



MEDIA RELEASE

**For immediate release
September 30, 2009**

RESIDENTS ASKED TO SPEAK OUT FOR LONG-TERM SOLUTION FOR FERRY SERVICE

ANNAPOLIS CO. – During a recent, joint Council meeting between the Municipality of the County of Annapolis and the Municipality of the District of Digby, it was agreed that residents and businesses must be reminded that the Digby to Saint John ferry service is still a critical issue that needs to be addressed.

In October 2006, Bay Ferries announced their intention to discontinue ferry service between Digby and Saint John. The public outcry was loud and immediate, which has resulted in an interim agreement to extend the service until January 2011. However, both municipalities agree a long-term solution is needed.

“It is very important that residents remain aware that the ferry service is still at risk of being eliminated,” said Annapolis County Warden Peter Newton. “The ferry is part of our national transportation infrastructure that has always contributed to the economic development and the sustainability of businesses, jobs and communities in our region, so loss of this service would be devastating. It is our bridge across the Bay of Fundy. We need our residents to be heard in order to save this vital resource.”

The municipalities agree the uncertainty around the Digby-Saint John ferry service has a negative impact for the area. Business opportunities could be stifled; also, some tourism and commercial traffic which normally would rely on the ferry service may choose alternate routes impacting even further on the rural economy of Western Nova Scotia.

“The present services provided by the Digby–Saint John Ferry, both passenger and commercial, are essential to the continuation and growth of this region’s economy,” remarked District of Digby Warden Jim Thurber. “Now is the time for all of us to relay that message loudly and clearly to our Federal and Provincial Governments to obtain a timely and positive resolution of this critical issue.”

The two municipal units are encouraging residents to write Mr. Greg Kerr, West Nova MP, to show their support for a long-term solution and commitment to the Digby-Saint John ferry service.

Contact information for Mr. Kerr is: 233 Water St., Yarmouth, NS B5A 1M1, (902) 742-6815 (fax), or 14373 Hwy 1 Wilmot, NS B0P 1W0, (902) 825-3785, or call toll free 1-866-280-5302. You may also email a message to Mr. Kerr at KerrG1a@parl.gc.ca .

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Contact: Warden Peter Newton
532-3137

Warden Jim Thurber
245-4777

FOR BROADCAST USE:

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