

Digby Neck Fire Department

Do you have your civic number posted?

The Digby Neck Fire Department has a new Fire Chief, Lee Wentzell. Lee has been with the department for 15 years and has been the Deputy Chief for the past eight years. The Digby Neck Fire Department has a busy year ahead with training new members and fundraising to purchase new fire fighting gear. The Ladies Auxiliary has been busy with suppers and is planning a Kitchen Party in April that will feature local talent and refreshments. At the end of the lobster season in May the Ladies Auxiliary plan to have a lobster supper at the hall. The firemen are also planning a Firemen's Day this summer with a community BBQ, supper and dance. "Over the past several months we have had seven new

members join the department bringing the department membership up to 20 volunteers. We need to order some new bunker suits so everyone can be fitted properly," said Chief Wentzell.



Members of the Digby Neck Fire Department
Front Row: (L) Deputy Chief Melvin Walker; Chief Lee Wentzell; Captain Leonard Titus
Second Row (L) David Raymond; Dale Titus; Jayson Lombard; David Lombard
Third row (L) Johnny Lombard; Ron Morehouse; Bryson Stanton
Holiday Back Row: Bryson Stanton

Recently, the Digby Neck Fire Department had their annual banquet and gave out service award

pins to firemen with 28, 15, 10 and 5 years of service. The "Fireman of the Year" went to Robert Ryan. The new Deputy Chief is Melvin Walker. Leonard Titus is the Department Lieutenant and Bryson Stanton is the new Captain.

This year, the fire department will be encouraging Digby Neck home owners to clearly post their civic numbers in the front of their homes. According to the Municipal Civic Address Bylaw, as of May 1, 2009 the civic address number will need to be in place on your home.

"Response time to an emergency is so critical. It is very important that emergency personnel can clearly see your civic number and find you easily. So please take this very seriously and post your civic number clearly and help

us find you. We hope to have the civic numbers available here at the firehall soon, but if you wish to purchase your number immediately you can purchase them at the Digby firehall for \$18.42," concluded Chief Wentzell.

APPLICATION RESPECTING 2009 TAX EXEMPTION

BE IT RESOLVED by the Municipal Council of the Municipality of the District of Digby, that an exemption from taxes for 2009 be granted pursuant to Section 69 of the Municipal Government Act in an amount

not exceeding **\$125.00** 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 2008 does not exceed **\$18,500.00** (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, 2009**.

Raising and Lowering the Flags in Respect

Some people have noticed that the flags at the municipal building have been flying low on occasion in the past years. This has been due to council's decision to enact a flag policy with regards to what flags are flown and when they are lowered in respect of an individual of local, provincial or national significance. Flags are also lowered in the case of a catastrophe. Over the past

several years, the flags at the municipal building have been flown at half-mast out of respect to fallen Canadian soldiers fighting



in Afghanistan. The flags are lowered when municipal staff hear news that a soldier has been killed. The flags stay lowered until the soldier(s) is brought home and buried.

For the past nine years, the Municipality and the Town of Digby have also been raising our Canadian flag to commemorate its birthday in 1965. Our Flag Day ceremony is the largest in Nova Scotia involving 26 stage participants and various other organizers. The ceremony takes place at the Digby Regional High School theatre where 300 students and citizens are in attendance. The school staff and students all help make this a positive, memorable event. Be Strong, Be Proud, Be Canadian!

Integrated Community Sustainability Plan

In September 2005, the Federal and Provincial governments signed the Federal Gas Tax Agreement to provide municipal access to Gas Tax revenues for infrastructure related projects. The Municipality of the District of Digby entered into a Municipal Funding Agreement with the Province of Nova Scotia that defines the terms and conditions for the disbursement of the gas tax funds. One of the conditions is the completion of an Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP) by March 2010.

The Canada Nova Scotia Gas Tax agreement defines an ICSP

as: *“a long-term plan, developed in consultation with community members that provides direction for the community to realize sustainability objectives it has for the environmental, cultural, social and economic dimensions of its identity.” (jurisdiction?)*

In Nova Scotia, ICSP's will build on and enhance existing planning instruments such as municipal planning strategies and land use by-laws as well as any community strategic plans that are in place.

According to the Canada Nova Scotia Funding Agreement, ICSP's will:

- a) integrate economic, environmental, social and cultural sustainability objectives;
- b) be reasonably consistent with statements of provincial interest adopted by the Province under the *Municipal Government Act*;
- c) be prepared with public

participation;

d) maximize the benefits of any infrastructure that will be produced under the Agreement;

e) demonstrate, where appropriate, that there has been collaboration with other Municipalities to achieve sustainability.

To guide the process and to work with the consultants, an ICSP Steering Committee will be formed consisting of the Warden, two councillors, and between four to seven members of the general public.

Beyond the regulatory requirement to complete an ICSP, Council and staff of the Municipality of the District of Digby view this process as an opportunity to transform the municipality into a more environmentally efficient and responsible community to pass on to future generations.

Regional Emergency Measures Organization REMO

Up until 2001, the Town of Digby and the Municipality of the District of Digby had operated their Emergency Measures Organizations separately as two distinct EMO entities. In 2001, both the Town and the Municipality of Digby decided to merge their EMO Planning Committee meetings and their EMO Planning manual. This allowed for the combined sharing of some human resources within the EMO Planning Committee and

avoided duplication of efforts in maintaining two separate planning manuals.

