

## C. NSM Site Mandates and Topics

### PRESCOTT HOUSE MUSEUM & GARDEN

#### MANDATE AND MISSION

- » To introduce Charles Prescott, merchant and politician, and his home as one of the finest examples of Georgian architecture in the province.
- » To highlight Prescott's role in the early development of the apple industry in the Annapolis Valley in the 19th century.
- » To explain the development of the apple industry and its role in the local and provincial economy from the 19th century into the modern period.
- » To tell the stories associated with the house, the people who lived in it and their visitors.

#### PROPOSED CONTENT

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

#### I. CONTENT TO MAINTAIN

##### E. LIVING

###### E.1 Life at Home and Work

- Gender Roles and Home Life: Different stories, different periods.
- Childhood Experiences: Wartime schoolchildren.

###### D.6 Religion and Spirituality

- Religious Affiliation

#### II. CONTENT TO ENHANCE

##### B. EVOLVING

###### B.1 Vegetation

- Diversity of Plant Life
- Botanical Study and Research: Prescott's work.

###### B.4 Migration, Outmigration, Exodus

- Planters & Pre-Loyalists: New England Planters and their significance to the "post-Acadian" Valley.

##### C. EXPLOITING

###### C.2 Resource Development

- Agriculture: Growth of the apple industry and Prescott's contribution to it.

###### C.4 Commerce

- Confederation & National Commerce: Apple industry – provincially, nationally, and internationally.
- Internal Nova Scotia Commerce

##### D. RELATING

###### D.2 Governance and Politics

- British Colonial Government

###### D.3 War and Defence

- Nova Scotians at War: Family member died in WWI is remembered. Chance to talk about Nova Scotia's contribution and Imperial context. In WWII, the sisters provided a temporary home for children from England.

##### E. LIVING

###### E.4 Cultural Expression

- Folklore and Celebrations
- Heritage Preservation: Saving and resurrecting the status and history of the house.

#### III. NEW CONTENT TO DEVELOP

##### A. FORMING

###### A.2 Making Landscapes

- Glaciers, Deposits, and Erosion
- Soil Development: The making of the fertile Annapolis Valley.

###### A.5 Biodiversity

- Genetic Diversity

## **B. EVOLVING**

### **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

### **B.5 Response to Place**

- Mining Towns, Farming Towns, Logging Towns: Why the Valley is agriculturally successful.

### **B.7 Understanding Our World**

- Scientific Inquiry: 19th - 21st Century: Prescott was a scientist.

## **C. EXPLOITING**

### **C.5 Transportation**

- Roads/Vehicles: Valley apple growers got their barrels from New Ross – how did they get there, how long did it take? (Well-documented in archival material).

### **C.6 Environmental Values**

- Endangered Environments/Species
- Protecting Cultural Resources

## **D. RELATING**

### **D.1 Peoples of Nova Scotia**

- American (United States)

### **D.3 War and Defence**

- U.S./B.N.A Tensions
- The Militia Tradition

### **D.7 Social Equality**

- Privilege/Social Circles: Prescott's ability to conduct scientific experiments.
- Capital and Labour (incl. indentured)

## **E. LIVING**

### **E.2 Communities**

- Inland Towns/Villages

### **E.4 Cultural Expression**

- Landscapes/Gardens: Sisters rescued the house, creating a beautiful garden.

### **E.5 Social Development and Organizations**

- Volunteerism

## **CONCLUSIONS**

The provincially significant story at Prescott House is Prescott's contribution to the apple industry and the role this has played in Nova Scotia's apple industry. The site needs to re-focus the interpretive emphasis it places on the various stories it tells, placing a higher priority on the apple story and less emphasis on the story of the house being rescued by the sisters. Use the site to present extensive natural history content, and to establish the context of the formation and use of the Annapolis Valley. Although not noted as new content to develop, the topic "Indigenous Peoples" (part of D.1 Peoples of Nova Scotia) is an important talking point that should be addressed at this site.