

Millions invested in Fossil Cliffs Project

JOGGINS- Santa Claus came a week early for Joggins and area residents who packed the St. Thomas Aquinas Parish Hall on Monday, December 18 for an historic and long-anticipated announcement. Nearly \$7 million in new federal and provincial capital is being invested to help create a world-class tourism and heritage site at the Joggins Fossil Cliffs.

The investments will help build an interpretive centre to showcase what is considered the world's richest and most significant Coal Age fossil site. Canada's New Government, through the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA) is investing more than \$4.8-million in the new centre. The Nova Scotia Department of Tourism, Culture and Heritage will invest \$1.8-million.

"Our investment of over \$4.8-million will boost Atlantic Canada's eco-tourism potential," said Bill Casey, MP for Cumberland-Colchester-Musquodoboit Valley on behalf of the Honourable Peter MacKay, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of ACOA.

The provincial investment is in addition to \$1.1-million provided in December 2005 to help leverage other funding, bringing the total provincial contribution up to \$2.9-million.

"The Joggins Fossil Cliffs are a tremendous resource for Nova Scotia in terms of preserving our



Work underway on the Joggins Fossil Cliffs Interpretive Centre, scheduled to open this summer.

heritage and sharing it with the world," said Len Goucher, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Heritage. "Our investment will help develop a unique tourism experience and contribute to the efforts to get UNESCO World Heritage Site designation."

CREDA is leading the project and, with the support of the municipality of the county of Cumberland, has contributed \$921,600.

"A key element of success for this project is community involvement, support and stewardship of the Joggins Fossil Cliffs site," said CREDA Executive Director Rhonda Kelly.

Once completed, the centre will house the best collection in the world of carboniferous fossils, thanks to local collector Don Reid. The always modest Reid received a standing ovation when it was an-

nounced that he was donating his entire collection to the Joggins Fossil Institute. Reid has been displaying his personal collection at his own centre in Joggins, but he plans to shut it down when the new one opens.

"When I first started I didn't know what I was doing," he said. "I still kept collecting because I liked the look of them," Reid (pictured below) said in a recent interview.

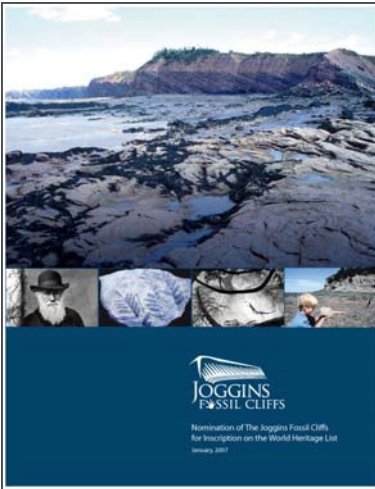
A Halifax based company, Pomerleau Construction was the successful bidder when tenders for the project closed. WHW Architects of Halifax is the lead architectural and design firm, while Design and Communications Inc. (D+C) of Montreal is the major sub-contractor responsible for interpretive planning and design.

MT&L Public Relations Limited was retained to develop a new logo for the Fossil Cliffs site as well as a Marketing and Communications Plan.



Local fossil collector
Don Reid

Joggins Nomination Dossier delivered to World Heritage Centre in Paris



Paris- One of the greatest challenges faced by the project has been the development of the “Nomination for Inscription” also known as the Nomination Dossier. Once Canada placed the Joggins Fossil Cliffs on its Tentative List, work began immediately on developing the document which is a necessary step to achieving World Heritage Site designation. The Nomination Dossier (cover page pictured here) was completed in late January and has been presented to the World Heritage

Centre in Paris for review and to ensure that it is complete and that the submitting party has followed the procedures correctly.

The World Heritage Centre then sends it to the appropriate advisory bodies for evaluation. Once a site has been nominated and evaluated, it is up to the intergovernmental World Heritage Committee to make the final decision on its inscription. The committee meets annually to decide which sites will be inscribed on the World Heritage List.

The Nomination Dossier is a 136-page document that could be compared to a scientific textbook in many ways. With 22 binders of appendix materials, the nomination fills a 31.5 by 13.5 by 12 inch oak case that weights, when full, approximately 50 pounds. As UNESCO requires 3 copies of everything, three wooden cases were hand delivered to the World Heritage Centre in Paris by Senior Project Manager Jenna Boon. It was more cost effective to personally deliver the Nomination Dossier than to send it by courier. This also ensured that it was there by February 1st, which was the deadline for submitting nominations for 2007.



One of the final tasks prior to submitting the Nomination Dossier to UNESCO was to have it officially signed by the sponsoring “State Parties” including the Government of Canada and the Province of Nova Scotia. Premier Rodney MacDonald is shown (centre) in the photo above during an official signing ceremony in Halifax on January 23rd. Also pictured preparing to sign are Cumberland County Warden Keith Hunter (left) and CREDA Executive Director Rhonda Kelly.

River Hebert— Premier Rodney MacDonald recently visited participants in the Joggins Fossil Cliffs Essential Skills Development and Training Program held at the River Hebert District High School. The Premier was accompanied by Justice Minister and Cumberland South MLA Murray Scott.

Fifteen participants are involved in the 26-week program which was designed to help individuals gain successful employment in the tourism sector within Cumberland County. Topics being covered include general knowledge of the industry, local knowledge of the community, customer service, communications, and a wide range of professional skills. Specific training related to the Geology of Joggins and the surrounding area will also make up a portion of the curriculum. Students will gain practical experience with a six-week work placement within the tourism industry.

Funding partners for the CREDA initiated project include the Nova Scotia Department of Community Services, Service Canada and the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA). Delivering partners include Nova Scotia Community College-Cumberland Campus and River Hebert District High School.

The unique partnership with the high school will result in the development of a Student Wellness Centre. Students will help design the centre which will provide them with a relaxing, non-threatening environment where they can get assistance with courses, career planning, health information, and information to assist with other issues. All of the equipment purchased for the tourism training program will be donated to the high school at the end of the program.



Shown above with the Joggins Nomination Dossier are from left to right: Cumberland South MLA Murray Scott; CREDA Executive Director Rhonda Kelly; Jenna Boon, Senior Project Manager; Dr. John Calder, Senior Geologist NS Department of Natural Resources; Premier Rodney MacDonald; and Cumberland County Warden Keith Hunter.