



100000

CAPE BRETON



VOICES



SHOUT OUT

SPEAK





Illya Kierkosz powers to a dive site in Sydney Harbour. He is a student researcher on Dr. Bruce Hatcher's team at Cape Breton University. They are monitoring harbour-bottom habitat following a 2012 dredge that deepened the harbour to almost 17 metres.

Read more about their work on page 10.





HOPCITY
BREWING CO.

Rooftop
Patio
Now



Michelle Wilson and Kathleen Yurchesyn walk along Charlotte Street in downtown Sydney's historic shopping district.

Wilson is the Executive Director of the Sydney Waterfront District. Yurchesyn is the new CEO of the Sydney & Area Chamber of Commerce.

They are at the forefront of a new generation working to secure the economic future of Cape Breton Island.

IT'S OUR TIME.

The work that has been done to put forward the vision in the Port of Sydney master plan has been a significant contribution to our community. We have been working towards these goals for years, and I believe that we couldn't be more ready for this.

It's our time.

Kathleen Yurchesyn

Arun Kannan grew up in India and joined the growing number of international students making their way to Cape Breton University. He earned his degree in petroleum engineering. Today, he works for a supply company at North America's newest sub-sea coal mine near Sydney.

Arun has traveled a long distance but has found career-building employment and a friendly community and workplace.

Find more about the Donkin Coal Mine on page 50.





Steve Wadden

Award winning photo-journalist with credits at VICE, Canadian Press, Reuters, Reader's Digest, Globe and Mail, Chronicle Herald, Cape Breton Post.



Christina Lamey

Port of Sydney's Manager of Cruise Marketing & Development, former communications advisor at Mayor's Office and documentary filmmaker.

On assignment:

Hear us.
Please.

We want
to be very
CLEAR.

In the summer of 2018, we were tasked with answering this question:

"Does your community support rail service, port development and new investment?"

We thought, "Hell, yes!" But how do you show it? How do you capture a region's determination to overcome its challenges?

Cape Breton has a Gaelic motto: *Céad Míle Fáilte*. It means "one hundred thousand welcomes". The Cape Breton Regional Municipality and First Nations communities are 100,000 people living in the area surrounding the Port of Sydney.

So we called this project, this magazine, 100,000 VOICES SPEAK. The people featured represent our whole. They are clear: "We are ready. We want growth. We want the opportunity for a brighter future."

We heard from the First Nations communities, we met with the fishers on the docks and in the processing plants, we visited construction (and demolition) work sites.

We went out on the harbour with environmental scientists and were soaked from head to toe by the waves from a passing cruise ship.

We spent a morning at a coal mine and an afternoon at a dairy farm next door.

We talked to people who talk to a lot of people. (Mike runs a chip wagon and Cathy runs a hair salon. If they don't know a community's pulse, no one does.)

We went to hospitals and talked to over-worked doctors and the community leaders working hard to bring in new recruits.

We gathered the stats that show our workforce is underemployed and our child poverty rate is one of the highest in Canada. The doctors say a better economy would be good for our health.

Health and prosperity should be everyone's right as a Canadian. In these pages, you will find the yearnings of 100,000 people, wanting to contribute more to building this vast, strong country.

FIRST NATIONS, FULL PARTNERS.

In 2015, Membertou First Nation purchased a large medical office building on the Sydney waterfront. It was not a random real estate investment. The building, or more specifically the land it sits upon, was the ancestral site of the Mi'kmaw settlement at Sydney Harbour.

In 1916, the federal government forcibly relocated the community a few kilometres further inland, away from the valued harbourfront land.

Membertou overcame this injustice. Today, their corporate branch is ISO certified and the band employs over 600 people.

Chief Terrance Paul of Membertou (left) and Chief Leroy Denny of Eskasoni (right) stand on the site overlooking Sydney's vast, deep-water harbour.

In Nova Scotia, Indigenous communities are leading the way in port development. All Nova Scotia First Nations are an equity partner in the Port of Sydney development project.

An important recommendation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission is to ensure that Indigenous communities gain long-term sustainable benefits from economic development projects.



We strongly support the development of a container terminal at the Port of Sydney. The construction of the Novaport and Novazone projects will ensure long-term benefits of employment and investment in our communities.

*Chief Terrance Paul
Membertou First Nation*

With the Mi'kmaq as development partners in this important infrastructure project, it will prove to be a valuable opportunity for careers at home, here in Cape Breton, for our youth.

*Chief Leroy Denny
Eskasoni First Nation*



BROTHERS

Brett Pimentel, 21 and his younger brother Dylan, 19, unload a tub of red perch at the wharf in Glace Bay. The brothers are working this season at Louisbourg Seafoods but Dylan is considering going to western Canada. He just graduated from the power engineering program at the community college. He would prefer to build his career in Cape Breton.





The fishery is a key employer and exporter in our region. Our group of companies has over 500 workers on the payroll.

I am a strong supporter of rail service and container shipping at the Port of Sydney. It will be of great benefit to the fisheries and increase employment opportunities for our youth.

