

THE COASTLINE

AUGUST 2016



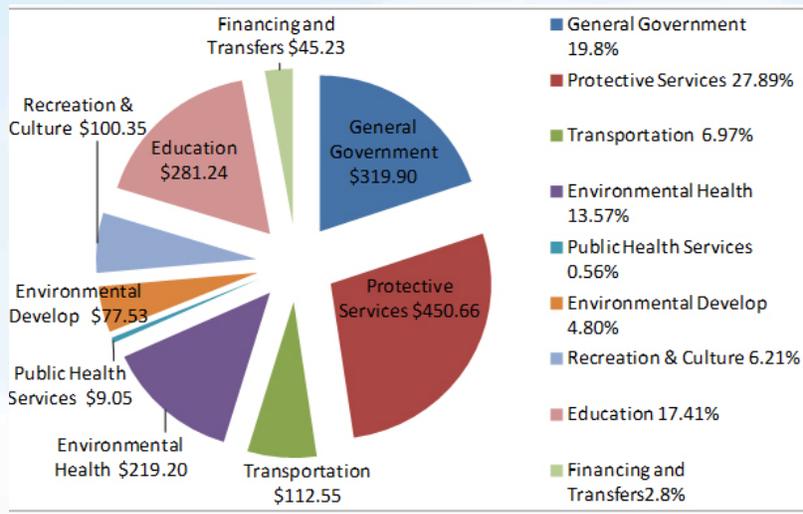
Council Approves 2016-2017 Operating Budget \$8,038,031

A copy of the budget presentation is available on our website at www.digbydistrict.ca

For the seventh consecutive year Council approved an operating budget with no increases to the tax rates. Thanks to the new municipally owned LED Street Lights, taxpayers who are in a street light

area will notice a decrease in the street light rate to .0407 from .0906. Overall, residential assessments increased by less than 1% and commercial assessments decreased by 1.52%. Council also increased the Low Income Tax Exemption to \$ 250 for those whose 2015 income from all sources is less than \$ 24,000. Other High-

lights include: Tax exemptions to non-profits \$ 41 K; Grants to Organizations/Festivals \$80 K; RCMP Costs Increased by 3.9% to \$ 1.2 Million; Tri County Regional School Board \$ 1.4 Million; Grants to Fire Departments \$ 398 K; Kings Transit \$ 193K; Economic Development & Tourism \$ 159 K; Renewable Energy \$ 198 K.



How Are My Tax Dollars Used? The graph above is based on assuming \$100,000 assessment, connected to municipal sewer, fire rate and street light rate. Ex. Total Tax Bill \$ 1,615.71

POINT PRIM IS OURS

The Municipality has officially assumed ownership of the Point Prim Lighthouse site from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO).

The 9.7 acre site includes a functioning lighthouse and occupies a spectacular location at the entrance to the historic Digby Gut from the Bay of Fundy and into the Annapolis Basin. The transaction was completed at the end of June after almost a decade of negotiation.

"We are delighted to have finally settled this transfer process and get this spectacular piece of property into local hands," said Municipality of Digby Warden Linda Gregory, adding that the acquisition fits nicely within the Municipality's Open Space Policy.

The site has been under the stewardship of the volunteer *Friends of Point Prim Society*, with a lease agreement with the DFO to keep the property out of private hands and maintain public access. The Society will continue that role under a new lease agreement with the Municipality, for property maintenance, enhanced site interpretation, and a trailhead development project to better inform visitors of the historic significance of Point Prim.

The Society will also develop short and long term plans to accentuate the site's natural environment and ecological importance. As a not-for-profit community organization, the Society is eager to accept new members and information can be obtained by calling Robert Hersey 902-245-4455.



Point Prim Lighthouse

Bear River Visitor Kiosk

If you haven't noticed, the main street in Bear River has become very festive with colorful shops, artisan pennants and new places to eat. The village is going through a regeneration as a creative community and is one of the finest in the province. To improve the visitor experience in Bear River, the Bear River Board of Trade asked municipal council to help develop the vacant site owned by the municipality and create a welcoming centre with an information kiosk and parking area. On June 25 the kiosk was unveiled and features village amenities with shops and visitor-related information to entice people to stay longer and experience what Bear River has to offer. The kiosk also

features the Artist Trail. The trail gives visitors a chance to talk to and watch artists at work in their studios and better understand the time and talent that goes into the artist's work. Bear River First Nation is also featured and welcomes visitors to the area and briefly describes the indigenous culture in the Bear River area.

If you haven't been to Bear River lately, now is a good time for a visit.

FREE RIDE!
Ride the Kings Transit Bus from Weymouth to Cornwallis for FREE on **Saturday August 6 and September 3**
Compliments of the Municipality of Digby



Warden Linda Gregory , BRBOT Chair, Larry Knox, Deputy Warden Jimmy MacAlpine

The Elder Transcripts Website is Back Online



eldertranscripts.ca

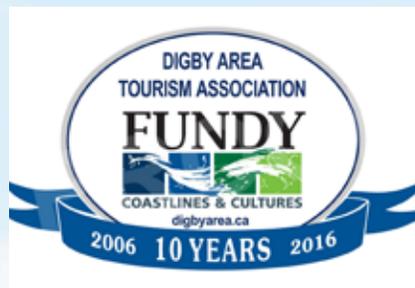
It has been nearly a year since the 16 year old Elder Transcripts website would no longer operate due to its age. The site was first launched in April 2000 and was the first of its kind online at the time. The software used to create the site in 2000 is no longer supported by internet browsers. To get the Elder Transcripts back online the entire site needed to be completely recreated. All 49 interviews and supporting documents needed to be redesigned for today's demanding internet. The site is mobile compatible and is accessible on smart phones and tablets. As a new feature, the video interviews are now viewable in their entirety on the site. The Municipal Council would like to thank Cassidy Harris and Devyn McKillop for their outstanding work to bring the site back to life. Also, a special thank you to Terri Vernon, Applied Arts and Information Technologies Department at the Middleton Community College, for her guidance over the course of the redesign.

