



# All Across the Landscape

Newsletter No. 3 | February 2020 | Grand Pré, Nova Scotia, Canada

## 2020: SAVE THE DATE Grand-Pré National Historic Site opens Friday, May 15.

Hours of operation are  
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
The site will be open daily  
until October 9.

Celebrations marking  
the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary  
of the unveiling of the  
statue of Evangeline are  
planned for the weekend  
of August 8.  
More information will follow.



## OPPORTUNITIES FOR MEMBERSHIP ON TWO COMMITTEES

LANDSCAPE OF GRAND PRÉ INC. (LGPI) is looking for candidates to sit as members of its Technical Advisory and Education and Marketing committees.

### 1. Technical Advisory Committee

The Technical Advisory Committee will provide technical advice and guidance to the Board of Directors of LGPI regarding the implementation of the Management Plan and LGPI's endeavours to preserve the Landscape of Grand Pré World Heritage Site's integrity and authenticity.

Members of the committee should have experience or expertise in one or more of the following areas: archaeology; agriculture and soils; cultural landscape management; cultural resource management; dykeland agriculture; environmental science; heritage conservation; human and environmental geography; hydrogeology and physical geography; land use planning; marine science; sociology; and UNESCO World Heritage Site management.

### 2. Education and Marketing Committee

The Education and Marketing Committee will support LGPI by providing guidance and recommendations related to promotional activities and heritage experiences of the Landscape of Grand Pré World Heritage Site.

Members of the committee should have experience or expertise in one or more of the following areas: marketing and promotion; education; publishing; heritage presentation (interpretation of cultural heritage); web and social media; partnerships; cultural product development; public relations; public engagement; history; planning and urban planning; and sociology.

### Selection Criteria for Members of the Committees

The following criteria will guide the Board of Directors of Landscape of Grand Pré Inc. in selecting the members of the two committees:

- the expertise and experience of the individuals;
- a balance between local, regional, national and international expertise;
- a willingness to work on a volunteer basis; and
- membership to provide a good cross-section of Landscape stakeholders.

### Appointments to Committees

Each committee will comprise four to eight appointed members, at least one director, and the executive director. The Board will appoint committee members on an annual basis.

Committee chairs will be appointed by the Board. Committee secretaries

will be nominated and elected by and amongst the membership of the committees.

### Meetings

Committee meetings will usually be held in the Grand Pré/Wolfville area. Members will be entitled to have their travel expenses reimbursed by LGPI at the rate approved by the Board. The committees will meet at least three times each year and can meet in person or by digital means.

### Expressions of Interest

Those interested in these volunteer opportunities are invited to send an expression of interest, by **February 28, 2020**, indicating their qualifications and their reason for applying, to:

Executive Director,  
Landscape of Grand Pré Inc.  
8-189 Dykeland Street,  
Wolfville, Nova Scotia B4P 1A3  
902-697-2575

[executivedirector@landscapeofgrandpre.ca](mailto:executivedirector@landscapeofgrandpre.ca)

## THE MI'KMAQ OF THE GRAND PRÉ AREA

A.J.B. (John) Johnston

This is the first of a series of articles exploring the rich cultural heritage of the Grand Pré area.



As for oral traditions, the Minas Basin area figures prominently in various Mi'kmaw legends. In those stories, Kluskap (Glooscap) was a cultural hero and key figure. The legends were not just tall tales. They also functioned as oral maps, because they contained geographical, geological, and environmental details about many different places. We can imagine the Mi'kmaq travelling, camping, hunting, fishing, and quarrying stone in what we think of today as Kings, Colchester, and Cumberland counties of Nova Scotia.

For the Mi'kmaq, who were in this area when the Acadians began to settle here in the 1680s, the arrival of the French-speaking newcomers did not cause a great upheaval. The Mi'kmaq continued to come to the area to harvest its resources. That was because for the most part the two peoples got along harmoniously. In fact, there was some intermarriage between Mi'kmaq and Acadians. That

THE MI'KMAQ have been living in this region for approximately 13,300 years, ever since the last Ice Age ended and the climate warmed sufficiently so that the ice retreated and Nova Scotia became habitable. (Though the Mi'kmaq are now called Mi'kmaq, back in the pre-European era—more than 500 years ago—they called themselves L'nuk. That means “the people.” The term “Mi'kmaq” derives from a greeting early Europeans heard the Mi'kmaq use: *nikmaq*. It meant “my family,” “my connections,” or “my kin.” Over time the “n” sound became an “m,” and “Mi'kmaq” became the word used to identify the people, not a relationship.)