*Jim Kennedy
Owner, Louisbourg Seafoods*

Dr. Bruce Hatcher is the University Chair in Marine Ecosystem Research at Cape Breton University. A marine ecologist interested in the dynamics of marine ecosystems, he is the Director of the Bras d'Or Institute and his research is supported by grants from the CFI, NSERC, government and industry partners.

Hatcher supervises student research involving oceanographic and fisheries sampling at sea, scientific diving, remote sensing and GIS.

This dive in Sydney Harbour, with student Hailey Shchepanik, is to observe lobster habitat.



Hatcher has extensive experience, and a successful track record, of leading the navigation of complex marine development projects. He and his team did extensive work on the Sydney Harbour dredge. He is currently working on the concepts around transporting coal by barges from Donkin mine.





SCIENCE IN SYDNEY HARBOUR



Experienced teams have success on major environmental projects

Active and engaged scientific teams at Cape Breton University are key partners in successful development.

They followed a proven successful approach for the \$40 million dredge in Sydney harbour funded by the federal and provincial governments,

It started off with the “opportunity”:

Dredge the harbour to create a world class port at the entrance to the St. Lawrence Seaway, able to accommodate the largest ships, export Cape Breton coal to the global market and trans-ship containers throughout North America.

Then followed by the “challenge”:

Dredge the harbour without compromising the ecological integrity of the harbour or the value of its existing uses, such as fisheries.

A challenge, indeed.

They began work on a plan to compensate for the HADD about to be undertaken. (Harmful Alteration Damage or Destruction of fish habitat). The dredge would impact 2.1km² of underwater habitat and stir up contaminated sediment.

A partnership of all stakeholders was assembled with academics at the centre, as the neutral party.

It makes sense, after all, that a community that successfully completed the largest environmental clean up in Canadian history (the Sydney tar ponds) would know a thing or two about navigating the sensitive space where industry, government and the environment intersect.

The team assessed and mapped the baseline state of the harbour and quantified the scope and value of the affected fisheries.

The fishing community was fully engaged in the planning and mitigation. Thirty fishermen and eight scientists conducted a catch and release program. They captured 241,000 sea animals and moved them away from the dredge channel. They recorded less than 0.1% handling mortality during 33,000 gear sets over 168 days of fishing.

More than 200 artificial reefs were installed to encourage habitat renewal and maintain the harbour's fishery production.

Bruce Hatcher and his team continue to monitor the progress and have deemed it successful, both scientifically and in terms of community engagement and support.

Right: Dr. Bruce Hatcher and student researcher Hailey Shchepanik return from a dive in Sydney harbour.



THE SCOTIA RAIL SOCIETY

With a membership of 320 and a well-armed team of researchers, the Scotia Rail Society has advocated and lobbied for rail service for Cape Breton since the service was discontinued in 2015.

The Scotia Rail Development Society is calling on Nova Scotians to encourage their Members of Parliament to support the railway on Cape Breton Island.

Working with the Sustainable Transportation Action Team at the Ecology Action Centre, the Society is advancing the position that goods moving to and from eastern Nova Scotia and Newfoundland should be moved by rail.

"Using rail will reduce road wear and lower GHG emissions," says Mary MacPherson (left). With past-Chair Patricia Morrison (right).

"Nova Scotia spends more than \$400 million a year on highways. If even five per cent of that were allocated to improving rail lines, Nova Scotians and Canadians would have two excellent modes of transportation to drive the economy forward with a cost-efficient, reduced carbon footprint."



Jason Morrison has a long family history with rail in Cape Breton. Standing in front of an abandoned station, he shows a photo of double-stacked high cube containers that traveled the Cape Breton rail line in the mid-1990s. In this photo, the cargo was bound for Newfoundland.

Rail is how we should be moving goods across Canada. The tracks are there. Let's put them back to work for all of us.

Jason Morrison





BUILDING TRADES

A rooftop view of Sydney Harbour warrants a moment of appreciation for Pernell Bruckschwaiger (right) and his fellow carpenters. Pernell



is working to renovate a waterfront office building that has been vacant for three years. Cape Breton's Building Trades Council has an

agreement in place with Sydney's port developers. Cape Breton has 3,800 experienced tradespeople. Many commute across the country to

work in western Canada's resource sector due to few opportunities at home in the east.



A photograph of a professional kitchen. In the foreground, a large, bright orange and yellow flame rises from a grill. Several metal pans are on the grill, some containing food. In the background, there are stainless steel cabinets and a sink area. The lighting is warm, highlighting the fire and the metallic surfaces.

Robert Gould is a chef at Kiju's Restaurant at Membertou First Nation. The restaurant is located in the Trade and Convention Centre. Twenty years ago, the Membertou Band had a few dozen employees and a \$1-million annual deficit. The community was poor with low morale and a high unemployment rate.

Today the band's annual budget is \$112 million and they employ 600 people. Development of the Port of Sydney is the key priority for the future.

"Membertou First Nation is strong and vibrant. Our motto is "Welcoming the World". We are eager to lead a global project that connects us with other nations."

Robert Gould





Cathy Gillis owns a salon in Bridgeport with her sister Lisa Facchin.

