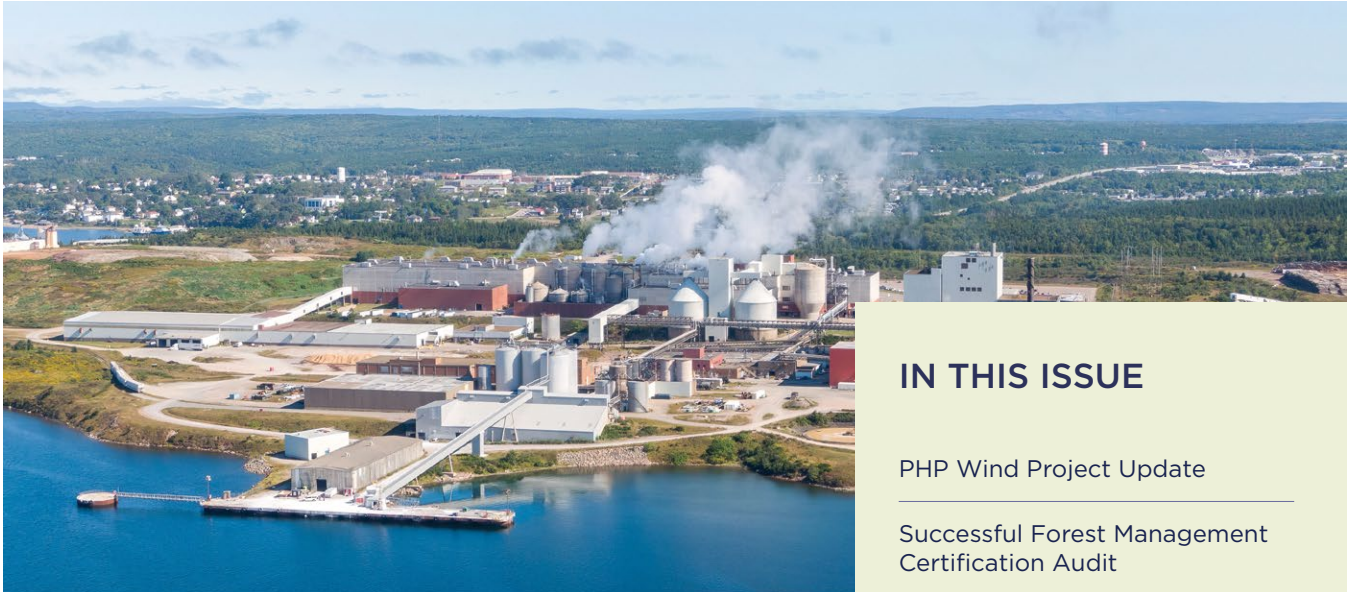


SPRING 2026 NEWSLETTER



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GOOSE HARBOUR LAKE PHP Wind Project Update

Construction at PHP Wind's Goose Harbour Lake Wind Farm has reached a major milestone, with the project now well into its final construction phase.

Civil works across the site are largely complete. Over the past year, more than 55 kilometres of roads have been constructed and 59 water crossings carefully designed and upgraded, including multiple bridge installations. All 24 turbine foundation bases have now been poured, representing a significant civil effort supported by more than 60,000 tonnes of concrete and 21,000 tonnes of rebar.

Work on the project's electrical and operational infrastructure continues to advance. The Operations & Maintenance building is nearing completion, the main transformer is in place, and construction of the electrical substation, switchyard and high voltage transmission line is progressing as planned.

Safety remains a top priority on-site. To date, the project has recorded over 266,000 working hours with zero lost-time incidents, reflecting the strong safety culture shared across contractors, trades, and project partners.



In parallel with construction, PHP Wind is investing in the future workforce needed to support Nova Scotia's growing clean-energy sector. PHP Wind will be formally supporting the new Wind Technician program at Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC) and will be attending the program's promotional event on March 28 at the Strait Area Campus. As part of this commitment, PHP Wind is sponsoring two students who will begin the Wind Technician program in Fall 2026.

