



celebrating  
connections

YEAR IN REVIEW

2025



TRURO  
make the connection

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## MAYOR'S MESSAGE

With 2025 behind us, I am pleased to share an update on a year marked by reflection, recognition, and meaningful progress in the Town of Truro. This year held special significance as we celebrated the 150th anniversary of our Town's incorporation, a milestone that encouraged us to look back on our origins and honour individuals whose contributions had, for far too long, gone unrecognized.

In this milestone year, we were proud to pay overdue tribute to leadership that helped shape our community. One of the most meaningful steps forward was the renaming of the former TAAC Grounds as the No. 2 Construction Battalion Athletic Facility, ensuring their historic legacy is acknowledged prominently and permanently. We also named our fire hall the George Jones Memorial Fire Station, celebrating a community builder whose early leadership in forming Truro's first bucket brigade created the foundation for the Truro Fire Service.

Throughout 2025, much of our work aligned with priorities set out in our new Strategic Plan. We advanced efforts to create vibrant public spaces, support a strong and diverse local economy, and invest in modern, reliable infrastructure. Community matters and our 150th celebrations and events reflected the plan's focus on building a connected and engaged town, bringing residents and visitors together in meaningful ways as we look to the future, moving forward together.

We also continued to care for Truro's natural spaces. This included planting 296 new trees across parks and green areas and carrying out conservation work in our beloved Victoria Park. Teams treated 10 hectares of the park to address Hemlock Woolly Adelgid and planted 8,700 seedlings. These efforts support the long-term health and resilience of one of our region's most treasured natural assets.

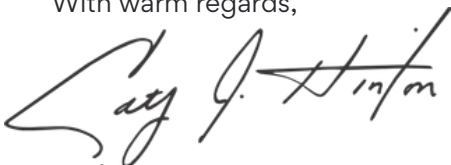
Like many communities across Nova Scotia, we faced challenges in 2025. Rising costs, pressures on housing and infrastructure, and the impacts of severe weather required careful planning and collaboration and having a safe community. I am proud of how our staff, partners, and local organizations responded with dedication resilience and caring hearts, reflecting the plan's focus on strong governance and effective service delivery.

As we enter 2026, the Strategic Plan will continue to guide our work. Our goals include advancing key infrastructure improvements, supporting business growth and tourism, expanding recreation and mobility options, and strengthening partnerships that contribute to community well-being. Above all, we remain committed to building a thriving, welcoming and resilient town for current and future generations.

As we welcome a new year, my sincere thanks to everyone who contributed to Truro's successes in 2025. I look forward to building on this year's momentum as we continue shaping a strong, vibrant, and caring community.

My sincere wish for a safe and happy New Year and please continue to be kind to each other and to our town.

With warm regards,



Cathy Hinton  
Mayor of Truro



# CELEBRATING TRURO'S 150<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

In 2025, Truro marked a big milestone, 150 years since becoming an incorporated town in 1875. What started as a small but growing community at the heart of Colchester has become the busy, welcoming town we know today. This anniversary gave the Town the chance to look back at where we've come from, celebrate who we are, and bring people together for a year full of special moments.

All year long, Truro 150 was added to many well-loved events. From seasonal celebrations to long-running community favourites, the anniversary theme showed up in branding, activities, and little details that helped make familiar events feel a bit more special.

The Town also introduced a few new ways for people to connect with Truro's history and with one another:



## Truro150 Mayor & Council Soup Lunch

One of the coziest events of the year, this community lunch invited residents to join Mayor and Council at the Truro Fire Hall for bowls of warm soup and friendly conversation. It was simple, welcoming, and a great reminder of how connected our community really is.

## Heritage Walking Tours with the Colchester Historeum

The Historeum brought Truro's past to life through a series of guided walking tours. People got the chance to explore historic streets, learn about the town's early families and architecture, and see familiar places in a new way. The tours were well attended and became a fun addition to the summer.



