

Geoheritage and Geotourism Projects in Newfoundland and Labrador

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The geological Survey is active in a wide range of Geotourism and Geoheritage projects throughout the Province. Many of the geotourism projects are collaborative with colleagues at the Department of Business, Tourism, Culture and Rural Development, as well as with local partners and stakeholders on a variety of geotourism projects, including the Aspiring Discovery Geopark on the Bonavista Peninsula and the Aspiring Cabox Geopark in the Bay of Islands region.



Figure 2. Folding in the shale and sandstone layers of the Summerside formation, within the community of Summerside, Bay of Islands area. This is one of the sites in the Aspiring Cabox Geopark.

In collaboration with the Aspiring Cabox Geopark, the geological survey is involved in the new Northern Peripheries and Arctic Region Project entitled – “Drifting Apart”. Over the next 3 years, this project will support the development of new and aspiring Global Geoparks, the promotion of innovative products and services for social and economic prosperity and to continue to build a strong network of geoheritage destinations in the Northern Periphery and Arctic Region.



Figure 1. Two root cellars preserved in the town of Elliston, Bonavista Peninsula. Root cellars were built using local flagstone, slate with a well-developed cleavage. This location is a site in the Aspiring Discovery Geopark on the Bonavista Peninsula.



Figure 3. Members of the MPAL – Mistaken Point Ambassadors Inc. and Government partners pose for a picture with the completed “dossier” which was sent to UNESCO for evaluation in January 2015. The dossier is a collection of documents about Mistaken Point that supports its Outstanding Universal Value, including a thorough plan on how the site will be protected and managed. A key step in the evaluation process is a Field Mission, where members from the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and external experts evaluate the Mistaken Point property and discuss the nomination with relevant national and local authorities, local community members and other stakeholders. This field mission occurred in September of 2015.

Over the last several years, the Survey has supported the bid for Mistaken Point to become a UNESCO World heritage Site. This September the Province and the Mistaken Point Ambassadors Inc. welcomed a representative from the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) who conducted the Mistaken Point onsite evaluation mission, which is a critical step in a larger evaluation process that also includes formal desktop reviews of the nomination dossier.

This year also saw the re-branding and grand “Re-opening” of the newly re-designed Fortune Head Geology Center, and a new collaboration entitled the “Geological Treasures Network of Eastern Newfoundland” that aims to cross promote sites that are of geological interest.

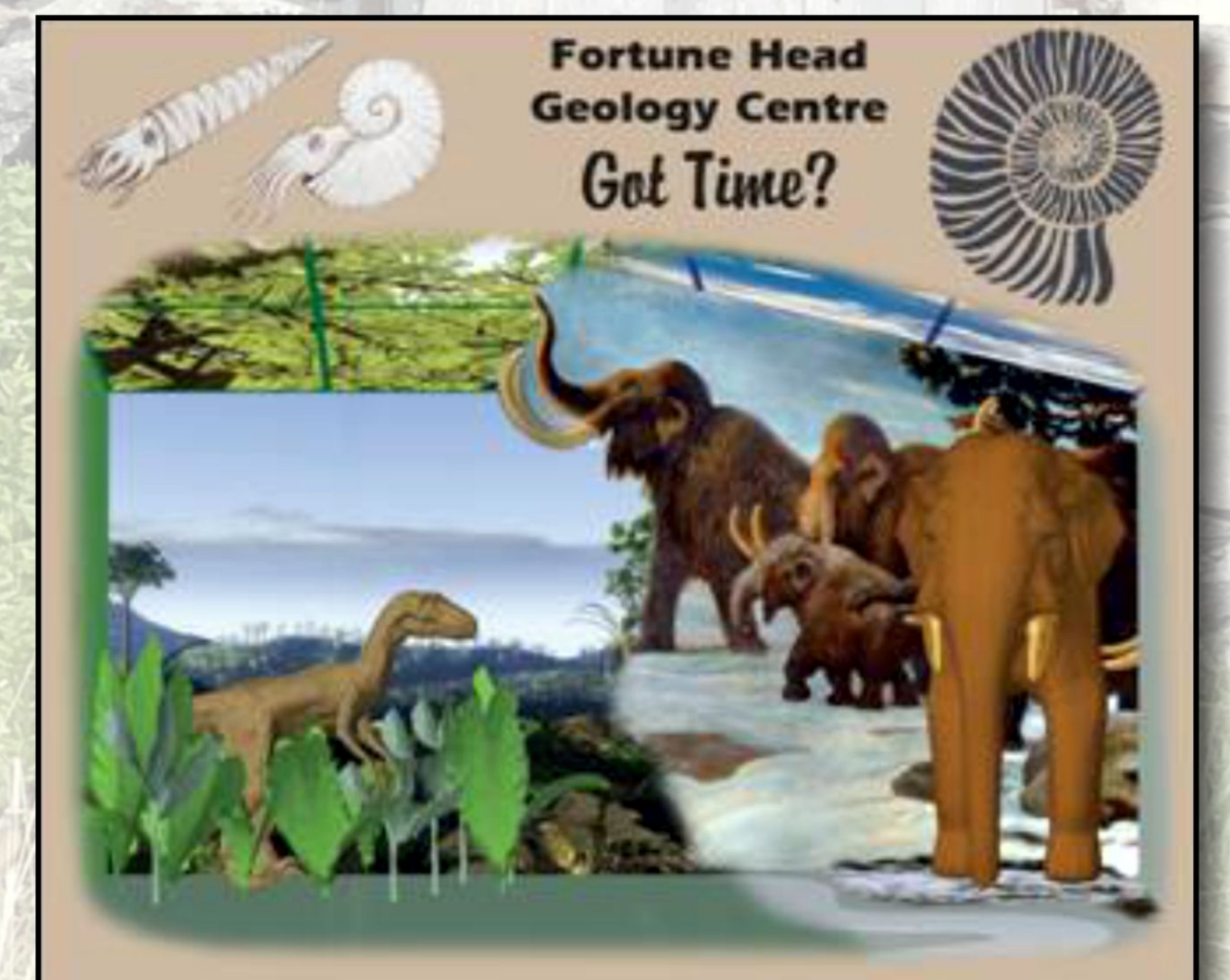


Figure 4. The new promotional flyer for the newly re-designed Fortune Head Geology Center.



Figure 5. Geological Survey staff preparing to capture digital imagery using the drone of the geoheritage site on the Bonavista Peninsula.

The Survey has commenced a project utilising our newly acquired drone (UAV) to capture high quality imagery of our provincial geoheritage sites. This video and picture data will be used in a variety of ways; from updating our Building Stones of Newfoundland App to creating new digital access to the geology of the province. We plan to add a layer to our digital atlas that allows user to view videos of select geoheritage sites.



Figure 6. Aerial view of Signal Hill, looking to the North with the city of St. John's in the background. Signal Hill is part of the Building Stones of Newfoundland App.