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Debris to Design: A Geopark Stewardship Project

(PUBLISHER'S NOTE: This event is well underway, but there is time for you to get involved with the movement. Events of this nature are very important to the growth of the Geopark and to the economies of Cumberland and Colchester in all aspects. As publisher, I wanted to promote this type of "grassroots" community building which each community should organize citizens to work together to undertake many more beautification and economic building events).

The Goal
 Welcome to **Debris to Design**, a collaborative stewardship initiative between the **Cliffs of Fundy UNESCO Global Geopark and Parrsboro Creative**.

Our mission is to transform the narrative of shoreline pollution into a story of community-driven restoration. By collecting human-made waste from our beaches and repurposing it into creative designs, we are directly contributing to the **UN Sustainable Development Goals**—specifically **Goal 12 (Responsible Consumption)** and **Goal 14 (Life Below Water)**. This project celebrates the "Community-Driven Stewards" who keep our shores healthy for the next generation.

Our Partnerships
 This project is built on the foundation of **Two-Eyed Seeing** and a shared commitment to **Mi'kma'ki** stewardship. We work closely with partners like **Nova Scotia Indigenous Tourism Enterprise Network, Scotian Shores, and Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)** to ensure our actions support conservation efforts and the recovery of local species at risk, such as the **Atlantic Mud-piddock**. By participating, you are joining a network of organizations dedicated to the protection of the Bay of Fundy's unique ecosystem.

Essential Collection Guidelines (UNESCO Mandate)
 As a **UNESCO Global Geopark**, we have a "Leave No Trace" responsibility to protect our geological heritage. Please adhere strictly to the following rules when gathering materials for your design:

YES - COLLECT HUMAN-MADE WASTE: We encourage you to gather "debris" that does not belong in nature—lobster bands, frayed fishing rope, ghost gear, plastic containers, and metal fragments.

NO - LEAVE NATURAL MATERIALS BEHIND: To protect our ecosystems, **do not collect or use rocks, fossils, minerals, driftwood, or seaweed**. These materials are vital to the environment and must remain on the shoreline.

The Showcase
 All registered designs will be featured in a community showcase on **August 1, 2026**, hosted at the Parrsboro Bandstand. This event will highlight the creativity of our residents and the collective impact of our environmental efforts.

Ready to join the movement?
Contact: Will Bollwerk (He/They), Community Engagement Coordinator, Cliffs of Fundy UNESCO Global Geopark; Mobile: 902-814-8509; Debert Office: 902-641-2225; www.fundygeopark.ca

FORCE Doing Testing Activities

By **Sandra Currie**
 In the coming days, the Fundy Ocean Research Centre for Energy (FORCE) will be doing short, vessel-based testing activities in Minas Passage and the FORCE test area as part of the Ocean Sensor Innovation Platforms (OSIP) project - a collaborative effort with Acadia University and other partners to develop and test monitoring methods and equipment for use in strong tidal currents. You may see brief vessel activity during daylight hours, including placing and retrieving equipment. Work will take place only when weather and sea conditions are suitable. Operations will be conducted from the Nova Endeavour, operated by Huntley's Diving and Marine. If you have any questions, please contact me at sandra.currie@fundyforce.ca or (902) 254-2510.

Sandra Currie is Facility Manager, Fundy Ocean Research Centre for Energy (FORCE)

Cape d'Or: A Heritage and Tourism Destination

The Municipality of the County of Cumberland is pleased to share plans for the Cape d'Or Coastal Park for the 2026 tourism season.

This year, the site will operate as a heritage and tourism destination, with a focus on cultural interpretation, guided experiences, and enhancements to the existing trail network. This approach reflects a commitment to preserving the unique history and natural beauty of Cape d'Or while ensuring the site remains sustainable and accessible for visitors.

Cape d'Or will not operate as a commercial business for the 2026 season. Dining and overnight accommodations will not be offered. Instead, the emphasis will be on providing a high-quality, managed visitor experience centered on learning, exploration, and appreciation of the site.

overnight accommodations will not be offered. Instead, the emphasis will be on providing a high-quality, managed visitor experience centered on learning, exploration, and appreciation of the site.