They are leading volunteers in their community. They organize a popular 10-day summer festival called Seaside Daze. This year's festival is the 37th annual.

Cathy says her customers and community strongly support new development, railway redevelopment and port growth to create employment.

HOPE

There are many families we only see at Seaside Daze now. They come home with their kids for a visit from out west.

It pains the grandparents so much when they leave. There's a lot of tears.

It's not right. We can do better than this. Canada can do better than this.

Cathy Gillis

YOUTH

Jeneva Marshall, 12, lives in Eskasoni First Nation with her parents Gub and Heather. Eskasoni is the largest Mi'kmaq community in the world and

the largest Indigenous community east of Montreal. Two thirds of its 4,000 residents are under the age of 25. Chief Leroy Denny's priority is to

have good jobs for the young people. Eskasoni is part of the Port of Sydney development team. Jeneva's career goal: hockey star.





A photograph of a food processing facility. In the foreground, a worker wearing a white long-sleeved shirt, a blue apron, and a blue hairnet is focused on packaging. They are standing next to a conveyor belt that carries several cardboard boxes. The boxes are lined with blue plastic and filled with bright orange frozen snow crab legs. To the right, there is a tall stack of similar cardboard boxes. In the background, another worker is partially visible, also in a white shirt and hairnet. The environment is clean and industrial, with stainless steel surfaces and equipment. The lighting is bright, highlighting the vibrant orange of the crab and the blue of the packaging.

WORLD CLASS

A&L Seafood's frozen snow crab is subject to 250 quality control procedures every day. It meets the highest standards of the world-leading British Retail Consortium. This top-rated global company wants global transportation infrastructure built at the Port of Sydney.

George Phillips, 76, puts the experienced last touch on the final product. Fortress Snow Crab is live to cooked, frozen and packaged in 45 minutes, bolstering Atlantic Canada's reputation for the finest seafood in the world.



WORD^{ON} THE STREET



If you want to know what's going on in town, visit the most famous chip wagon in Canada. The Glace Bay Chip Wagon has been selling

its special french fries for over 70 years. Marielle and Mike Yorke know their community very well. They say the desire for new development and

opportunities is very strong. "We want the jobs", says Mike.



RESHAPE.

Darrell Bernard of Membertou First Nation directs dump trucks at the Sydney Harbour waterfront lands recently purchased by Membertou.



READY.

The First Nation is reshaping the shoreline so it is ready for development. Directly across the harbour, in the background, is the greenfield site for the proposed container terminal for the Port of Sydney.



For the first time in Cape Breton University history, international students were elected as President and Vice-President of the Student Union.

President Gunny Brar, from India, is a nursing student in his final year of studies. Vice-President Ahmed Nagy is a Bachelor of Business Administration student from Egypt.

Sydney is a diverse community that welcomes newcomers. Large developments, as proposed for port and rail, will bring workers and their families from around the world. They will find a warm welcome and new opportunities on Cape Breton Island.

WELCOME

The fact that both the elected Executive positions are held by international students shows how diverse CBU's student population has become.

Gunny Brar

Photo courtesy Cape Breton University









Angela Denny is an aquatic research assistant at the Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources, the Mi'kmaq voice on natural resources and the environment. Working directly with all Unama'ki (Cape Breton) Mi'kmaq communities, UINR's offices are located in Eskasoni First Nation.

Science paired with Mi'kmaq traditional knowledge is the key to UINR's activities. This unique pairing, "Two-Eyed Seeing", as coined by UINR's Elder Advisor Albert Marshall, brings together the best of scientific and traditional ways of knowing.

UINR conducts research on species of concern to Mi'kmaq, such as oyster, salmon, moose and eel. Clean drinking water and marine water quality are also an important part of their work in Unama'ki. Most of UINR's research takes place within the ecosystems of concern.

Cape Breton Island is well-positioned to manage large development with an experienced, growing sector of science-based ecological stewardship.

Two-Eyed Seeing

Two-Eyed Seeing is not one-size fits all in its application. Its beauty lies in the contextual and interdisciplinary approach necessary to solve real world problems. At UINR, it guides how we do our scientific research. We are especially aware of how our scientific methods potentially impact the survival of a species and use methods that do not compromise our values as Mi'kmaw people.

*Shelly Denny
Director of Aquatic Research
and Stewardship*

Jeff Ward is one of the most acclaimed Indigenous performers in eastern Canada.

When he's not singing, drumming or performing, he is the General Manager of Membertou Heritage Park.

As he completes his Cape Breton University MBA, Jeff leads Membertou's tourism initiatives, an ever-growing responsibility. His team has been working on building First Nations relationships with the cruise industry at the Port of Sydney.

There is so much room for growth in our area. We are confident in Membertou's leadership strength and readiness to be a full partner in the global marketplace.

Jeff Ward







PORTSIDE



Sydney's port is driving economic development in a region that has faced chronic unemployment for decades.

Cruise visits first began with a few ships in the mid-1980s. This year, there are 96 ship calls on the schedule, bringing over 200,000 visitors. A second cruise berth is being constructed. Federal, Provincial and Municipal governments contributed to the \$20 million project.

