



Karla Kelly Photos

Council Attends Strategic Priorities Retreat



(L) CAO Linda Fraser, Warden Jimmy MacAlpine, Deputy Warden Linda Gregory, Councillor George Manzer, Facilitator Gordon McIntosh, Councillor David Tudor, Councillor Matthew Ross, Manager of Corporate Services Cora Lee McBride

The Council of the Municipality of the District of Digby, along with senior municipal staff, came together in January to discuss their ideas for strategic priorities for the next four years. Facilitating the session was Gordon McIntosh from the LGL Institute. Gordon has over 38 years of consultancy roles in local government and has conducted over 1,200 workshops involving 140,000 elected and appointed officials. Council was fortunate to retain Gordon as he was already in the province working with other municipal councils. Fresh off the campaign trail, and following up from the last strategic plan, Council was able to identify over 46 issues or opportunities. From that long list, a shorter list of strategic topics was developed with the focus on a maximum of 5 NOW priorities and some NEXT priorities. As the NOW priorities are completed a NEXT priority would then become a NOW priority. There were also 5 areas identified where Council can provide an advocacy role and to look at fostering partnerships. (continued on the next page)

NOW Priorities	NEXT Priorities
1. Rural Internet Federal Funding Application	Haines Lake Property Plan (Former DNR property)
2. Industrial Park Servicing Position Statement	Industrial Park Prospectus Report
3. Trails and Open Space Coordination	Joint Council Meetings- Town & Clare Councils
4. Island Villages Meetings-Areas of Interest	Village of Weymouth Meeting-Areas of Interest
5. Fire Services	Multi-use Terminal Business Case
	Climate Change –Municipal Strategy
	Barton School Property

ADVOCACY/PARTNERSHIPS	
Tidal Industry Feasibility- advocate with Town, Developers, provincial and federal governments	Encourage Nova Scotia Power to upgrade grid capacity for the County
Regional Renewable Energy Strategy-Western Regional Enterprise Network (WREN)	Access to Primary Health Care-NS Health Authority and Community Stakeholders. Continue with Doctor recruitment activities.
Rural Internet – WREN and Municipal Partners	

ORGANIZATIONAL PRINCIPLES	
Be Environmentally Friendly and continue to look for ways to reduce our carbon footprint.	Develop Alternative Revenue Sources, take advantage of new funding opportunities and continue to utilize the COMFIT initiative.
Maximize Community Engagement	Pursue Partnerships whenever possible
Encourage Youth to be involved with Civic Engagement in their communities.	

A copy of the full plan can be found on our municipal website www.digbydistrict.ca

Business Support Services



Dan Harvey

In keeping with the Municipality's strategic focus on sustainable economic development, we have contracted the services of Dan Harvey, President of DH Business Services Inc., to provide business support. A resident of Western Nova Scotia, Dan is an

experienced consultant with over 35 years experience in both private industry and economic development. Dan sits on the Board of Business Retention and Expansion International (BREI) <http://www.brei.org/> and is dedicated to helping local business owners improve their success. His services are 100% confidential and at no charge to municipal residents who are willing to make investments for an economic benefit to our area. Dan works with a wide network of partners, including the Western Regional Enterprise Network <http://www.westernren.ca/> and Digby-Clare CBDC <http://www.cbdc.ca/en/nova-scotia-association-of-cbdcs/cbdc-digby-clare> . In the past year, some of the activities Dan has supported are:

- * Business Counseling and

Research services to a wide variety of start-up businesses

- * Support to Growth Plans of area businesses looking to expand
- * Facilitated "How-to" workshops on completing a Business Plan
- * Helped numerous businesses navigate the Provincial and Federal funding program network and provide application support
- * Strategic Planning services for the Digby Development Agency and other key area organizations
- * Investment attraction for the Digby Industrial Park, with a focus on seafood processing and marine renewable energy.

If you'd like to find out more about the Municipality's Business Support services, please give Dan a call at (902) 847-1217 or email him at info@danharvey.ca . All inquiries will be held in the strictest confidence.

Looking at High Speed Internet for Rural Digby and Region.



“High speed internet is a big part of the survival and prosperity of rural Digby. It is an essential infrastructure for business and day-to-day living. Like a highway that brings goods and services effectively to our communities, high speed internet is key to development and growth,” said Warden Jimmy MacAlpine. The Western Regional Enterprise Network is actively seeking methods of improving service to the Western Region of Nova Scotia, which consists of the six municipalities within Digby and Yarmouth Counties. “We’re interested in ensuring the region has what it needs to succeed in terms of economic development. Reliable Internet is essential to communication, and to take part in the global market. This is a shared priority of the Western REN and its’ member municipalities” said Angelique LeBlanc, Western Regional Enterprise Network CEO. CETAS Advisory Group from Halifax has been contracted to provide project management in an effort to secure funds for rural internet infrastructure development through the Federal **Connect to Innovate Program**. CETAS will assist in finding a partner high speed internet provider for the funding application, such as Bell Aliant, Eastlink, Mainland Telecom, Xplornet. This infrastruc-

ture could be fiber-optic cables as a main trunk lines for the service with connectors extending from the main trunk to residents via high speed wireless microwave signal or by fiber-optic cable directly from the main trunk. The **Connect to Innovation Program**. This program is designed to provide 75% funding for 300 rural communities across Canada. The total



Evan Nemeth, Economic Development Officer/
Research WREN

funding pool for all of Canada is 500 million dollars. The province and municipal units and private partners would be responsible for the remaining 25% of investment. The **Connect to Innovation Funding Program** has a deadline for proposals of March 13 2017, so stay tuned from further development in this initiative.

