-Community at Weymouth School regarding doctor recruitment,

-UNSM conference in Halifax Nov. 3 to Nov. 6

-Remembrance Day Ceremony at Weymouth Legion

-Opening night for Festival of Trees at Sissiboo Landing

-Open house for Dr. Westby at SMBA

-Come out and enjoy the Weymouth Christmas Parade of Lights at 6:30 p.m. on Dec. 19

Directory of Municipal Services

Councillors

Warden Linda Gregory

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David Tudor

839-2630 dtudor@municipality.digby.ns.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

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