## Cupcakes at the Hub

In May, the Town kicked off the celebrations with free Truro-themed cupcakes at the Hub Mall. It brought a lot of smiles and set the tone for a year of community pride and togetherness.



Overall, Truro's 150th anniversary was about more than just a number. It was a chance to celebrate our shared history and highlight what makes Truro special.

# NO.2 CONSTRUCTION BATTALION RENAMING AND MONUMENT UNVEILING

In 2025, the Town of Truro proudly renamed the former TAAC Grounds to the No. 2 Construction Battalion Athletic Facility, honouring the legacy of Canada's only all-Black battalion of the First World War. Formed in 1916, the No. 2 Construction Battalion was originally headquartered in Pictou before moving to Truro. The site of the No. 2 Construction Battalion Athletic Facility was the former parade and drilling grounds for the Battalion and the site of the National Apology in 2022. Despite facing racism and discrimination at home and abroad, the men of the Battalion served with determination and skill, supporting the war effort through essential labour, engineering, and forestry work in Europe. Their perseverance remains a powerful part of our national and local history.

This renaming followed a community-driven process and naming contest, inviting residents, students, and community groups to share ideas. The selected name was inspired by names from students at Truro Middle School and the Afrocentric Aspiring Leaders Youth Group at CEC. We extend our gratitude to the descendants of the No. 2 Construction Battalion, the African Nova Scotian community, and the African Nova Scotian Community Strategy Committee for their guidance, participation, and leadership throughout this process.

On November 8, 2025, the Town officially renamed the site and unveiled a monument with educational panels to commemorate the No. 2 Construction Battalion. The Town of Truro, through the African Nova Scotian Community Strategy Committee, hosted the event, which included speeches and a reception, recognizing the Battalion's perseverance. The renaming and memorial reflect the Town's ongoing commitment to honouring local history and ensuring that the men of the No. 2 Construction Battalion, who served with courage, dignity, and resilience, continue to be recognized for generations to come.



# GEORGE JONES MEMORIAL FIRE STATION



This year, through the African Nova Scotia Committee Strategy Committee, the Town proudly supported the naming of the Town's fire station to the George Jones Memorial Fire Station, recognizing a community leader whose early efforts helped shape Truro's fire service.

In 1860, George Jones, a local Black barber, brought together many prominent citizens to gain support to form Truro's first "Bucket Company," laying the groundwork for the modern department. We thank Nevin Jackson, a member of the Town's African Nova Scotian Strategy Committee, for his leadership on this project.

## NEW PUMP TRACK IN THE RAILYARD

The Railyard Mountain Bike Park, in the south end of Victoria Park, is now home to an exciting new addition for outdoor enthusiasts: a Velosolutions Pump Track. More than just a track, it's a playground and training ground for bikers, skateboarders, and scooter riders of all skill levels. Its smooth asphalt design allows riders to progress at their own pace, whether they're beginners learning the basics or experienced riders seeking a new challenge.

While construction finished in 2025, finishing touches, including the painting of lines and directional arrows, are planned for the spring of 2026 to enhance both safety and usability. Once complete, this new pump track will open to the public.

This innovative project was made possible with the support of the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency.





# URBAN FORESTRY & FOREST MANAGEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

The Town's Urban Forestry team had a busy and productive year, with major progress in tree planting, forest health, and long-term canopy development.

One of the most significant efforts this year focused on protecting Victoria Park's hemlock stands from Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA). A dedicated team of 11 staff were trained in HWA conservation and treatment techniques, and together they carried out prophylactic treatments across 10 hectares of the park. This work is an important step in safeguarding one of the park's most iconic tree species.

Tree planting continued to be a priority across town. Thanks to funding support from CN Rail and Tree Canada, the Town planted 296 new trees across nine parks and green spaces, as well as on private properties through the popular Free Tree Program.

Residents also continued to make great use of the Tree Planting Rebate Program, now in its 19th year. The program continues to be an effective way to expand canopy cover on private properties, and participation remained high throughout 2025.

