

# The Coastline



June 2016 Preserving Our Past ~ Developing Our Future

## Health Authority Nullifies Physician Appointment for Weymouth Clinic

The Nova Scotia Health Authority (NSHA) has advised the Municipality of Digby, that the vacant doctor position in Weymouth has been moved to Digby.

As a result of this decision the NSHA will not approve a doctor in Weymouth.

The Municipality of the District of Digby, in partnership with the Village of Weymouth, local community members, and MLA Gordon Wilson, had been working hard over the last 2 to 3 years to recruit a doctor for the Weymouth Clinic; initially to help local doctor, Donald Westby, with his heavy patient load, then replace him when he retired in October of 2015.

"It now appears that even if we were successful in recruiting someone willing to come, the appointment would not have been approved, and therefore, the Municipality has regrettably decided not to renew our contract with the professional recruiting firm when it comes due at the end of May," said Linda Gregory, Warden for the Municipality.

The MLA for Clare-Digby, Gordon Wilson, expressed his disappointment with the decision.

"I am very disappointed that despite all the efforts we have put into this and also by the community that we continue to struggle with finding doctors for the Digby area," he said.

The MLA did say that Weymouth would continue to be a focus for future service.

"I have been assured by the Minister of Health that as doctor recruitment for the Digby Community Health Clinic continues, new doctors will be



**Weymouth Community Health Clinic** providing collaborative family physician services out of the Weymouth clinic, and additionally there will also be a nurse practitioner presence as a part of the primary health care model for Weymouth," Wilson maintained.

In November of 2015 the Municipality engaged a professional recruiting firm to look for doctors interested in coming to Weymouth.

They were successful in bringing a doctor to visit the area, who could not accept an offer at that time due to personal reasons; and subsequently gave a tour of the Weymouth Clinic to another prospective doctor who had been living in Halifax with his family for the past five years, and is a Canadian citizen. Unfortunately, as an internationally trained doctor, he was unable to be licensed in Nova

Scotia because there is no assessment program in Nova Scotia since the College of Physicians and Surgeons of NS cancelled the Clinician Assessment for Practice Program (CAPP) in 2014.

"When we hired the recruiting firm, we had great hope that we would be able to find a doctor to replace Dr. Westby, however, it quickly became clear to us that the NS Health Authority not only did not approve of us hiring a professional recruiter, but that there was no longer a position for a doctor in Weymouth and they would not cooperate with us or the recruiter," explained Warden Gregory.

The recruitment firm also expressed its disappointment with the decision.

"The Physician Recruitment Committee for the Weymouth area did all that they could reasonably do to recruit a replacement for Dr. Westby; unfortunately, the Health Authority's vision for the future of primary care in Southwest Nova Scotia does not include a medical clinic in the Village of Weymouth," said David Nurse, Regional Manager for CanAm Physician Recruitment, Inc.

"We believe that more openness from the Health Authority at the public meeting in Weymouth several months ago would have been beneficial for the recruitment committee, CanAm, and the citizens of Weymouth," Nurse stated, adding,

Weymouth Clinic continued...



Warden Linda Gregory

“expectations were raised at that meeting that replacing Dr. Westby in Weymouth was possible when I believe that the decision had effectively been made at that time not to support a solo family physician beginning practice in Weymouth.”

The Municipality and the recruitment firm also expressed the hope that any physician recruited to Digby will be encouraged to open his or her practice to the residents of Weymouth and consider innovative ways to extend primary care to the residents, and that provision be made for an onsite nurse practitioner presence at the clinic as well.