To the Mi'kmaq, the Grand Pré area was part of the District of *Sipekne'katik*, meaning “the place where the ground nut grows.” Another Mi'kmaw place name in this area—for Horton Landing—was *Galipotjegatiq*. That means “little caribou place.” Presumably, this was because Horton Landing was a caribou crossing area. Though caribou are now found only in more northern climes, Nova Scotia was home to an abundant population from ancient times into the 19th century.

harmonious relationship is worth underlining because it was relatively rare between European peoples and Indigenous peoples in the Americas in the 17th and 18th centuries. Those relationships were more commonly marked by suspicion, hostility, and war.

Here is a short example of how the Mi'kmaq continued to come to this area after the Acadians had settled here. This example comes from 1720. That year, Mi'kmaw leaders gathered somewhere in this area to compose a letter to go to the British administration at Annapolis Royal. In part, and in French, the Mi'kmaw leaders wrote, “We believe that God gave us this land. ... We do not want the English living in our land, the land we hold only from God. We will dispute that with all men who want to live here without our consent.”

That letter expressed a point of view the Mi'kmaq reiterated time and again throughout the colonial era. In fact, all treaties signed between the

Mi'kmaq and the British between the 1720s and 1760s were for “peace and friendship.” None ever conceded land, as was often the case in the treaties signed in western Canada. That is why many organizations today make a statement that recognizes that we are all on traditional unceded Mi'kmaw territory.

There were practical reasons why the two peoples, the Acadians and the Mi'kmaq, got along well. I already mentioned that there was some intermarriage. Another factor was that both peoples were Roman Catholic. The Mi'kmaq had begun to embrace that religion in 1610, when Chief Membertou and his family adopted the newcomers' religion at Port-Royal.

The Glooscap First Nation is a member of Landscape of Grand Pré Inc. In 2017, the Mi'kmaq chose Grand Pré for a Celebration of Peace and Friendship to mark the 150th anniversary of Confederation.



Landscape of Grand Pré, © Jamie Robertson photo

## THE LANDSCAPE OF GRAND PRÉ'S UNESCO JOURNEY

Claude DeGrâce, Executive Director, Landscape of Grand Pré Inc.

TO MY KNOWLEDGE, the idea of a World Heritage Site in the Annapolis Valley was first discussed some 25 years ago in 1994, during a visit of the then Minister of Canadian Heritage, Michel Dupuy. I remember his visit quite well because I had helped write one of his speeches in which he committed the federal government to commemorate the 400th anniversary of Saint Croix Island in 2004.

The Minister's visit to Grand-Pré National Historic Site inspired the Acadian community to embark on a major redevelopment of Grand-Pré National Historic Site, which resulted in the acquisition of new parcels of land and the construction of a visitor reception centre that opened in 2003.

During Minister Dupuy's visit to Fort Anne National Historic Site, someone suggested to the Minister that Fort Anne, the first national historic site designated in Canada, should be inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List.

### Canada Establishes a Tentative List

The idea of a World Heritage Site lay dormant until Parks Canada's manager at Fort Anne decided in 2000 to write to the Director General of National Historic Sites in Ottawa about pursuing the UNESCO initiative. Word of this project eventually made its way to Grand-Pré National Historic Site, where I was managing the development of the new visitor centre. I shared this idea with members of Parks Canada's Acadian Consultative Committee and with the Société Promotion Grand-Pré. Both groups thought Grand Pré would be an excellent candidate for inscription on UNESCO's World Heritage List, and we asked Parks Canada to explore the possibility.