To support more resilient planting, the Tree Planting Program's Species List was updated and expanded to include 35 species, including several near-native options chosen for climate adaptability and long-term sustainability.

Due to early-season drought, the Town deployed tree watering bags on newly planted and high-priority trees. This simple tool made a big difference in ensuring young trees had the moisture they needed to establish.

Forest safety and health also remained a focus. Through the Hazard Tree Program, 56 street trees were pruned or removed last winter to address structural issues, protect infrastructure, and reduce risks. The Town also continued its response to Dutch Elm Disease, removing 76 infected elms to help prevent further spread.

Reforestation efforts in Victoria Park continued as well, with 8,700 new seedlings planted throughout the park.

# URBAN DEER MANAGEMENT CONTINUES IN 2025

In 2025, the Town of Truro continued its commitment to addressing urban deer overpopulation through the Controlled Urban Deer Hunt, now in its fifth year. This initiative is part of the Town's Deer Management Strategy, aimed at reducing deer-related conflicts, protecting natural ecosystems, and improving public safety.

The hunt program ran from the end of September until mid-December under the strict guidance and permitting of the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources. It reflects a collaborative approach, with key partnerships including Millbrook First Nation, Dalhousie University, and Feed Nova Scotia. These partnerships ensure that the hunt is conducted ethically, sustainably, and with community benefits in mind.

In 2025, two new hunting sites were added, including the first location within Truro's urban core. This strategic expansion aimed to address the growing deer populations in central areas, complementing existing sites on the Town's periphery. Through the 2025 program, a total of 88 deer were harvested, representing the highest annual harvest achieved through the program to date. The addition of this urban suite contributed significantly to the annual increase in the number of deer harvested.

Since its inception, more than 200 deer have been harvested through the program. In 2025, all deer harvested from the Town-managed sites were donated to Feed Nova Scotia, supporting food banks across the province. Additional harvests by Millbrook First Nation were shared within their community through land-based learning programs that teach traditional harvesting and processing skills. The program also minimizes waste: hides are donated to Millbrook First Nation, and other animal parts contribute to provincial and national research initiatives.

The Controlled Hunt addresses pressing concerns such as deer-vehicle collisions, property damage, and public health risks, including Lyme disease. While residents are encouraged to adapt to living with deer long term, the Town emphasizes that not feeding deer remains the most effective individual action to support population control.

In 2025, the Town's population counts generally concluded that while the 2025 counts are lower than the peak years of 2020 and 2021, the count is still higher than the average found in 2018 and is still significantly higher than those found in the larger regional area in any year from 2017 to 2024, and is approximately double in most years.

The Town of Truro extends its gratitude to all partners and residents for their continued support of this important initiative.