Ashley Bonaparte is working this summer at the Portside, a new waterfront restaurant featuring Cape Breton's acclaimed craft beers.

I hope this is just the beginning for our harbour. A busy, active port can drive the economy here and create opportunity. Not just in the direct trades and technical jobs, but restaurants, arts, music, retail, all of it.

*Danny Ellis
Owner
Portside*





Like his father and grandfather before him, Jody Rendell produces fields of strawberries on the family farm in Mill Creek. A popular U-pick farm, the family struggles to find workers for the commercial side of the operation. Teenagers, once eager to earn summer wages, are scarce now. Enrollment at local schools are half of what they were a generation ago.

We've lost a lot of families. It would be good to have younger families return to the area. There is opportunity here for those willing to work.

Eddie Rendell

ATLANTIC CANADA BULK TERMINAL

The Atlantic Canada Bulk Terminal in Sydney is situated at a wharf that once served the largest steel plant in the British Empire. Provincial Energy Ventures, owned by Xcoal's Ernie Thrasher, has re-established the

site as a world-class bulk-materials handling facility specializing in coal. A dredge is planned to help the company welcome larger ships as Kameron Collieries' nearby Donkin coal mine increases production.





Glen Walsh from Sydney River is a heavy equipment operator. He is part of a team that aims to move 3 million tonnes of coal annually from the Port of Sydney to international markets.



FAMILIES WANTED

The price of a family home near downtown Sydney is averaging about \$150,000. It is a buyer's marketplace. An increase in the local workforce



Leijsa Wilton checks in on a home for sale on the rugged coastline at Glace Bay, just outside of Sydney.

Due to an aging population , steady outmigration and weak local economy, housing prices in the region surrounding the Port of Sydney are among the lowest in Canada.

Average House Prices June 2018:

Sydney:	\$151,929
Halifax:	\$308,761
Montreal:	\$344,800
Vancouver:	\$1,093,600
Canada:	\$495,797

can be accommodated with existing housing and available serviced lots. Unlike the remote location of some potential greenfield port sites, Sydney

was once a booming coal and steel region. The community infrastructure remains in place and is under-utilized. Homes and schools can be

rebuilt on the existing streets. This is an ideal scenario for the attraction and retention of workers and their families.

HEAD OF MEDICINE

Dr. Warren Wilkes is the Executive Director of Medicine at Cape Breton's largest medical facility. He is proud of his region's high performing cancer centre, ICU, cardiology and surgical

programs. He discusses Emergency Room matters with Dr. Chris Milburn. Cape Breton's weak economy and high poverty rates pose challenges for the health care system.

Low incomes lead to poor health outcomes. A stronger economy in Cape Breton is a strong basis for a healthier population.

