

## SHERBROOKE VILLAGE

### MANDATE AND MISSION

- » To be a living history museum, with a complex of buildings that together with adjacent gardens and fields and streetscapes that are representative of a typical Nova Scotia village of the 1860s;
- » To present through a series of public, private and commercial buildings the activities and social values present in a small 19th century community;
- » To maintain a high level of skill in the trades and crafts of the period;
- » To provide information and interpretation of the riverside nature of the community, and its role in shipbuilding, transportation and the lumber trade.

### PROPOSED CONTENT

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

### I. CONTENT TO MAINTAIN

#### C. EXPLOITING

##### C.1 Energy

- Animal/Human Power
- Water Power: Importance of different types of mills in rural Nova Scotia.

##### C.2 Resource Development

- Agriculture

##### C.4 Commerce

- Internal Nova Scotia Commerce: Local sufficiency balanced with materials that had to come into the community from elsewhere.

#### D. RELATING

##### D.2 Governance and Politics

- Canadian Confederation

##### D.5 Education

- Universal Education, 1864/5

##### D.6 Religion and Spirituality

- Religious Affiliation

#### E. LIVING

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

- Gender Roles and Home Life
- Childhood Experiences

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

- Community Security: Protection, Prevention, Response

### II. CONTENT TO ENHANCE

#### A. FORMING

##### A.1 Geological Formation

- Creation of Mineral Deposits

#### B. EVOLVING

##### B.1 Vegetation

- Diversity of Plant Life: Use the riverside trails and site to communicate natural history content.

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

- Outmigration: 20th Century: How was rural Nova Scotia affected?

##### B.5 Response to Place

- Age of Sail: 1830 – 1880

##### B.6 Agents of Change

- New Technology: Effects/Experience: Closure of gold mine in 1880s. How was the community affected when the railway did not come?
- Outmigration Social/Econ. Effects

## C. EXPLOITING

### C.2 Resource Development

- Forestry: Local lumber production and exportation (more important than mining).
- Mining: Gold mines.

### C.3 Industry

- Boat and Shipbuilding: An important feature of St. Mary's riverfront.

### C.4 Commerce

- Banking and Business Services

## D. RELATING

### D.4 Communications

- Signals/Telegraph/Telephone

## E. LIVING

### E.4 Cultural Expression

- Architecture
- Folklore and Celebrations
- Music
- Clothing and Costume
- Heritage Preservation: Story of why and how Sherbrooke Village was preserved.

### E.5 Social Development and Organizations

- Justice: Use the courthouse to discuss the workings of the justice system.
- Temperance & Prohibition: Why was there a temperance hall and what did it mean in the community? Explore the history of the prohibition movement in the province.

- Fraternal Organizations: Freemasonry and mainline religion. Who were the masons in Sherbrooke and what was the role of masons in a small community?

## III. NEW CONTENT TO DEVELOP

### A. FORMING

#### A.2 Making Landscapes

- Rivers and Lakes: What was the nature of the local landscape and how was it formed?

### B. EVOLVING

#### B.3 Exploring & Settling the Unknown

- Mi'kmaq Exploration & Settlement: Explore and interpret Aboriginal sites along the river (information exists).
- European/Mi'kmaq Contact

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

- French Colonization: Acadia: French outpost in 1650s by the wharf (archaeological study completed). Explore early historical context of Nova Scotia.
- French-English "Borderland": British took over in 1659.
- Black Experience: People the world over worked the gold mines, including a significant black population.
- Early 19th Century Immigration: Who came to Sherbrooke? We know the Scottish came from Truro.

#### B.5 Response to Place

- Coastal Communities: Strong ties to the sea; village received goods and sea captains were common residents. Steamer communications into the mid 20th century.

## C. EXPLOITING

### C.3 Industry

- Tourism: Sherbrooke exists today because of the tourism industry.

### C.6 Environmental Values

- Environmental Impact (Then & Now): Impact of gold mining (sands tainted by arsenic, etc; public banned from these areas).
- Protecting Cultural Resources

## D. RELATING

### D.1 Peoples of Nova Scotia

- Indigenous
- European
- African: The black population that worked the gold mines.

### D.2 Governance and Politics

- British Colonial Government
- Women's Rights & Universal Suffrage

### D.3 War and Defence

- The Militia Tradition: What is the militia and what was its role in a small community?

### D.4 Communications

- Newspapers/Magazines
- Radio/Television/Film

### D.7 Social Equality

- Capital and Labour (incl. indentured)

## E. LIVING

### E.1 Life at Home and Work

- People in the Workplace: Explore the many occupations, from jailors and millers to pharmacists and educators, as well as small businessmen.
- Food on the Table

### E.2 Communities

- Coastal Towns/Villages: Village by the sea; location key.
- People at Sea
- Home Front
- Shore-based Industry

### E.3 Recreation

- Informal Play
- Organized Sports: Horse racing community; raced on lakes in winter.
- Leisure-time Activities: Recreational salmon fishing drew people from all over the world, including Babe Ruth.

### E.4 Cultural Expression

- Cuisine as Cultural Expression

### E.5 Social Development and Organizations

- Health Care
- Antigonish Movement
- Religious Observance

## CONCLUSIONS

Explore ways to research and expand interpretation of the wider context of life in the community. There are many opportunities to explore in greater depth subjects like justice, freemasons, temperance, and the role of education and religion. The community's historic links to the sea and what that meant is understated and could be explored further. Sherbrooke Village is well positioned to interpret the evolution of a typical Nova Scotian village (from the occupation of indigenous people to its becoming an historic village).