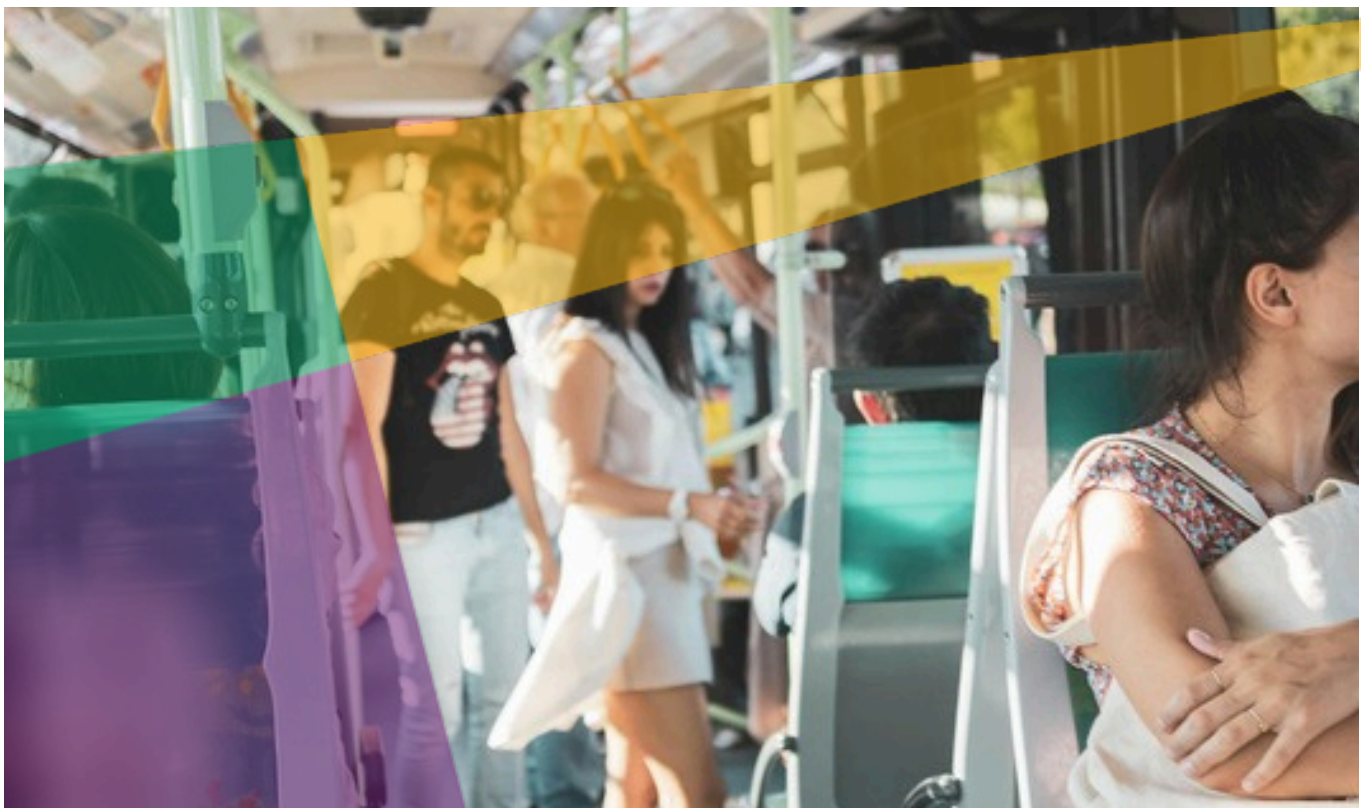
# PUBLIC TRANSIT FEASIBILITY IN TRURO AND COLCHESTER

In 2025, the Town of Truro and Municipality of Colchester advanced a joint Regional Public Transit Feasibility Study to explore service models that improve mobility, reduce emissions, and strengthen economic resilience. The study is funded through the Sustainable Communities Challenge Fund, with local contributions from both municipalities. Arcadis, supported by Colliers Project Leaders, led technical analysis and engagement.

The study began in January, with public input gathered during the spring and fall, through surveys, pop-up events, and stakeholder sessions. Through this engagement, residents highlighted that current options often require long booking lead times and lack evening service, creating barriers for equity-deserving residents. Employers also cited challenges with commuting to industrial areas like Debert, underscoring the need for dependable transit.

When complete, the study will assess current transportation needs, equity gaps, and travel demand. The study will also analyze service delivery models (including fixed-route, on-demand, and zero-emission options), design network concepts, and evaluate infrastructure requirements. Key deliverables include a Travel Demand Synthesis, Engagement Summary, Transit Service Plan, Financial Sustainability Plan, Impact Assessment Report, and a comprehensive final report.

The study will provide a business case, governance recommendations, and an implementation roadmap, positioning the region for sustainable, accessible transit that supports long-term growth and climate goals. Arcadis will finalize the report in early 2026. Councils will review recommendations and determine the potential for implementation.