*Dr. Warren Wilkes
Executive Director
of Medicine*



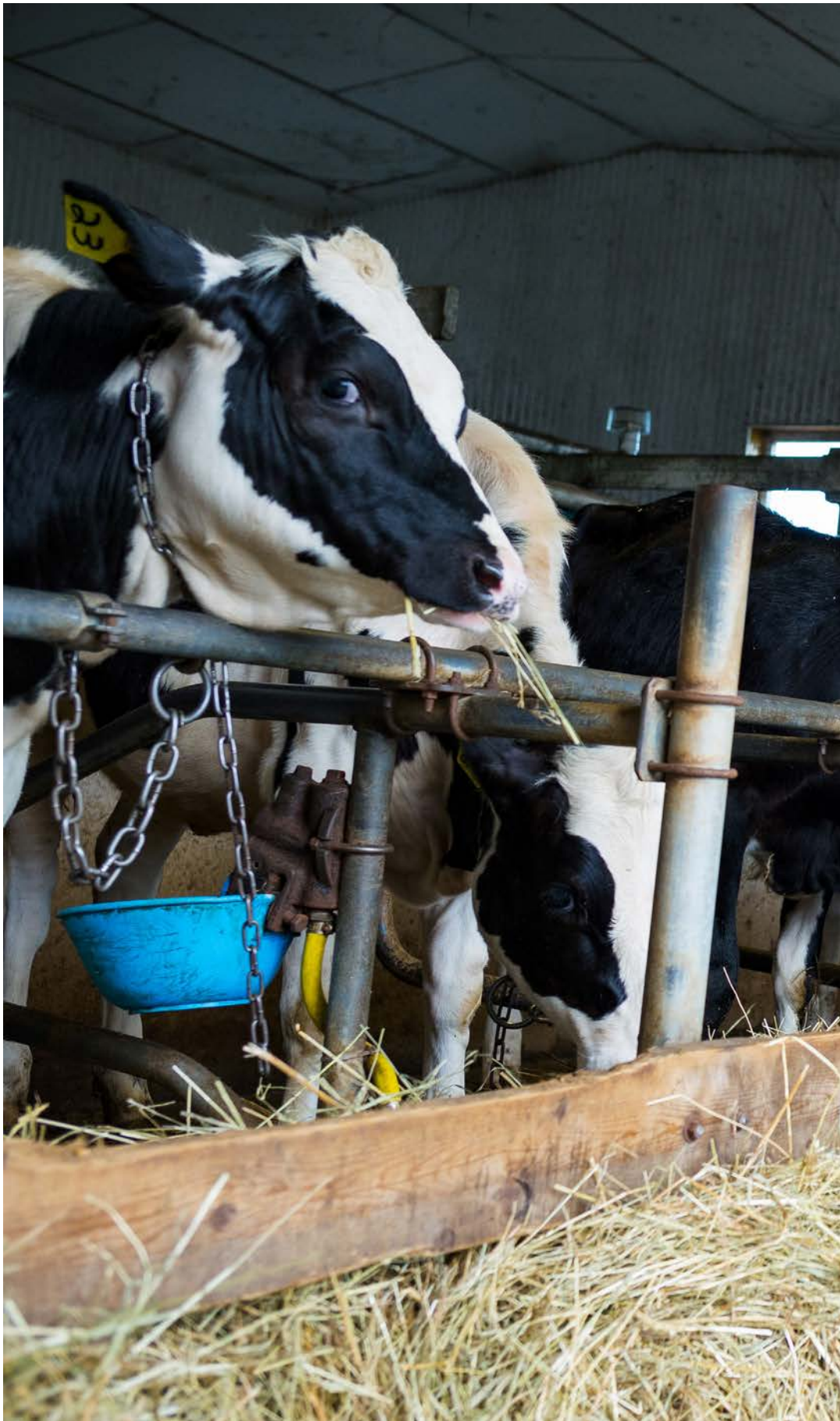


Fourth generation dairy farmer Stephen MacIntosh tends to young cows on the farm he runs with his brother. In 2017, the Donkin coal mine opened across the road from the MacIntosh farm. But the new mining neighbours are nothing new to the family. Their farm has existed alongside coal mines as far back as they can remember.

Cape Breton's coal mines have operated from the early days of European immigration in the 1700s. Farming and fishing families like the MacIntosh's have built their family businesses alongside these major industrial sites.

Stephen is also part of the local lobster fishing industry and is on the liaison committee with the coal mine management on plans for coal barges.

The farming and fishing interests around the Port of Sydney welcome new development and growth and the prosperity it can bring to the wider community.



BLACK & WHITE



Dairy farms like the MacIntosh's are located on the exposed Atlantic Coast of Cape Breton Island. They milk 45 cows, twice a day, to supply

major milk brands like Farmers. Across the coastal road and under the ocean, the coal mine reaches 10 kilometres under the sea.

CAPE BRETON'S COAL COMEBACK

Modern mining returns to a region proud of its industrial past

Shannon Campbell grew up in South Bar on Sydney Harbour. He's lived all over Canada, gaining over 20 years of experience in hard rock mining. After many years away from home, he has returned to Cape Breton, with his family, to manage the Donkin mine for Kameron Collieries.

The fabled Sydney coalfield is a vast deposit of 150 billion tonnes of quality coal. Almost entirely under the ocean, the coal extends from Nova Scotia almost all the way to Newfoundland.

The conveyor belt moving coal in the background reaches 7 kilometres under the ocean.

Coal from the mine is mainly shipped through the Port of Sydney to international markets, but

management recently inked a deal to supply Nova Scotia Power's local coal-fired generating stations.

As the newly constructed Maritime Link brings large quantities of hydroelectricity via undersea cable from Newfoundland, Donkin coal plays a role in the power utility's use of mixed-source supply to ensure system reliability.





AMY LI

Amy is from Beijing and a student at Cape Breton University. She writes a newspaper column in the Cape Breton Post about

Cape Breton-China connections. She is working this summer in the tourism industry. She hopes for stronger relationships between China and Cape Breton, including the incredible opportunities for partnerships around port development.



Cape Breton's artisans, crafters and performers thrive in one of Canada's most culturally enriched regions. Merrideth MacDonald sells her art at her family's shop on the Sydney waterfront. Cape Breton provides all the creative inspiration, but a stronger

economy, including a busy port, would help the arts through more public art, performance opportunities and youth programs.



A FIRST. UNIQUE.



CLEAN. GREEN. PORT.

DJ Bernard and Clarence Paul glide alongside Goat Island in the Bras d'Or Lakes, an inland sea within Cape Breton Island. Port and rail-related development in Cape Breton is based on a partnership between First Nations,

municipal government and private-sector developers. This is a first for Canada and a unique blend of local, Indigenous, environmental and transportation sector interests. They have a shared goal of connectivity, sustainability and prosperity for Cape Breton Island.





PROBLEM SOLVERS

Rob Beresford (left) is a professor of Integrated Science with MSc in Pathology and Ken Oakes is past Industrial Research Chair in Environmental Remediation, Dr. Oakes is involved with examining the long-term integrity of managed sites through remediation technology.



The problem:

Many years ago, it's impossible to pinpoint when exactly, but perhaps more than 20 years, an invasive parasite was introduced to the Bras d'Or Lakes waterway. By the time it was discovered in 2003, it wiped out 80 per cent of the Atlantic oyster population.

The solution:

Cape Breton scientists are cultivating oysters to analyze the parasite's life cycle in hopes of finding a way to stop the parasite and revive the fishery.

