



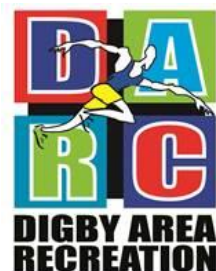
# Hiking Summit

**October 1 - 4, 2026**

**Digby**

## **Detailed Program**

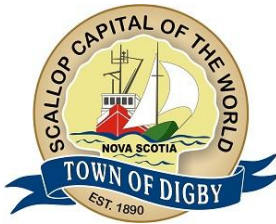
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# Hiking Summit 2026 Detailed Program

October 1 to 4, 2026  
Digby, Digby Pines Golf Resort & Spa (103 Shore Road, Digby)

## Day 1: Thursday, October 1 - Optional Brier Island Overnight (Pre-Summit)

*Note: It is recommended that, if taking part in Brier Island Pre-Summit events, you arrange Thursday night accommodations on Brier Island (arrange on your own in advance).*

- 5:00 - 6:00 PM      Supper on your own
- 6:15 - 7:30 PM      Sunset Hike: Brier Island Coastal Trail Loop
  - Moderate | Coastal views & sunset experience
- 7:30 - 7:45 PM      Travel back to Brier Island Lodge
- 8:00 PM              Dr Nick Hill talk: Restoration of Big Meadow Bog, Brier Island Lodge

## Day 2: Friday, October 2 - Optional Brier Island Hikes (Pre-Summit)

*Note: It is recommended that, if taking part in Brier Island Pre-Summit events, you arrange Thursday night accommodations on Brier Island (arrange on your own in advance). If not staying on Brier Island, participants travelling from Digby must catch the 8:30 AM ferry to attend the following hikes. It is about a 45-minute drive from Digby to East Ferry, which is the first ferry you need to take. [More on the ferries found here.](#)*

- 7:30 – 8:30 AM      Breakfast on your own
- 9:30 - 10:45 AM      Big Meadow Bog Hike
  - Easy–Moderate | Unique bog ecosystem & interpretive experience
  - Participants travelling from Digby must catch the 8:30 AM ferry to attend
- 10:45 - 11:25 AM      Get your own lunch to bring on the next hike
  - Bring your own, pre-order from Brier Island Lodge or pick up at RE Robicheau Store in Westport
- 11:25 - 11:45 AM      Ferry departure to Long Island
- 11:45 AM - 1:45 PM      Balancing Rock Hike
  - Moderate | Iconic coastal geology & scenic stairs
- 1:45 - 2:45 PM      Bear Cove Coastal Walk
  - Easy–Moderate | Coastal views & interpretive opportunities
- 3:00 PM              Ferry and return to Digby
  - Return to Digby in time for supper and Digby Pines check-in

## Day 2: Friday, October 2 - Regular Summit Programming

- 12:00 - 8:00 PM      Registration at Digby Pines
- 1:00 - 5:00 PM      Afternoon Hikes: Please attend hike you registered for:
- Van Tassel Lake Lookoff Loop - Moderate | Forest restoration & lake views
  - Gullivers Cove Upper Look-off - Moderate | Forest & coastal views
  - Acacia Valley Adventure Loop - Moderate | Forest pools, falls & single-track trails
- 5:00 - 6:00 PM      Supper on your own
- 6:00 - 6:30 PM      Travel to Sunset Hike
- 6:30 - 7:30 PM      Sunset Hike
- Point Prim Lighthouse - Easy | Short walk to the lighthouse
  - Bagpipe Performance by Mary Saulnier
- 7:30 - 8:00 PM      Travel back to Digby Pines
- 8:00 - 9:30 PM      Welcome Reception - MC: Greg Turner
- Snacks & cash bar
  - Displays
  - Pecha Kucha-Style Presentations
- 9:30 PM onward      Social & networking
- Music by The Fog

## Day 3: Saturday, October 3

- 6:00 - 7:30 AM      Sunrise Hike
- Admiral's Walk loop - Easy | Ocean views, Digby Fishing Fleet views, close to amenities
- 7:00 - 8:30 AM      Breakfast on your own
- 7:45 - 8:45 AM      Registration
- 8:45 - 9:30 AM      Summit Opening Session - MC: Greg Turner
- Welcome: Hike NS and special guests
  - Opening Ceremony – L'sitkuk First Nation
- 9:30 - 10:30 AM      Keynote: Sarah Prosper
- 10:30 - 11:00 AM      Nutrition Break
- 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Breakout Sessions (choose one):
- Abandoned Roads - Steve Skafte
  - Volunteer Recruitment and Retainment - Rachelle Turple-Christmas
  - Travel Panel - Jill Balser, Jenipher Ritchie, Jonathan Riley