# 2025 TOWN BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

Residential Tax Rate - \$1.85/\$100 Assessment

Commercial Tax Rate - \$4.50/\$100 Assessment

Residential Road Preservation Tax Rate  
\$0.0525/\$100 Assessment

Commercial Road Preservation Tax Rate  
\$0.0475/\$100 Assessment

Operating Budget - \$39.8 Million

Capital Budget - \$13 Million

Transfer to Province | Education - \$3.5 Million

RECC - \$750,000

TCPEP - \$99,776

Deed Transfer Tax increased to 1.5% from 1.0%

Sewer Charge increased by 0.05 cents

## RETIREMENTS

In 2025, the Town of Truro celebrated the careers of two long-serving employees as they embarked on a well-earned retirement. We are deeply grateful for their years of dedication, commitment, and service to our community.

Andrew MacKinnon – 38 years | Public Works & Engineering

Bill White – 24 years | Public Works & Engineering

We extend our heartfelt thanks to both Andrew and Bill for their exceptional contributions and wish them all the best in this next chapter.



# DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENTS 2025

In 2025, Council approved six Development Agreements supporting residential growth, commercial development, and community services across Truro. These approvals included:

**60 Golf Street:** A 5-storey multi-unit residential building with 59 dwelling units and a mix of above and below grade parking.

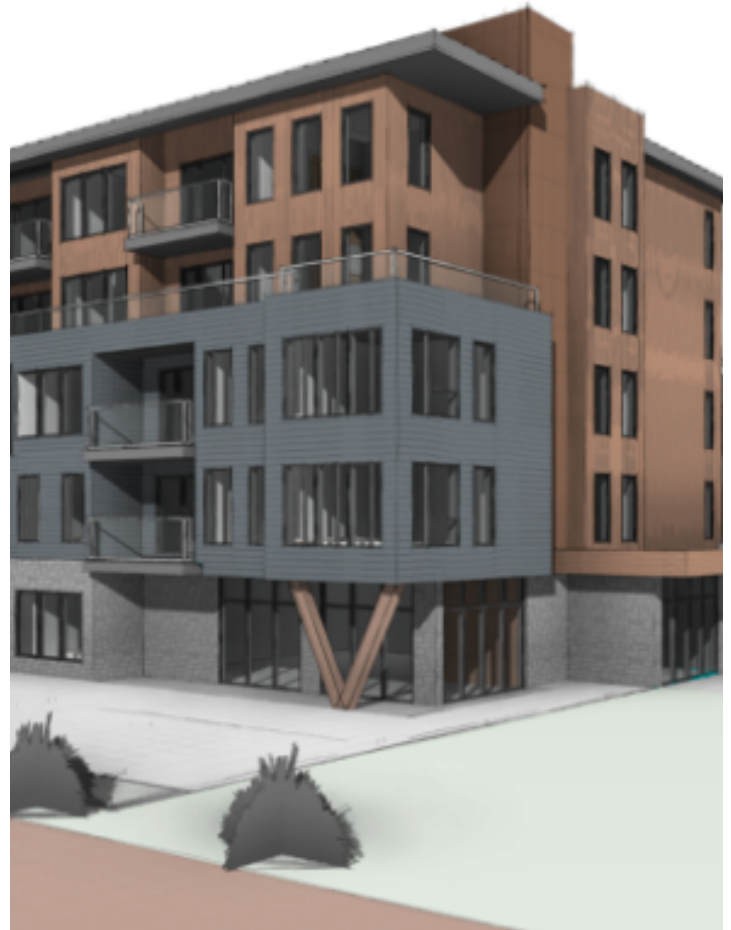
**245 Robie Street:** A new commercial building on a pad site near the mall, including a reduction in required parking.

**730 Young Street:** A large-scale residential development consisting of 287 dwelling units across 19 buildings, including townhouses and 4-storey multi-unit buildings.

**199 Willow Street:** An amendment to a 2008 Development Agreement to permit a change from a flat roof to a pitched roof.