Invasive species and their impact are an important part of the work of research teams at Cape Breton University.

About the Verschuren Centre at Cape Breton University:

The Verschuren Centre conducts commercially focused research, development and deployment service provider for the clean tech sector. The Centre develops and delivers sustainable technology solutions in energy, food and resources management to businesses, governments and communities.

Its mission involves bridging engineering and scientific research into environmental, industrial and socioeconomic policy contexts that promote the adoption and effective application of innovation for large-scale positive impact.



NEXT GENERATION LEADERS

Montana Marshall makes a repair to her ceremonial jingle dress. She will leave Unama'ki (Cape Breton Island) to attend the University of Toronto in fall 2018. It's the next bold step for a young woman who has just finished her term as Membertou's Youth Chief.

Going away to university will be an exciting learning experience, but Montana plans to bring her new education and skills home to strengthen Membertou. Permanent displacement for job opportunities is not an acceptable way of life for First Nations people who are deeply connected to the land.





PharmaChoice
NORA MARSHALL
PHARMACY ASSISTANT



Nora Marshall works in an over-crowded, busy Eskasoni pharmacy with 6 other co-workers. It's the only pharmacy in the 4,000 member First Nations community.

They are soon moving out of this cramped space. (See next page).

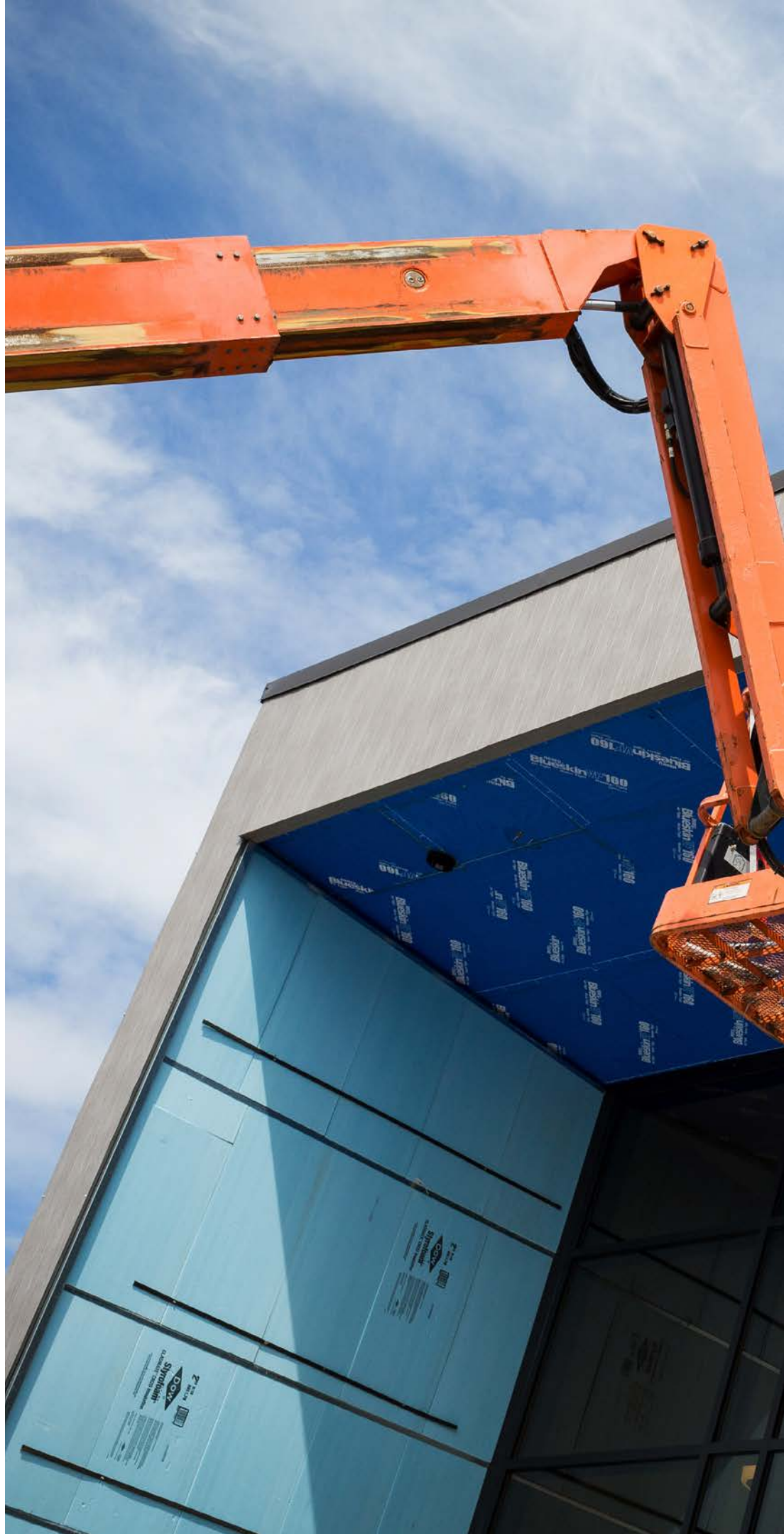
Membertou and Eskasoni First Nations communities are growing, often at double the rate of the rest of Canada. Eskasoni also has a child poverty rate of over 75%. The challenge they face is clear.

