



Joggins gets new Fossil Centre & UNESCO Designation

More than 10 years of collaboration and partnership between all levels of government and the local community, under the auspices of CREDA, culminated with the opening on April 22, 2008 (Earth Day) of the new multi-million dollar Joggins Fossil Centre. This was followed on July 7th by the designation of the Joggins Fossil Cliffs as Nova Scotia's second, and Canada's 15th, UNESCO World Heritage Site.

With its inscription onto the World Heritage List the site is quickly becoming one of the most outstanding Natural Heritage Tourism Sites in the world. Referred to as the 'Coal-Age Galapagos' the Joggins Fossil Cliffs contain an unrivalled fossil record preserved in its environmental context, which represents the finest example in the world of the terrestrial tropical environment and ecosystems of the Pennsylvanian 'Coal Age' of the Earth's history.

The opening of the new Joggins Fossil Centre allows

the story of the fossil cliffs to be shared with the rest of the world in an environmentally responsible way. Operated by the not-for-profit Joggins Fossil Institute, the award winning Centre has many innovative green building features that help keep energy and resource use to a minimum. It is situated on a reclaimed brown field site, (former coal mine) overlooking the Fossil Cliffs. "Green Technology" features include a 50 kilowatt wind turbine generator, a solar heating system to preheat the hot water, electronic, self-closing faucets, waterless urinals which together reduce water consumption by approximately 30%, and a living vegetation roof that helps reduce extremes in heating and cooling of the building; prevent storm water run off and help filter pollutants and CO2 out of the air.

The Centre also provides educational and interpretive programming that includes information on global change

and highlights the relationship between the coal age and modern times. The 14.7 kilometre expanse of cliffs and beach is protected under numerous provincial and federal acts and regulations including the Special Places Protection Act, the Beaches Act and the Environment Act, as well as municipal land use planning by-laws.

The Centre provides an exceptional learning experience, featuring an extensive fossil specimen collection, exhibits, and displays depicting:

- the rich geological history of the Joggins Cliffs
- the history of scientific discovery at Joggins
- the history of coal mining that shaped the local community.

Over 19,500 paid visitors were welcomed through the centre in 2008. It's been estimated that another 5,500 headed straight for the beach without visiting the centre for a minimum number of 25,000 visitors between April and November.



The new Welcome Centre at Joggins' Fossil Centre



World Class Attractions Cumberland County's Fundy Shore

Cumberland County's Fundy Shore offers a vacation experience like no other where you can hike a rugged backcountry trail, kayak the coastal waters, or simply relax and enjoy the breathtaking scenery. This spectacular coastal route winds along the Upper Bay of Fundy between Amherst and Parrsboro on highway routes 302, 242 and 209. An award-winning provincial park, world class fossil site, cultural and historical attractions, rocky beaches and awe-inspiring cliffs chiselled by the world's highest tides are all a part of this hidden gem.

Your first stop should be the entry point into Nova Scotia at the province's Visitor Information Centre. It is located on the site where Canada's early history was shaped with the British fort "Fort Lawrence" and the Acadian village of "Beaubassin". Situated at the geographic centre of the Maritime Provinces, the Town of Amherst is a modern community with a rich heritage evidenced by its

many Victorian-era homes and depicted in many of its colourful murals.

The village of River Hebert features the Heritage Models Centre, with over 30 scale models of local historic buildings and artifacts. The Tidal Bore Park is the perfect venue for viewing the incoming tide colliding with the outward flow of the river. The nearby historic community of Minudie was first settled by the Acadians in 1672. The famous Joggins Fossil Cliffs, which received UNESCO World Heritage Site designation in July of 2008, is a key destination area. This former coal mining community is situated atop dramatic cliffs overlooking the Bay of Fundy. These cliffs are internationally recognized for extensive deposits of 300-million year old fossils.

Further down the coast is Advocate Harbour. It is one of the oldest settled communities in the country named and chartered in 1607 by French explorer Samuel de Champlain. Popular local attractions include the award-winning Cape Chignecto

Provincial Park, which offers unparalleled scenery along one of the best coastal hiking trail systems in Eastern North America, and the breathtaking and spectacular scenery of Cape d'Or.

Once a thriving shipbuilding centre, Spencer's Island is home to a cairn that recounts the legend of the famous ghost ship Mary Celeste, which was built there in 1861. An historic lighthouse interpretation centre tells the story of the community's proud shipbuilding heritage.

A visit to the Age of Sail Heritage Centre in Port Greville is a "must-see" with its depictions of the shore's rich shipbuilding and lumbering heritage through photos, videos, story telling, models, artifacts, and hands-on exhibits.

Minas Basin's largest town is Parrsboro with its major family attraction the Fundy Geological Museum. You can also visit the historic Ottawa House Museum; take in a play at Ship's Company Theatre; or enjoy a stroll along the miles of unspoiled beaches.

Accolades & Awards

Inscribed onto World Heritage List by UNESCO in July 2008

Lieutenant Governor's Award for Architecture 2008

TIANS Innovator of the Year Award 2008

Shortlisted for the Progress Magazine Marketer of the Year Award 2008

Rated #4 in the Top 29 of Destinations to visit in 2009 by the LA Times Travel Writers

Featured on the cover of Doers and Dreamers 2009

Shortlisted for UK-based Virgin Holidays Sustainable Tourism Award 2008

Central Nova Tourism Association 2008 Attraction of the Year

International media coverage for the Cliffs and area.



Why look-off when you can look at?

