

Karla Kelly Photos

Farewell to Elaine and Marsha

There are some major staff changes at the municipal office this spring. For many of you, the face of the Municipality is the people you meet at the counter while paying your taxes. Two of our senior staff members are retiring after a combined 79 years of service. Elaine Turner and Marsha Lewis both started working for the municipality in the 1970's when the office was located in the Digby Court House. Both have witnessed many changes over the years, from manual record keeping through to the computer age. Elaine and Marsha have also seen a lot of staff and councils come and go. "The Municipality has changed a lot over the years," said Elaine, "with departments such as recreation, building, emergency dispatch, public works, heritage and renewable energy and climate change gradually being added." Elaine remembers the 1976 Ground Hog Day Storm and the swaying of the 200-year-old elm tree in the elementary school yard, just outside their office window. "We were a little anxious that the tree might blow over," said Elaine.

Marsha remembers the Municipal office moving from the Court



Elaine Turner



Marsha Lewis

House to the jailhouse in 1979. The Court House was too crowded with probate and court services under one roof. There was not enough storage space for municipal records or enough room for the expansion of services. It was during this period that computers were introduced for maintaining the tax records. Elaine was assigned as the first operator of the computer system. She has experienced many changes and computer upgrades over the years. Back then, the entire system was contained in one unit the size of a fridge and back-ups were done on 8-inch floppy disks. Marsha's fondest memories were working with the jailhouse staff, the day-to-day activities and the potlucks in the full-sized kitchen and staff common area.

In 1984, the Municipal office moved to its permanent home in a newly constructed building in Seabrook where more services could be offered to the public. "I take pride in the role the Municipality has taken with its initiative towards renewable energy and its accomplishments in recycling and waste reduction," said Elaine. "The 'Rolling of the Green' campaign really did 'set us on a roll'. The

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Introducing Councillor Matthew Ross

residents of the Municipality and the Town should be very proud of being leaders in waste management."

What's next? Marsha plans on relaxing and helping her husband Terry with the appliance and general repair business he will be starting after his retirement this spring. "I like to paint landscapes, so I will focus on that. I won't miss the work at the Municipal Office but I will miss the people," said Marsha. Elaine plans to spend more time with her granddaughter, family and friends, maybe do a bit of travelling and enjoy some pastimes that have been put on hold.

Council and staff would like to thank Elaine and Marsha for their many years of dedicated service and wish them both a happy and prosperous retirement.

MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF DIGBY APPLICATION RESPECTING 2017/18 TAX EXEMPTION

BE IT RESOLVED by the Municipal Council of the Municipality of the District of Digby, that an exemption from taxes for 2017/18 be granted pursuant to Section 69 of the Municipal Government Act in an amount not exceeding **\$250.00** and; **THAT** the exemption be granted to every person with respect to taxable property in the Municipality of the District of Digby whose income from all sources in 2016 does not exceed **\$25,000.00** (including income of all individuals residing in the home), and **THAT** the exemption be granted only in respect of property owned and occupied as his/her home, and **THAT** the property have no outstanding tax arrears from previous years. APPLICATION FORMS are available at the Municipal Office, Seabrook, and must be returned no later than **JUNE 30, 2017**.

I ran for Council because given my current job as a local retailer in the District, I feel I'm approachable and reliable enough for constituents to come to me with their issues.

I feel with my 15 plus years of working in the community and networking with many people, I will be a great asset to council.

My interest as a Councillor is helping the public, and being part of a team to make the Municipality of Digby a better place to live.

Since being on Council, I have been busy helping out with various matters in the district which I have been able to assist directly or have directed them to the correct agencies. I want my constituents to know that I am available to assist with community efforts and that if there is anything I can do please contact me at 902-247-5555 or

mross@municipality.digby.ns.ca



Brighton Barton Fire Station

Brighton Barton Fire Hall Nearing Completion

Completion of the new fire station is nearly complete. The building exterior is finished. The station needs to be wired for electricity before the plumbing and dry wall work can be started. "The new station is a vast improvement from the old building," said Fire

Chief Cliff Surette. The station is a modern design with an un-partitioned truck bay, in-floor heating and automatic door openers. There will be male and female washrooms and a common area for the department members to meet and socialize. The station will also have a meeting room on the upper level and administration office. The new station should be completed by late spring and a grand opening event and fundraiser is planned.

Expansion of Smith's Cove Wastewater Collection System

Smith's Cove Cross Road and Sunset Drive

This summer the Municipality of Digby will undertake the extension of the Smiths Cove municipal sewer collection system on the Smiths Cove Cross Road from the intersection of North Old Post Road to the campground. Work will also take place on Sunset Drive from the intersection of East Old Post Road. Surveys of the project area have been completed and it is expected that the tender will go out in early April.

