

Ken Adams Set to Step Down



Ken Adams with a group at Spicer's Cove.

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our shores and landscapes around us. In all the learning process has gone on for over 45-50 years, and I learn something new each time I walk along a part of our shoreline." Explained Adams who had been interested in the geological story of the area since his family visits as a child. "One of my first field trips as a student at Mount Allison in 1969 included a walk along the Joggins Fossil Cliffs, followed by a bus trip over the Boars Back and through the glacier shaped landscape of Lakelands and a tour of Clarke Head from Swan Creek to the municipal campground. This was a wonderful introduction to the complexity of the region's geology and the diversity of geological processes." Adams had an appreciation and curiosity for geology from a young age and that was built upon by his travels as an air force brat through Europe as a child and through the passion fostered by dedicated teachers in school.

Over his 22 years as Curator/director Ken Adams has seen and done a lot, not only for the museum itself but for the area and tourism in general. He has worked on several volunteer boards and is a main contributor to The Rising Tides conference. "I look at the opportunities that I have had during this time to work with a number of community groups along the Fundy Shore to help foster partnerships and to promote our region as a tourist destination based on our natural and cultural heritage. This includes working with the Museum's board of directors and the Nova Scotia Museum on the development, design and construction of the Fundy Geological Museum's original exhibit gallery, helping the FGM team put together its public and school programs, fostering a work environment that led to creation and longevity of the museum's public and school programs (Overnighters, Fundy Geological Safari, Nova Scotia Gem and Mineral Show, Curatorial Walks). As well as participating in a number of community groups and committees which led to the development of the Joggins Fossil Institute and Cape Chignecto Provincial Park and recognition of our area as a tourist destination. (Central Nova Tourist Associations, Association of Nova Scotia Museums Board of Directors, Cumberland County Heritage Network)."

Adams is also proud of the students who have had jobs at the museum over the years "I believe the Museum has helped to provide a number of our region's students with their first work related experience, creating opportunities for these students to further pursue their career interests

with The Ottawa House, Age of Sail Museum, Chignecto Park and Joggins Fossil Cliffs to keep visitors in the area and bring them back. "Cumberland County is my home as well as my back yard. After 40 years my enthusiasm for exploring our county has not diminished and there still remain areas to explore. Fortunately the Fundy Tides also help renew the story twice each day."

Stepping down after 22 years has been a big decision in Adams life, one not made lightly, "It now feels like the right time to move on so a younger generation can be invited to help guide the museum forward. Prior the museum I spent more time in the field than sitting behind a desk. The somewhat sedentary work environment over the past 21 years has had an impact, so I am taking the opportunity to spend more time with my wife, and to resume a more active life style."

When asked on his future plans its plain to see Adams will not take retirement literally "My wife Etta and I own two woodlots that will now receive more attention. We already spend some of our free time doing Silviculture on the lot adjacent to our home, and a sustainable management plan has been developed for the larger lot. We also share an interest in the county's cultural and natural heritage, so there will now hopefully be more time for genealogical research, walking along our favorite beaches, looking for spring flowers (in season) and puzzling over the impact of tidal cycles and rising sea levels.

With the "classroom" we possess at our door step the opportunities to learn something new are unlimited. The gallery renewal project

allowed me to rekindle my interest in research and field work. A number of very interesting research projects have arisen which would require some focus of attention. Fortunately many of these tie in with our favorite beaches. And there are several stretches along the shore that we have not explored, as well as some elusive back country outcrops."

For Adams the opportunities open to him are infinite as he continues into the next stage of his life, with little doubt that he will remain a powerful supporter of the area "Rural Nova Scotia has provided me with a place to live, to work and to indulge my interest in our collective cultural and natural heritage. There may be opportunities to take part in the public discussions related to our county's future based on my experience at the Fundy Geological Museum. While I have watched a number of our youths, including my daughter, leave to pursue their education, careers and lives elsewhere I still believe we live in a special part of Nova Scotia." No doubt Ken Adams will continue to be an active and important part of



Ken Adams guides the tour at Wassons

the area for years to come.

For the museum itself this will be a time of adjustment, a committee will be reviewing and updating the job description and a hiring committee formed with major representation from the province, to find the best prospect for the position as the museum moves ahead into the next 20 years. To honor both the museum's 20 year anniversary

and Ken Adam's years of service, Dec 5 has been set aside as a day of celebration open to the public from 11-4 and followed at 7pm by the annual O Christmas Tree sing along.

Oralee O'Byrne is Curator/Manager Age of Sail Heritage Center and Museum, Port Greville and a member of the board of Cumberland Geological Society.

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