

FUNDY GEOLOGICAL MUSEUM

MANDATE AND MISSION

- » To present the history of geological time, with reference to the geological record, and focusing on the unique features of Nova Scotia's Minas Basin and Bay of Fundy region.
- » To explain and interpret the successive prehistoric landscapes that evolved in the region down the millennia, and through use of the paleontological record to understand their flora and fauna.
- » To demonstrate how the natural history of the region has influenced human history in the area of Parrsboro, with reference to the wider Nova Scotian experience.

PROPOSED CONTENT

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

I. CONTENT TO MAINTAIN

A. FORMING

A.1 Geological Formation

- Geology and Landscape Diversity
- Creation of Mineral Deposits
- Nova Scotia's Fossil Record

A.2 Making Landscapes

- Ancient Landscape and Drainage
- Glaciers, Deposits, and Erosion
- Offshore Coastal Landforms
- Rivers and Lakes

A.3 Climate

- Causes and Influences

A.4 Ocean Environment

- Continental Shelf Environments
- Coastal Intertidal Environments

A.5 Biodiversity

- Extinction of Species
- Contemporary Research

B. EVOLVING

B.1 Vegetation

- Paleobotany in Nova Scotia: Nature and scope of modern research.

B.2 Birds, Fish, and Animals

- Bird and Fish Environments & Habitats
- Diversity of Birds and Fish: Inland, Coast, Sea

- Mammal Environments & Habitats
- Diversity of Mammals
- Amphibians and Reptiles

II. CONTENT TO ENHANCE

A. FORMING

A.1 Geological Formation

- Plate Tectonics: Evolution of continents; creation of Nova Scotia.

A.5 Biodiversity

- Life Forms and Ecosystems: Emergence of life.

B. EVOLVING

B.6 Agents of Change

- Climate Change & NS Environment

B.7 Understanding Our World

- Scientific Inquiry: 19th - 21st Century: Fossil record and evolution.

C. EXPLOITING

C.6 Environmental Values

- Protecting Cultural Resources: Importance of landscape to a sense of place.

C. NSM Site Mandates and Topics

III. NEW CONTENT TO DEVELOP

A. FORMING

- A.5 Biodiversity**
- Genetic Diversity

B. EVOLVING

B.7 Understanding Our World

- Amateur Inquiry and Collecting: “Cabinets of curiosities” and the importance of the enthusiast.

C. EXPLOITING

C.2 Resource Development

- Mining: Uses of geological reality.
- Oil and Natural Gas

D. RELATING

D.1 Peoples of Nova Scotia

- Indigenous

D.5 Education

- Lifelong & Informal Learning: An important and modern trend.

D.6 Religion and Spirituality

- Mi'kmaq Spirituality: Creation stories.

CONCLUSIONS

Encourage Fundy Geological Museum to move away from a traditional, textbook approach to the province's geological history and to focus on the significant or unique aspects of the province's geology using the Minas Basin as an example. The museum should capitalize on what visitors can see in the nearby landscape to interpret and celebrate a complex geological history. There is an excellent opportunity to provide visitors with tools to interpret the landscape that will extend the visitor experience beyond the museum.