

C. NSM Site Mandates and Topics

BARRINGTON WOOLEN MILL MUSEUM

MANDATE AND MISSION

- » To present and interpret the operation of a preserved, water-turbine driven woolen mill.
- » To show the uses of the different machines and the processes of carding, spinning, dyeing, weaving etc. necessary to manufacture woolen yarn and cloth.
- » To place the mill operation in the economic, social and political context of late 19th century Barrington; the importance of wool production and the creation of woolen products for local use and for commerce.
- » To discuss how this mill is representative of the operation of numerous mills in rural Nova Scotia, and an example of the small manufacturing operations that used machinery and water power to diversify local economies, to employ local people and to provide valuable services to adjacent communities.

PROPOSED CONTENT

*Note: Topics are drawn from the NS Interpretive Master Plan Content Framework.

I. CONTENT TO MAINTAIN

C. EXPLOITING

C.1 Energy

- Water Power: The technology of harnessing water power.
- C.2 Resource Development
- Agriculture: Local sheep farming and importance of wool for local use and trade farther afield.

C.3 Industry

- Textiles: Importance to local economy and residents.

II. CONTENT TO ENHANCE

B. EVOLVING

B.2 Birds, Fish, and Animals

- Bird and Fish Environments & Habitats: Locals gather to fish when the kayaks (also known as the gaspereau) are running.

C. EXPLOITING

C.1 Energy

- Hydroelectric Power

C.3 Industry

- Manufacturing Initiatives

E. LIVING

E.1 Life at Home and Work

- Gender Roles and Home Life: The role and value of mills to women.
- People in the Workplace: Working life for mill employees; conditions, jobs, and wages.

E.4 Cultural Expression

- Clothing and Costume: Clothing made at home; changes in production over time.

III. NEW CONTENT TO DEVELOP

A. FORMING

A.2 Making Landscapes

- Rivers and Lakes: Local landscape; history of the river.

B. EVOLVING

B.5 Response to Place

- Coastal Communities: Settlement and development of Barrington.

B.6 Agents of Change

- New Technology: Effects/Experience: Importance of machines and small manufacturing enterprises.
- Responses to Deindustrialization

C. EXPLOITING

C.4 Commerce

- Internal Nova Scotia Commerce: Local commercial networks.

C.6 Environmental Values

- Environmental Impact (Then and Now): How did local mills impact the environment?

D. RELATING

D.7 Social Equality

- Capital and Labour (incl. indentured)

E. LIVING

E.1 Life at Home and Work

- Places of Community Interaction: Role of mill as a social centre.

E.2 Communities

- Shore-based Industry: Sheep farming.

CONCLUSIONS

Use the site to introduce natural history content related to the mill pond. Broaden the context of the mill in rural life and commerce, exploring how it affected the community technologically, commercially, and socially.