"Cape d'Or is one of the most unique and breathtaking coastal destinations in our region and this new approach allows us to share its story in a meaningful and sustainable way," Municipality of Cumberland Mayor Rod Gilroy said. "By focusing on guided experiences, cultural interpretation and the natural beauty of the site, we're creating an opportunity for visitors to truly connect with its history and landscape."

Visitors will be welcomed by seasonal staff during operating hours who will provide guided exterior tours, share the rich history of the area, and support the overall upkeep of the property. The former Inn and Restaurant buildings will be repurposed to serve as staff workspace and a visitor information area.

Guests will be invited to explore the historic grounds, enjoy short walking trails along the dramatic cliffs, and take in views of the powerful tidal currents far below. On-site guides will bring the landscape to life by sharing stories of the lighthouse, local geology, and the

maritime history that makes Cape d'Or such a remarkable coastal destination.

Operating under this model for the 2026 season will allow the Municipality to gather valuable visitor data to help inform future decisions regarding the long-term use and development of the property.

This updated approach is designed to protect the character of the site, enhance the visitor experience, and ensure responsible stewardship of this important community asset.

Further details, including hours of operation and tour information, will be shared in the coming months.



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Site preparations at All Saints Springhill Hospital

Site preparations begin in May at All Saints Springhill Hospital for the construction of a new six-station dialysis unit. This new unit is one of three dialysis units being built in Nova Scotia to help more patients receive dialysis treatment closer to home. The Government of Nova Scotia announced the units in September 2024.

The project will use a construction approach called Design for Manufacture and Assembly (DfMA), which allows the unit to be built off-site and assembled on hospital grounds. This approach helps reduce construction timelines and unforeseen delays often associated with traditional construction methods.

Site preparation work starts in May with modular units expected to arrive this summer. The new dialysis unit is anticipated to open in winter 2026.

What patients and visitors should know: All hospital services, including the Collaborative Emergency Centre, remain accessible;

Expect delays near the Horton Avenue hospital loop due to construction activity. Patients and visitors are encouraged to use Sproule Street or Princess Street when traveling to the hospital;

Traffic control points will be used during future module delivery and crane activity and Patients and visitors are asked to watch for crews, use caution and follow posted signage.

Nova Scotians Encouraged to be Prepared

Emergency Preparedness Week was May 3-9, and Nova Scotians were encouraged to prepare themselves and their household for emergencies.

"Emergencies are becoming more frequent and severe, which makes it even more important to be prepared. No matter the emergency, people need to be ready for evacuations, power outages or damage to their homes," said Kim Masland, Minister of Emergency Management. "Before an emergency happens, know your risks, make a plan and discuss it as a family, and build a grab-and-go bag to make sure you're ready if there's an evacuation. It's always a good idea to check on your neighbours and ensure they're also prepared."

Nova Scotians should be prepared for at least 72 hours without power or running water following an emergency such as a wildfire, hurricane or significant winter storm. People should have a household emergency kit on hand, as well as access to important personal documents.

A home emergency kit can be stored in a duffel bag or a plastic bin. It should be easy to access, and include the following items: an emergency plan; at least six litres of water per person (two litres per person, per day); canned and dry foods that won't spoil and can be eaten without cooking; manual can opener; first-aid supplies; at least a three-day supply of prescription medicines; wind-up or

battery-powered flashlight; wind-up or battery-powered radio; extra batteries for the flashlight and radio; money in small bills; copies of important documents such as driver's licence, birth certificate, passport, will and insurance papers.

It is also important for people to keep their vehicle's gas tank full and cell phones fully charged. People with pets may want to include pet food in their emergency kit. People are also encouraged to connect with their home insurer to understand what their insurance plan covers in the event of damage, such as flooding. Those with special medical considerations (for example, home oxygen) should confirm with their provider what they would need.

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