

JOGGINS FOSSIL CLIFFS “STEWARDS OF THE CLIFFS” - A CELEBRATION

At Joggins, on the shore of Chignecto Bay,

In the windswept Cliffs of the mighty Bay of Fundy,

Where the World’s highest tides swirl, meander, rip and roam,

With its distinct seasons, biting winds, quietly blanketing snow, creeping fog, relentless rains and magnificent sunsets,

Lie treasures of universal value, - scientific- historical - hidden.

The fossils of the Carboniferous.

JOGGINS - FOSSIL CLIFFS - A PLACE OF POSSIBILITIES.

We speak of mysterious names: *arthrolepura*, *dendropupa*, *xylobius* and *hylonomous lyelli*,

On the beach we find fascinating samples of *calamites*, *lepidodendron* and *sigillaria*,

The rugged, steep rock faces, expose wondrous three hundred million year old remains of amphibian and aquatic reptiles,

An abundance of fossilized tree trunks, extensive coal beds,

And segments of *stigmara* roots,

Oh, the science, the history and the mystery of it all!

JOGGINS - FOSSIL CLIFFS - A PLACE OF DISCOVERY.

The winds whisper- Charles Lyell, Charles Darwin, and William Dawson.

In recent times, among the sounds of thundering waves on ancient reefs,

We distinguish names - Laing Ferguson, John Calder, and Don Reid.

The famous Fossil Cliffs of Joggins, are yielding amazing records of

The passage of time, and life on this planet.

As the sun slips into the Bay and paints the sky, as the winds play melodies through the pines, as the tides cleanse the beaches twice daily,

WE SEE - JOGGINS - THE FOSSIL CLIFFS - A PLACE TO MARVEL!

The Joggins Fossil Cliffs - a pilgrimage site;

A place to remember - the evolution of species.

A place to describe in one word - “Spectacular”.

A truly amazing place, where history and science are brought to life.

A departure point for embarking on a grand adventure,

To explore, discover, experience, learn, reflect and connect with the past.

JOGGINS - FOSSIL CLIFFS - A DREAM COMING TRUE - A PLACE WORTHY OF RECOGNITION.

Today we celebrate the many hidden treasures in the Cliffs,

Today we celebrate UNESCO’s decision one year ago,

To inscribe the Joggins Fossil Cliffs.

Today we celebrate the “Sacred Trust”, bestowed upon us,

To be guardians, to manage and protect the site, and

To continue to tell the “Joggins Story”, with its relevance to life on earth.

JOGGINS - FOSSIL CLIFFS - A PLACE OF UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE DESIGNATION.

Most importantly, to-day, we celebrate the human spirit,

A spirit with a vision,

A spirit with the courage to face challenges,

A spirit that gave its best and never gave up,

In making a difference,

For people, the community, the region, the province and our country,

IN MAKING JOGGINS - THE FOSSIL CLIFFS - A PLACE OF RECOGNITION - FOR THE WORLD.

We ARE the “STEWARDS OF THE CLIFFS”,

Let us stand up and proclaim:

” We are proud to be advocates for Joggins and the Fossil Cliffs”,

We the” STEWARDS OF THE CLIFFS”, PROUDLY ACCEPT “A SACRED TRUST”,

To support, protect, and promote, this unique and special World Heritage Site,

And indeed be AMBASSADORS to the WORLD.

LET US CELEBRATE - PEOPLE, HISTORY, SCIENCE, AND WORLD HERITAGE INSCRIPTION - STEWARDSHIP - JOGGINS!

Mark Boon, Joggins, NS - July 7, 2009