**155 Arthur Street:** A cat-only veterinary care clinic supporting specialized animal health services.

**201 Kaulback Street:** A 5-storey multi-unit residential building containing 64 dwelling units.



## 2025 BUILDING PERMIT STATS

During 2025, the Town of Truro issued a total of 119 building permits with a total construction value of \$40.2 million.

Residential - \$25,427,706  
Commercial - \$14,407,377  
Industrial - \$327,300  
Institutional/Government - \$80,000

TOTAL = \$40,242,383

# STREET AND SIDEWALKS



In 2025, the Town of Truro continued to invest in the maintenance and improvement of streets and essential services. Capital projects were guided by three key priorities: revitalizing streets in poor condition, preserving existing infrastructure, and upgrading water and sewer systems to support reliable service delivery.

## Street Revitalization

Work began in August on the \$1.8 million recapitalization of Cobequid Drive. This project included the replacement of aging sanitary sewer mains, the installation of new storm sewer infrastructure to reduce pressure on the existing system, new concrete curbing, and full street reconstruction. Due to an early onset of winter weather, construction will be completed in the spring 2026.

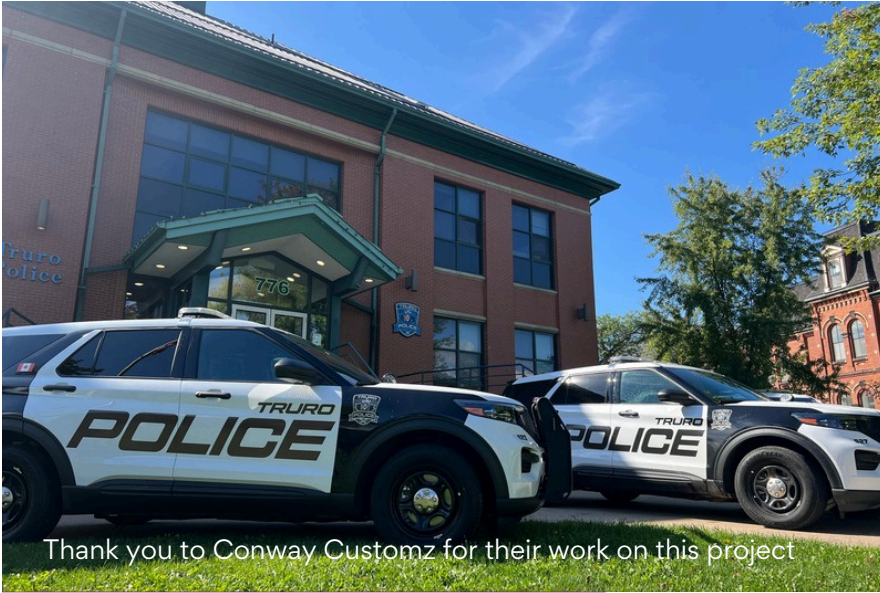
## Street Preservation

Throughout the year, the Town invested approximately \$676,000 in street preservation projects aimed at extending the life of local roads through pavement overlays, milling, and repaving. Completed projects included:

- Willow Street (Arthur Street to Victoria Street) – \$114,000
- Prince Street (Wood Street to Aberdeen Street) – \$138,000
- George Street – \$85,000
- Martha Avenue (Brunswick Street to 58 Martha Street) – \$117,000
- Prince Street (Willow Street to Arlington Place) – \$162,000
- Duke Street (Willow Street to King Street) - \$60,000



# TRURO POLICE SERVICE'S UPDATED VEHICLES



Thank you to Conway Customz for their work on this project

Throughout 2025, the Truro Police Service introduced new vehicle graphics—the first update since 2008. The refreshed design improves visibility, especially at night, and ensures the fleet is easily identifiable in the community.

The new design was awarded as one of the Best Dressed Police Vehicles in Canada by Canada's national law enforcement publication, *Blueline Magazine*. The new graphic named third looking new police vehicle in Canada in 2025.

