



The Tides of Our Geopark

The monthly "Cliffs Geopark Column" continues with this issue. The three collaborating authors are: Tim Fedak, David Piper, and Caleb Grant. The "Geoscientists of the Geopark" can be reached at: geoscience@fundygeopark.ca

On April 22nd, we celebrate Earth Day. Each year, a new theme is adopted to highlight impacts and initiatives around the globe that are central to the way we exist on the planet. This year, the theme is: Our Power, Our Planet. We couldn't help but think about the most powerful entity in the Geopark, and one of our three pillars: The Bay of Fundy tides.

In the communities tucked along the rugged coastline of the Cliffs of Fundy UNESCO Global Geopark, the ocean doesn't just meet the shore—it redefines it twice a day. As we move through 2026, the Bay of Fundy continues to draw global attention, not just for its record-breaking 16-meter tidal range, but for the way these massive waters shape the identity of those living along this shore.

At high tide, fishing boats float level with the wharves; six hours later, they sit on the red mud of the ocean floor, awaiting the Atlantic's return. This dramatic shift is driven by tidal resonance—a phenomenon where the bay's natural sloshing frequency matches the approximately 12 ½ hour lunar cycle. This near-perfect timing pushes anywhere between 140-160 billion tonnes of seawater into the Bay of Fundy—more than the flow of all the world's freshwater rivers combined. Of the tremendous amount of water that flows into and out of the Bay in a given day, approximately 14 billion tonnes is funneled into Minas Basin through the 5km wide Minas Passage, carrying with it an estimated 7000 MW of power (approximately 2 million homes).

The Cliffs of Fundy Geopark has the World's premiere tidal research station located just outside of Parrsboro. The Fundy Ocean Research Centre for Energy - better known along the shore as FORCE, has been conducting research about the potential to generate power from the world's highest tides, and the environmental implications of that power generation, since 2009. FORCE has taken some major steps in the last year including:

- Launching a large-scale monitoring program, led by FORCE and Acadia University, integrating Mi'kmaw ecological knowledge (Two-Eyed Seeing) with high-tech sensors to better understand how fish interact with tidal turbines.
- Designation of two new research berths at the research site in Minas Passage.
- A new procurement cycle for tidal power developers last spring and,
- The release of the "National Roadmap for Marine Renewables", which positions the Bay of Fundy as a "Key Pillar" for Canada's 2050 net-zero goals.

We encourage you to visit the FORCE centre and learn more about our Geopark's amazing tides.

For more information or to ask a question about the Geopark contact: Geoscientists of the Geopark via email at: geoscience@fundygeopark.ca

Notes from our Federal Capital The Women Who Keep This Riding Running**

March has been a busy — but energizing month. It started with a simple decision: spend the weeks surrounding International Women's Day week not giving speeches about women in leadership — but sitting down with the women who are already leading throughout our communities. I met with women running businesses on the streets of Downtown Amherst — shop owners, entrepreneurs, people who signed leases and made payroll and kept their doors open through some very tough years.

I joined the incredible women of the Truro-Colchester Chamber of Commerce at an event hosted at the Nova Scotia Native Women's Association, and then had the privilege of attending the Downtown Truro Partnership's International Women's Day Breakfast, where the energy in that room could have powered the whole town.

What struck me in every single one of those conversations was the same thing: these women are not waiting for permission. They are building. They're solving problems in real time, with whatever tools they have, and they're doing it while lifting other people up along the way.

I also spent time with women students from the Cultiv8 Community Farm program at the Dalhousie Agricultural Campus, and I'll tell you something — if you want to feel hopeful about the future of this riding, go talk to those young women for fifteen minutes. They're sharp, ambitious, and their energy is infectious. (see photo on page 9)

Now, some good news — and I mean really good news. Maritime Pride Eggs in Amherst has kicked off a construction project in support of expanding operations here in Atlantic Canada. That means jobs. That means investment in our local economy. That means someone looked at Cumberland County and said, "This is where we want to grow." I cannot overstate how much that matters for a community that has fought hard for every bit of economic momentum it has earned. (see photo on page 2)

And in Debert, we announced a \$1.1 million investment in sup-

port of Indigenous tourism. Tourism is one of the great untapped engines of this riding, and this kind of investment doesn't just create economic opportunity — it creates space for Indigenous communities to share their stories on their own terms. That's powerful, and I'm proud our government is backing it. (see photo on page 1)

Oh, and if you happened to be in Truro for the Canadian Firefighters Curling Championship — wasn't that something?

There's nothing quite like watching a community rally around an event like that. The pride, the hospitality, the sheer fun of it. That's Cumberland-Colchester at its best.

Fighting Mis-Information: I'm going to take a minute of your time, again, this month to provide you with the facts around a bad-faith claim that continues to circulate from the dark corners of social media and emerge in well-meaning conversations across the country.

