



The Creamery Square Heritage Centre is a unique combination of several community museums, collections and a resource centre in one location, the historic Creamery Building in Tatamagouche, on the Northumberland shore of Nova Scotia. Many of the individual museums and collections bring with them considerable accomplishments and previous recognition, however the ability of so many community heritage assets to come together in one facility provides a truly exciting visitor experience and an innovative model for the long-term protection, interpretation and presentation of community heritage assets. The Heritage Centre opened on June 20, 2009 after many years of innovative planning and partnership development.



In a recent letter of support, Paul Collins, Manager of the provincial Community Museums Assistance Program, states that the Creamery Square Heritage Centre is “a first in the province”.

The Heritage Centre is itself one of three key components in the overall Creamery Square Development project which includes the new Tatamagouche Farmers’ Market building and the proposed Performing Arts Centre, along with development of courtyards, the waterfront and Trans-Canada trail. As part of a larger community based critical mass project, the Heritage Centre is committed to demonstrating a clear and practical connection between local heritage and entertainment, recreation, small local enterprise, regional economic growth, rural community sustainability and our overall quality of life.

The Heritage Centre, which is operated by the newly incorporated Creamery Square Heritage Society, brings together the Sunrise Trail Museum (an existing community museum), the Brule Fossil collection (original specimens are on loan from the Nova Scotia Museum), the new Creamery exhibit (one of only two in Canada), the Anna Swan exhibit (a private collection), the Roy Kennedy Historical collection (a private collection), and the North Shore Archives, within one facility. The Heritage Centre provides a broad range of new opportunities for more efficient management of operating costs, new and improved presentation of themes and artifacts, better access to a broader range of services for the public and volunteers, more support for volunteers, improved marketing, governance and operational standards and improved opportunities for income generation.





In addition to the new exhibits which are developed around themes and artifacts specific to Tatamagouche and the surrounding area, the Heritage Centre includes a resource centre which will allow for more research and access to expanding information and interpretation. In this, its first year of operation, the Heritage Centre received a research grant from Canadian Heritage (Virtual Museums of Canada, Community Memories Program). The Heritage Centre also received funding from Canadian Heritage's Young Canada Works program. Over the first six weeks of operation the Centre welcomed over 1,800 visitors from across Canada, the United States, Europe and Asia. Without the development of the Heritage Centre it is likely that most of the individual partners would not have survived and the viability of others would have been seriously compromised.



The renovations to the Creamery building represent an exciting example of the adaptive reuse of heritage buildings. As much as possible, the essential character of the building has been preserved and provides a unique ambiance for visitors to enjoy the exhibits and other services provided by the Centre. At the same time, sophisticated electrical, communications, security, fire safety, air quality, storage and barrier free access features have been incorporated in the renovated building.

Necessary architectural modifications to the building have been carefully planned to be sympathetic to the original design but also clearly enable visitors to distinguish between original features versus what has been added or altered. Similarly, careful attention has been paid toward energy efficiency, environmental sensitivity and the efficient and flexible use of the new Heritage Centre. The entire Creamery Square site is being developed to respect and enhance the historic context, maximize barrier-free accessibility and encourage participation in a wide variety of exciting activities.

The Creamery Square Heritage Centre is providing a new model for the sustainable development of physical assets and organizational strengths that can provide guidance to other heritage groups and community museums in other parts of Nova Scotia and across Canada. Recognition of the outstanding accomplishments in facility design and development will be a valuable asset not only in promoting and marketing the Heritage Centre but also in the efforts of the Creamery Square Heritage Society to share their success with other projects in the future.



*Heritage, Culture,  
Entertainment & Community*

**Funding Partners**

Atlantic Canada  
Opportunities Agency  
Canadian Heritage  
Service Canada  
NS Economic Development  
NS Tourism, Culture &  
Heritage  
Service Nova Scotia  
(Accessibility)  
County of Colchester  
Colchester Regional  
Development Agency

**Consultants**

*Feasibility Study:*  
Robert Frame, Museum  
and Heritage Specialist  
BA, CAPHC  
*Project Management,  
Construction Mngmnt  
& Architectural Design:*  
Colin Fowlie Consulting  
& Project Management  
*Engineering:*  
CJ MacLellan &  
Associates Inc.  
*Exhibit Interpretation,  
Design and Construction:*  
Skyline Atlantic Canada

**Community Partners**

Creamery Square Heritage  
Society  
Creamery Square Association  
Sunrise Trail Museum  
Brule Fossil Preservation  
North Shore Archives  
Roy Kennedy Historical  
Collection  
Mr. Dale Swan