

Council Approves 2009-2010 Operating Budget Residential Rate Lowered

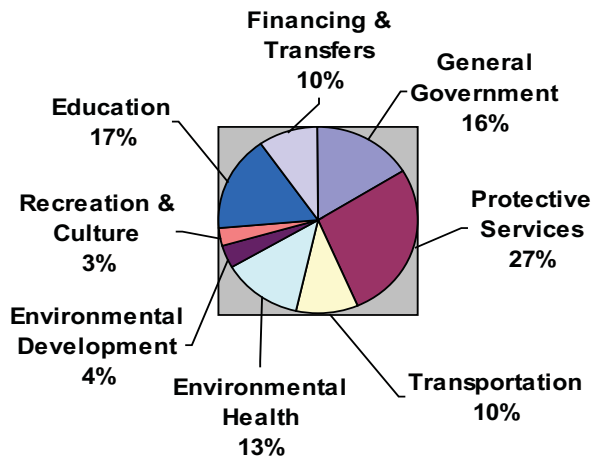
On June 29th Municipal Council unanimously approved the 2009-2010 operating budget that included a 5-cent reduction in the residential rate. The residential tax rate dropped to \$1.30 per \$ 100 of assessment and the commercial tax rate remains at \$ 1.85.

Warden Thurber noted, "We are fortunate to be able to reduce the residential tax rate by 5 cents without reducing any existing services. In combination with the ongoing elimination of the Business Occupancy Tax, this decrease should help to reduce the municipal tax burden during this year of global economic uncertainty."

The gradual elimination of the Business Occupancy Tax this year resulted in a 50%

decrease in business occupancy tax revenue or a loss of \$ 45,464. Even with this loss in tax revenue, Council was able to maintain the commercial tax rate at \$ 1.85. Residential assessments increased by 7.55% which allowed for the decrease in the residential tax rate.

Where your municipal tax dollars are spent



This budget represents a slight increase of approximately 2.13% over last year's budget. With a total budget of \$ 6,621,432 Council continues their commitment to the citizens of the Municipality to maintain a high level of services and to improve the quality of life in the face of increasing financial pressures.

Area rates for the Fire Districts will not change this year from the 2008-2009 rates. There will be a slight increase of \$ 11,491 in funds provided to the fire departments this year as a result of the increase in property assessments. These fire protection rates will continue to provide tax income to offset debt incurred by these agencies for capital maintenance and acquisition.



Go to
www.digbydistrict.ca

for information on municipal programs and services, meetings and minutes, bylaws and the latest initiatives like the Online Survey for the Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP)



Look to the Skies

The summer is flying by quicker than a hummingbird's wings. Before you know it, kids will be back at school and people will be preparing for winter. So make the most of it and enjoy the many events that are happening in the Digby area. This August the Municipality will be hosting the International Air Rally at the Municipal Airport. This year the Rally is crossing the country in celebration of 100 years of flight in Canada. There are 57 participants from many countries including the United States, Australia,

Asia, Europe and Canada. There are a variety of aircraft models participating from fast jet prop aircraft and twin engine aircraft



and the latest in personal aircraft. The 2009 rally will be featuring a special Liberty XL2 built and designed by Liberty Aerospace in Carolina. The planes arrive

on August 12 around 2:30 in the afternoon. The cross-country rally is a once in a lifetime experience for the participants. They will see firsthand the vastness of Canada and experience communities and cultures like no other traveller. The rally is a good opportunity to market the Digby area and the Municipal Airport. Many of the participants are world travellers, business people and investors. The rally is a well publicized event in aviation circles throughout North America and Europe. The rally employs their own reporter travelling along to write stories about the places, the experiences and the people they meet. So look to the skies on August 12th and wave hello.

Trails

Summer is here and trail construction is in full swing in Digby County with work by Bear River and Sissiboo Trails on the 50 kilometer Rails to Trails project from Weymouth to Bear River Bridge. They encourage users to have a look at the newly landscaped picnic and trailhead facilities at the former Bear River Station site and adjacent to the Smith's Cove Lighthouse. A new active transportation link has also been completed between the rail bed and the 101 highway bridge at Bear River for walkers and cyclists. Decking and hand railing of the 300 foot long former railway bridge at Joggin is scheduled for this summer along with more resurfacing and signage work.

Freeport Community

Development is nearing completion of their fabulous hiking trail, a scenic must see, showcasing the rugged coastline beauty and overlooking the Village of Freeport. Their Northwest Cove interpretive project is another showcase trail project with an emphasis on global warming and its impact on the area explained through high quality interpretive kiosks. Digby Neck and Islands also boast the fantastic Balancing Rock Trail. The trail has recently undergone surfacing repairs and further trail upgrades are scheduled for this summer. Don't forget the camera.

Summer is a great time to take the kids fishing on the Acacia Valley Trail or for a romp on the playground and exercise equipment at Weymouth's Story Book Trail. The kids would also enjoy helping dad figure out how to use his

new G.P.S. finding one of the hundreds of geo-caching sites in the valley.

For questions about trails in the valley give Rick Jacques a call @ 467-0551 or e-mail valleytrails@eastlink.ca



Trails are great for cyclists

Waste Check Update 2009 RRFB Mobius Environmental Awards - Region of the Year

As the regional waste management authority for Region 7 (Digby & Yarmouth County), Waste Check was awarded an Environmental Award for Region of the Year for 2009. This award could not have been received without the cooperation of everyone in Region 7.

