
Manuels River Hibernia Interpretation Centre: opening this spring!

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A 7 km-long section of Manuels River provides access to Late Proterozoic volcanic rocks, Cambrian sedimentary rocks, including a world-famous trilobite fauna, and modern geological processes along the river and at its outlet into the sea in Conception Bay. The Manuels River Natural Heritage Society (MRNHS) has created a linear park along the river and has provided tours of the river to the public, school classes and visiting community groups for 16 years or so. In collaboration with the Rotary Club of Avalon Northeast (RANE), a new 1200 m² interpretation centre is under construction to facilitate access to the river. The new centre will have exhibits focussing on the river's geology, its flora and fauna, and its human history. Of particular interest will be a re-creation of the river's bedrock geology, with interpretation, and exhibits on the trilobite fauna, honouring the work of Dr. Riccardo Levi-Setti, who has donated to MRNHS his collections from many years spent on the river. The centre will also provide rentable audio-guides to the river. Funding for the centre and for further development of the trail system is coming from founding partners—the Town of Conception Bay South, the Hibernia Management and Development Corporation, the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, RANE, and MRNHS—and a raft of corporate and individual sponsors. The centre will open in Spring of this year, and will be offering educational programmes for schools, summer camps, and tours for various community groups. A gift shop and café, together with a function suite and mini-theatre will offer a wide variety of opportunities for visitors and for community activities.