SUTHERLAND STEAM MILL MUSEUM

MANDATE AND MISSION

» To present the 60 year-old story of Alexander Sutherland’s mill and the contribution it made to community life by supplying lumber and finished woodwork for a wide variety of uses (carriages and wagons, houses etc.).

» To introduce the concept of technological change, and the opportunities it offered – flexibility in location next to the railway – made possible with the replacement of location-specific water power by steam energy.

» To highlight the importance of small mill operations to community life in rural Nova Scotia (cf Balmoral Grist Mill Museum, Wile Carding Mill Museum, sawmill at Sherbrooke).

PROPOSED CONTENT

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

I. CONTENT TO MAINTAIN

B. EVOLVING

B.6 Agents of Change

• New Technology: Effects/Experience: Implications of move from water to steam.

C. EXPLOITING

C.1 Energy

• Steam Power

E. LIVING

E.4 Cultural Expression

• Architecture

II. CONTENT TO ENHANCE

C. EXPLOITING

C.2 Resource Development

• Forestry: From logs to lumber; finished woodworking.

C.4 Commerce

• Internal Nova Scotia Commerce: Scope and nature of local/regional trade.

C.5 Transportation

• Railways: Why was the adjacent line important to Sutherland?

E. LIVING

E.4 Cultural Expression

• Landscapes/Gardens

III. NEW CONTENT TO DEVELOP

B. EVOLVING

B.5 Response to Place

• Mining Towns, Farming Towns, Logging Towns: Proximity to the resource, the local population, and transportation.

• Building Technologies/Materials

C. EXPLOITING

C.3 Industry

• Manufacturing Initiatives

C.6 Environmental Values

• Depletion of Natural Resources

• Environmental Impact (Then & 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

• People in the Workplace: Who worked the mill? Dangers of mill work.

• Places of Community Interaction: Mills and social interaction; who visited the mill and used its services?

E.2 Communities

• Inland Towns/Villages
CONCLUSIONS
The operations of the mills are well covered. Interpretation should explore the wider social and economic context and its significance locally and regionally.