As Parks Canada had initiated a process to prepare a Tentative List of potential Canadian candidates for inscription on the World Heritage

List, Grand Pré was identified as a potential site. Between 2000 and 2004, the Acadian community, with the support of Parks Canada specialists, undertook considerable effort to demonstrate to Parks Canada that Grand Pré's inclusion on Canada's Tentative List of 10 sites was justified. Grand Pré's inclusion on the Tentative List was seen as a long shot, as more than 100 potential sites were being considered. The timely designation of the Grand-Pré Rural Historic District as a national historic site in 1995—the first designation of a rural district in Canada—and the recognition of the national significance of the *aboiteaux* system in 1997, were key Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada designations that helped make the case for Grand Pré.

Finally, on April 30, 2004, the Tentative List was unveiled. The press release stated:

OTTAWA, ONTARIO, APRIL 30, 2004 —The Honourable David Anderson, Minister of the Environment, today unveiled Canada's updated Tentative List for World Heritage Sites, 11 sites of unimaginable beauty and exceptional wonder.

“The world-class calibre of nominations for Canada's Tentative List serves to reinforce our international reputation as a world leader in the protection and presentation of natural and cultural heritage,” said Minister Anderson. “These places are of outstanding universal value to all humankind and reflect our human creative genius. They are of exceptional cultural or natural significance.”

Over the next few years, there were discussions between Parks Canada and stakeholders about how to proceed with the development of an inscription proposal. Fortunately, Christophe Rivet, a Parks Canada planner with World Heritage



Landscape of Grand Pré, © Jamie

experience, offered to coordinate the process.

**Nomination Grand Pré**

On March 16, 2007, Parks Canada invited a number of stakeholders for a meeting at Grand-Pré National Historic Site to begin the process of developing a nomination proposal to inscribe the Landscape of Grand Pré on UNESCO’s World Heritage List. Nomination Grand Pré was created to lead the process. The committee included the involvement of the local community, the Acadian community, the Mi’kmaq, the Grand Pré Marsh Body, the business community, the Municipality of the County of Kings, Parks Canada, Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, the Province of Nova Scotia, Kings Community Economic Development Agency, Eastern Kings Chamber of Commerce and Kings Federation of Agriculture.

The Government of Canada,

the Province of Nova Scotia and the Municipality of the County of Kings provided significant support for the project with over \$1.3 million in funding and in-kind contributions.

In January 2011, Nomination Grand Pré completed the nomination dossier that was sent to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre in Paris. An 18-month review process followed, led by the International Council of Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS). Three levels of government (Municipality of the County of Kings, Province of Nova Scotia, Government of Canada) and key stakeholders also signed a memorandum of understanding for the long-term management of the landscape, should the bid process be successful.

In November 2011, the Province of Nova Scotia announced the creation of a \$2.5 million contingent trust to help preserve and interpret the

Landscape of Grand Pré. The Municipality of the County of Kings had previously pledged \$25,000 a year for ten years to support the management of the proposed World Heritage Site.

In December 2011, ICOMOS submitted a list of questions for clarification, especially related to the proposed buffer zone. Some revisions were made to the proposal; the major modification was the addition of the view planes to Cape Blomidon.

**View Park**

In 2010, I joined a few members of the Grand Pré community to launch a fundraising campaign to purchase the Trenholm property overlooking the dykelands on Old Post Road. Thanks to the generous contributions of many people and corporations, and Parks Canada’s leadership, the property was purchased and made into a view park where visitors can enjoy the panoramic view of the Landscape.

**World Heritage Committee**

On June 30, 2012, many members of the Grand Pré and Area communities joined representatives of the Acadian community and Parks Canada at Grand-Pré National Historic Site, where a television had been installed to broadcast the meeting of the World Heritage Committee in St. Petersburg, Russia. The room went silent as we witnessed the World Heritage Committee consider Grand Pré’s nomination proposal. While we were expecting that the decision would be favourable, one never knows with such matters. Finally, the verdict was rendered—Grand Pré became Canada’s 16th World Heritage Site. I can still feel the relief as everyone was overjoyed by this tremendous news.

After the cheering had subsided, some of us reflected about all the efforts many people had made to make the inscription possible. We thought of John Frederic Herbin, the first to recognize the importance of protecting the memorial value of the lands at Grand Pré. We thought about the Acadians who had made Grand Pré the bread basket of Acadie and who had been forced into exile in 1755. Finally, we marvelled at all the friendships that had been created as the local

area communities worked with the Acadians, the Mi’kmaq and multiple levels of government to develop the nomination proposal that had made the Landscape of Grand Pré a World Heritage Site.

