



One of the many panoramic views at Cape D'Or, Cumberland County. (Submitted)



The view from within the Five Islands Provincial Park is just as breath taking as the view of the cliffs from the rocks below. (John Calder Photo)

Cliffs of Fundy to Bid for 2025 Conference

By **Maurice Rees**

The Cliffs of Fundy GeoPark, under the direction of Executive Director, Beth Peterkin, isn't wasting any time attempting to gain significant global recognition and to bring representatives from other UNESCO Global Geoparks to visit the area.

On December 9th the organization announced plans to submit a bid proposal to host the 10th International Global Geoparks Network conference September 2023. Peterkin had made a presentation to Colchester Municipal Council on December 2, 2020. On December 15th, Peterkin issued an advisory that plans had changed and a proposal will be submitted to host the annual event in 2025.

The Cliffs of Fundy Geopark is part of a network of 161 geoparks in 44 countries around the world. The Global Geoparks Network, founded in 2004, is a dynamic network where members are committed to work together, exchange ideas of best practice, and join in common projects to raise the quality standards of all products and practices of a UNESCO Global Geopark. The Cliffs of Fundy is already in communication with various European Geoparks discussing the potential of joint projects around Arts and Culture as well as the GEOfood brand program.

With the original concept to host the conference in 2023, now changed to 2025, it was anticipated the conference would attract an estimated 800 to 1,000 delegates from geoparks around the world and enable the local organization to showcase all that the Cliffs of Fundy Geopark, and in fact all of Nova Scotia, has to offer.

Most recently, the conference was held in Italy (2018) and the United Kingdom (2016), with an upcoming conference

scheduled for Korea in the fall of 2021.

"We are excited by the prospect of hosting fellow Geopark representatives from around the world and showcasing our extraordinary geology, culture, and hospitality! We have experience hosting major events in our region and look forward to pursuing this wonderful opportunity," says Christine Blair, Mayor of the Municipality of Colchester and Chair of the Cliffs of Fundy Geopark.

The Cliffs of Fundy Geopark stretches for 165 km along the Bay of Fundy coast from Lower Truro to Apple River. It encompasses over 2500 sq km in area with over 40 geosites of geological, cultural and historical significance. The organization locally

has an active Board of Directors, a staff of three and numerous volunteer committees. Both Cumberland and Colchester Municipal Councils are significant financial contributors and regularly provide staff expertise to assist in the governance.

"The Cliffs of Fundy has the potential to attract tourists from around the world," says Executive Director Beth Peterkin. "With our UNESCO Global Geopark designation, this has put us on the world stage." The Cliffs of Fundy is developing a support network in anticipation of the potential to host this conference. Individuals, businesses or organizations interested in becoming involved are encouraged to contact the Debert based office at 902-641-2225 or by email at beth.peterkin@fundygeopark.ca.

For more information on the Cliffs of Fundy UNESCO Global Geopark, visit: www.fundygeopark.ca

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