

## Digby Area Tourism Destination Report

*Nice place but needs improvements*

This past summer Roger Brooks, renowned consultant and the owner of Destination Development Ltd. , travelled to the Digby/Annapolis area with a team of observers to assess the visitor experience first hand and make recommendations to improve the area as a tourist destination. The Brooks Report has been completed and the Digby Area Tourism Association and Annapolis Digby Economic Development Agency are preparing to consult with Digby area communities and tourism stakeholders on how they would like to address the recommendations.

There are many suggestions in the 103-page report. One of the main observations was the need to beautify the streetscapes of the downtown / village centres. It is recommended that businesses invest in making their storefronts more inviting by adding colourful elements like flower pots or objects that would draw attention to the passer-by. Benches are beneficial to the customer giving them the opportunity to relax and enjoy the

street activities.

Storefront signage is also an area that the Brooks Report assesses. Many storefront signs are placed directly on the store façade and are

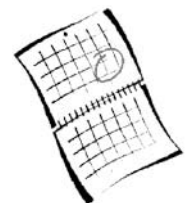


Balancing Rock Long Island

difficult to read as you drive down the street. The report suggests incorporating blade signs that stick out from the stores. These signs should simply describe who you are and what you sell so the visitor can easily and quickly be informed as they drive or walk down the street. Community wayward

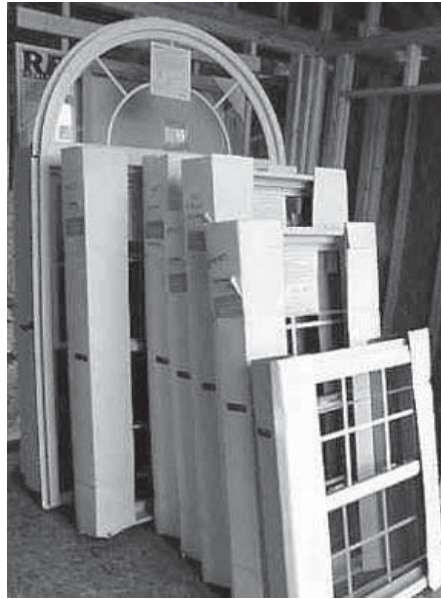
signage is also greatly lacking in the outlying communities. Signs are needed to clearly direct visitors to community attractions and amenities. For example, if there are public washrooms they need to be identified. Overall, the Brooks Report was impressed with the Digby area. The product is here but needs improvements.

This year's Digby Annapolis Tourism Showcase, March 27 at Cornwallis Park, will feature the report's findings in several workshops that will look at how beautification and signage can bring more visitors back and make them stay longer. The report fits well with the DATA Product Development Plan of 2006 that also addressed the need for better signage and beautification. Look for public meetings to discuss how you can benefit from the report's findings. For more information on the Brooks Report, please contact Joy O'Neill, Economic Development Officer for ADEDA at 638-8139, or go online at: [www.annapolisdigby.com](http://www.annapolisdigby.com) See you at the Showcase!



# New Energy Building Code Requirements

As part of steps to make the province more energy conscience, the Provincial Department of Environment and Labour have implemented new Building Code regulations. The new regulations are based on improving the energy efficiency of buildings. Items like windows and doors, insulation, faucets and heating appliances will need to meet new minimum standards of efficiency. The new codes apply mostly to residential buildings with exceptions to heritage and farm buildings.



The Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Labour and the Nova Scotia Building Officials

Association, Zone 3 and 4, will be hosting information sessions dealing with the changes to the Nova Scotia Building Code. The first session will be held at the Annapolis Fire Hall on February 11 from 1 – 5 pm. The second meeting will take place in Yarmouth on February 17, from 6 – 9 pm, at the NSCC Burrigge Campus. There is no cost to attend, however, contact your local Building Officer to pre-register. Digby residents can pre-register at the Municipality of Digby Building Department located 12548 Hwy 217 Seabrook or call 245-6776. If you plan renovations this year, please contact our local Building Department to make sure you renovate with the right materials.

# Anytime - Anywhere Red Cross will be there!

We know that now, more than ever, it's important to be prepared for an emergency. With disasters and storms occurring more frequently, communities are now more at risk of experiencing a disaster in their area than ever before.