Deliveries are being carefully coordinated to minimize disruption and ensure safe transport throughout the region. We appreciate the continued cooperation of local partners, contractors, and community members as activity increases. With major components now arriving, momentum on site is strong, and we remain focused on delivering a high-quality project that will provide long-term economic and energy benefits to the region.

Once operational, the 168-megawatt Goose Harbour Lake Wind Farm will supply approximately 60% of Port Hawkesbury Paper's electricity needs, providing long-term, stable clean energy while contributing surplus renewable power to Nova Scotia's electricity grid. The project is jointly developed with Wskijnu'k Mtmot'atquow Agency, ensuring shared ownership and long-term benefits with Mi'kmaq partners.

Engagement with local communities continues through the Community Liaison Committee and the Community Benefits Agreement, which will be distributed through the Municipality of the District of Guysborough.

For more information, please visit www.phpwind.ca, contact us at info@phpwind.ca, or connect with a member of the Community Liaison Committee.

 [Goose Harbour Wind Farm Video](#)

Port Hawkesbury Paper Completes Successful Forest Management Certification Audit with Zero Non-Conformance Issues

Port Hawkesbury Paper (PHP) has long been considered a forward-looking natural resources company and leader in supercalendered paper manufacturing. The company is proud to announce another milestone in its commitment to responsible forest management. PHP has successfully completed



Turbine Towers Arrive Ahead of Schedule

We were pleased to welcome the first shipment of turbine towers to the site staging area, arriving ahead of schedule, continuing a strong trend of disciplined execution across the project. The towers are being safely offloaded and staged in preparation for installation. Each arrival marks a visible step forward as the project transitions from civil works to vertical construction.



its annual forest management audit with zero non-conformance issues, demonstrating our commitment to responsible practices and marking its 17th year of being Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC® C023189) certified and 11th year of Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI®) certification.

A rigorous audit conducted by Intertek, a third-party, independent certification company, confirmed that Port Hawkesbury Paper and its contractors not only meet but exceed the criteria set forth by the latest environmental and social standards in the sector. Within PHP's forest management area, 18% of the land-base is designated by government as protected (above the 10% FSC minimum requirement), with PHP contributing to the identification of old growth forests included in this conservation network. Several additional areas noted in the audit were the comprehensive Annual Monitoring Report, dedicated field supervisors to ensure a high level of compliance, and collaboration with Indigenous organizations to create Indigenous Protected and Conservation Areas (IPCAs) in the forest management area.

“Port Hawkesbury Paper and its contractors not only meet but exceed the criteria set forth by the latest environmental and social standards in the sector.”

“We are proud of the entire team for this outcome with no minor or major issues found,” states Bevan



Lock, Mill Co-Manager. “It is a confirmation of simply excellent work and diligence done by all, and the commitment to not only comply, but exceed expectations for sustainable forestry management.”

This achievement solidifies PHP's role as a sustainable business leader and exemplifies its long-term commitment to safeguarding the environment and supporting local communities.

For more information on Port Hawkesbury Paper's sustainable practices and products, please visit www.porthawkesburypaper.com or contact andrea.doucette@porthawkesburypaper.com



Back to Basics: The Growing Case for Paper in Canadian Schools

Across Canada, a quiet but meaningful shift is happening in classrooms. Educators and school boards — from British Columbia to Nova Scotia — are re-examining the heavy reliance on screens and digital devices that defined the past decade of learning. Mounting research, including studies supported by Canadian education associations, suggests that students retain information more effectively, develop stronger reading comprehension, and maintain better focus when working with physical paper. Several provincial school boards have already begun limiting device

use during instructional time, signaling a broader recommitment to the tactile, distraction-free experience that only print can offer. For paper manufacturers, this movement represents a meaningful and growing opportunity.

