

WILE CARDING MILL MUSEUM

MANDATE AND MISSION

- » To present the story of wool and its use, and the nature and role of carding in the preparation of wool.
- » To tell the story of Dean Wile, his mill, its machinery and operation as a water-powered mill, its female employees, its patrons and its value to the community.
- » To place the mill in the context of other mills on the La Havre River and how it and they contributed to the wider economic life of Bridgewater.
- » To make a link between carding and wool production in the second half of the 19th century (there were 77 carding mills in Nova Scotia at one time) and modern wool production and uses today.

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: The impact of new machinery had a significant impact on society; its efficiency gave women time to do other things.

C. EXPLOITING

C.1 Energy

- Water Power

C.3 Industry

- Textiles

C.4 Commerce

- Internal Nova Scotia Commerce: Local trade patterns in the Bridgewater region.

E. LIVING

E.1 Life at Home and Work

- People in the Workplace: Female workers.
- Social Value of the Workplace

II. CONTENT TO ENHANCE

C. EXPLOITING

C.2 Resource Development

- Agriculture: Sheep farming in the region; how big was it?

C.3 Industry

- Manufacturing Initiatives

E. LIVING

- E.4 Cultural Expression
- Clothing and Costume: Importance and use of wool.

III. NEW CONTENT TO DEVELOP

A. FORMING

A.2 Making Landscapes

- Rivers and Lakes

B. EVOLVING

B.5 Response to Place

- Coastal Communities

- Mining Towns, Farming Towns, Logging Towns: Abundance of mills on the river.

B.6 Agents of Change

- Responses to Deindustrialization

C. EXPLOITING

C.6 Environmental Values

- 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

- Places of Community Interaction: Who came to the mill and used its services?

C. NSM Site Mandates and Topics

CONCLUSIONS

Explore further the “business of wool” – from production to use and the mill’s place in the larger picture. Research mill community and culture on the La Havre River.