



All Across the Landscape

Newsletter No. 4 | Fall 2020 | Grand Pré, Nova Scotia, Canada



Claude DeGrâce

Development of a Visitor Experience Concept for the Landscape of Grand Pré

Landscape of Grand Pré Incorporated (LGPI) is planning to move forward with the development of a visitor experience concept for the Landscape of Grand Pré World Heritage Site. The proposed concept would focus on developing the View Park and an interpretive trail linking it with the Harvest Moon Trailway. The Board of Directors of LGPI agrees that the View Park could be further developed and promoted to offer an overall presentation of the themes related to the landscape and enhance the visitor experience.

This project will help LGPI achieve its strategic priorities by working with partners to promote wide recognition, understanding and appreciation of the Outstanding Universal Value of the Landscape of Grand Pré. An enhanced visitor experience will enable visitors and stakeholders to connect intimately and personally with the heritage of the Landscape of Grand Pré, so that they become ambassadors of the World Heritage Site.

Presenting the overall history of the landscape at the View Park could potentially help counter a perception that the Landscape of Grand Pré World Heritage Site and Grand-Pré National Historic Site are interchangeable and linked exclusively to the Acadian story. The Board of Directors agrees that developing the View Park would be a major step in fostering broader support for the mandate of the World Heritage Site. LGPI plans to seek public and stakeholder input in the development of the visitor experience concept. We will provide additional information as the process is implemented.



Jamie Robertson

Help us stay in touch

If you would like to receive future newsletters, please email us at info@landscapeofgrandpre.ca. For environmental reasons, we are in the process of moving to digital distribution of the newsletter.



Please join us on Facebook: "Landscape of Grand Pré"

Please visit our website for more information about the Landscape of Grand Pré Inc. <http://www.landscapeofgrandpre.ca/>

PROTECTING THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES OF THE LANDSCAPE AND ITS BUFFER ZONE

Catherine Cottreau-Robins *PhD, Curator of Archaeology, Nova Scotia Museum*

FOR LANDOWNERS WHO WISH TO DEVELOP or build on land within the boundaries of the Landscape of Grand Pré and its buffer zone, updates to the site's archaeological-protection strategy will be of interest.

When the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) representative visited Grand Pré on behalf of UNESCO in 2011 to evaluate the nomination proposal, it was stated that the archaeological potential of the Landscape was exceptional and elevated the nomination proposal. The expert also emphasized the importance of providing support to landowners and asked that the nomination proposal demonstrate how that support would be provided.

In 2012, when the Landscape of Grand Pré was inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List, ICOMOS recommended that the State Party (Canada) give consideration to the following:

- apply without delay the Archaeological Management Plan announced for the overall property, and consider extending it to the property's buffer zone and surrounding coastal areas
- expand the property's monitoring system with a regular assessment of changes to farmland and building use



Catherine Cottreau-Robins

Excavation at a Planter site in Horton Landing,

The Technical Advisory Committee established by the former Landscape of Grand Pré Society, and its archaeology subcommittee, took this advice very seriously. In 2014, they proposed measures to the Stewardship Board, including budgetary support to address the protection of the archaeological heritage of the Landscape.

Landscape of Grand Pré Incorporated (LGPI) re-established the Technical Advisory Committee in 2020. Two of its first tasks have been to update the 2011 Strategy for the management and conservation of the archaeological heritage in the Landscape of Grand Pré and to consider the 2014 recommendations regarding the protection of archaeological resources. These tasks are underway.

FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS before the arrival of Europeans in northeastern North America, the Mi'kmaq lived, hunted, and fished on the shores of the Minas Basin, an area that was called Sipekni'katik. Their presence in the broader landscape is confirmed from traditional, archaeological, and ethnographic sources.

The archaeological discovery in 2009 of a 4,000-year-old stone gouge at Horton Landing provides insight regarding early use of

the area by the ancestors of the Mi'kmaq.

The Landscape and its buffer zone include archaeological remains of the villages of Grand Pré and Hortonville that testify to the settlements and lifestyles of the Acadian who came to the area in the 1680s and the New England Planters who settled this area of Nova Scotia in the 1760s.

The property and its landscape include traces of the major pathways that crossed the

marshland and organized the adjacent coastal area.