For Additional Information Contact:  
Warden Linda Gregory  
902-245-4253  
[lgregory@municipality.digby.ns.ca](mailto:lgregory@municipality.digby.ns.ca)

**New Municipal Website  
Comprehensive Information at  
your finger tips**

**digbydistrict.ca**  
Check it out!



### New Returning Officer for the 2016 Municipal Election

October 15, that is the date residents of the Municipality of Digby, and municipalities across the province will go to the polls to elect new municipal councillors. For this year’s municipal election, Jeff Sunderland will be the returning officer. Over the coming months he will be working to ensure the election runs smoothly, candidates are informed of the process and to ensure the council is elected following the rules and procedures required. If you have any questions you can reach Jeff at 902-245-4046 or [jsunderland@municipality.digby.ns.ca](mailto:jsunderland@municipality.digby.ns.ca)

## 2016 Municipal Budget

The 2016 Municipal budget was approved by Council on May 24. Council is pleased to announce that there will be no increases in the residential and commercial tax rate and that the streetlight rate was reduced by 50 %. Look for a 2016 Budget article in the next issue of the Coastline or go to: [digbydistrict.ca](http://digbydistrict.ca) for the complete budget report.



## Municipality of Digby Residents

### Please Note



The Municipality has scheduled a spring solid waste collection service for the following items only:

FRIDGES, STOVES, DISHWASHERS, MICROWAVES, WASHERS, DRYERS, DEEP FREEZES, HOT WATER HEATERS, WALL OVENS AND COOK TOPS

Please note that this will be the only collection for white metal this year. The freon does not have to be removed from fridges and freezers for collection.

Below is the schedule for white goods collection. All items must be placed curbside no later than 8 a.m. on collection day. Please mark your pick up day on the calendar.

If your regular collection day is:  
Your White Goods collection day is:

MONDAY	FRIDAY, JUNE 3, 2016
TUESDAY	FRIDAY, JUNE 10, 2016
WEDNESDAY	FRIDAY, JUNE 17, 2016
THURSDAY	FRIDAY, JUNE 24, 2016

For more information please contact the Municipal Office at 902-245-4777.



Claredon Robicheau

**Municipal Council would like to thank Claredon Robicheau for his dedication and work with Transport de Clare.**

**All the best in your Retirement**

## Community Grants 2016 - 2017



Admiral Digby Museum	\$2,500
Annapolis Royal Historic Gardens	\$500
Bear River & Area Community Health Clinic	\$10,000
Bear River Fire Dept - Cherry Carnival	\$500
Digby & Area Affordable & Supportive Housing (DAASH)	\$500
Digby Choral Group	\$500
Digby Co-operative Pasture Society	\$300
Digby County 4 H	\$5,000
Digby County Exhibition	\$3,000
Digby East Fish & Game	\$2,500
Digby Ground Search & Rescue-Grant & Insurance	\$4,000
Digby Scallop Days	\$4,000
Freeport Community Development Association-	\$2,700
Freeport Days	\$500
Hillsborough Water Society	\$2,500
Lobster Bash	\$3,000
Music on the Sissiboo	\$750
Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve Assoc.	\$500
Spring Into Summer Show	\$250
Trinity Anglican Church	\$500
Westport Recreation Hall Auxiliary- Westport Days	\$500
Weymouth Board of Trade - Help with gardening	\$1,000
Weymouth Waterfront Development Committee-Parade	\$300
Wharf Rat Rally	\$15,000
Visitor Information Centers - Digby, Bear River, Tiverton, and Weymouth \$ 3,000 each	\$12,000
Youth Grants	\$3,000



### Meet Shalini Our New Casual Dispatcher.

Shalini moved to Canada 5 years ago with her husband and has been living in the Digby area for nearly 2 years. Shalini volunteers and also works part time as a pharmacist assistant. She loves the coastal environment and enjoys the outdoors. Welcome aboard!

## Festivals 2016

### Canada Day July 1

Weymouth, Freeport, Bear River

### Bear River Cherry Carnival

July 23

### Scallop Days

August 3 - 7

### Freeport Days

August 20-21

### Wharf Rat Rally

September 1-4

## Council Activities

### Jimmy MacAlpine District #1

April 13th, attended the Volunteer Awards Dinner to recognize the tremendous contribution our volunteers provide to our communities.

April 26th, I took in one day of the Smart Energy Event in Halifax where I took in sessions on Electric Vehicles and the required charging stations that are needed; a session on the progress of the developers of tidal power in the Minas Channel, and other sessions on solar power, storage and micro grids.