Various programs implemented by the Region over the past 3 years, including the clear bag for garbage program, have made for impressive results.

Regional Results:

- * 21% decrease in waste going to landfill
- * 22% increase in composting
- * 12% increase in recycling

Municipality of Digby Results:

- * 38% decrease in waste going to landfill
- * 37% increase in composting
- * 41% increase in recycling

The Province has set a new disposal goal; 300 kg of waste per person per year by 2015. We are making great progress in achieving that goal with Waste Check leading with the lowest regional waste

disposal rate in the Province of 350 kg per person per year. A special thanks to all who participate in our programs! Keep up the good work as we continue to work together to achieve this goal!

Waste Check hires a Bylaw Enforcement Officer

Waste Check hired Ritchie Nickerson as a Bylaw Enforcement Officer in August 2008 to help with the many solid waste related issues including illegal dumping. Since being hired, Mr. Nickerson has



Chair of RRFB Board, Rick Ramsay; Vice Chair of Waste Check, Jimmy Mac Alpine; Chair of Waste Check, Leland Anthony and CEO of RRFB, Bill Ring

investigated 34 illegal dumps in the Region and cleaned up approximately 15 small sites. As a result of these investigations many letters have been sent out informing people of the consequences of illegal dumping and how to properly dispose of solid waste. Most of the waste found in illegal garbage dumpsites could have been properly disposed of for little or no cost. Many of the sites cleaned up have remained clean. Dumping

garbage in the woods, on the beach, or in other natural environments creates an ugly mess that spoils the recreational experience of locals and tourists alike. Illegal dumping also has more serious impacts on our quality of life.

Some impacts include:

- When rainwater filters through garbage, harmful chemicals can be produced. These chemicals, or "leachate", can contaminate fish habitat and groundwater (from which many people get their drinking water).
- Wildlife can be injured, poisoned or killed as a result of foraging through garbage looking for things to eat. Children face these same risks when they play in the area.

Illegal dumping is a serious offence. Some of the consequences of illegal dumping include fines from \$500-\$5000, and up to 90 days in jail. In addition, the illegal dumper can also be charged for the costs that were incurred during the cleanup of the illegal dumpsite. These are serious consequences that can be avoided by doing things properly.



Ritchie Nickerson

Enjoy the Ride !

Adult \$3.50
Children \$1.75
Under 5 Free



tel: 902-678-7310
fax: 902-678-2545
toll free: 1-888-546-4442
HOME EMAIL



Along the Coastline

*Administrative staff and the CAO are quite busy working with the Municipal auditors. The 2008-2009 Audit will continue and be completed by the end of July.

*The CAO has begun preparation of a Capital Investment Plan for the Municipality. As a requirement under the Gas Tax Agreement, all Municipal units are required to prepare and submit a 5 year capital investment plan to the Province by Sept 30, 2009.

*The Annapolis Digby Economic Development Agency is preparing to engage a consultant through a RFP for a five year investment strategy.

*Administrative staff from the Municipality attended the Association of Municipal Administrators workshop from June 17-19th in Dundee. Many interesting sessions were available including Safer Communities, The Importance of Sport in your Community and Administering Pension Plans. Information on how the Municipality can take part in "The Importance of Sport in Your Community" has been passed on to the Digby Area Recreation Commission.

*The Municipality of the District of Digby has received written confirmation from the Canada-Nova Scotia Building Canada Fund. The Municipality of the District of Digby has been approved for 2/3 funding up to \$ 278,600 towards the construction of a new library in Weymouth. Tenders for the construction of the Library will be ready by the end of July.

*The Household Hazardous Waste Depot (HHW) Tenders closed on May 25th and the HHW tender has been awarded. Work has begun and should be completed by late summer. 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).

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

*The Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP) Steering Committee met on July 8th to review the results of the 3 Community Visioning Sessions and the draft vision statement. After the meeting, Council was updated on the information gathered to date.

Further Steering Committee meetings are scheduled for August 18th @ 6:00 pm; and October 20th at 6:00 pm. An open house is slated for September 22nd. Public input to identify initiatives to be considered over the next four years is crucial to the success of this project. Comments can be sent to

DigbyICSP@hotmail.com .

District #2 Community Discussion with the RCMP September 23 at the Barton Elementary School 7 pm

District #2 Public Meeting September 23 at the Barton Elementary School at 8 pm

District #3 Public meeting to discuss policing Sept. 15 at 7 pm Municipal office.

Municipal Council Certificates of Recognition

***The Society of Our Lady Saint Mary** for 30 years of ministry and outreach in Digby County.

***Relay for Life Organizing Committee** for their efforts in the success of the 2009 Relay.

***Congratulations Eric Locke** for winning first place at the Nova Scotia Jr. Golf Championship.

Congratulations:** *Alyssa Brienne FrostCaleb Clyde Robin Stark***Hannah Elizabeth Outhouse***Stefan Ian Blanchard***Kayla Dawn Tidd***John Emerson Ward*

All successful recipients of the Lieutenant Governor Award

Directory of Municipal Services Councillors

Warden Jim Thurber

839-2643 jthurber@municipality.digby.ns.ca

Deputy Warden Jimmy MacAlpine

245-4651 jmacalpine@municipality.digby.ns.ca

Linda Gregory

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

Maritza Adams

245-6671 madams@municipality.digby.ns.ca

Randall Amero

837-7324 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