Property owners adjacent to the extended sewer will have the opportunity to connect to sewer service. An annual usage charge for a single family home is \$ 200. Property owners will be responsible for the cost of connecting their buildings and structures to the sewer system. The sewer lateral lines will only be installed to the property line. Property owners will be responsible for contacting a contractor to make the installation from their buildings to the lateral. Please contact our building department (902) 245-6776 for more information on how to connect to the sewer system.

The Municipality of Digby was successful in securing funding from the Provincial Clean Water and Wastewater Fund in the amount of \$ 345, 225 which is 75% of estimated total costs of

\$ 460,300.

The Municipality of Digby and the Town of Digby jointly own and operate the Smiths Cove Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant. This plant treats waste from the Town of Digby, the Municipality of Digby, and the Annapolis County side of Bear River. The Smith's Cove treatment facility currently has excess capacity and can accommodate the additional service.

Using funding programs from the Federal and Provincial governments, borrowing, and funds from our capital reserves, the Municipality of Digby has been investing in wastewater infrastructure in accordance with our 5 year Capital Investment Plan and the Integrated Community Sustainability Plan.

Saltscapes Tourism Expo

The Digby Area Tourism Association (DATA) is partnering with the Municipality and the town of Digby to promote and advertise the Digby area at the biggest tourism showcase event in the Maritimes. The event attracts nearly 40,000 people each year and is a direct opportunity to pitch our area as a tourist destination. This will be the third year that DATA has organized the stakeholders in the area to participate. DATA members volunteer to manage the booth over a three day period. Demonstrations are also planned at the booth that will showcase some of the unique attractions and products in the area.

One of the more popular demonstration is the Taste of Digby which is sponsored by the Town and Municipality of Digby. Fresh Digby scallops are cooked at the booth, a special opportunity for people to experience a fresh Digby Scallop. Hundreds of people line up for a taste of our world famous delicacy. It is an opportunity to talk one on one about the attractions in the Digby area. Saltscapes is from April 21- 23 at the Halifax Exhibition Centre, Prospect Road. Check it out !



Municipal Staff Robert Hersey and Digby VIC Staff Susan Beard at Saltscapes 2016

Along the Coastline

* On December 15th, Innovation, Science and Economic Development (ISED) Canada launched the Connect to Innovate (CTI) program, offering \$500 million by 2021 to support new backbone, and last mile infrastructure in rural and remote communities across Canada. Well before the announcement the Municipality of the District of Digby was working with neighbouring municipalities and the Western REN to prepare for submission to that program by the April 20th deadline.

* On a December 12th conference call with the CAOs and Wardens of each of the Western Region's municipal units, the Western REN was given the lead on seeking improved broadband connectivity in the Western Region with the CTI program framework, eligibility, and deadlines announced, the Western REN released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for Project Management for the rural internet file on December 23rd. The Western REN received three qualified submissions in response to the Project Management RFP, and awarded the RFP to Cetas Advisory Inc. (CAI).

* On January 23rd, the Western REN released a RFP for a "Partner for joint preparation of proposal to design, build, operate, and maintain rural internet services." This process did not result in any qualifying bidders by the February 3rd deadline.

* The partnering municipalities units decided that the Western REN staff, and CAI submit an application to CTI without a partner ISP. Moving forward with an application to CTI either way, as seeing the region benefit from improved Internet infrastructure remains a critical priority for the Western REN.

* Should the Western REN be successful in its application to CTI, partner ISPs will be sought. There would be potential for this process to result in separate RFPs for the backbone infrastructure, and for the last mile infrastructure, on a unit by unit basis. The successful ISPs to this process would build, operate, and maintain the infrastructure, as well as provide the customer service to any last mile connections. It is believed that an RFP at this stage in the process would be more successful in attracting bidders, as the CTI funding would be in hand, along with additional incentives provided by the municipal units, the province of Nova Scotia, and potentially other federal funding pools (ACOA).

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.

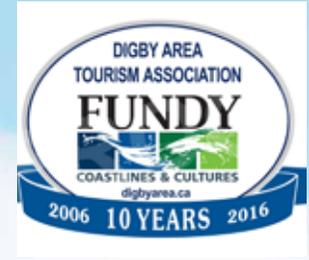
Or call 245-4777 or e-mail:

heritage@municipality.digby.ns.ca

Check us out on facebook: [municipality of digby](https://www.facebook.com/municipalityofdigby)



eldertranscripts.ca



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



**Council Expenses
are Now Online**

digbydistrict.ca

Council Meetings

Council April 24, 6pm
Committee of the Whole May 8, 6 pm
Council May 23, 6 pm

Directory of Municipal Services

Councillors

Warden Jimmy MacAlpine

902245-4651 jmacalpine@municipality.digby.ns.ca

Deputy Warden Linda Gregory

902 245-2616 lgregory@municipality.digby.ns.ca

Matthew Ross

902 247-5555 mross@municipality.digby.ns.ca

George Manzer

902 837-4353 gmanzer@municipality.digby.ns.ca

David Tudor

902 308-9873 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