The Canadian Red Cross recognizes this and is taking steps to build support in communities around Nova Scotia.

The Red Cross provides compassion, food, clothing and shelter for victims of house fires. They set up reception centres and provide information and personal services for families who have been evacuated from their homes as a result of mid to large scale disasters such as floods or forest fires. The Red Cross helps families and communities rebuild after tragedy hits. Red Cross' actions and decisions are made and based upon respect, dignity and care for one another.

The Red Cross is uniquely positioned to provide humanitarian assistance in times of disaster. Volunteers are urgently needed in our community to help build partnerships and ensure that a team is in place in the event that it is needed. Now is the time to prepare, not when disaster strikes.

If you have a desire to help those in need right here in your own community, please call the Red Cross and become part of a team of caring!

For more information contact Wendy Deveau at (902) 742-3656 or email:

[wendy.deveau@redcross.ca](mailto:wendy.deveau@redcross.ca).

You'll be glad you did!

**Disasters can strike without warning.**

**Join the Red Cross team and make a difference!**



# Bear River Fire Department Thank You !

*From the Chief*

In 2009 the Bear River Fire Department bought a new First Response Rescue Vehicle at a cost of \$314,000. Money was raised through the Capital Reserve Fund, supported by the Province and through Cherry Carnival and breakfast fundraising. The truck is designed to meet the needs of the department for the next 20 years with a high safety rating and more storage space for now and in the future. "It took seven years to raise funds and design the truck for our specific needs. A lot of volunteer hours went into the purchase and design," said Chief Darryl Jelfs.

The department will be

sponsoring the 117th Cherry Carnival Festival this year which will be held on July 17<sup>th</sup>. The department has been organizing the event since 1956 and it has been the main fundraiser for the firemen. "We also continue to put on Firemen's Breakfasts the first



The new First Response Vehicle parked next to the old First Response Vehicle

Saturday of every month. The breakfast consists of eggs, sausage, bacon, beans, hash browns, toast, coffee or juice and all for only \$6. Under 12 eat for free, so bring

the family and start the weekend off right. The breakfast starts at 7 am and goes until 10 am at the firehall," said Chief Jelfs.

The department saw four new members in 2009 and ten-year service awards were given out to the following recipients: Captain Billy Berry, Lt. Chris Howe and Fireman Kevin Deveau. "Without the commitment of firemen like these the department would not be able to provide this critical service to the community. I'd like to thank all the firefighters in the municipality for their hard work and commitment. I'd like to especially thank all the Bear River firefighters and their families for the sacrifice, dedication and hard work they have given over the years to make the Bear River Fire Department a cornerstone of the community," concluded Chief Jelfs.

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## Municipality takes on an Idle Free Policy.

The Province of Nova Scotia's Drivewiser Program, in conjunction with the Department of Natural Resources Canada, has put forward a series of tips for vehicle owners to drive with more energy efficiency. \*While you are driving, try to avoid hard acceleration and quick stops. It could save you up to 35% in fuel costs. To save even more fuel, try coasting to the stop

light. If your foot is not on the accelerator you are saving gas. \*The best way to warm the motor in a vehicle is to drive rather than



by idling your motor. \*When traveling on the highway, keep your speed below 120 km

per hour. This will save up to 20% of the fuel on your trip. \*If it is possible, car pool.

Beginning in January, the Municipality started an idle-free policy for all municipal buildings and sites. This policy is based on volunteer support where Council asks vehicle owners to please shut off their vehicles when they are not in use. Idle-Free Zone signs have been posted at the Municipal Airport, Digby Arena and Municipal Office.

For more information on how you can participate go to:

[www.drivewiser.ca](http://www.drivewiser.ca)

# Along the Coastline

\*The Municipal Building Steering Committee continues to plan for the energy retrofit of the Municipal Office in Seabrook. A decision is pending on geothermal versus a biomass heating system. Both systems have their positive sides. The Steering Committee is to meet with a supplier of biomass boilers in the new year. The Municipality of the District of Digby was successful in receiving \$190,000 in funding towards an energy retrofit of the current Municipal Office building. These funds were approved through the ecoNova Scotia Fund for Clean Air and Climate change. This initiative is targeted to reduce greenhouse gas and air pollutant emissions.