**Landscape of Grand Pré Society**

It had been determined by Nomination Grand Pré that the Kings Regional Development Agency (Kings RDA) would be responsible for coordinating the management of the World Heritage Site through the establishment of a multi-stakeholder Stewardship Board (a committee of Kings RDA). Unfortunately, Kings RDA was dissolved shortly after the inscription of the Landscape of Grand Pré on the World Heritage List.

A number of interested stakeholders decided to establish the Landscape of Grand Pré Society, a non-profit body incorporated under the Nova Scotia Registry of Joint Stock Companies. The Society accomplished significant work in a very short time (creation of a website; development and implementation of new signage, wayfinding and interpretive panels; development of a promotional brochure; production of a

promotional video; installation of a web cam; development of dykeland protection signage; etc.). The volunteers who stepped up to the task deserve most of the credit for these early accomplishments.

**Landscape of Grand Pré Inc.**

After a few years, it became clear that the bylaws of the Society were inadequate to guide the work of such a complex organization. The members of the Society therefore decided to create a new federally incorporated non-for-profit body Landscape of Grand Pré Inc., which was established in January 2016.

In 2018, Landscape of Grand Pré Inc. completed the development of a Strategic Plan. The plan outlines a vision, mission and key strategic priorities for the organization:

**VISION:** Our communities and partners work collaboratively and proudly to protect and champion the living cultural and agricultural landscape of Grand Pré for the world to appreciate.

**MISSION:** To protect, preserve and promote the Landscape of Grand Pré UNESCO World Heritage Site.



Landscape of Grand Pré, © Jamie Robertson photo



**Strategic Priorities:**

1. Protecting the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Site
2. Collaborating to promote experiences and discovery
3. Collaborating and communicating with communities, members, and stakeholders
4. Sustaining effective management of the Landscape of Grand Pré World Heritage Site

**Members of Landscape of Grand Pré Inc.:**

Glooscap First Nation  
 Grand Pré and Area Community Association  
 Grand Pré Marsh Body  
 Municipality of the County of Kings  
 Parks Canada Agency  
 Province of Nova Scotia  
 Société Nationale de l'Acadie  
 Société Promotion Grand-Pré

**Directors of Landscape of Grand Pré Inc.:**

Géraldine Arsenault  
 Mark Bannerman  
 Gérald Boudreau  
 Anne Curry  
 Yvon Fontaine  
 Emily Lutz  
 Andrew Murphy  
 Beverly Palmetier  
 Marilyn Perkins  
 Ernest Thibodeau

The members of Landscape of Grand Pré Inc. (LGPI) are responsible for collectively electing the Board of Directors (one nominee from each member organization and up to four nominees put forward by the Board).

It is important to note that while most of the directors are nominated by member organizations, their role is not to represent the interests of their members. They are charged with overseeing the broader interest of the Landscape of Grand Pré World Heritage Site and guiding the implementation of the Strategic Plan.

**Updated Website**

Don't forget to check out our updated website. We are fortunate to have many outstanding photographers in the area.  
[www.landscapeofgrandpre.ca](http://www.landscapeofgrandpre.ca)

**Policies**

The Board of Directors has recently approved a Financial management and procurement policy as well as a Travel and expense claim policy and procedures. These two policies will be added to the Communications policy and Code of conduct that can be found on the website.

**Challenges**

From my perspective, there are two significant challenges facing the Landscape of Grand Pré World Heritage Site. The first is the protection of the dykelands from rising sea levels. Fortunately, initiatives are underway to address this pressing issue.

The other challenge is the presentation of the overall significance of the World Heritage Site. The Outstanding Universal Value of the Landscape of Grand Pré can be summarized as follows:

- It bears exceptional testimony to a traditional farming settlement
- It is the iconic place of remembrance of the Acadian diaspora

While the Acadian component of the Outstanding Universal Value is presented at Grand-Pré National Historic Site, the ongoing agricultural heritage aspect of the landscape is not presented in any significant manner. There are interpretive signs in the landscape and at the view park, a brochure and a website, but the significant importance of agriculture is not presented.