|                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 12:00 – 1:00 PM | Pick Up Bagged lunch at Digby Pines                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 1:00 - 1:30 PM  | Travel to Trailheads                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 1:30 - 5:00 PM  | <p>Afternoon Hikes: Please attend hike you registered for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Acacia Valley Hardwood Ridge – Moderate   Brookside trails, maple swamps with our provincial lichen, the Blue Felt, plus the giant trees of the Hardwood Ridge.</li> <li>- Gulliver's Cove Lower Look-Off – Easy   Birdwatching &amp; Coastal Vista's) AND Redhead (Rossway) – Moderate   Coastal hike with stunning views of the Bay of Fundy and scenic red cliffs.</li> <li>- Windmill Wilderness Trails at Van Tassel Lake – Moderate   Scenic walk</li> <li>- Savary Park – Easy   peaceful and family-friendly walk-through mixed Acadian Forest with glimpses of the nearby shoreline.</li> <li>- Stone Bear – With Frank Meuse and a 15 person limit (This hike will not show up as a choice in online registration. You can sign up in person only for a chance to go on this hike when you check in at the Summit. A lottery will be drawn for folks to attend this hike, announced on Saturday morning. Please sign up for other hikes during this time slot in case you are not selected to attend the Stone Bear hike).</li> </ul> |
| 5:00 - 6:00 PM  | <p>Travel back from trails &amp; get ready for the Supper &amp; Evening Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Optional: Change into your interpretation of fancy hiker dress up!</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 6:00 - 9:00 PM  | <p>Supper &amp; Evening Program - MC: Greg Turner</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Optional: Please wear your interpretation of fancy hiker dress up</li> <li>- Slideshow: Trail Volunteers &amp; Events Through the Seasons (in background)</li> <li>- Supper</li> <li>- Tribute to Michael Haynes</li> <li>- Summit Award</li> <li>- Silent Auction</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 9:00 - 9:30 PM  | Travel to night hike                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 9:30 - 10:30 PM | <p>Beware the Saw-whet Night Hike at Van Tassel Lake - Easy   Forest</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With the dark, and dare we say scary, woods of Van Tassel Lake for a backdrop, we will explore Mi'kmaw stories of the stars, while above us and all around us, the great gory celestial hunt continues, as it has for countless generations. Whatever you do, do NOT make fun of the Saw-whet owl!</li> <li>- Please bring a headlamp with a red light and dress for a cool night in the foggy woods.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 9:00 pm onward  | Social time on your own (if not taking part in night hike)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

## Day 4: Sunday, October 4

|                |                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 6:30 - 8:00 AM | <p>Sunrise Hike</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Railbed (Old Train Station) - Bear River Lighthouse - Easy   Scenic Ocean views of the Annapolis Basin, close to amenities</li> </ul> |
| 7:30 - 8:45 AM | Breakfast on your own & Silent Auction pick-up                                                                                                                                                     |

|                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8:45 - 9:15 AM   | Travel to Trailheads                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 9:15 - 10:45 AM  | <p>Morning Hikes: Please attend hike you registered for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Acacia Valley Falls (Accessible) - Easy   follow a stunning brook to a waterfall</li> <li>- Van Tassel Restoration Plot Tour - Moderate   Ecology walk</li> <li>- Toy Markers Marsh - Easy   Stunning coastal views and abundant wildlife-spotting opportunities</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 10:45 - 11:15 AM | Travel Back to Digby Pines                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 11:15 - 12:15 PM | <p>Breakout Sessions (choose one):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dog Safety - Tracy Buchanan</li> <li>- Women on the Trails - Speaker to be announced</li> <li>- Hiking Buddies (hiking for the blind &amp; partially sighted) - Milena Khazanavicius</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 12:30 - 1:00 PM  | Summit Closing Remarks                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 1:00 - 1:45 PM   | Pick Up Bagged lunch at Digby Pines, goodbyes & Silent Auction pick-up                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 1:45 - 2:15 PM   | Travel to trailheads                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 2:15 - 4:15 PM   | <p>Afternoon Hikes: Please attend hike you registered for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Harris Lake in Bear River - Challenging   A woods walk along Franklin Brook to the hydro dam overlooking Harris Lake</li> <li>- The Woodland Trail, Sandy Cove - Easy   From St. Mary's Bay to the Bay of Fundy through the forested Woodland Trail</li> <li>- Upper Clements Trails - Moderate   A multi-use biking and hiking trail with brook trails and old forests, with a visit to Still Fired Distillery afterwards (open until 5 pm)</li> </ul> |

**Summit ends - see you next year!**