It's within this context that Elevation Book, Port Hawkesbury Paper's latest product development, is particularly well-positioned. Designed specifically for educational texts, workbooks, and novels,

“School boards have already begun limiting device use during instructional time, signaling a broader recommitment to the tactile, distraction-free experience that only print can offer.”

Elevation Book is engineered to meet the demands of high-volume print environments, such as school publishers and curriculum developers. Its advanced

fibre/clay matrix delivers a superior surface and enhanced print quality — meaning text is sharper, images are crisper, and the reading experience is noticeably better for students at every grade level. For Canadian educational publishers supplying a market that is actively turning the page back to print, this is a product built for the moment.

What makes Elevation Book especially compelling for the Canadian market is the story behind the sheet. Produced at the world-class Port Hawkesbury Paper facility in Nova Scotia, it is manufactured using mechanical pulp that yields twice the fibre output of conventional methods — a significantly more sustainable choice that aligns with the environmental values increasingly embedded in Canadian procurement decisions. School boards and publishers looking to support domestic industry while meeting sustainability commitments will find Elevation Book a natural fit. As classrooms rediscover the power of paper, Elevation is ready to be part of that story.

Port Hawkesbury Paper Welcomes NSERC and Nova Scotia Community College

A facility tour offers stakeholders firsthand experience of the mill's operational scale, safety culture, and community integration. It's an opportunity to witness industrial processes and infrastructure that are often underestimated from still images or second-hand descriptions.

In recent months, PHP has been pleased to host groups that underscore the facility's relevance beyond manufacturing:

- NSERC Graduate Student Visit: A group of graduate students supported by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) toured the mill as part of their work on advancing green energy projects. This visit provided a platform for discussion on innovation, decarbonization pathways, and the role of industrial partners in supporting research and sustainable technology adoption.



L to R: **Jeff Taylor**, Associate Vice President of Research, Innovation, and Workforce Development, NSCC; **Amanda Mombourquette**, Workforce Development Manager, NSCC; **Patty Charlton**, School Manager, School of Tech and Environment, NSCC; **Philip Dawe**, Dean of the School of Tech and Environment, NSCC; **Jay Woodworth**, Director of Business Development, PHP; **Lawrence Boyd**, Academic Chair, School of Trades and Transportation / School of Technology and Environment

- NSCC Leadership Engagement: Leadership from the Nova Scotia Community College joined us recently for meaningful dialogue about employment gaps and opportunities in Atlantic Canada. These conversations highlighted workforce development priorities and how partners in industry, education, and community can work together to strengthen regional talent pipelines. (See photo)

We look forward to welcoming additional stakeholders to experience the facility in person, engage with our team, and explore potential collaborations that benefit the broader region. If you're interested in joining us on site, please don't hesitate to connect with us! Jay.woodworth@porthawkesburypaper.com



L to R: **Jeff Taylor**; **Philip Dawe**; **Bevan Lock**, Co-Mill Manager, PHP; **Patty Charlton**; **Lawrence Boyd**

The following is the first of a series of stories about the people and culture of the Port Hawkesbury Mill. The series is called BUILT HERE

GROWTH WITHOUT COMPROMISE **How Kayte & Geordi Found a Balance with Careers and Quality of Life**

What if growth didn't require sacrifice?

Kayte Sutherland and Geordi McGrath had already proven themselves in Alberta. Their move to Port Hawkesbury wasn't about slowing down or stepping back; it was about choosing a place where initiative isn't stalled, community is valued, and career growth doesn't come at the cost of everything else.

Kayte, originally from Scotland and raised across Canada after immigrating as a child, earned a degree in Chemical Engineering followed by a Master of Science in Environmental Engineering. Their career has always bridged operational performance and environmental responsibility. Geordi, originally from Ontario, completed his engineering degree before earning a Master of Science in Electrical & Computer Engineering, specializing in process controls and system integration. Newly into their careers, Alberta offered scale and speed. It also demanded long hours, constant urgency, and a pace that left little room for anything else. "I was in the mindset of go

hard now, live later," Kayte said. "I didn't realize how much life I was putting on hold."

