

Honouring Don Reid ONS (1922–2016) and his foundational collection at the Joggins Fossil Institute

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The Joggins Fossil Cliffs UNESCO World Heritage Site is a Carboniferous coastal section within the Bay of Fundy. The cliffs represent the World's finest example of the terrestrial tropical environment and ecosystems of the Pennsylvanian (Late Carboniferous). Local resident, Don Reid (also known as "The Keeper of the Cliffs"), diligently amassed a large collection of educationally and scientifically important fossils from the site that represent a broad range of specimens, including micro- and macrofossils; invertebrates and vertebrates; plant material; and trace fossils. In 1989, he and his family opened a fossil museum in Joggins that highlighted their finds.

The UNESCO World Heritage designation and the opening of the newly constructed Joggins Fossil Institute (JFI) in 2008, prompted Don and his family to donate his collection of Joggins fossils to JFI/the Province of Nova Scotia. While JFI's collection continues to grow, Don's specimens still form the foundation of the Institute's collection and his fossils remain exceptionally useful for educational and scientific research, indeed, many specimens have been featured in publications.

Individuals like Don Reid, who are particularly gifted and passionate, should be recognized as champions of our natural heritage. In 2016, Don was awarded the province's highest honour: the Order of Nova Scotia.