



Photos by Karla Kelly

Digby Dispatch Providing Dispatch Services for Argyle, Yarmouth and Clare

After the closure of dispatch services from the Town of Yarmouth, Digby Dispatch has taken on fire department dispatch services for the municipalities of Argyle, Yarmouth, Clare and the Town of Yarmouth. This has doubled our call rates from 11 Digby area fire departments to 21 additional fire departments from East Pubnico through to Bear River.

Additional Call Volumes

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------|
| Municipality of Argyle | 328 |
| Municipality of Yarmouth | 148 |
| Municipality of Clare | 282 |
| Town of Yarmouth | 503 |

There is a fee structure based on the number of calls each department receives. The

additional fire departments will bring in an additional \$50,000 annually to the Municipality of Digby.



Bruce Snell Airport Dispatch Supervisor

"I think it is within our capacity to provide the service and it is also beneficial to all parties involved," said Warden Jimmy MacAlpine.

The Municipality of Digby has owned and operated an emergency dispatch center at the Municipal Airport for the last

21 years. The center which is staffed 24 hours a day, creates five full-time and eight part-time positions. They now dispatch to 32

fire departments. ***"The Municipality of Digby is very fortunate to be able to maintain their own emergency center. I am proud of the way our dedicated staff have adapted to the higher workload. We will be looking at***

hiring more spares in the spring," said Bruce Snell, Digby Airport & Dispatch Supervisor. ***"The dispatchers are very multi-tasked individuals as well, maintaining smooth operation of the airport office, answering all dog control and waste water and Digby REMO related calls,"*** continued Mr. Snell.

Low Income and Home Efficiency Assistance Programs Available to Residents



Property Accessed Clean Energy Program (PACE)

Clean Energy Financing to assist with upgrades to your home to reduce energy use.

Installation of solar panels; draft proofing, heat pumps and insulation are among the upgrade solutions.

Thanks to financing from your municipality, you can pay for the upgrades over a 10-year period

through your property taxes. We'll make sure you save as much or even more in energy expenses than the cost of the retrofits. Your investment pays for itself!

Maximum financing \$15,000 at 4% interest.

Check our website at: CleanEnergyfinancing.ca to learn more about the program, including which local contractors are pre-approved to complete your home upgrades.

Contact the Municipality of Digby at 902 245-4777 for more details.

Access Nova Scotia Heating Assistance Rebate 2019

Who is eligible?

- * Individuals currently receiving Income assistance from NS Gov.
- * Single households earning \$29,000 or less
- * Single Parents with dependents earning \$44,000 or less
- * Three adults in the house hold earning \$44,000 or less
- * Households receiving guaranteed income supplement

www.novascotia.ca/heatinghelp

Efficiency Nova Scotia Home Warming Program

Home Efficiency Assessment & Heating Upgrades
Contact Toll Free 1-877-999-6035

Access Nova Scotia Property Tax Rebate for Seniors

- * 50% rebate to a maximum of \$800
 - * This applies to the previous year's tax bill
 - * Must be receiving the Nova Scotia Guaranteed Income Supplement and or Old Age Security
 - * Must be 65 or older
- Inquiries 1-800-277-9914**

Municipality of Digby Low Income Tax Rebate

- * Combined income from all household residents must not exceed \$26,000 annually
- * Maximum rebate \$250
- * Property Taxes must be up to date

Contact the Municipality of Digby 902-245-4777

On the Trails Measure and Keep Measuring

This year's cold temperatures have made it possible to do some wild skating, take short cuts on skis or just get out and play where normally only ducks dare go.

It's important to measure and keep measuring: look for **15cm of ice for one person, 20cm for a group and 25cm for a snowmobile**. Ice thickness can vary a lot in different parts of the lake and from lake to lake so be prepared to measure many times. Ice is often thinner where currents run, in

narrows stretches, near rocks and shore – wind directions as lakes freeze can also have an impact.

Best practice is to take several measurements and mark off a safe zone and stick to that area. Further exploring requires more experience, more measuring plus more planning and safety equipment.

Ever heard of ice picks or claws? Sharp little tools (some people use short screw drivers) to keep handy (like around your neck) for help crawling out of the water in case the worst happens. People also carry rescue rope in throw bags.