Kayte joined Port Hawkesbury Paper in the fall of 2024 as a Process Engineer. It didn't take long for leadership to recognize that their environmental expertise wasn't an add-on; it was an asset. Rather than confining the role, the organization expanded it. Today, Kayte serves as Environmental Process Engineer, integrating environmental systems directly into operational decision-making. "PHP saw value in both sides of my background," Kayte said. "There was flexibility to ask, 'How do we use this as well?' That's rare."

Geordi's experience reflects the same culture. As a Process Controls Engineer, he quickly became involved in modernization efforts and system improvements across departments. "There's real opportunity here to improve things and take ownership," Geordi said. "You're not waiting years to make an impact." Both are quick to emphasize that their progress hasn't happened in isolation.

"The reason we can move quickly is because there's so much experience here," Kayte said. "The operators, trades, and long-term staff know this mill inside and out. That depth makes it possible to build on what's already strong." At PHP, new ideas don't replace legacy knowledge; they're strengthened by it.

Both Kayte and Geordi share the same instinct: look for what needs doing, and step into it. “I’m proud of being able to use my experience to fill gaps and make an impact,” Kayte said. “It’s rewarding to say, ‘Have I got something for you.’”

If something makes sense, it moves. For Geordi, that culture was evident early. “Within the first week, I was trusted with meaningful projects,” he said. One example is advancing control-system cybersecurity, an area that has gained significant focus over the past year. In a facility with decades of history and evolving systems, modernization requires both technical expertise and practical understanding. “In a place like this, you’re not just managing a system... you’re improving it alongside the people who operate it every day,” Geordi said.

“In a place like this, you’re not just managing a system... you’re improving it alongside the people who operate it every day,”

That balance, autonomy paired with collaboration, has allowed both to broaden their experience quickly. Cross-functional exposure, direct access to decision-making, and the ability to influence real outcomes have accelerated their growth. “There’s less siloing,” Kayte said. “If something aligns with your strengths, there’s openness to pursuing it.” Instead of waiting for permission, they’ve found space to contribute.

Neither Kayte nor Geordi had ever visited Nova Scotia before relocating. What they found was immediate; within two weeks of arriving, they were invited to Thanksgiving dinner. “That was the moment it felt different,” Kayte said. They became regulars at a local café and noticed their grocery runs took longer because of impromptu conversations.

“In some places, people avoid eye contact,” Geordi said. “Here, you stop and talk.” Those everyday interactions shifted something. “I’ve never been in a place before where I understood what people meant when they talked about community,” Kayte said. And then there’s the seafood.



“If you want good seafood, you have to know a guy,” Kayte laughed. Then they corrected themselves. “But what we’re learning is... if you want good seafood, you’ll meet a guy.” Here, relationships aren’t transactional. They’re how things work at the mill and in the community.

Professionally, the autonomy surprised them. Personally, the time did. “You’re not away from home for fourteen hours a day anymore,” Kayte said. That reclaimed time has reshaped their lives. Kayte has returned to painting, reconnecting science and art in a way that once felt incompatible with a high-burnout environment.

For Geordi, it’s the accessibility of everything else. “Hiking trails nearby. Lakes nearby. Other towns close by,” he said. “You don’t need to plan an entire weekend just to do something after work.”

Ambition hasn’t diminished, but it’s simply no longer the only thing.

Kayte and Geordi moved across the country, ready to bet on their careers. What they found at Port Hawkesbury Paper is something built over decades - a mill grounded in experience, strengthened by new ideas, and supported by a community that stands behind it. “That risk paid off faster than I expected,” Kayte said.

At Port Hawkesbury Paper, we’re building more than product.

We’re building careers.
We’re building expertise.
And we’re building a community we’re proud to be part of — together.