



Karla Kelly Photos



## Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

I would like to extend the warmest and heartfelt wishes for the New Year and this holiday season. On behalf of council and myself we hope the past year was good to you and that the coming year is a prosperous one. 2017 was a busy year for the municipality. It was a transitional year for municipal staff with two long standing members retiring after a combined 77 years of service to the municipality. Elaine Turner and Marsha Lewis will be missed. Council and I wish then both a very happy retirement.

There has been several additions to the list of municipal assets with the installation of a wind turbine in Culloden; the purchase of the Department of Natural Resources depot site in Hillgrove; the Barton School property and two lighthouses

In 2017 we welcomed new doctors to the area and we continue to work to attract additional medical practitioners to our



Warden Jimmy MacAlpine



region. Last January Council participated in the Strategic Priorities Retreat where a list of priorities were identified. One of these priorities was rural internet, working with the Western Regional Economic Network (WREN) and other municipal units, we applied to the federal government through the Connect to Innovate Program to bring high speed internet service to the region and are waiting for funding approval. Another priority was the hiring of an Open Space Trails Coordinator, Jonathan Riley, who was hired to develop this important asset in our district. Our community grant program supported 42 community groups with funding to assist their activities

On behalf of Council and staff we would like to wish you a safe holiday season and remember we will be hosting a levee in the Council Chambers from 2pm - 4pm New Year's Day.



# Municipality and the Town of Digby Share Many Government Services

In 1987 the Municipality and the Town of Digby formed the Digby Area Recreation Commission (DARC). The success of this partnership opened the door to other opportunities that would reduce duplication and improve services.

For the past 30 years the Municipality and the Town have been increasingly sharing services to save money and provide better service to the residents of the area. Sharing services provides an opportunity to do more with less. The Municipality and the Town share 18 services ( see list ).

To manage the shared services, a committee has been formed made up of three elected members from both councils and the Chief Administrative Officers from the Municipality and the Town. For shared services to be a success, both councils need to be flexible and willing to compromise to get things done.

## List of Shared Services

- \* DigbySource Water Protection Advisory Committee
- \* Regional Emergency Management Operations Advisory Committee
- \* Joint RCMP Advisory Committee
- \* Digby Area Recreation Commission
- \* DigbyCommunity/NS Health Authority Stakeholder Group
- \* Digby Development Agency
- \* Digby Library Committee
- \* Highway 101 Task Force
- \* Senior Safety Committee
- \* Shared Services Committee
- \* Tideview Terrace
- \* Waste Check
- \* Western Counties Regional Library
- \* Western Regional Enterprise Network Liaison and Oversight Commission.
- \* Digby Area Tourism Association
- \* Digby Harbour Port Association
- \* Digby and Area Welcoming Committee



**International Exchange Students from China Attending Digby Elimentary School participated at the Multicultural event in June. The event was hosted by the Digby Area Welcoming Committee**

# Welcoming Newcomers to the Area



**Kentville YREACH Corrdinator, Phill Craik, Welcoming Committee Chair, Jill Balser and committee member, Yuki Inoue.**

The Digby Area Welcoming Committee hosted the Second Annual Multicultural Festival at the Digby Arena in June of this year. Coming off the success of the first event, we wanted the second to be bigger and better! Moving the festival to the arena allowed for more community participation - which we got! The event had over 300 people involved including attendees and volunteers. Volunteers performed their talents on stage or shared their culture as a vendor.

Moving into 2018 the committee is taking the festival theme of "welcoming newcomers" and turning it into smaller, more frequent events. Ideas in the mix are a Trivia night, a Multicultural Pub night and seasonal outdoor activities including skating, snowshoeing and hiking. Knowing the community as a whole who wants to support and welcome newcomers to the area, we want business, organizations and council to get involved with the activities we will make happen. The Welcoming Committee will be meeting with



**Mayor Ben Cleveland and Warden Jimmy MacAlpine in Conway**

*This winter the Town's Public Works Dept. will be plowing the Municipal sidewalks in Conway and Raquette Hill*

members of the Shared Services Committee to discuss the mandate of the Welcoming Committee and what our future goals will be for the area.

Becoming a more welcoming community for newcomers goes beyond events and gatherings, it is a simple act of kindness, saying hello to your neighbours, or pointing someone in the right direction if they don't know who to call or where to find something. A welcoming community for newcomers starts with the community as a whole!

The Welcoming Committee also wants ideas and community input. If anyone is interested in getting involved they can contact Jill Balsler at the Fundy YMCA, 902-638-9622 or [jill.balsler@halifax.ymca.ca](mailto:jill.balsler@halifax.ymca.ca).