At the February 16, 2009 joint Town and Municipal Council meeting formal discussions were held towards going forward with the development of a Regional Emergency Management Organization.

One major factor contributing to this evolution of the EMO structure has been the increased problem for each Municipal unit to recruit the needed positions within the EMO Planning Committees. Competition for volunteers is not uncommon in this region and is a serious issue to be dealt with. At times it has been necessary to utilize internal municipal staff to act on the EMO Planning Committee. In reality these people could be needed elsewhere within the Municipal administration in the event of a

major emergency and only serves as a short term solution.

The planned recommendations are to see the current Joint Emergency Management Organization (JEMO) evolve into a Regional Emergency Management Organization (REMO). This would involve the development of an Inter-Municipal Emergency Services Agreement and a Regional Emergency Management By-Law. Each Municipal unit would continue with its separate responsibility for maintaining their Emergency Operations Centers at the Digby Airport and the Town Public Works Garage.

The combination of the two current EMO entities would reduce duplication of human resources, reduce demands on training and infrastructure and increase the overall productivity of the local Emergency Management Organization.

Municipal Airport Land-use Strategy

One of the key recommendations made as a result of the 2006 Strategic Business Plan for the Digby Municipal Airport is as noted below.

“Apart from potential aviation opportunities, the development of airport lands for both aviation and non-aviation use forms a key part of Digby Municipal Airport’s future viability. Airport land should be made available for lease to commercial enterprises. A number of different business strategies exist in this regard which Digby Municipal Airport can utilize. Future land use planning for the airport should consider how flying activities might ultimately integrate into future airport development. In addition an industrial park might

be accommodated on airport lands. Further land use planning will be required to identify the most suitable locations.”

As a result of this recommendation the development of a Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By Law for the airport lands was seen as a necessary foundation for any future implementation of the Strategic Business Plan.

The Municipal Planning Strategy (MPS) for the Digby Municipal Airport lands reflects the vision that the citizens and Council of the Municipality of the District of Digby have for the future development of the airport and surrounding lands. The MPS provides a comprehensive plan for the future development of the Digby Municipal Airport.

The Strategy will be a legal document, a policy document and a

framework for future development.

A Land Use By-Law is a precise document used by the Municipality to regulate the use of land. It provides direction as to what land uses are permitted at the Municipal Airport lands and provides other detailed information such as:

- * Where buildings and structures may be located;
- * Types of uses and dwelling permitted;
- * Standards for lot size, vehicle and aircraft parking requirements, building height, and required yards.



Along the Coastline

*A Building Committee for the Weymouth Library has been formed consisting of Warden Jim Thurber, Councillor Randall Amero, Linda Fraser CAO, Trudy Amirault and Erin Comeau from Western Counties Regional Library, Merrell Moorhead from Team Weymouth, Ken Huntley and Holly LeBlanc, community members along with the Municipal consulting engineers. This committee is busy preparing estimated costs and background information.

*Councillor Maritza Adams is representing the Municipality on a committee organizing a Heritage Fair for April 23rd at the Barton Elementary school. Heritage related projects by grade 4 to 6 elementary students will be on display for judging. There will be an open house from 6:30pm to 8:00pm for the general public.

*The closing of the fiscal year means the beginning of the new budget process. The CAO is planning to schedule meetings shortly after April 1st to begin the 2009/2010 budget process. Requests for grants from community groups are due by April 1st to be effectively evaluated and considered for funding.

*As a result of the Strategic Planning Session attended by Council in January, request for proposals for the Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP) have been sent to several different consulting firms. Initiatives identified to be considered over the next four years are tied directly to the implementation of an Integrated Community Sustainability Plan. The deadline for responses is March 27th.

*The Joint Meeting between the Town and Municipality held February 16th created the development of a committee to discuss future strategies for the Digby Area Tourism Committee in terms of long term funding and governance.

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.municipality.com/digby/](http://www.municipality.com/digby/)

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

*Warden Jim Thurber and Linda Fraser, CAO met with Skip Cormier, a consultant working on a long term strategy for the Digby Harbour Port Association.

*The Digby Municipal Airport Working Group hosted an open house February 18th to allow the public an opportunity to comment on a proposed Digby Municipal Airport Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-Law. There were no major issues brought forward with the draft Strategy and Land Use By-law at that time. The document will be forwarded to Council for review and possible first reading at the March 23rd Council meeting.

Councillor Linda Gregory District 3
Will be holding the following public meetings from 6 to 8 pm at the Municipal building. Feel free to drop in any time to ask questions or voice concerns

Call Linda at 245-2616 at any time
Thurs April 2/09

Certificates of Recognition

Congratulations to: Woodrow Outhouse and Shirley Elliott for 40 years of volunteer service with the Tiverton Fire Department:

Congratulations to: Miss Theresa Nickerson's Class and Courtney Welch for achieving first place at the 9th Annual Recycles Contest

Congratulations to: Julie Martin; Melena Spinney; Faith Turner Anderson; Asia Lombard; Hannah Moore and Gillian Stanton on their receipt of runner-up at the 9th Annual Recycles Contest

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