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Thinkers' Lodge restoration moves forward

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Advisory committee formed to drive Phase 2 development

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PUGWASH – Efforts are continuing to make sure the legacy of the first Pugwash Conference is protected for future generations.

As the restoration and development of the Thinkers' Lodge National Historic Site moves into its second phase, a broad-based advisory committee has been established to provide guidance and advice for completing the restoration of Thinkers' Lodge and detailed architectural designs, engineering and cost estimates for the lobster factory (dining hall) restoration.

“Personally I couldn't be more pleased at how much progress has been made and also the good fortune we've had in that we managed to get a lot of work done last year,” said John Eaton, whose grandfather industrialist Cyrus Eaton offered his Pugwash cottage for the very first peace conference more than a half century ago. “We've been able to get an enormous amount of work done and that has led to further support from the province and federal government.”

The advisory committee also includes representation from CREDA, Cumberland County, the village commission, the local historical society, the province, ACOA, the park commission and other organizations.

Four action teams have been formed to tackle a number of tasks related to site development and the interpretive master plan, business-operational plan development, the education program as well as the development and implementation of communications and marketing strategies.

Form Media of Dartmouth has been selected to develop the master interpretive plan for the historic site that will address the long-term vision for the site and the requirement for interpretive media to support the vision along with budgets, phasing, partnerships, research and curatorial recommendations.

“It's not only important that we protect the legacy for future generations but it's important that we develop new programs and events at Thinkers' Lodge across a much longer season,” Eaton said. “We need to give people the experience of what happened in Pugwash and we need to provide the opportunity to drive economic development along the Northumberland Strait.”

The plan will also inform the design and development stage with regards to themes, overall vision for visitor experiences and media selections. It will also address Stage 1 interpretive media needs for the Thinkers' Lodge and the site, specifically with regard to short-term media opportunities that can be implemented for the 2011 tourist season.

Restoration work on the lodge itself is nearing completing and this winter has focused on new mechanical systems including heating, plumbing and electrical as well as plaster restoration, storm windows and window repair.

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A new broad-based advisory committee has been created to drive the second phase of the restoration of the Thinkers' Lodge National Historic Site.