Furthermore, visitors are directed to Grand-Pré National Historic Site, where the focus is clearly the Acadian story. Over the next few months, Landscape of Grand Pré Inc. will look at some options to address this concern.

**Fundraising**

Landscape of Grand Pré Inc. is considering the possibility of launching an important fundraising campaign to help sustain the management of the Landscape of Grand Pré. We see this as an opportunity to implement a compelling project or initiatives that would enhance the visibility of the

Landscape of Grand Pré and provide opportunities for visitors to discover the rich agricultural heritage for which the Site was inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List.

We invite anyone who would like to offer comments about this article or ideas about potential projects or initiatives to contact us at:

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 902-697-2575

This newsletter is available on our website:  
[www.landscapeofgrandpre.ca](http://www.landscapeofgrandpre.ca)

Ce bulletin d'information est disponible par téléchargement sur notre site Web :  
[www.paysagedegrand-pre.ca](http://www.paysagedegrand-pre.ca)



Electrical vehicle charging station, Grand-Pré National Historic Site

# THE CENTENNIAL OF “GRAND PRÉ MEMORIAL PARK”

Claude DeGrâce

The sale of a parcel of some 14 acres of land by John Frederic Herbin to the Dominion Atlantic Railway (a subsidiary of the Canadian Pacific Railway) in 1917 was one of many steps that would eventually lead, 95 years later, to the inscription of the Landscape of Grand Pré on UNESCO’s World Heritage List in 2012. Today, we would call Mr. Herbin’s action “Cathedral Thinking” (a far-reaching vision, a well thought-out blueprint, and a shared commitment to long-term implementation).

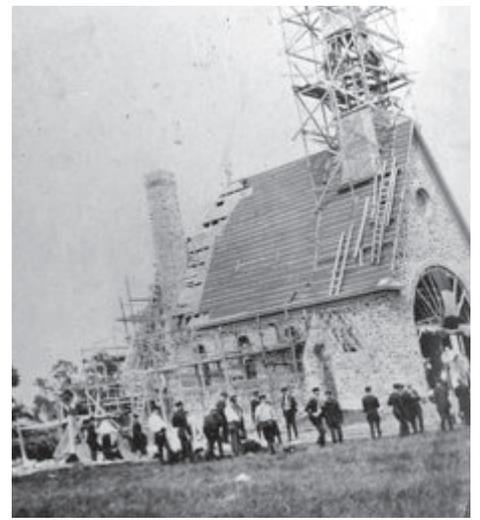
In February 1919, the Ottawa Evening Journal wrote that the Canadian Pacific Railway Company had purchased “the site of Evangeline’s house at Grand Pré, Nova Scotia, and will maintain it as a public park.” The article also noted the beauty of the Annapolis Valley, stating, “Canadians who have the means to travel should see the Acadian country; in a way, it is as well worth seeing as almost anything in our country or on the continent.”

Over the years, many people have worked to build on the vision of Mr. Herbin. One such individual was Percy Erskine Nobbs, who was given a commission by the Dominion Atlantic Railway to design the Grand Pré Memorial Park, which would become the home of Henri Hébert’s Evangeline. According to Wayne Brown, who wrote an excellent analysis titled *Percy Nobbs and the Memorial Garden at Grand Pré*, Percy

Nobbs’ drawings date from March 1919 to May 1920:

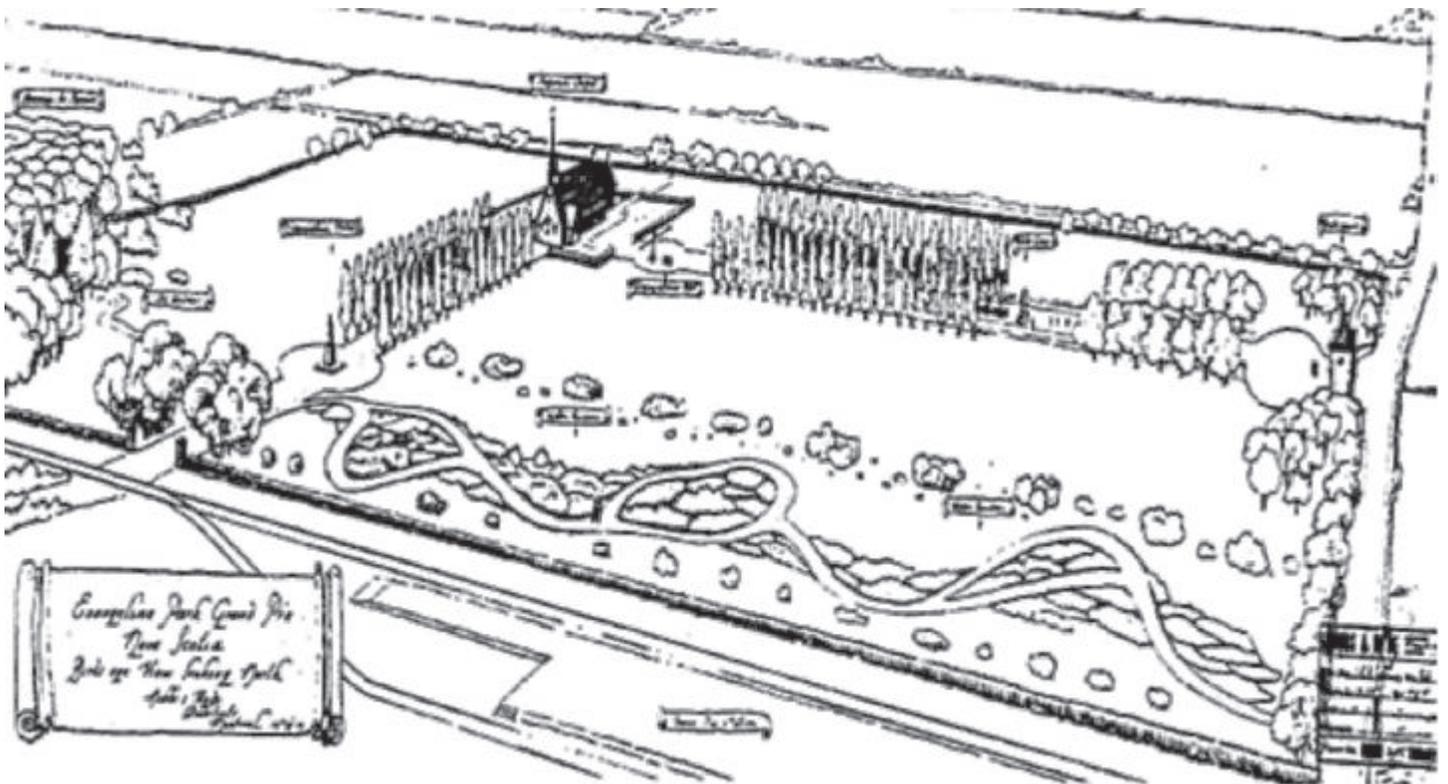
Nobbs’ noted proposal for a McGill University master plan ... provides a high level of interest and complexity, achieved through “a contrast of space,” and may presage the Memorial Garden at Grand Pré. Much of Nobbs’ design was in fact built, as evidenced by the illustrations of post-1920 tourist literature presenting Grand Pré, Evangeline and the story of l’Acadie. The most important aspect of the Nobbs plan is arguably the “axiation” with primary and secondary axes serving as the chief ordering device for the other assorted elements of the site.

On March 4, 1920, Mr. Nobbs wrote to René A. Fréchet, a Moncton architect commissioned by the Société Nationale l’Assomption to design the Memorial Church. Mr. Nobbs asked about the



progress on the plans for the church and informed Mr. Fréchet that he had been asked by the CPR to develop a model of the whole park, including the church, for the 1920 Toronto Exhibition. He noted that the model would be 30 feet long.

Grand Pré Memorial Park was acquired by the federal government in 1957 and designated a national historic site in 1961. From the beginning of my work at Grand-Pré National Historic Site in 1983, I have always been amazed by the enduring vision of John Frederic Herbin, who set in motion this great project more than 100 years ago. In fact, 2020 will mark the 100th anniversary of the unveiling of the statue of Evangeline and, in 2022, the construction of the Memorial Church.



Percy Nobbs drawing of Grand Pré Memorial Park.