For further information please contact Evan Nemeth, Economic Development Officer/Research for the Western Regional Enterprise Network. (902)308-8650 (902)245-5748 enemeth@westernren.ca or go to: www.westernren.ca

Municipal Tax Sale

March 3 at 10 am

Municipal Office 12548 Hwy 217

Storm Date March 6



Hello!

**Councillor
Matthew Ross**
feature article next issue



If you would like an email copy of the Coastline, please email: heritage@municipality.digby.ns.ca and ask for a copy.



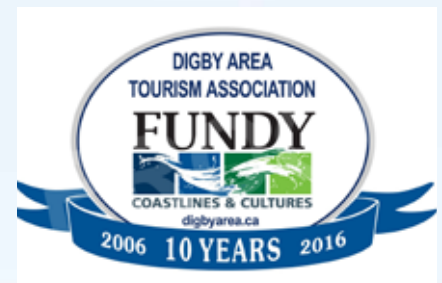
Council Expenses are Now Online

digbydistrict.ca



eldertranscripts.ca

Interviews with 50 Elders from the District of Digby



Check out our new area promotion videos on youtube:
Digby Tourism

District Activities

Jimmy MacAlpine District 1

- * Nov.26th I attended a fundraising dinner for the Gilbert's Cove Lighthouse
- * Jan.16th-17th Participated in Councils Strategic Planning Session
- * Jan.20th I met with Larry Knox , President of the Bear River Board of Trade, to discuss a potential floating dock for Bear River
- * Jan. 26th The launch of the African Heritage Month took place at the Digby Heritage Centre and I had the privilege to bring greetings on behalf of the Municipality and Council
- * Jan 28th I attended the Robbie Burns dinner in Cornwallis, the proceeds from the dinner are to assist the Fundy YMCA
- * I have met with our MLA, Gordon Wilson to discuss concerns brought to me by residents in District 1
- * Our Municipality continues to work with four other Municipalities towards improving Rural Internet Service.

Matthew Ross District 2

- * Happy New Year! Hope everyone enjoyed the Holidays.
- * January is starting to get busy with meetings. There is lots of work to do. Over the December month I attended meetings with D.A.R.C., The RCMP Joint Advisory Board, as well as regular Council meetings.
- * I attended and helped out with the Santa's Breakfast this year at the Digby Curling Club.
- * In January I spent two days participating in a Council retreat with fellow Council and Staff, determining Council's priorities for the next four years for the District of Digby.
- * Anyone with any questions or concerns please email me at: mross@municipality.digby.ns.ca.

Deputy Warden Linda Gregory District 3

- * We welcome a new year and a new season; winter is upon us.
- * In the month of December I was privileged to serve supper to the residents of Tideview Terrace.
- * I also helped cook and served breakfast to students as part of *Christmas with Santa Breakfast*..
- * We started out 2017 with a successful New Year's Levee at the Municipal building. A special thank-you to Gail Hersey and Maritza Adams for all of their hard work.
- * I attended an information session presented by Waste Check on recycling and composting with the residents of Digby Neck, hosted by the Digby Neck Collective.

Milestone Certificates Council provides a certificate of recognition to groups and individuals for significant milestones or achievements. To find out more go to: www.digby-district.ca for details. Or call 245-4777 or e-mail heritage@municipality.digby.ns.ca
Check us out on facebook: municipality of digby

- * I attended the African Heritage Month Regional launch for the Southwestern region at the Digby Heritage Center building.
 - * I was also in attendance at the presentation of a record breaking donation to the Digby Jumpstart Chapter.
 - * I also took part in a meeting of the Union of Nova Scotia municipalities.
 - * I look forward to the coming season and the events and committees I will get to partake in.
- If you have any concerns, please feel free to contact me

David Tudor District 4

- * Working to find ways to bring Digby Neck and Island communities together.
 - * Bringing a series of projects to villages and to local organizations
 - * We don't have a large population, tons of jobs, or great wealth but we do have many capable organizations and if we can work together there is much that can be accomplished.
- If you have any questions call 902 308-9934 dtudor@municipality.digby.ns.ca

George Manzer District 5

- * Attended three-day Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities(UNSM) conference in Halifax
- * Thanks to all the organizers who helped make Christmas in Weymouth a success again this year. (Festival of Trees, Breakfast with Santa, Festival of Lights)
- * Jan. 16,17 Spent with council and staff developing the strategic four-year municipal plan.
- * On Jan.1st had a wonderful time at the municipal levee meeting and talking to people from the area.

Correction:

December issue of the Coastline. The Boar's Head Lighthouse Divestiture article should have read that Craig Buckman, is a member of the Tiverton & Central Grove Heritage Association.

Directory of Municipal Services

Councillors

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Warden Jimmy MacAlpine

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Matthew Ross

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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