## TRURO POLICE INTRODUCE A NEW CANINE

The Truro Police Service is proud to introduce Beau, a newly certified police canine! Beau, a year-and-a-half-old German Shepherd born in Europe, officially graduated from the Halifax Regional Police General Purpose Police Dog Course, and is now an operational K9 team member alongside Cst. Baker. Trained with the support of the Halifax Regional Police Canine Unit, Beau developed skills in tracking, detection, and search to assist in locating missing persons, finding evidence, and enhancing community safety.

The name Beau, meaning “handsome” in French, was selected with the help of students at École acadienne de Truro.

Beau follows in the pawprints of Mojo, Truro Police Service's previous police canine, who served nearly six years before retiring. Mojo now enjoys a well-earned retirement with a former police officer who adopted him after his dedicated service.

Welcome to the team, Beau! We are excited to see him grow into his role and continue Truro Police Service's proud tradition of canine service.



# TAAC REVITALIZATION PROJECT NEARING THE FINISH LINE IN 2025

The TAAC Ground Revitalization Project, which began in 2023, is now nearing completion after continued development through 2024 and 2025. This exciting initiative involved redeveloping the grounds on Golf Street and creating a new senior baseball field on Argus Drive. Both projects are nearly complete, with a few small items left to finish in 2026.

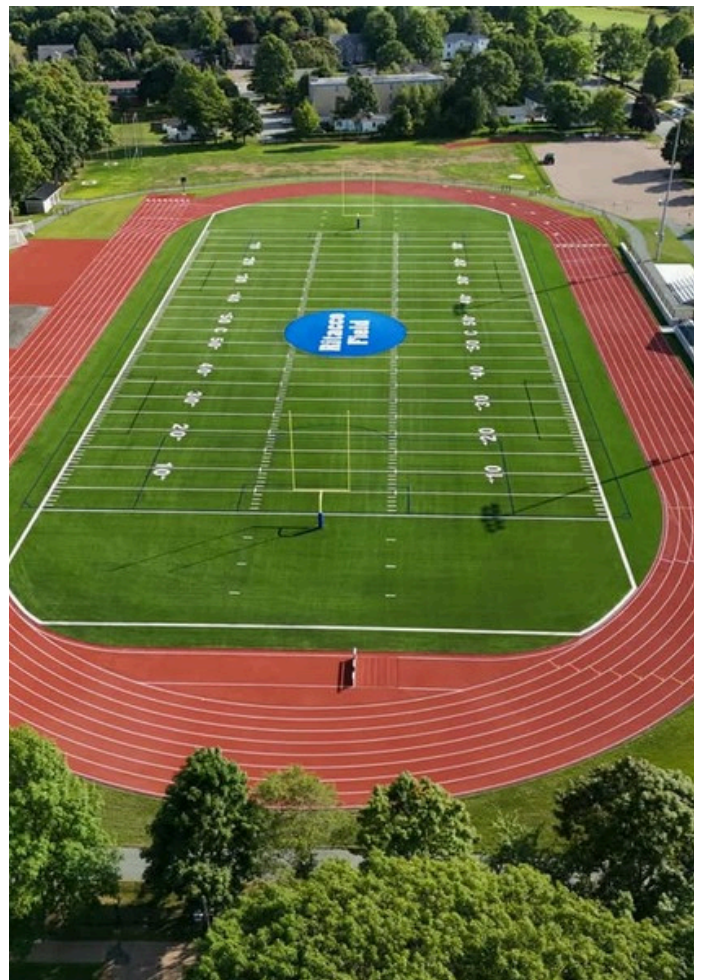
Upgrades at Golf Street include an all-weather field, a synthetic 8-lane track, and regulation throwing areas. The all-weather field and synthetic track were substantially finished in September and have already hosted Truro Minor Football games with great reviews.

