

MARITIME MUSEUM OF THE ATLANTIC

MANDATE AND MISSION

- » To interpret the maritime history of Nova Scotia with its major themes including, exploration from the sea, the imperial clash of France and Britain, the founding and development of Halifax as naval base and port, shipbuilding, the Age of Sail, the Age of Steam, the Canadian Navy on the east coast, and such special subjects as the Titanic story and the Halifax Explosion, shipwrecks, navigation, small craft history, and folklore.
- » To present and celebrate the stories of Nova Scotia's relationship with the sea so that their value and significance in shaping provincial identity and pride can be fully appreciated by both citizens and visitors.
- » To present and interpret the history of the Canadian Hydrographic research ship, CSS Acadia (1913).
- » To host visiting ships to the Halifax waterfront.

PROPOSED CONTENT

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

I. CONTENT TO MAINTAIN

A. FORMING

A.2 Making Landscapes

- Offshore Coastal Landforms: Establish physical maritime context.
- Rivers and Lakes

B. EVOLVING

B.5 Response to Place

- Age of Sail: 1830 – 1880: Defining character of the province.
- Strategic Halifax & Louisbourg

B.4 Migration, Outmigration, Exodus

- French-English "Borderland"

B.7 Understanding Our World

- Archaeology: Local shipwrecks and developing science of underwater archaeology.

C. EXPLOITING

C.1 Energy

- Steam Power

C.4 Commerce

- Colonial Business and Trade: The sea as a commercial highway.
- Nova Scotia/New England Trade
- Confederation & National Commerce
- Internal Nova Scotia Commerce
- Illegal Commerce: Smuggling.

C.5 Transportation

- Ships & Watercraft: Nova Scotia linked to other parts of Nova Scotia and to the rest of the world, via cargo and passenger liners.

D. RELATING

D.3 War and Defence

- Clash of Empires: Britain/France: Sea power and 150 years of history.
- Military Infrastructure
- Privateering: History of what it was and when it happened.
- Nova Scotians at War: Role of Halifax in transporting people and materials.

E. LIVING

E.2 Communities

- People at Sea: Maritime nature of Nova Scotia life.
- Shore-based Industry

E.3 Recreation

- Boat Racing: Races and recreation on the water.

E.4 Cultural Expression

- Folklore and Celebrations
- Music
- Heritage Preservation: Acadia, Bluenose, and Sackville vessels.

C. NSM Site Mandates and Topics

II. CONTENT TO ENHANCE

B. EVOLVING

B.3 Exploring & Settling the Unknown

- European/Mi'kmaq Contact: Natives relationship to the sea; maritime approaches to Nova Scotia.

B.6 Agents of Change

- New Technology: Effects/Experience: Explaining ship design and building over the history of the province.

B.7 Understanding Our World

- History and Sociology since 1945: Results of maritime research.

C. EXPLOITING

C.3 Industry

- Boat and Shipbuilding: What was built, when, why, and how.

C.5 Transportation

- Waterways & Canals

D. RELATING

D.3 War and Defence

- Royal Canadian Navy/Airforce/Army

D.4 Communications

- Signals/Telegraph/Telephone

E. LIVING

E.3 Recreation

- Leisure-time Activities

E.4 Cultural Expression

- Fine/Folk Art: Maritime dimension and achievements.

III. NEW CONTENT TO DEVELOP

A. FORMING

A.2 Making Landscapes

- Bays & Harbours: Impact of the sea in forming and shaping Nova Scotia.

A.3 Climate

- Causes and Influences
- Weather

A.4 Ocean Environment

- Currents and Tides
- Continental Shelf Environments
- Coastal Intertidal Environments

A.5 Biodiversity

- Life Forms and Ecosystems: Maritime context.

B. EVOLVING

B.3 Exploring & Settling the Unknown

- Early Aboriginal Settlement
- Mi'kmaq Exploration & Settlement
- European Exploration: Myth/Reality

B.5 Response to Place

- Building Technologies/Materials

B.6 Agents of Change

- Inadvertent/Introduced Migrants

B.7 Understanding Our World

- Scientific Inquiry: 19th - 21st Century: Maritime contributions.

C. EXPLOITING

C.6 Environmental Values

- Endangered Environments/Species
- Protecting Cultural Resources

D. RELATING

D.1 Peoples of Nova Scotia

- Indigenous
- South & Central American/Caribbean
- African

D.2 Governance and Politics

- Better Terms/'Maritime Rights'
- 'Regional Development' since 1945: Government programs and the marine world; shipbuilding.

D.3 War and Defence

- U.S./B.N.A Tensions

D.5 Education

- Mechanics & Nautical Institutes/Trade Schools & Colleges

D.7 Social Equality

- Privilege/Social Circles
- Capital and Labour (incl. indentured)

E. LIVING

E.3 Recreation

- Organized Sports

E.5 Social Development and Organizations

- Community Security: Protection, Prevention, Response
- Religious Observance: Maritime traditions.
- Philanthropy & Social Conscience: Mariner's rest, hospice.
- Unions: Labour history at sea and on shore.
- Volunteerism

CONCLUSIONS

Make a more conscious effort to introduce and present the great themes of Nova Scotia's maritime history and culture in new exhibits, and establish more clearly the natural history context in which Nova Scotia's relationship with the sea developed.