

The Shoreline Journal Tid-Bits

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Premier Promotes Critical Minerals Opportunities

Premier Tim Houston attended the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada conference from March 1 to 3 in Toronto. The major international mining conference connected developers and investors directly with decision-makers from Nova Scotia to discuss critical mineral opportunities.

"Critical minerals are something the world needs - for clean energy, food production, defence, healthcare and much more," said Premier Houston. "I look forward to continuing discussions about how our province can provide solutions and be a reliable, ethical, sustainable source for materials that are in high demand globally."

While in Toronto, the Premier made an announcement with Ontario Premier Doug Ford. He also met with Tjorven Bellmann, the German Ambassador to Canada, to discuss economic co-operation and attend the federal, provincial and territorial energy and mines ministers' conference.

Nova Scotia is growing the economy by harnessing natural resources. Last summer, the Goldboro gold mine in Guysborough County received industrial approval and a Crown land lease; the mine is expected to create more than 700 jobs and boost the province's gross domestic product (GDP) by \$2.1 billion.

Mineral exploration brings \$35 to \$50 million per year to Nova Scotia communities. The 2026-27 budget includes \$300,000 to support growth in Nova Scotia's mining industry and \$1.5 million for Invest Nova Scotia to drive more GDP growth in six priority sectors, including forestry and mining. Nova Scotia launched its critical minerals strategy in 2024 and updated it last year; it lists 20 critical minerals and four strategic minerals.

Province Strengthens Housing Legislation

Amendments to existing legislation will mean more housing, improved efficiency in the sector and better alignment of related agencies. The changes extend the Executive Panel on Housing in the Halifax Regional Municipality and give the Minister of Housing new authority to ensure housing projects aren't delayed.

Changes to the Housing Supply and Services Act: Make the Nova Scotia Provincial Housing Agency advisory board optional to provide flexibility and ensure consistency with other government agencies and repeal interim board provisions.

Changes to the Housing in Halifax Regional Municipality Act: Extend the Executive Panel on Housing in the Halifax Regional Municipality by two years give the Minister of Housing new order-making authority with Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) and Halifax Water to improve co-ordination of water, wastewater and infrastructure that enables growth so housing projects can move ahead without delays and stay affordable over the long term.

Changes to the Municipal Government Act and the Halifax Regional Municipal Charter: Give councils the ability to delegate oversight and performance management of a municipality's chief administrative officer (CAO) to a council committee; give councils explicit discretion to exclude or limit participation of their CAO in discussions and training sessions related to their performance; clarify councils' ability to manage CAO participation on external boards and committees, aligning CAO priorities with council expectations; clarify councils' ability to decide on long-term delegation of their CAO's responsibilities during extended absences; introduce mandatory orientation training for newly elected municipal councillors to ensure consistent understanding of responsibilities across the province and provide the Minister of Municipal Affairs with temporary regulated authority to amend HRM's urban service area boundary to build out the infrastructure needed to support sustainable growth.

Updates are also being made to some of those acts and the ShortTerm Rentals Registration Act to reflect the current ministerial title and appropriate departmental oversight.

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OP-ED

Museum closures saves \$980,000

This column will have the appearance of being a news story and a "kick-ass" rebuke of several MLA's who were asleep on the job and Hon Dave Ritcey, Minister of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage (December 12, 2024 — Present) for not being forceful saying, "Not on my Watch".

Houston's government has driven another nail in the proud cultural history of twelve rural and smaller communities across the province closing 12 museums which define what built Nova Scotia starting in 1604. On June 20, 1604 - Pierre de Monts and Samuel de Champlain reached the Annapolis Basin; Champlain names the whole area Port Royal. The following year, 1605, the French will settle here as Samuel de Champlain establishes the first successful New France Colony at Port Royal. De Pourtincourt requested this land for his retirement, a request de Monts granted.

Jump ahead 420 years to today instead of establishing and building a stronger Nova Scotia outside the urban core, Houston's super majority government is ripping the heart out of rural areas which comprise nearly 50% of the province's inhabitants to save \$980,000 by closing 12 sites, which are the iconic heart of communities instrumental in building Nova Scotia.

Instead of a dictatorial-type top-down approach to cut expenses, Houston's government would have been perceived in a much better light if they had consulted with each of the communities. It's hard to expect someone sitting in a high-rise office in Halifax to understand what each of the museums meant to community residents and the importance they play in the historical, cultural base of the overall tourism sector.

If there had been consultations with each of the communities, today's situation would have been more palatable. Communities should have been given the opportunity to discuss amongst themselves how they could have contributed to, not only reduce costs, but to use the museum as a tool to grow and enhance the community, contribute more to the tourism sector, while preserving culture.

Keeping costs in line is a daily chore. Ongoing monitoring of

fers the opportunity to find solutions, before the matter becomes a problem.

For decades, the family of museums have been a priority of love and caring at the community level, but without governance from the top the growing problems were swept under the carpet, because nobody wanted to deal with the emotional matter.

Hard to blame a public official in the city to know the depth of commitment alive and well in a smaller community. However, we elect MLA's from the area to be the guardian and keeper of our best interests. Yes, we have every right to blame them for not doing their job and permanent closure of 12 of 28 museum sites, with more than 240 buildings, within the Family of Museums to save \$980,000 and not face the estimated repair costs.

The following museum sites will close: Cossit House, Sydney; Lawrence House, Maitland; McCulloch House, Pictou; Perkins House, Liverpool; Prescott House, Port Williams; Ross-Thomson House, Shelburne; Shand House, Windsor; Barrington Woolen Mill, Barrington; Sutherland Steam Mill, Denmark; Wile Carding Mill, Bridgewater; Fisherman's Life Museum; Oyster Pond and North Hills Museum, Granville Ferry. It appears the 12 museum sites have already been removed from the Nova Scotia Museum website.

When looked at mathematically, it's not hard to understand why someone sitting in the city in a plush office in the city would make similar decisions.

According to the department, attendance has been low at the 12 sites more than 240 buildings, with some only drawing 1,000 visitors a year - accounting for 3 per cent of total attendance across the Nova Scotia Museum system. These 12 museums combined averaged 15,932 visitors per year over the last five years.

I am positive residents around the 12 closed sites and most of the general public, province-wide, would concur if over last decade or so, more consideration, lots of inclusion and respect had been shown to the 12 sites and the loyal residents who feverishly have shown support none of this would have occurred.

Instead, we would have had a decade rejoining - attendance was up; local businesses were thriving, employment had increased, and costs had been significantly reduced.

Maurice

10 months; 592 permits; \$116,030,017 value

Colin Forsyth, Development Officer reported to council on February 26, there have been 38 development permits issued in year to date (January 2026) compared to 20 permits in 2025.

He noted, 18 Plans Approved (19 plans approved in 2025), 18 Plans Approved Year to Date. Variance/Site Plan Granted Site Plan Approval Issued - College Road - Brookside Developments PID 20666555 8 Unit Apartment.

Regarding building permits for January 2026, Forsyth reported value for January 2026 increased by \$4,197,975.00 over the previous January.

The actual numbers comparing the two Januarys were 41 permits with a value of \$8,698,615. Comparatively, January 2025 included 26 permits with a value of \$4,500,640.

For the first 10 months of fiscal year, April 2025 to January 2026, even though

there were 19 less permits than the previous reporting period, the value increased by \$10,718,396. Forsyth's fiscal tallies are to January 2026 - 592 permits valued at \$116,030,017 compared to 611 permits valued at \$105,311,621 for an increase of \$10,718,396.

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