Go to: eldertranscripts.ca to explore the site.

Digby Area Tourism Association Video and Photo Productions of Our Biggest Attractions

In the Fall of 2015, the Digby Area Tourism Association (DATA) determined there was a shortage of good quality Digby Area video and photographic content that could be used for marketing our visitor experiences.

Tourism Nova Scotia (TNS) offered an opportunity to acquire this content with the Inspiring Content Partner Program. This program is designed to increase production and use of quality content when promoting Nova Scotia experiences to potential visitors. Partners (individual operators or



groups) had the opportunity to invest between \$5,000-\$50,000, which will be matched by Tourism Nova Scotia, to produce marketing assets. Successful applicants will see their content shared via Tourism Nova Scotia marketing channels, in addition to their own.

With generous contributions from the Municipality of Digby, the Town of Digby and Digby Area organizations and businesses, DATA raised \$20 000 for the program. An application was completed in April. In early June

the good news came that the application was approved and a \$40 000 partnership between DATA and TNS was forthcoming. An initial discovery teleconference took place on June 22 with expectations the major work of filming and photographing Digby Area experiences will begin in August. **Congratulations on 10 years of making the visitor experience better in the Digby Area.**

Remember! October 15 Municipal Election Day

**Polling Stations Open
8am - 7pms**



Council Activities

Deputy Warden Jimmy MacAlpine District #1

* On June 25th I attended the unveiling of the new information Kiosk in Bear River. This is part of the First Impressions Project that the Municipality of Digby partnered with the Bear River Board of Trade. I would like to express a special thank you to Rob Hersey from the Municipality, Larry Knox and all of the other members of the Bear River Board of Trade for everything that was done to see this project be the success that it is.

* July 1st was a busy day in Bear River to celebrate Canada Day. I attended the pie sale and the dinner. Once again another successful event in Bear River and the weather cooperated to provide a great day for this event.

* July 2nd was Good Time Days in Smith Cove. I enjoyed a great breakfast at the Smith Cove Fire Hall and in the afternoon I was able to have strawberry shortcake at the Museum. This event was hosted by the Historical Society of Smith Cove.

Maritza Adams District 2

- * Early in June I attended the Federation of Canadian Municipalities annual general meeting in Winnipeg. Attended several informative workshops including one entitled Rural Forum.
- * Attended the Regional Meeting of the Municipalities in the Southwest region. Several topics were on the agenda including Doctor Recruitment.
- * In July I attended the Heritage/Scallops Day Tea for the Princesses.
- * I would like to congratulate Andrea and John Hakim and Wendy Bradley on their recognition by Minister Diab on the huge support they have shown in making the new refugee families welcome in our area.

Warden Linda Gregory District 3

- * Well, summer is here and I hope everyone is out enjoying all the summer activities.
- * I enjoyed an Apple Blossom tea with our Digby Municipal princess who did a wonderful job speaking and showed great leadership skills;
- * I attended the Digby Area Bd of Trade business awards where the caliber of the award recipients was inspiring; I also attended a Digby Area Bd of Trade meeting with Colin Fraser MP as guest speaker;
- * Other functions I attended included the annual Federation of Canadian Municipalities conference; the Senior Curling volunteer thank you; Spring into Summer; a cultural event at NSCC; opening of Bear River Kiosk; Lobster Bash, Digby Neck Fire Dept Day, Good Times Day in Smiths Cove and many July 1st celebrations. Hats off to all the organizers for these great events in our area;
- * I've had many meetings to discuss local issues of concern including meetings with Nova Scotia Power management, RCMP, a meeting hosted by the Western Regional Enterprise Network to discuss rural internet which is a huge problem;
- * I and others from the community have been meeting with the Nova Scotia Health primary health care team on

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**

the problem of the lack of physicians;

- * I am available to meet with individuals and community groups, if you wish to reach me feel free to call me at 902 245-4253 (o); 902 245-2616 (h) or 902 247-0356 (c).

David Tudor District 4

- * Working on Internet for Digby Neck
- * The wharf area improvement project is coming along nicely
- * Thanks to those who help out with the food bank Helping people get access to the services they need

George Manzer District 5

Attended the following:

- * Digby Board of Trade awards night at the Pines Resort & Spa
- * DALA graduation at NSCC
- * Regional Municipal meeting in Digby for the Relay for Life
- * It was nice to see another good turnout at the Gilberts Cove Lighthouse picnic. Thanks to Debby and her committee for their time and effort.
- * Thanks to Stacy Doucette and his committee for a great July 1st day in Weymouth. It wouldn't happen without your time and effort.

Milestones

- * Congratulations to Arla and Gary Marshall on their 50th Wedding Anniversary on June 29th
- * Wishing John D.Roope a Happy 85th Birthday August 26th.
- * Suzanne and Robert Murphy's 50th wedding anniversary July 2

Council Meetings

COTW Sept. 12
Council Sept. 26
COTW Oct. 10
Council Oct 24

Directory of Municipal Services

Councillors

Warden Linda Gregory

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Deputy Warden Jimmy MacAlpine

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Maritza Adams

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George Manzer

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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