Community leaders are concerned about job opportunities for youth in the future and fully support the development initiatives around the Port of Sydney.

Todd MacKeigan works high above the entry way of the soon-to-be-opened health centre in Eskasoni.

Nora's pharmacy (page 60) will be moving into a much bigger space in this building when it is completed.

The First Nations communities near the Port of Sydney are growing and invested in the future of the local economy. Careers for youth are a top priority.



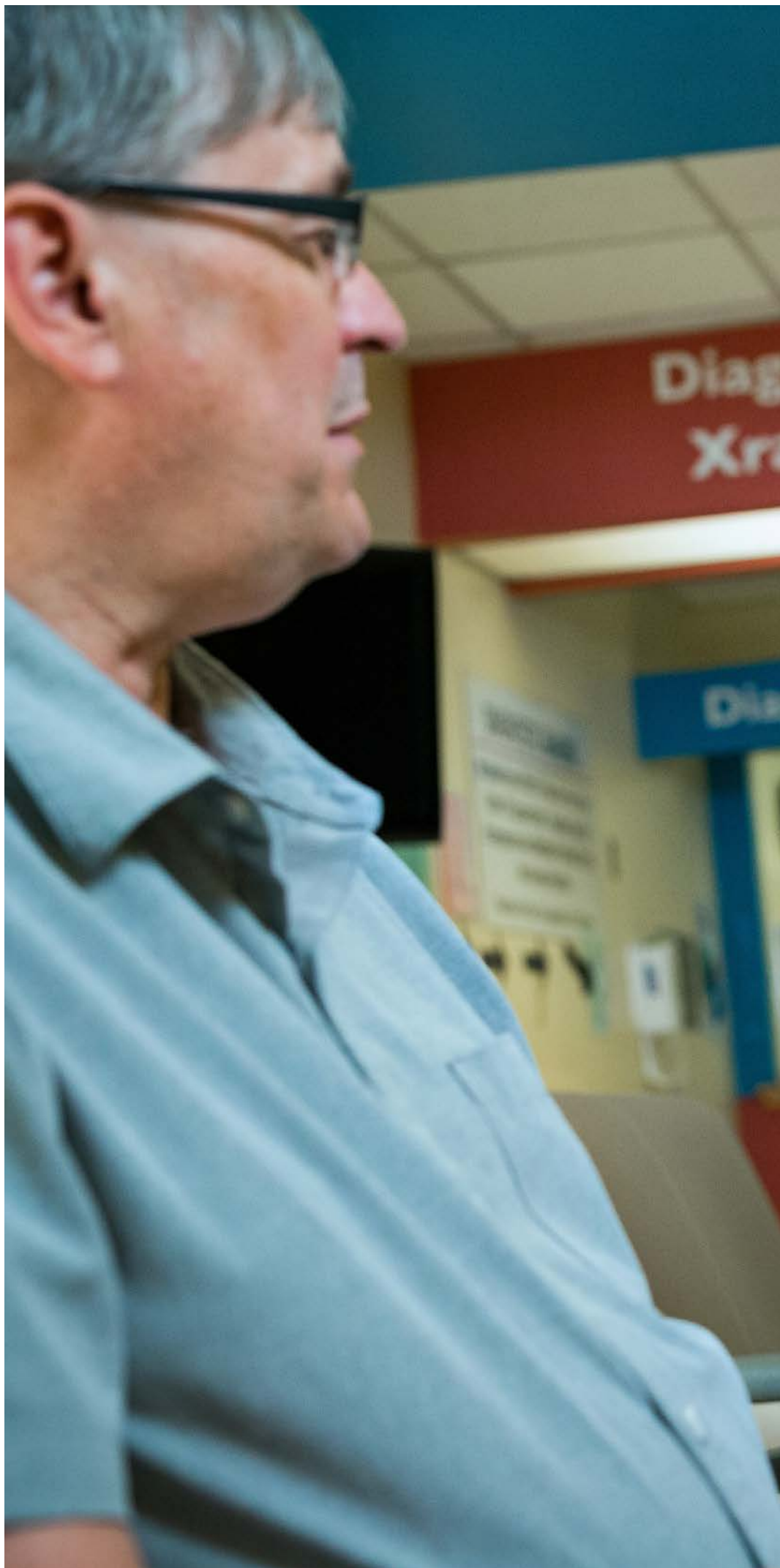


An acute shortage of physicians prompted Glace Bay's community development group to take action.

Dave MacKeigan (left) and Mike Kelloway (right) lead the charge in showcasing their historic community to prospective doctors. This sometimes involves a fishing trip on a lobster boat and some famous fries from the Glace Bay Chip Wagon (page 28).

A challenge Dave and Mike face is that it is hard to recruit and retain doctors when the economy is weak. A doctor may want to come live in beautiful Cape Breton, but what career opportunities are available for his or her spouse?

Development at the Port of Sydney and rail line renewal are key to a better healthcare system in an area with one of Canada's highest concentrations of persons with chronic illnesses.



