

The Joggins World Heritage Initiative: A Progress Report

J. H. Calder

With the naming of Joggins to Canada's Tentative List of future nominees for World Heritage designation in May 2004, preparations have begun in earnest to ready the site for nomination. With various government departments, agencies and municipal governments fully committed, restructuring of committees was undertaken in 2004 under the direction of Rhonda Kelly, Executive Director of the Cumberland Regional Development Association (CREDA). The Province of Nova Scotia invested \$1.1 million in the development of the site in February 2005. With further support of the Nova Scotia departments of Tourism, Culture and Heritage; Natural Resources; and the Office of Economic Development, Jenna Boon, a native of Joggins, was named senior project manager and given the task of co-ordination of activities among various working groups. An ambitious goal has been set to meet the annual World Heritage nomination deadline of February 1, 2007.

Working committees report to an Advisory Board comprising senior representatives of government agencies that will play a role in the nomination, development and governance of the property, with Scott Swinden representing the Department of Natural Resources. Working committees include:

- Site Development, chaired by Marijo MacKay, Department of Tourism, Culture and Heritage,
- Communications, chaired by Ron Robinson, CREDA,
- Governance, co-chaired by Jenna Boon and Robert Ogilvie, Department of Tourism, Culture and Heritage,
- Nomination, chaired by John Calder, Department of Natural Resources, who also serves as scientific advisor.

During the summer and fall of 2005, requests for proposals were sought from firms for development of the interpretive facilities and shore access for the site. A consortium under the direction of WHW Architects of Halifax and including the design team of Design+Communications of Montreal was awarded the design contract for the site, which is being funded by the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA) and is to be delivered early in 2006. The interpretive facilities are expected to be completed by the end of 2006 in anticipation of the February 2007 nomination deadline. The nomination dossier will be completed by September 2006 for pre-submission to senior staff at Parks Canada responsible for World Heritage matters in Canada. As the community prepares for the nomination, the Municipality of Cumberland County has made development of a land-use plan for the community its highest priority.