I hate to mention the F-word but there is a new, informative and inspiring group on Facebook called

Nor'Easter Natural Ice where members are posting measurements, conditions and photos from lake trips around Nova Scotia. They also provide links to a lot of great safety information and videos.

With a little learning and forethought, there's lots of fun to be had on the frozen lakes but please do measure and measure often.



REMO File

Regional Emergency Measures Organization

Digby REMO has taken stock of the shelters in our area and has invested in a piece of equipment that would fill any gaps in our stock. The equipment consists of a 10,000-watt generator with full lighting kit. There are heaters, power bars and a generator panel. The unit is mounted on its own trailer and can be deployed where it is most needed.

The aim is to turn any suitable building into an emergency shelter capable of supplying the basic needs of its occupiers.



Mobile Power Generating Station

Health File

Primary Health Care Options



Chantelle Hazelton, Licensed Practical Nurse, joins patient Marie Wheelock for a Virtual Care appointment with Dr. David LaPierre.

The collaborative team at the Digby Health Services Centre wants you to know about options for people who don't have a doctor or nurse practitioner. Clinic schedule is on their website:

www.digbyhealthhome.ca

If you were a patient of a doctor or nurse practitioner of the Digby Health Centre, but don't have a provider now, you can call for a same day appointment. They take calls starting 8 a.m.: 902-245-1307.

The Digby Hospital Unattached Patient Clinic provides services to unattached patients (without a doctor or nurse practitioner). Appointments only: 902-245-2502 ext. 3282



New to the Region?

- * Are you a recent or upcoming grad ?
- * Not working in the industry you were trained for ?

70 % of people get jobs with companies where they have a connection

This is a free program that helps you meet people in the field you want to work in. You will start creating connections, get answers to your questions.... And most importantly, employers get to know you!

Western Regional Enterprise Network (WREN)

Helping job seekers become more than a resume.



Contact Brenda La Grandeur
902 653-0369 or email
blagrandeur@westernren.ca

Website:
www.westernren.ca/get-connected

RCMP New Home Security Routine App



Now available, the RCMP have developed an online app that will remind you to lock your doors and prepare for nighttime shut down. The app is aimed at reducing crimes of opportunity in your neighborhood. This is how it works. Every night at 9 p.m. you will receive a reminder on your cell phone or tablet to lock your house windows and doors and remove the keys and any valuables from your vehicle, turn on your outside lights and close your garage door if you have one.

Paste: **#9pmroutine** in your browser and sign up for the initiative. After completing the routine each evening, post it on your social media.

Along the Coastline

- ✓ In January, the Municipality signed a Letter of Authority from the provincial Department of Lands and Forestry to maintain and operate a multi-use, motorized recreational trail on the rail bed from Weymouth to Bear River.
- ✓ Council met with staff from the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal to discuss local concerns. There's now a single point of contact when you need to get in touch with the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal. The Operation Contact Centre can be reached any day, any time at 1-844-696-7737 or by email at: **tir-occ@novascotia.ca**
- ✓ The Municipal Dispatch is busier these days with the addition of providing dispatch services for more fire departments from Clare, the Municipality of Argyle, and the Municipality of Yarmouth and the Town of Yarmouth.
- ✓ Council approved a motion to enter into negotiations with Compass Nova Scotia Co-operative Homes Ltd, a non-profit housing co-operative for the transfer of former Barton School. More information on this exciting project, which will increase the stock of affordable housing in our community, will be coming soon.
- ✓ Councillors have been busy in their districts meeting with constituents and attending various functions and events.

A sincere thank you to all volunteer firefighters. Your commitment does not go unnoticed



Council Meetings

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Council | February 25 6 pm |
| Committee of the Whole | March 11 5 pm |
| Council | March 25 6 pm |
| Committee of the Whole | April 15 5 pm |

National Flag Day Ceremony



February 15th at 12:30 pm
Islands Consolidated School, Freeport
All Welcome

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 902-245-4777 or e-mail: heritage@municipality.digby.ns.ca

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



Directory of Municipal Services

Councillors

Warden Jimmy MacAlpine

902-245-4651 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

902-308-9934 dtudor@municipality.digby.ns.ca

Municipal Offices

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|------------------------------------|--------------|
| 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 |
| Trails Coordinator, Jonathan Riley | 902-245-2861 |