BAY IT FORWARD

Diagnostic Imaging
X-ray/Ultrasound

Laboratory

Diagnostic Imaging
Laboratory



Terence Moy displays a custom metal frame at Protocase.

SILICON SYDNEY

Protocase's client list is a who's who of key players in Silicon Valley and the aerospace industry, but the company is located at Sydney's Harbourside Commercial Park. Shana Lawrence and Glenn Stevens look over plans for the company's latest expansion.

Because Protocase's work is custom manufactured for each client, large-scale shipping hasn't been a key part of the business model. However, a lack of rail service has been a major problem for many other

firms looking to deliver their products to the marketplace. The quality workforce and technical skill is available in Cape Breton, but the transportation infrastructure needs improvement.





Photo courtesy Cape Breton University

CAPE BRETON UNIVERSITY

Cape Breton born and raised, Hon. David Dingwall, Canada's former Minister of Public Works and many other cabinet portfolios, has returned to Cape Breton to lead the university as its newly installed President. He is a strong supporter of the community's goal of rail and port development.

State-of-the-art facilities and custom training programs set apart the Sydney campus of the Nova Scotia Community College. President Fred Tilley says the college's modern facilities and training programs position students to be ready for today's technology-driven transportation workplaces.



**COMMUNITY
COLLEGE**



A photograph of a construction site. In the foreground, several bundles of rebar and a coiled blue and red cable lie on a concrete floor. In the background, vertical rebar structures are visible, suggesting the early stages of a building's frame.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS FOR ALL

Skills training and education have been a key priority of First Nations and Sydney's university and community college are stepping up to change their programs and culture.

The goal is to ensure First Nations youth can access all of the opportunities created by new development and growth.

This is welcomed at Cape Breton University. They are changing signage in their buildings to English and Mi'kmaq.

Paul Gould operates the saw at a construction site to build a bowling alley and games complex at Membertou First Nation.

DAN CHRISTMAS



ADVISOR, DIRECTOR, SENATOR.



From 1997 to 2016, Membertou, rose from the verge of bankruptcy to become one of Canada's most successful First Nations communities. Dan Christmas was the Senior Advisor with Membertou and assisted the Chief and Council and its Management Team with the day-to-day operations of the First Nations community.

Christmas also served as elected councillor for Membertou for 18 years and worked for the Union of Nova Scotia Indians for 15 years - the last 10 as its Director. He was actively involved in the recognition and implementation of Mi'kmaw aboriginal and treaty rights in Nova Scotia.

He was appointed to the Senate of Canada in October, 2016.

Dan Christmas believes economic prosperity for Nova Scotia, and specifically Cape Breton, are just around the corner.

Christmas strongly encourages Cape Breton businesses, industries, municipalities, First Nations, community groups and educational institutions to come together and push forward with the growth plan that began with the dredging of Sydney harbour.

"When we as Cape Bretoners make up our minds about doing something, we can do remarkable things."

DIRECT FROM TORONTO

Three times a day

It's never been easier to get in and out of Sydney. Air Canada and WestJet have year-round direct daily service between Sydney and Toronto. Flights are three times a day in the summer months.

There are six daily flights to and from Halifax as well. With an area population of over 100,000, Sydney is neither remote nor rural. Business travelers can access their interests in Cape Breton quite easily.





OUT WITH THE OLD...

The real estate opportunity in the Sydney area is unparalleled in Canada. The municipal government is aggressively removing old, unmaintained housing stock from the boom era of the early 1900s,

making way for new construction opportunities on serviced urban lots. Last year, the Cape Breton Regional Municipality issued more demolition permits than building permits.

Meghan McCormick manages dust control as a boarded up house on a large corner lot is torn down..





THRIVING THEATRE

Wesley Colford transformed a closed church into a thriving downtown Sydney theatre. His theatre company is now the second largest in Nova Scotia. The Sydney playwright was nominated for one of the country's most prestigious theatre awards for

his musical Heart of Steel, a story about the wartime exploits of women at Sydney's steel plant. He gives back to the community by training the next generation of performers and storytellers. Coal and steel generated many stories and

songs that make up Cape Breton's rich cultural heritage. He hopes someday these young performers will stay in Cape Breton, maybe build careers in marine services or transportation, and have stories to tell and songs to sing about it.





THE
HAT
HIGHLAND ARTS THEATRE



ROOM FOR TWO, THREE, FOUR and MORE

The Port of Sydney's cruise industry has grown exponentially in recent years. What began as an occasional vessel has now become three-ship days. The Port is adding a second cruise berth to accommodate the

growth. The harbour is large, with a forked geography that allows for an abundance of development-ready shoreline. The Port can successfully manage volumes for not only cruise, but also the ferry service to

Newfoundland at North Sydney, fishing industries, yachting and marine services. The container port proposal is on the opposite shore and slightly further north than the cruise terminal.



The Brittney & Madison unloads at the wharf at Louisbourg. During a two or three day trip, 100 kilometres offshore, a vessel can harvest 40,000 tonnes of fresh crab to bring to the international marketplace.

Refrigerated rail cars and international shipping would be helpful to move this product.





