

Project Development

The Chestico Museum and Historical Society is taking the lead on this project, with the support and expertise of the Department of Heritage (Museums Division), the Association of Nova Scotia Museums, the Council of Nova Scotia Archives, and the Heritage Committee of the Inverness County Council and the Municipality of the County of Inverness.

We will be asking for the support of our local community and the county as a whole as we go forward with our architectural and engineering designs. We are presently seeking funding from various levels of government. We have purchased part of the old Port Hood school property at the corner of the Wharf Road and Main Street in Port Hood. We will be looking into other ways of financing this project from developing an endowment fund to seeking out government programmes which support museums and archives. We are fulfilling a mandate set out by a recent Heritage Strategy Task Force report (2006) that calls for regional or county archives in Nova Scotia.

Chestico Place will have an estimated cost of \$1.9 million as envisioned by this committee to see it through to completion. With its proximity to the Court House and its important land registry and probate records, the Inverness County Archives will be an added bonus to the community of Port Hood as a home for the many valuable historical records that need a proper facility in this county.

Please support this very important project.

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CHESTICO PLACE

Development Plan

Port Hood, Nova Scotia



Port Hood Lighthouse, circa 1935

Chestico Place will be the new heritage and archives centre in Port Hood. It will house the new Inverness County Archives and Research Room, the Chestico Heritage Centre, the Chestico Tea Room, a Gift Shop, a Living History Room, artisans studios and more. With Chestico Place, the history, culture and heritage of our area will come alive and the new Archives, which will serve all of Inverness County, will be the destination of choice for anyone doing research or genealogy in this part of Cape Breton.

The Opportunity

As Shiretown (county seat) of Inverness County, Port Hood is well placed to attract many visitors. It is in a central location in the county, is close to the Strait area, is located along a beautiful harbour and is enroute to the world famous Cabot Trail. Port Hood-by-the-Sea, the oldest named settlement on this side of Cape Breton, has a long history to celebrate.

The Mi'kmaq camped along our beaches and called this place "*Kekweomkek*", after the numerous sandbars in the harbour. The French arrived to quarry stone for the building of Fortress Louisbourg and called it "*Justaucorps*" after the waistcoats they wore at the time. They were followed by English surveyors who renamed it Port Hood after Viscount Admiral Samuel Hood in 1775. A decade later, the Loyalists, refugees of the American Revolution, came and established a more permanent settlement. They were soon joined by large numbers of Highland Scots who attempted to call Port Hood by its French name and pronounced it "*Seastago*". These three early names continued in use for the first century of our history until, more recently, another twist on the name developed - "*Chestico*". This is the heritage name that the Chestico Museum and Historical Society wants to continue in our new Facility – **Chestico Place**.



Port Hood, circa 1905

The Project

After several years of re-evaluation and consultations with the Department of Tourism, Culture and Heritage (in particular, the Nova Scotia Museum division) and the Council of Nova Scotia Archives, the Chestico Museum and Historical Society determined that the needs of researchers and visitors to Inverness County were not being met very efficiently. The call for the establishment of an archives to serve all of Inverness County was issued more than a decade ago.

Now that two legs of the 'cultural tripod' have been built -Strathspey Place (performing arts) and the Inverness County Centre for the Arts (art gallery), it is time to move forward in establishing a County Archives. The Chestico Museum and Historical Society, with the help and support of our local community, has taken on this project. After many meetings, we have developed a plan for this future facility. Our building will reflect Port Hood's marine heritage and incorporate a lighthouse in its architectural design. It will be an attractive structure overlooking Port Hood harbour.

Chestico Place will consist of:

- Inverness County Archives
- Chestico Heritage Centre
- Chestico Tea Room
- Gift Shop
- Living History Room
- Two Artisans Studios
- Farmers Market (future development)

Social and Economic Benefits

- Provides an improved village centre and "Heritage Hub"
- Improves the aesthetic appearance of Port Hood
- Builds upon the community's "brand" of "Port Hood-By-The-Sea"
- Provides a meeting place for people of all ages in all seasons
- Increases the recreational opportunities in the area
- Enhances the combination of other nearby facilities such as a sports centre, RV park, beach, library, future marina and the County Court House
- Provides a major research centre for historians and genealogists
- Provides a climate-controlled facility for important historical records
- Provides educational opportunities for schools
- Will create 4 full-time positions and 4 part-time or seasonal ones
- Will develop an "econo-museum" theme with artisans on-site
- Provides opportunities for youth employment
- Improves Port Hood's status as a tourist destination
- Will help build partnerships with other amenities in the community
- Provides a venue for the development of a Farmers Market onsite



Future Site of Chestico Place