The baseball field, located at the former Golf Street site, has moved to a new location off Argus Drive. This is a state-of-the-art, senior-sized diamond designed to meet championship standards. Replacing the outdated field at the original TAAC Grounds, this modern facility boasts enhanced accessibility, top-tier playing surfaces, and a design built to host regional competitions.



In 2022, the Town received \$5.87 million from the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program to help fund the project. Additional support came from the Town of Truro, the Municipality of the County of Colchester, and a strong community fundraising effort. Sponsors will be recognized throughout the new facilities.

A playground will also be installed at the newly revitalized No. 2 Construction Battalion Athletic Facility in 2026.



# TOWN COUNCIL SUPPORTS THE LAUNCH OF CENTRAL NOVA SCOTIA TOURISM DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY

In 2024, the County of Colchester and the Town of Truro, in partnership with the Town of Stewiacke and Millbrook First Nation, proactively facilitated Tourism Atlantic's (ACOA) Strategic Tourism Expansion Program (STEP) to develop a Regional Strategic Tourism Plan. Approved by all partners in February and March 2025, the plan identifies shared opportunities and establishes a long-term, sustainable approach to tourism development across the region.

Building on this work, the four partners worked together to establish the Central Nova Scotia Tourism Development Society. The Society was created to lead the implementation of the STEP plan and oversee the use of regional marketing levy funds collected through accommodation providers.

The newly formed Board of the Society includes a diverse group of business owners, community leaders, and elected officials from across the region.

## NEW WATER CONSERVATION MEASURES

The summer of 2025 brought unusually dry conditions that placed added pressure on Truro's water reservoir. While the Truro Water Utility was able to maintain reliable service, the season highlighted the need for proactive planning to ensure sustainable and reliable service, even during periods of low rainfall. In November, the Nova Scotia Energy and Regulatory Boards Tribunal approved a new Water Conservation Directives rule for the Truro Water Utility. This rule gives the Utility the authority to issue temporary water conservation measures when conditions such as low rainfall threaten supply levels.

As a climate change adaptation measure, this update strengthens the Utility's ability to manage water responsibly during droughts and extreme weather events.



# BLACK WOMEN EDUCATORS INSTALLATION

In May 2025, the Nova Scotia Women's History Society, with support from the Town of Truro, hosted an event at the community park at the corner of Ford and Robie Streets to unveil a new public installation celebrating Truro's trailblazing African Nova Scotian women educators and an esteemed organist whose contributions have had a lasting impact on the community and the province.

This meaningful tribute was made possible through collaboration with the Nova Scotia Women's History Society, the Community Enhancement Association (CEA), and the Town's African Nova Scotian Community Strategy Committee. The permanent installation now serves as an important space for reflection, learning, and recognition within the community.



The installation honours:

- Martha Eleanor Jones
- Willena Beatrice (Corbin Gabriel) Jones
- Donna Lee Byard Sealey
- Ann Michelle (Shelley) MacLean
- Vera (Halfkenny) Clyde

A community-led naming contest was held in collaboration with the African Nova Scotia Community Strategy Committee. Community members were invited to share name ideas that reflected local history, connection, and the legacy of African Nova Scotian women educators. The chosen park name will be announced in February 2026 during African Heritage Month.



150 years+ TRURO



# contact us

695 Prince Street  
Truro, NS B2N 1G5  
902.895.4484

CAO Office (902) 893-6076  
Planning & Development (902) 895-1148  
Engineering & Public Works (902) 895-4243  
Finance (902) 895-8011  
Parks, Recreation & Culture (902) 893-6078  
Fire Service (902) 895-4437  
Police Service (902) 895-5351

Mayor Cathy Hinton (902) 956-1406  
Wayne Talbot, Ward 1 (902) 956-1407  
Alison Graham, Ward 1 (902) 324-8924  
Jim Flemming, Ward 2 (902) 324-8921  
Bill Thomas, Ward 2 (902) 324-8926  
Deb Pryor, Ward 3 (902) 324-2251  
Ian McGrath, Ward 3 (902) 324-8927