April 27-29th, as a Municipal representative on our Solid Waste commission, I had the opportunity of attending the Canadian Waste Symposium in Halifax where I was able to take in some very interesting sessions on the future of handling waste, what do we do with waste after a disaster and how to plan for unforeseen events.

April 30th, attended a welcoming event at the Bear River Fire Department for the new Syrian family that was sponsored by the Bear River and area residents.

May 4-6th, I participated in the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities Spring Workshop in Wolfville, taking in sessions on alternative resource energy, shared services, the Municipal Government Act and a number of other very interesting topics.

May 10th, I was very pleased to be invited to attend Honoring Our Sisters at the Bear River First Nations, this was a very important event to honor the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women of Canada. I want to thank Wanda Finigan and the other organizers on bringing awareness to such a horrific tragedy.

May 14th Celebrated the 20th Anniversary of Transport De Clare and the retirement of Claredon Robicheau . I wish to thank Claredon for his devotion and perseverance in establishing such an essential service for Clare and the Municipality of Digby.

May 15th, I participated in the 1st Annual 5 km run -walk for the Epilepsy Association of Nova Scotia from the Digby Arena to the old tourist office on the Shore Road.

## Maritza Adams District #2

I was invited to the Digby East Fish and Game's annual dinner. Laid a wreath on behalf of the District of Digby, at the Battle of the Atlantic service at Cornwallis.

Attended the Relay for Life dessert social for Team Brent. Also attended a fundraiser for a resident suffering with cancer. I would like to commend the community for supporting those in time of need.

Attended the 20th Anniversary of Transport de Clare and the retirement of Claredon Robicheau.

Brought congratulations to Arlene and Ervin Marshall on their 60th Wedding Anniversary.

## Warden Linda Gregory District #3

Spring time is passing so quickly, soon summer will be upon us. In keeping with springtime, I have been a busy little bee.

I have attended many functions, meetings, conferences and events.

I got to help out during my attendance at the Everest Senior Curling event held at our Curling Club.

I attended the Spring UNSM conference.

I gave greetings at the Hiking Summit which was very well attended.

I thoroughly enjoyed myself at the Digby Girl Guides Mother's Day Chili and Chowder Supper; it was a great fundraiser. I also attended The Dessert Social and Auction for 'Team Brent' for the Relay for Life.

I had the opportunity to attend the event for Honouring Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women. It was well attended.

I spoke at the 20th Anniversary for Transport de Clare and Claredon Robicheau's retirement.

I had the privilege of extending greetings at the Epilepsy Walk and helped out doing first aid.

Our Council in March wore the Epilepsy Ribbon during our Council meeting.

I also had the opportunity to attend the Atlantic Mayors' Congress.

I attended the NSAPG (policing) meeting.

I attended the High C's banquet.

I brought greetings to the Bylaw Officers Conference.

I enjoyed the Digby East Fish and Game Awards Dinner.

I thoroughly enjoyed attending Ervin and Arlene Marshall's 60th wedding anniversary and being a part of that spectacular milestone.

I attended a meeting on physician recruitment with the

Health Foundation, Town and Nova Scotia Health Authority. I also met with 1st and 2nd year medical students who came to visit our area.

I continually communicate with residents over their concerns. Please feel free to contact me at any time.

Linda Gregory 902 245 4253 (O) 902 245 2616 (H)  
902 247 0356 (C)

## David Tudor District #4

Working on acquiring funding for the ferry approaches project.

Waiting for the details from the province for funding for rural Internet.

If you or anyone you know needs help please let me know.

## George Manzer District #5

Volunteered two days at the Senior Curling Event

Attended opening ceremonies for Senior Curling Event in Digby

Attended a Volunteer Recognition Night at the Digby Firehall

Attended a Remembrance ceremony in Bear River for murdered and missing Indigenous women.

Attended the retirement party for Claredon Robicheau of Transport de Clare

# Council Meetings

**Council June 27 - 6 pm**

**Council July 25 - 6 pm**

**COTW August 8 - 4:30 pm**

## Milestones

Congratulations to Ervin & Arlene Marshall on their 60th Wedding Anniversary

### 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 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](http://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](mailto:heritage@municipality.digby.ns.ca)