The Government of Canada is NOT cutting \$4.3 billion from veterans' programs.

It's not happening. Not in any way/shape/form. I get why that number sets off alarm bells. \$4.3 billion is a ridiculously large number. So ridiculous, in fact, that this is clearly a false claim.

No benefits are being cut. No veteran is losing eligibility for services. The suite of programs — disability benefits, health services, support programs — remains the same.

What changed is the reimbursement rate for medical cannabis: from roughly \$8.50 per gram down to \$6.00, which reflects where the legal market actually sits now that the industry has matured. The \$4.3 billion figure is the projected savings over many years from paying market price instead of above-market price. It's an accounting adjustment, not a gutting of programs.

Our government has simply taken that smart step to stop over-paying corporations for cannabis. The difference in math is a "savings" — not a "cut". I wanted to lay that out plainly because



Alana Hirtle

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Notes from our Provincial Capital Revenue estimated to grow by \$847-Million

As I indicated in my last article the 2026 /2027 budget was released on March 23. As projected it was a deficit budget. In this budget we made some very difficult decisions that have and will impact residents and community organizations throughout Colchester North. I understand that and fully understand the concerns of our residents. Decisions were made to protect Core infrastructure, and we are focused on the services and supports that matter the most to people's daily lives. Our government will continue to look at opportunities to support Nova Scotians as we work towards improving our fiscal future.

Most of the media and opposition discussion over the past 3 weeks has been focused on deficit and difficult reductions. I would like to point out a couple of things that I feel are important. First, despite the fact that the 1% reduction in the HST and deindexing of the N S portion of your income tax resulted in a savings of approx. \$700 million dollars for N S residents (which the Leader of the opposition referred to as "a Joke"), Provincial revenue stream continues to grow. Revenue is estimated to grow by approx. \$847 million this year. Our economy is growing and is expected to grow and we have a plan for the future.

At this time our government has chosen to invest that revenue in Health Care, housing and infrastructure. The cost of not investing is much higher. For years we watched as health care wait lines grew, as acute care beds in hospitals were full of patients waiting to get a bed in a long term care facility and infrastructure aging. Health care alone will cost \$6.7 billion this year an increase of \$377 million, 7 new long term care facilities will be operating this year. An additional \$457 million in Growth and development ex-

panded housing programs, \$90 million for rent supplements and \$100 million in school lunch program to name some of the investments in Nova Scotia.

Again, I do not want to minimize the impact that the reductions will have on our residents. I just want to make folks aware of the costs of investing in our core needs. With respect to reductions in the arts and culture, a look at historical funding will show that over the previous four years when revenue was available, we significantly invested. Regrettably, there are some current reductions and we fully understand how difficult this is for some organizations and artists. However, we are still investing \$15 million more that was being invested when we formed government. As Premier Houston has indicated many times when we could afford we invested. As our current investments pay off and our fiscal capacity improves, we will invest again.

With that in mind, Nova Scotia is positioned for real economic growth and this budget backs that with strategic investments. The world needs what Nova Scotia has, clean energy, critical minerals, seafood and skilled people. We are investing in six priority sectors, defense and aerospace, clean and conventional energy, natural resources, fisheries and Agri food, housing and construction as well as AI and the Digital Economy.

I personally believe in this Province and its people. I feel that our Premier has the vision to lead us forward. There will be better days ahead!!

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Tom Taggart

Notes from our Provincial Capital Delivering for Truro-Bible Hill-Millbrook-Salmon River: Budget 2026-27

The 2026-27 provincial budget is focused on strengthening the services Nova Scotians rely on while delivering real, local impact here at home in Truro-Bible Hill-Millbrook-Salmon River.

Across our region, access to healthcare remains a top priority. This budget continues record investments to improve access to primary care, support frontline workers, and strengthen services at facilities like the Colchester East Hants Health Centre, helping ensure residents can get the care they need, closer to home.

Housing is another key focus. With increased funding for affordable and supportive housing, as well as rent supplements, more individuals and families in our community will have access to safe, stable housing - something we know is essential for building a strong and healthy region.

Affordability measures will also make a difference locally. From tax relief to expanded school meal programs in schools throughout the Chignecto-Central Regional Centre for Education, these initiatives will

help ease pressure on families and ensure every child has the opportunity to succeed.

Our community also benefits from continued investments in public safety, including supports for volunteer fire departments across Colchester County and enhanced emergency preparedness which is critical for both rural and urban parts of our riding.

While the budget includes a projected deficit, it reflects a responsible approach: investing in people, strengthening our communities, and planning for long-term sustainability.

As your MLA, I remain focused on ensuring that the priorities of Truro-Bible Hill-Millbrook-Salmon River are heard and that these investments translate into meaningful improvements in the daily lives of those who call our community home.

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