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Corey Skinner, manager of recreation programs and services at the Dr. Carson & Marion Murray Community Centre in Springhill, explains to students from Dalhousie University's Earth and Environmental Sciences program how geothermal energy is used within the facility. Darrell Cole – Municipality of Cumberland photo (see story and photos here on page 1 and page 4.

OSIP floating platform concept illustration

New Funding to Advance Tidal Energy Monitoring in the Bay of Fundy

New Funding to Advance Tidal Energy Monitoring in the Bay of Fundy

Today, Natural Resources Canada announced \$8.2M in funding to support the Ocean Sensor Innovation Platforms (OSIP) project (image below). OSIP will bring together developers, scientists, technologists, Indigenous Knowledge Holders, and regulators to advance environmental sensing solutions for high-flow marine environments.

Led by the Fundy Ocean Research Centre for Energy (FORCE), OSIP will deploy an autonomous, floating platform for sea-surface environmental monitoring as well as submersible sensor systems deployed on the seafloor. In future tidal turbine deployments, sensors and methods tested by these platforms will capture essential data on fish-turbine interactions, addressing one of tidal energy's greatest challenges: accurately measuring and monitoring risk to marine species.

Why OSIP matters

Communities, regulators, and developers need trusted evidence to evaluate the effects of tidal energy. OSIP is designed to:

- Test and compare new uses for instruments such as optical cameras, imaging sonars, and acoustic receivers in high-flow conditions.
- Analyze multiple datasets to create a more complete picture of marine life near turbines.
- Trial rapid, wireless sea-to-shore data transfer to improve real-time monitoring.

This work will help reduce uncertainty, inform project authorization decisions, attract investment and support responsible tidal energy growth.

Collaboration at the core
OSIP is built on partnership:

Natural Resources Canada is supporting OSIP through its

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New Fire Rescue Vehicle Tidnish Bridge

By Darrell Cole

The Municipality of Cumberland is continuing to make investments in its fire service.

The Tidnish Bridge Volunteer Fire Department recently took delivery of a 2024 Ford F550, four-door, 4-wheel drive rescue vehicle that will enhance the department's ability to respond to emergency calls in its coverage area along the Northumberland Strait.

"It means a lot to our department. We're replacing a 49-year-old rescue truck that was the first truck purchased by the department back in 1976," chief Mike Coffin said. "It gives us more capability and more reliability."

Coffin said the vehicle will have multiple uses including carrying the department's forestry gear for fighting woodland fires and be the primary response vehicle out of the sub-station in Linden.

"It's four-wheel drive, which are old one isn't," he said. "That gives us a lot more capabilities in bad weather and getting us into some back roads and remote areas."

Coffin said the Tidnish area along the shore is continuing to grow with more residents choosing to stay in the summer cottages year-round.

District 2 Coun. Anthony Fromm said the rescue vehicle is a welcome addition.

"It's great to see smaller fire departments getting access to new equipment they so desperately need," Fromm said. "The county is working very hard to replace old equipment.

The county has purchased six new trucks in the last two and a half years and three more are coming."

Parrsboro is set to receive a new light rescue truck, similar to Tidnish's, in January 2026, Pugwash is scheduled to receive a new pumper truck in the summer of 2026 and Springhill will be receiving a new pumper tanker truck in April 2027.

The total cost of these three vehicles is just under \$2 million.

Mayor Rod Gilroy, who used to represent the area as a district councillor, said this investment is the latest example in the municipality's commitment to enhancing and modernizing its fire departments.

"It's something we've talked about a long time and its been on our radar for many years," Gilroy said. "We've replaced a 1976 truck with a brand new unit and it looks great."

"They're a great group of volunteers and a fantastic department. They're out their working in the community and are the first line of defence not only for fighting fires but for medical first responding and other things in that north shore area. They wear many hats and it's great to be able to support them."

With more people living along the shore between Tidnish and Port Howe, Gilroy said, this new unit will be able to get down cottage roads

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Chief Mike Coffin said the vehicle will have multiple uses including carrying the department's forestry gear for fighting woodland fires and be the primary response vehicle out of the sub-station in Linden. Darrell Cole – Municipality of Cumberland photo

Dal Geo-Science Students learn about GEO-Thermal

By Darrell Cole

Geo-science students from Dalhousie University's Earth and Environmental Sciences program, including students from Texas, China and Nigeria, visited the community on Friday, Sept. 19, 2025, visited the Dr. Carson & Marion Murray Community Centre and the miners' museum to learn more about the area's mining heritage and how Springhill has taken advantage of geothermal energy from the mines.

"This gives the students an opportunity to learn more about the natural resource and the wealth of energy systems we have in the province, including geothermal," professor Grant Wach said. "This is a wonderful example of geothermal in Nova Scotia."

"In my mind geothermal is the greenest of renewable energy in that you're not damming up rivers or using fossil fuels, you're just using the natural heat in the Earth through the water."

Geothermal energy is generated by extracting heat from underground sources. In Nova Scotia, abandoned mines that are at least 1,000 metres deep have warm water that can be used to heat homes and other buildings. Cumberland County is already successfully using geothermal technology in shallow depths at sites that have potential at deeper levels.

The community centre, the NSCC Cumberland campus, Mauser Packaging and Surrette Battery are just some examples of how Springhill has taken advantage of geothermal energy.

Geothermal energy from the mine workings helps chill the ice at the Richard Calder Arena inside the community centre while waste heat from this process is used to provide radiant heat to the building.

Wach maintains the community is perfectly positioned to provide a green energy source in the energy corridor that runs through the area and includes wind and solar energy and the continued study

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