If you have suggestions about how best to protect archaeological heritage in the Landscape and buffer zone, please contact Claude DeGrâce, Executive Director, to share your ideas:

Claude DeGrâce
Executive Director
Landscape of Grand Pré Inc. –
Le Paysage de Grand-Pré inc.
executivedirector@
landscapeofgrandpre.ca
902-697-2575

Currently, when a landowner applies for a development agreement or when a building permit is issued for land located within the boundaries of the Landscape of Grand Pré and its buffer zone, the Planning and Development division of the Municipality of the County of Kings informs the Special Places Program Office of the Nova Scotia Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage.

Special Places, with the support of the Curator of Archaeology at the Nova Scotia Museum, then determines whether an archaeological resource impact assessment (ARIA) is required. An ARIA consists of an inventory and evaluation of archaeological resources and the assessment of impacts in connection with development proposals that will potentially disturb or alter the landscape, thereby endangering archaeological sites. An ARIA assessment has two phases:

- Phase 1: the investigative stage, which gathers information and provides recommendations that can inform decisions by the landowner and/or regulator
- Phase 2: the mitigation stage, which may occur if Phase 1 shows that archaeological or historical remains are present and a decision is made that further fieldwork is required

If an ARIA is recommended, Special Places informs the landowner and provides a list of eligible archaeologists. An ARIA should be conducted at least two to three weeks before breaking ground. Landowners can contact the Special Places Program Office to obtain a list of eligible archaeologists.

The landowner is currently responsible for paying the cost of the ARIA. However, these costs have often been kept to a minimum because archaeologists have contributed time and resources.

This newsletter is available on our website:
www.landscapeofgrandpre.ca

Ce bulletin d'information est disponible par téléchargement sur notre site Web :
www.paysagedegrand-pre.ca



Dendrochronology core extraction for an aboiteau excavated in the Landscape.

Catherine Cottreau-Robins



Rob Ferguson exploring an aboiteau feature on the Grand Pré marsh.

Catherine Cottreau-Robins



Excavation of a 19th century site in Hortonville.

Catherine Cottreau-Robins

THE NEW ENGLAND PLANTERS

A.J.B. (John) Johnston

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

A LONG-HELD GOAL of British officials in 18th-century Nova Scotia, dating well before the Acadian Deportation, was to attract settlers to the colony who would be unquestionably loyal to the British side.

After the Deportation, the British administration especially sought to attract New England colonists to come to Nova Scotia. Appeals went out in late 1758, after the capture of Louisbourg, and again in early 1759. At the time, the Anglo-American colonists were unable to find land in western Massachusetts because of the ongoing war and fears of raids and attacks. Accordingly, several thousand New Englanders looked favourably on the inducements being offered by the Government of Nova Scotia to come here instead.

Those colonists who relocated are known collectively as the New England Planters. One of the many areas to which the Planters came within Nova Scotia was Grand Pré, which they already knew about as a highly productive agricultural district. Other areas to which Planters were attracted in western Nova Scotia were Cornwallis, Falmouth and Newport. In central Nova Scotia, they established in Onslow and Truro. Along the South Shore, they settled at Chester, New Dublin, Liverpool, Barrington and Yarmouth.

Still others went to Annapolis Royal and nearby Granville, to Cumberland and Sackville in the Chignecto area, and to Portland Point and Maugerville in what in 1784 was to become New Brunswick.

Altogether, about 8,000 New England Planters came to settle in the region. In some cases, they settled where Acadians had been before. In others, they opted for locations previously known only to the Mi'kmaq. When the Planters settled in the Grand Pré area, they renamed it Horton Township. The vast marsh alongside, however, they continued to call by its original French name, the Grand Pré.

In many ways, the settlement and land use patterns that developed at Grand Pré after 1760 were similar to those seen before 1755. As the Acadians had done before them, the Planters erected their houses, barns, mills and other buildings on the uplands in a spread-out manner. Both groups also took full advantage of the fertility of

the dyked marsh that lay in front of them.

The biggest challenge faced by the Planters as they settled at Grand Pré was the flooded portions of the vast dykeland, the result of the great storm of November 1759 that broke the dyke wall at Grand Pré in several places. Dyking and the construction of *aboiteaux* was not something the Planters had been familiar with in their New England communities. The Planters turned for advice, assistance and labour to the Acadians, especially those imprisoned at Fort Edward. The latter passed on to the newcomers the secrets of wetlands transformation that they and their ancestors had acquired over several generations. With the guidance and help of the Acadians, the Planters reclaimed the flooded areas of the Grand Pré dykeland.

The Grand Pré Rural Historic District, the first of its kind in Canada, was designated a national historic site in 1995.



Claude DeGrâce

New England Planters commemorative plaque, