

The Shoreline Tid-Bits Journal

New Tidal Energy Projects Coming to Nova Scotia

Eauclaire Tidal Limited Partnership is adding projects in two more berths at the Fundy Ocean Research Centre for Energy (FORCE) to help advance clean energy and the jobs and investment that come with it.

"We want tidal energy to be part of Nova Scotia's clean energy future," said Premier Tim Houston. "I'm pleased to see Eauclaire investing further in Nova Scotia and in the belief that we can harness the tremendous natural resource we have in the Bay of Fundy. The work of this company and others in the tidal sector is creating jobs and attracting investment to our province, and that benefits all Nova Scotians."

Eauclaire and its technology partner, Orbital Marine Power, already occupy one berth at FORCE in the Minas Passage. Adding two more berths to their portfolio allows the companies to pursue a total of 16.5 megawatts (MW) of tidal energy. Along with the berths, Eauclaire will receive tidal energy licences and power purchase agreements with Nova Scotia Power.

Compliance Unit to Combat Illegal Seafood Sector Activities

The Province is establishing a compliance unit to combat illegal activities in the fish buying and processing sector. The new unit will include four inspectors responsible for monitoring, inspecting and investigating regulatory compliance and acting on offences.

They will work with federal and provincial enforcement services, including Department of Natural Resources conservation officers. Enforcement actions could include fines, license suspension, loss of license and formal charges.

The Province is also setting up a new audit program and developing stronger summary offence tickets with penalties to match the seriousness of the activity; options include suspending and/or terminating a fish buyer and/or processor licence. These new steps build on the actions that the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture has already taken, including: Increased maximum fines under the Fisheries and Coastal Resources Act to \$1 million from \$100,000 for the first offence and up to \$2 million for a second offence; Modernized the Fish Buyers and Fish Processors Regulations and policies with clearer requirements for agents, designated buyers, buyers and processors; Implemented new licence conditions to require enhanced reporting of buying data to help with enforcement and compliance; the Province is also investigating improved ways to trace lobster and snow crab, Nova Scotia's most valuable species

Regulations also include: Hiring a new licence compliance analyst to assess buyer and processor data for non-compliance and to collaborate with other enforcement agencies; Contracted a forensic accounting firm to carry out in-depth, third-party forensic audits of records collected from licensed buyers and processors to assess potential wrongdoing and Continuing to push for modern cross-jurisdictional regulatory tools like boat-to-plate traceability.

Up to 30 per cent of annual lobster landings in Atlantic Canada go unreported, representing up to \$400 million in unrealized taxable income for Nova Scotia.

Protecting First Acadian Cemetery, Replica Chapel From Climate Change

The province's first Acadian cemetery and its replica chapel will be preserved and protected from the impacts of climate change with funding from the Province. Société historique acadienne de la Baie Sainte-Marie is receiving \$112,502 to improve drainage, increase durability and minimize flooding impacts on the Majors Point Acadian cemetery and chapel in Belliveau Cove, Digby County.

"The Acadian cemetery and chapel hold significant historical value to Acadians in the Clare region," said Timothy Halman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change. "By funding drainage improvements and flood resilience measures, we're protecting this historic cemetery and chapel from climate change impacts. It's about honouring our heritage while preparing for the future."

The project also includes a new wheelchair ramp, larger door and natural plants and trees for carbon capture that will encourage more people to visit. The Majors Point Historic Site commemorates the arrival of a group of Acadians fleeing the expulsion in 1755. The investment is through the government's Sustainable Communities Challenge Fund.

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rectly with the Minister of Defence and the Minister of Veterans Affairs on projects right here in our riding—like developing a long-term plan for the Ralston Armoury in Amherst.

A Story Worth Telling

Speaking of veterans, I had the profound honour of speaking at the ceremony that named Truro's athletic facility after the No. 2 Construction Battalion. If you don't know this story, you should. In 1914, when war broke out in Europe, Black Canadian men rushed to enlist—ready to serve, ready to fight, ready to put their lives on the line. And they were told: "This is a white man's war."

Think about that for a second. These men were ready to die for Canada, and Canada said "no thanks."

But they didn't give up. Because this wasn't about whether Canada deserved their dedication. It was about something deeper—about community, about that soul-stirring call to service.

On July 5, 1916, Black Canadian men were finally told they could serve—but only as a labour battalion. Shovels, not rifles. Building, not fighting. And here's what floors me: they showed up anyway. They cut the lumber that lined the trenches. They built the bridges the infantry crossed. They constructed observation towers and walkways. Every. Single. Board.

The mills they worked at produced twice as much lumber as other mills. That's not just showing up—that's excellence. First-class service from men who knew they were being treated as second-class citizens.

Moving forward, young people will gather at that athletic facility and see the name: No. 2 Construction Battalion. And they'll learn that service isn't about getting credit. It's about showing up and doing the work that needs doing, even when that work isn't appreciated.

Building the Future Together

That same spirit of service—of working together to build something meaningful—was on full display when I announced the Government of Canada's \$9 million investment in the Mi'kmawey Debert Cultural Centre.

This project is exactly the kind of infrastructure investment that transforms communities. The Centre will welcome visitors to learn about Mi'kmaw history and culture through workshops, language and storytelling sessions, and land-based learning. Critically, it will provide healing spaces for survivors and descendants.

They're proving right here in Cumberland-Colchester that we can honour the past, serve the present, and protect the future all at the same time.

Real-Time Solutions to Real-World Problems

I've often found that real problem-solving is less about yelling loudly, for all the world to hear, and more about quietly making phone

call after phone call until you get to a "yes". Take the situation with the temporary closure of the Canada Post office in Springhill:

Over the month of November, residents faced frustration with postal service in Springhill. So we worked directly with Canada Post staff and management to understand the flooding situation that led to the closure of the Springhill Post Office. Locating the "temporary location" 26 KM away in Amherst was not an acceptable solution. So we worked with the Municipality of Cumberland, the Department of Public Services, and Minister Joël Lightbound's office to figure out a better solution. We navigated regulations. We pushed for creative solutions. We refused to accept "that's just how it is."

And as a result? A temporary Canada Post location at 43 Main Street in Springhill—250 feet from the permanent location—with work starting this week on necessary renovations. Regular hours expected before the holiday rush.

That's what I mean by working together. That's what happens when federal, municipal, and community partners focus as a team on how they can solve problems, TOGETHER!

What's Ahead

December brings office tree lighting ceremonies across the riding and holiday parties in both Amherst and Truro—a chance to gather, celebrate the year, and look ahead to what we're building together.

Because that's the through-line in everything I've shared: we're building. Building recognition for those who've served. Building cultural centres that honour our shared heritage. Building solutions to immediate problems. Building a future where our communities don't just survive—they thrive.

The puzzle pieces keep clicking into place. Not because one person has all the answers, but because people across this riding keep showing up, keep building teams that can work together, keep refusing to accept that our problems are permanent.

That's the Cumberland-Colchester I'm proud to represent.

That's the kind of Canada we can build when we WORK TOGETHER!



Alana Hirtle is the Member of Parliament for Cumberland-Colchester and serves on the Veterans Affairs Committee and the Joint Committee for the Scrutiny of Regulations. Alana has two offices for face-to-face services:

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News from our Provincial Council - Tim Houston

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send a message that unlocking Nova Scotia's energy potential is a top priority.

It can be done safely and we can provide the resources we need to power our economy, and the revenue to fund infrastructure like

schools, hospitals and roads. We can't wait any longer. Let's make it happen.

Tim Houston, Premier of Nova Scotia

Tim Houston, Premier of Nova Scotia can be reached at: premier@novascotia.ca or 902-424-6600

News from our Provincial Council - Dave Ritcey

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quirement for journeypersons in most compulsory trades, such as plumber, construction electrician and boilermaker, which will save them time, money and paperwork. This makes it easier and more affordable to work in the skilled trades by removing red tape and reducing costs for thousands of trades professionals.

Additionally, experienced professionals in almost all trades - more than 70 occupations - will pay less to challenge their certification exam. The Province has reduced the cost to \$350 from \$644.15, bringing Nova Scotia more in line with other provinces and making it easier for experienced workers, including newcomers, to become certified.

Learn more at <https://news.novascotia.ca/.../nova-scotia-reduces-fees...>

Preserving Affordable Housing in Dartmouth, Truro

The Province has partnered with Rooted, a community housing organization, to preserve close to 200 affordable housing units in Dartmouth and Truro. Rooted recently purchased six properties, with a total of 197 units, to protect their affordability and allow the current tenants to stay in their affordable homes. All of the units are occupied.

The properties are located at 19 Primrose St. and 2 and 4 Franklyn Court in Dartmouth and 16 Park St. and 18 and 28 Minerva Dr. in Truro. The

Province provided Rooted with more than \$6.8 million in grants and loans to support the purchase of the six properties - \$5,238,400 through the Community Housing Capital Fund and \$1,636,048 through the Community Housing Acquisition Program.

This investment will ensure that the units remain affordable for a minimum of 30 years or until the mortgages mature. Since 2021, the Province has invested more than \$283 million in 3,054 affordable units, and these numbers continue to grow. In the first two years of the Province's five-year housing plan, 14,667 new housing units have been created or are in progress and the conditions have been created to pave the

way for another 54,174 housing units for a total of 68,841 - 167 per cent of the 2028 goal.

Cutting Taxes for Small Businesses

Premier Houston and our PC government stand shoulder to shoulder with small businesses across Nova Scotia. That's why we cut the small business tax rate from 2.5% to 1.5% and raised the income threshold from \$500,000 to \$700,000. These changes will help local businesses create jobs, keep more money in their communities, and grow our economy.

Dave Ritcey is MLA, Truro-Millbrook-Bible Hill-Salmon River. He can be reached by telephone at 902-897-0884 or by e-mail at mlaritcey@bellaliant.com

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