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# The Shoreline Journal

PO BOX #41 BASS RIVER, NS B0M 1B0

Publications Mail™  
#40048924 - VOL. 30 NO. 4

APRIL 2026

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## MDCC to Open November 2028

*By Maurice Rees*

Mi'kmaw Debert Cultural Centre (MDCC) is one step closer to breaking ground. The federal government announced Tuesday, March 17th that it will invest another \$1 million into the project. Tim Bernard, the organization's executive director expects construction to begin this summer. When it opens, the Mi'kmawey Debert Cultural Centre will offer educational workshops, language and storytelling sessions, and celebrate more than 10,000 years

of Mi'kmaw history.

It will also become the new home for thousands of artifacts that have long been held in museums far from the province like the National Museum of the American Indian and the Canadian Museum of History.

"Once we receive and negotiate the bid, with the successful construction companies, we're looking at a July (or) August shovel in the ground," he said.

The centre is still \$10 million short of its funding target,

but Bernard said he's optimistic it will be reached.

Originally slated to open in 2025, he said the centre is now expected to be open by November 2028.

He said more than 500 of the artifacts that will be displayed are currently housed at the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington. The artifacts include quilts, baskets, garments and even two complete wigwams.

Bernard said Mi'kmawey Debert has been collaborating with the Washington museum

since the late 1990s, at first to help identify archival photographs taken in the 1900s. Then, teams of bead makers, quillers and basket makers started routinely travelling to the museum to help maintain the collection.

"We're seeing these artifacts for the first time in a long time, and this is the first time a lot of them are being held and taken out," she said. "My grandmothers, who were both bead makers, I wish they were around to see all of these artifacts coming home."

### Karlee Burgess gets Silver at the World's

*By Maurice Rees*

Karlee Burgess does it again. So far this year she has won gold at the Scotties, which sent the team to the World's, which was held in Calgary with championship game on March 22nd. She didn't get the gold, losing to Sweden, 7-5. Picking up the silver metal, Karlee's metal count is 5 gold; 2 silver and 4 bronze. (See Karlee's career history and metal count elsewhere in this issue).

She entered the women's category just as CoVid-19 was on a rampage. Halfway through the 2024-25 season, Burgess announced that she would be leaving the Chelsea Carey team to pursue other opportunities. Burgess later announced that she would be joining the Kerri Einarson rink for the rest of the season. Burgess, who throws lead stones, would play with Einarson at the 2025 Scotties Tournament of Hearts, where Burgess would again finish in second place, losing to Team Homan 6-1 in the final. They turned the tables winning Scotties 2026.

Karlee's success story goes back to 2014. Born in September 1998, now age 27 years, she started curling at the age of six. In her career to date, she has won 5 gold medals; 1 silver and 4 bronze. Her entire family is passionate about the sport of curling.

As Canada's most decorated Junior Curler, Karlee has continued to add to her success, which includes six-time Nova Scotia U21 Provincial Champion; one-time Manitoba Junior Curling Champion 2020; 2015 Canada Winter Games Silver Medalist, 2016 Canadian Champion, 2016 World Junior Gold Medalist, 2016 Youth Olympic Games Gold Medalist, 2017 World Junior Bronze Medalist (Fifth), 2018 Canadian Champion, 2018 World Junior Gold Medalist, 2019 World Junior Silver Medalist (fifth), 2020 Canadian Champion (playing third). Her name is entered into the record book as the first junior woman in the history to win 3 Canadian Junior Championships. Joan Mead Award winner 2019, Allstar second at the 2018, 2019 Canadian Junior and Allstar third at the 2020 Canadian Juniors.

As an accomplished athlete Karlee has become a leader in her hometown community of Brookfield. She is a role model for younger curlers and athletes. She has been popular speaker and role model for several provincial organizations including, but not limited to: Doctors Nova Scotia Fun Run, Brookfield Curling Club Closing Banquet, Nova Scotia Sport Hall of Fame (mentor program) - several day camp presentations.

In those roles, she has been asked to share some of her knowledge and what she has accomplished throughout her curling years to get to an elite level as a junior, to younger curling teams.



MP Alana Hirtle, "...in Debert, we announced a \$1.1 million investment in support of Indigenous tourism." (also see Alana's column on page 5) L-R: Executive Director of Mi'kmawey Debert Cultural Centre Tim Bernard, Mi'kmaw Elder Don Julien, MP Alana Hirtle, Minister of Women & Gender Equity + Secretary of State for Small Business and Tourism, Rechie Valdez, CEO of the National Aboriginal Capital Corporations Association Shannin Metatawabin.

### Gloade Re-Elected Chief

Chief Bob Gloade has been re-elected as chief for his eighth consecutive election. The voters for Millbrook First Nation cast 469 votes for Gloade and 429 for Chris Googoo his opponent. Bob Gloade was first elected chief 14 years ago.

"I am honoured to continue representing our community and to continue this journey as your Chief," Gloade said in a news release. "This role is so important to me, and I am grateful that the community continues to put their trust in me. I am looking forward to working diligently, with this council, as we move forward together."

Gloade's term will last two years. He will be joined on council by: Natasha Bernard, Colin Bernard, Anissa Blackmore, Alex Cope, Carley Gloade, Peter Gloade, Reed Knockwood, Ward Markie, Lisa Marshall, Margaret Phillips, Ethan Phillips and Dana Sylliboy.

### Stampede Cancelled; Rustic Table Closed

*By Maurice Rees*

The 2026 Nova Scotia Stampede is cancelled.

The new six-member Board of the Rath Eastlink Community Centre (RECC), three each from Colchester County and Town of Truro have moved quickly to get a grasp on governance of the \$53-Million 15 year-old facility under the chairmanship of Tim Johnson, Colchester Councillor. Of course there are other decisions, but two which affect the general public the most is immediate closure on February 10th of the Rustic Table Restaurant at the Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition Grounds and the Nova Scotia Stampede.

Rustic Table restaurant, located at the Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition Grounds has closed effective immediately after it was revealed in a nine-month opening period to December 31, 2025 it showed a \$110,000 loss. Rustic Table

evolved after a contract was signed within which RECC management would operate the Provincial Exhibition Grounds to which Colchester Council objected causing the RECC owners (County Colchester and Town of Truro) to dismiss the interim board, appointed at the AGM in May 2025 and cause each municipality to appoint three members to a new board.

A press release issued by Tim Johnson, RECC Board Chair stated, after careful consideration, the Board of the Rath Eastlink Community Centre (RECC), in consultation with senior management from the RECC, has made the difficult decision not to proceed with the Nova Scotia Stampede in 2026. Over the past two years, the Nova Scotia Stampede has grown into an incredibly popular and well-attended event, drawing strong support from our community and visitors

alike. We are proud of the success it achieved in such a short time, and we are deeply grateful to everyone who participated, volunteered, attended, and helped make it such a memorable experience.

The RECC is currently facing a number of operational and infrastructure priorities that require focused attention. A new ice chiller plant plus long list of maintenance needs to be installed, or there may not be ice come September.

Senior RECC management has advised that resources must be directed toward addressing these needs in the months ahead. As a result, we do not feel we have the capacity at this time to deliver the world-class event that the public has come to expect and deserve. The new equipment and repairs, which are "must do" are anticipated to cost about \$750,000. All on top

*continued on page 3*

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