\*An illegal dump site has been cleaned up on the Bloomfield Cross Road. The Waste Check Enforcement Officer, along with Digby Salvage and Disposal, worked on the cleanup Nov 13th. The work took approx 4 hrs and approximately 3 tons of garbage was removed. Anyone who has knowledge of any illegal dumpsites is encouraged to call the Municipal Office.

\*A DriveWiser presentation was made by Tanya Canam to both Municipal and Town of Digby employees and councillors. The Municipality has placed anti-idling signage at the Municipal office, Digby Arena and the Digby Municipal Airport. Residents are encouraged to participate in anti-idling whenever possible.

\*The Household Hazardous Waste Depot (HHW) is officially open for the general public. This facility is located on the Upper Cross Road next to the recycling transfer station. These Household Hazardous Waste Depots will create a place for the general public to bring such items as batteries, leftover liquid paint, leftover corrosive cleaners, pesticides/herbicides, gasoline, fuel oil & used motor oil, solvents & thinners, pharmaceuticals & drugs, aerosol cans containing hazardous substances, BBQ tanks and small propane cylinders (ie for camp stoves and propane torches). The Municipality and Town of Digby encourage all residents to utilize this facility in disposing of their hazardous materials.

## MILESTONE RECOGNITION POLICY

The Council provides a certificate of recognition to groups or individuals for significant milestones or achievements. To find out more visit our website under the Council page

[Municipal Website-www.digbydistrict.ca](http://www.digbydistrict.ca)

The Coastline is published by the Municipality of the District of Digby. Any comments, suggestions or story ideas may be sent to the Coastline, P.O. Box 429, Digby, Nova Scotia BOV 1A0; dropped off at the office 12548 Highway 217, Mon. – Fri. 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.; telephone 245-4777; fax 245-5748.

e-mail [heritage@municipality.digby.ns.ca](mailto:heritage@municipality.digby.ns.ca)

\*Construction of the new library in Weymouth is well underway. The library building is expected to be completed April 1, 2010 and open to the public this summer. The Municipality of the District of Digby has received \$278,600 in funding from the Canada-Nova Scotia Building Canada Fund towards the construction of the new library.

\*Joint Council meetings are being scheduled by the Municipality of the District of Digby to meet with both the Town of Digby and the Municipality of the District of Clare. These Joint Council meetings allow for good discussion on common issues faced by the respective municipal units. Annual Joint Council meetings are planned each year and the public are invited to attend. Information on dates can be obtained by calling the Administration Office at 245-4777.

## Open House

### Brier Island Trail Development

Join us for refreshments as we discuss and share information about trail development on the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) property

on Brier Island. Westport Community Hall

Monday March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010 7:00 pm

## Municipal Certificates of Recognition

**Master Seaman Tyler Mullen** for 20 years of service with Maritime Forces.

**Jack and Louise Gillespie** in celebration of their 70th Wedding Anniversary.

\*Come celebrate with the Town and Municipality on February 15th at 2pm at the Digby Regional High School for an Official Flag Raising Ceremony to commemorate Flag Day in Canada.



## Directory of Municipal Services

Councillors

### Warden Jim Thurber

839-2643 [jthurber@municipality.digby.ns.ca](mailto:jthurber@municipality.digby.ns.ca)

### Deputy Warden Jimmy MacAlpine

245-4651 [jmacalpine@municipality.digby.ns.ca](mailto:jmacalpine@municipality.digby.ns.ca)

### Linda Gregory

245-2616 [lgregory@municipality.digby.ns.ca](mailto:lgregory@municipality.digby.ns.ca)

### Maritza Adams

245-6671 [madams@municipality.digby.ns.ca](mailto:madams@municipality.digby.ns.ca)

### Randall Amero

837-7324 [ramero@municipality.digby.ns.ca](mailto:ramero@municipality.digby.ns.ca)

### Municipal Offices

General Inquiries 245-4777

Building & Fire Inspector 245-6776

Airport 245-5885

Dog Catcher 245-5885

**EMO 245-6252**