## Smith's Cove Waste Water System Completed

Work has just finished on the installation of sewer lines on Sunset Drive and Smith's Cove Cross Road. The \$578,601.13 project was awarded to DJ Lowe and the work was done over the summer and throughout the fall. Both systems are gravity based, which means no pumping stations were required. The Sunset Drive project included 483 metres of sewer line and Smith's Cove Cross Road had 270 metres. This work will allow homeowners and a business



Project Signage in Smith's Cove

in the area to connect to the municipal waste water system. Area councillor and Warden Jimmy MacAlpine is pleased with the continued expansion of the Smith's Cove collection system. "We have been working on expanding the system through Smith's Cove for almost 10 years now and it is a great service to be able to offer residents and businesses," said MacAlpine.

## On The Trails

The Municipality has received \$20,000 from the Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage through the Community Trails Leadership Grant program.

MLA Gordon Wilson and Warden Jimmy MacAlpine welcome the announcement.

"This provincial support, combined with the funds dedicated by the municipality, recognizes the importance of trails. It's important for the health and well-being of our residents, for getting people outdoors and active," said MacAlpine. "It's especially important in a beautiful place like Digby County."

Trail coordinator Jonathan Riley is currently working on projects involving railbed trails in addition to trails in Gulliver's Cove, Acacia Valley, around New France and on Long Island, among others.

For more info please see [digby-trails.ca/railbed.html](http://digby-trails.ca/railbed.html).



Keith Comeau, President of the Digby County ATV Club helped set up a bench along the railbed just below the causeway at the head of the Joggin.



## Need help making job connections?

The **Western REN Connector Program** puts people face to face with business owners, operators and community leaders who work in the same field you want to work in.

It **matches** people (newcomers or local people not working in the field they have training in) who have post-secondary education/training with local employers, community leaders, and business professionals. They then **meet** for one informal meeting and **start building a network of people** who can help in their job search.

**Employers** get to meet local skilled people and make a difference by helping talented people choose to stay here for work.

**\*New\*** Graduating from university or college in 2018? Hoping to return home to the area for work? If yes, this program can help get your foot in the door meeting local employers and building your network **even before** you graduate.

[www.westernren.ca/get-connected/](http://www.westernren.ca/get-connected/)

Brenda LaGrandeur

(902) 653-0369

[blagrandeur@westernren.ca](mailto:blagrandeur@westernren.ca)



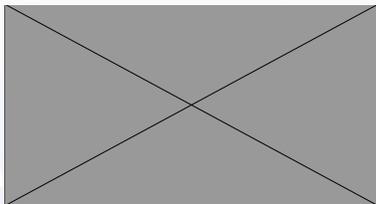
Check Out Christmas stories from the Past

[eldertranscripts.ca](http://eldertranscripts.ca)

# Along the Coastline

- ✓ The extension of the municipal sewer collection lines in Smith's Cove has been completed. Residents can contact the Building Department at 902-245-6776 if they are interested in getting connected to the system.
- ✓ Council members attended the annual conference of the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities in Halifax.
- ✓ Council members were pleased to be able to participate in Remembrance Day Services throughout the municipality.
- ✓ Councillors have been busy in their districts meeting with constituents and attending various functions and events.

Merry Christmas



## Council Meetings

### Committee of the Whole

January 8 at 5pm

### Council

January 22 at 6pm

### Committee of the Whole

February 12 at 5 pm

### Council

February 26 at 6pm

### **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.

**Or call 902-245-4777 or e-mail:**  
**[heritage@municipality.digby.ns.ca](mailto:heritage@municipality.digby.ns.ca)**

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

# Milestone Celebrations

\*Dr Ron Matsusaki receives a Milestone Certificate from Warden Jimmy MacAlpine and Deputy Warden Linda Gregory in celebration of his 10th anniversary at the Digby General Hospital



\*Frances Alice Hersey Celebrated her 95th Birthday July 28

\*Thelma Manzer celebrated her 91st Birthday August 7

\*Aldyth Iris Kaye Celebrated her 90th Birthday Sept 1

\*Edith & Lovett Trimper celebrated their 25th Wedding Anniversary Sept 12

\*Lorraine Marshall Celebrated her 90th Birthday November 26



**Nominate a volunteer!**  
**2018 National Volunteer Week**  
**April 15-21, 2018**

Contact Digby Area Recreation Commission for more information

Cindy O'Neil Administrative Assistant

Digby Area Recreation Commission

Ph: 902.245.1949 Fax: 902.245.1944

### Directory of Municipal Services

Councillors

**Warden Jimmy MacAlpine**

902-245-4651 warden@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**

902-308-9934 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

Economic Development, Dan Harvey 902-847-1217