



## Cliff of Fundy Column: Finding Flowers in the Cliffs of Fundy UNESCO Geopark since 1940

The monthly "Cliffs Geopark Column" continues with this issue. The three collaborating authors: Tim Fedak, David Piper, and Caleb Grant have abandoned the space this month so Joan A. (McCulley/Czapalay) Cormier can be guest author for June. The "Geoscientists of the Geopark" can be reached at: [geoscience@fundygeopark.ca](mailto:geoscience@fundygeopark.ca)

By Joan A. (McCulley/Czapalay) Cormier

My love of Dandelions goes back to 1940 when I was not quite three years old. I saw a patch of golden flowers beside the back door. The clutch of bright yellow blossoms, I brought to my mother were given a place of honour in a handleless china cup and placed on the kitchen table. How fast they wilted, but how beautiful they were while growing in the grass. A lesson learned.

Our Geopark is rich with botanical diversity, and I am only beginning to learn of the variety of plant life. Here I will mention a few of the plants that I have found and loved through the years.

Spring is a special time for short lived (ephemeral) flowers.

My mother helped make May Baskets with pipe cleaner handles, for me and my best friend Ruth Allen, as her mother had done with her. We filled the little paper doily cones with Mayflowers (having cut the stems with scissors so as not to kill the plants) and went about our Port Greville neighbourhood to "surprise" older folk - Ma Allen at the Grand Hotel, Miss Seevy and her sister Mrs Blackwood at the Post Office, Miss Freda Elderkin next door, and Ruthie's Grandmother, Fanny Allen, who live next door to us, and her childhood best friend - my grandmother - Annie Smith Tibbetts. The custom was to knock loudly at the door in the early morning and then run away so folk would think the fairies brought the May baskets. Mayflowers and Dandelions flood me with happy memories.

After most of the vegetables, stored in sawdust in the root cellar, were looking tired and becoming flavourless by late March, my grammie would take a vegetable bucket and fill it with the fresh green dandelion leaves. They would be covered with fresh well water to which some baking soda was added, brought to a boil, then drained and cooked in fresh water. I was amazed that the bucket full of greens would cook down to a small lump of dark green mush. We would all have a saucer of greens to be enjoyed with a bit of butter and/or vinegar. The first green vegetable seen in a very long time.

As I grew up, the flowers that I loved most were those of the early spring. The Trout Lilies, Trilliums, Partridge Flowers, Twinflowers, and Lady Slipper Orchids.

Ruthie and I watched for signs of Rhubarb, to pick and suck on the tender young stems. We soon learned to tell it from Burdock! Everyone had a rhubarb patch and currant and gooseberry bushes in those days, and almost everyone had a vegetable garden.

Summer started with the flowering shrubs like Service Berry (Amelanchior) then Strawberry, Raspberry, Blueberry, Blackberry and Cranberry blossoms. (We knew where to go to pick our buckets full in season). I loved the Pasture Flowers, Blue Bells, Golden Glow (Jerusalem Artichoke, which were grown for their roots) and the profusion of summer flowers, ferns and shrubs.

When I started hiking in the area, I was amazed to see harebells along the road to the Cape D'Or Lighthouse, and learned from a visiting botanist that Cape D'Or was home to some very rare Alpine relic plants. These were located over a very steep part of the bank. Of course, I had to see and photograph them.

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### Notes from our Federal Capital One Year of Working TOGETHER!

One year ago, on May 16 2025, I was sworn in as the Member of Parliament for Cumberland-Colchester. 12 months in — it's a good time to slow down for a minute to look at what got done, and tell you plainly what a year of work in Ottawa has meant back here at home in Cumberland-Colchester.

It was certainly not a quiet year. Our neighbours to the south have been erratic — rocking the global economy on multiple occasions. They instituted illegal tariffs that rattled mills, fleets, and farms. Costs climbed at the grocery store and the gas pump. We all had moments this past year doing hard math at the kitchen table, and I'm not going to ignore those very real pressures. I'm very aware of what hard-times feel like. I know all-too-well that uncomfortable process of re-working a family budget for the third time in a month. And I want you to know that our new government in Ottawa has spent this last year laser-focused on actively responding to these ongoing threats from the south and ensuring that Canada can negotiate and operate from a position of strength moving forward.

The work wasn't always flashy, but a great deal got done. So

### Notes from our Provincial Capital Turning the Tide in Nova Scotia

By Premier Tim Houston

In 2014, a columnist at the Halifax Chronicle Herald noted the following: "A Montreal shipyard produced a 9,000 tonne merchant ship, from start to finish, in 58 days in the middle of the Second World War. Today, we could not organize public hearings in 58 days."

Twelve years later, has anything improved in our country?

The honest answer is: not enough. But it's coming. It has to.

In Nova Scotia, we feel the urgency. Our economy ranks near the bottom in North America based on GDP per capita. We do not belong in the basement, and it is not where we are going to stay.

We have faced real economic setbacks. The loss of major industries had lasting impacts on jobs, wages and growth and, for too long, we struggled to recover. While other regions moved quickly to develop their resources and build new industries, we often found ourselves delayed by debate and uncertainty.

Nova Scotia had bans on entire industries like uranium exploration and hydraulic fracturing for natural gas. These bans sent a message to industry that Nova Scotia was not a place that they

### Notes from our Provincial Capital It's green grass and pot hole season

It is a beautiful spring day here in Colchester North. I love the nice green grass, the trees are budding out, flowers are beginning to bloom and the apple blossoms will soon be along. It makes me really appreciate how fortunate we are to live in these beautiful rural communities.

