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UNESCO Tourism Corridor Receives \$309,500

By Maurice Rees

Connecting Atlantic Canada's UNESCO wonders to the world Investment supports creation of an Atlantic UNESCO Tourism Corridor led by the Fundy Biosphere Region received \$309,500 to connect 13 UNESCO sites in Atlantic Canada comprising 7 World Heritage Sites (WHS); 3 Global Geoparks and 3 Biosphere Regions.

Canadian tourism had a record-breaking year in 2025, with Atlantic Canada emerging as one of the country's

strongest performing regions. The sector is creating jobs, driving innovation, and powering economic growth across the region, and the Government of Canada is building on this momentum by investing in initiatives that strengthen and connect Atlantic Canada's world-class attractions

February 19th, Alana Hirtle, Member of Parliament for Cumberland - Colchester, announced a federal investment to establish the Atlantic Canada UNESCO Tourism Corridor (\$309,500). The an-

ouncement was made on behalf of the Honourable Sean Fraser, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada and Minister responsible for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency.

Led by the Fundy Biosphere Region, the corridor connects 13 UNESCO-designated sites across Atlantic Canada and is creating new opportunities for tourism and economic growth throughout the region. Through collaborative development, experience building, and coordinated mar-

keting, the corridor showcases the regions' world-class geological, cultural, and ecological destinations, while helping visitors discover authentic stories rooted in the land and the people who have shaped it.

This initiative puts Destination Canada's Atlantic UNESCO Tourism Corridor Strategy into action by strengthening cooperation among provinces, communities, and industry partners. Together, they are advancing

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Martell Becomes NSRBA, Executive Director

By Maurice Rees

Sherry Martell has been selected as the new incoming Executive Director of the Nova Scotia Road Builders Association (NSRBA). The announcement was made at the AGM of the Association in Halifax on January 21. Sherry Martell, current Colchester District 7 Councilor and former Truro and Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director will replace Grant Feltmate, who is retiring after 18-years at the helm.

Sherry Martell

The pair will work as a leadership team during a transition period with plans for Martell to step fully into the Executive Director's role on April 1. The Board will be led in 2026 by newly elected president Graham Clark, of Cumberland Paving and Contracting.

As part of the Association's AGM and conference, two awards recognizing a commitment to workplace safety were awarded. Ron Chisholm Hydro-Seeding Limited was named as the overall winner of the 2025 safety contest receiving the WCB Accident Prevention Shield and Elmsdale Landscaping Limited received the HWL Doane Award for greatest improvement in accident frequency rate.

The Association also presented an Honourary Lifetime Membership to Lloyd Bonang, President and Owner of South Shore Ready Mix Limited. Bonang is one of the pioneers in the ready-mix concrete industry in Atlantic Canada, expanding his more than 60-year legacy to include six companies.

Martell is an accomplished executive director, journalist and entrepreneur with extensive expertise in advocacy, governance and financial management. Throughout her career, she has earned a reputation for operational excellence, strategic communication and innovative project planning.

With more than 15 years in senior leadership roles, Martell has spearheaded major projects in multi-media journalism, economic development, trades training and tourism.

Media contact: Grant Feltmate, Executive Director, Nova Scotia Road Builders Association, 902-499-7278, grant@nsrba.ca



Alana Hirtle, the Member of Parliament for Cumberland—Colchester, on February 19, 2026 at the Joggins Fossil Cliffs Visitor Centre announced financial support to establish the Atlantic Canada UNESCO Tourism Corridor, which will create new opportunities for tourism and economic growth throughout the region. The announcement will be made on behalf of the Honourable Sean Fraser, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada and Minister responsible for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency. Shown in group photo following the announcement are: (L-R) Marc Kiely, Director - Community Development, Town of Lunenburg; Claude DeGrâce, Executive Director, Landscape of Grand Pré; Ron Kelly Spurles, Tantramanager of Tourism and Business Development; Dr. Jennifer Dingman, Executive Director, Fundy Biosphere Region and Stonehammer Geopark; Naomi Ani, Strategic Engagement Manager, Fundy Biosphere Region; Alana Hirtle, Member of Parliament for Cumberland - Colchester; Darlene Rathburn, Joggins Improvement Committee; Dr. Jade Atkins, Curator, Director of Science & Research, Joggins Fossil Cliffs; (directly behind Jade): Alison Strachan, Municipal Councilor, Town of Lunenburg; Graeme Stewart-Robertson, Director of Policy and Research, Fundy Regional Service Commission; Danielle Serratos, Director and Curator for Fundy Geological Museum and Jordan LeBlanc, Director of Operations, Joggins Fossil Cliffs. (Contributed)

Chamber Looking for New Directors

The Truro and Colchester Chamber of Commerce is currently seeking engaged and community-minded individuals to join the Board of Directors. Those interested in helping guide the future of the Chamber are encouraged to call the Chamber of visit the chamber's website clicking on the Expression of Interest form button.

While all applications are welcome, first consideration will be given to candidates who represent one or more of the following areas: businesses with 1-2 employees, entrepreneurs, retail, food and beverage, or automotive.

The chambers AGM will be held March 12th at 11 am at the Best Western Glengarry. Luncheon will follow. Speaker is Leanne MacLean - BDC. Member Luncheon: \$35; Non-Member Luncheon: \$50. To order tickets:

ec@tcchamber.ca.
Deadline is February 26th.

Harbourside Awarded \$339,000 Contract

By Maurice Rees

Timber Restoration Services (TRS) and Wood Research Development (WRD) were awarded at \$7.9-Million contract for design and construction of the Fundy Discovery Site Pedestrian Active Transportation Bridge (FDS) in June 2025.

In an earlier application the Municipality was successful in an application to the federal / provincial Investing in Canada's Infrastructure Program (ICIP) that will finance 73.3% (upwards \$6-Million) of the total project cost. Colchester would

be responsible for the remaining amount of 26.7% (slightly over 2-Million).

In addition to design and construction contract, the ICIP funding program required the Municipality to engage a third-party project manager to act on the owner's behalf and ensure all quality control, scheduling, testing, contract administration, permit and contracting oversight is achieved. The June 2025 Action Item identified a budget of \$514,866 for this purpose.

A Request for Proposals was issued for Project Management

Services in late September of last year and closed at the end of October 2025. The contract was awarded to Harbourside at \$339,000. It is worth noting that the award of project management services is under budget by \$176,000 although a small portion of this will be needed for materials testing.

While slightly more than the low bid of \$318,340, the Municipality has had exceptional experience with the firm who presently manage the solar PV projects underway (or com-

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