Spring also brings with it some challenges, in particular rural gravel roads, potholes and dust. Given the large geographic area and spread-out population we have a much larger percentage of gravel roads than most. It is a challenge to keep them maintained.

The staff at Public Works, more specifically, road grader operators continually work to maintain them. I wish to give a basic outline of this procedure. Each year as we move from winter to spring the gravel roads are typically full of potholes and soft spots. Public Works and my office get lots of calls requesting grading so I wish to explain the system. I fully understand residents' desire and frustration.

To be efficient they must have a system. As soon as possible the graders get out and touch up the roads. The roads can not be properly graded and really cut deep enough to cut the potholes out as

### Notes from our Provincial Capital New defence investments creating good jobs

May has been a very busy month. I wish to highlight a variety of topics of interest to constituents of Truro-Millbrook-Bible Hill-Salmon River and elsewhere throughout Colchester.

**Canada's Capital of Defence:** Nova Scotia is the Defence Capital of Canada and we are building on that strength. With new defence investments and growing opportunities in shipbuilding, aerospace, and innovation, we are creating good jobs and driving economic growth right here at home. This is about more than defence. It is about stronger communities, a more resilient economy, and a future where Nova Scotians can build their careers here. We have the people, the expertise, and the opportunity. And we are making sure Nova Scotia leads.

Here are the sites and facilities which contribute to make Nova Scotia Canada's Defence Capital, which we are proud to defend: 5th Canadian Division Training Centre Aldershot; CFB Greenwood (14 Wing Greenwood); Canadian Coast Guard Cutters Digby Neck; Port of Yarmouth and Yarmouth International Airport; CFB Halifax; Spaceport Nova Scotia (Maritime Launch Services); Strait of Canso, NSCC Nautical Institute and Port of Sydney, CCG Arctic Icebreakers

### let's walk through it: Putting Money In Your Pocket:

**KILLED THE CARBON TAX:** The combination of an eliminated consumer carbon tax & a suspended fuel excise tax saved you \$0.28/litre at the pumps.

**CUT INCOME TAX:** Saving families roughly \$840 each year.

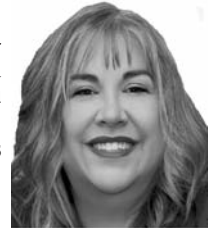
**CUT GST FOR FIRST TIME HOME BUYERS:** First-time buyers of newly built homes can now skip GST — up to \$50,000 in savings.

**A NEW CANADA DISABILITY BENEFIT:** Paying out up to \$2,400 a year for working-age Canadians with disabilities. If you or a family member might qualify, we can help you sort the paperwork.

### Standing Up for Farmers & Fishers:

**SUPPLY MANAGEMENT, PERMANENTLY PROTECTED:** We made it official that dairy, poultry, and egg quotas cannot be part of the bargaining process in any future trade deal.

**\$957 MILLION INVESTMENT IN SMALL HARBOURS:** The



Alana Hirtle

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could do business.

As a result, resource development stayed out west. Many Nova Scotians either moved out west to find work or made a tough decision to raise their families on a two-week rotation.

By lifting these bans and modernizing approvals, we are showing industry that they can be successful here and, in doing so, providing Nova Scotians more opportunities at home.

And industry is taking note. A company led by a Nova Scotian has stepped forward with a bid of more than \$210 million to explore oil and gas here in our offshore.

By making Nova Scotia business friendly through cutting red tape and modernizing approval processes, we can grow our economy and create jobs, all while protecting the environment.

When we show the world that Nova Scotia is a place to do business, people listen.

This momentum goes further than just oil and gas. In critical

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Tim Houston

some sections are still frozen and others are soft. To ensure efficiency the graders start at one end of their area and work their way to the other end and they do the higher traffic volume roads first and then as they work their way back they get the lower volume roads. That has pretty much been completed. By now the frost is out and the dust has begun!

Graders are now beginning the proper grading and shaping of the roads to prepare them for summer followed by chloride for dust control and stabilization. As I said before I understand the frustration but this all takes time. I know this is boring to many but I just wanted to explain the system and try to help folks understand the challenges that public works staff face in maintaining our gravel roads. Moving to paved roads, spring is pothole season for them as well. The severity of our winter and the amount of salt applied to our roads directly impact the severity and number of potholes on these roads. The freeze thaw cycle of the salt application allows snow melt to get into the cracks in the

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Tom Taggart

Maintenance Facility.

**0% Interest Student Loan Program:** Nova Scotia graduates no longer need to reapply to keep their provincial student loans interest-free.

The Province has streamlined its zero per cent interest program, removing the annual application requirement for all new graduates and ensuring continuous support for eligible borrowers during their repayment period. The program supports graduates who remain in Nova Scotia after completing their studies. Before this change, graduates had to reapply each year to confirm they were still eligible. Learn more: <https://news.novascotia.ca/.../nova-scotia-simplifies..>

**New Online Service for MSI, Pharmacare:** Nova Scotia has launched a new web-based portal that allows people to update their Medical Services Insurance (MSI) information, renew a health card, register for programs and submit inquiries and forms electronically. People can access MSI Online using any internet-enabled

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Dave Ritcey

## Notice to Readers and Advertisers Upcoming Deadlines and Publishing Dates

Issue	Deadline	Published
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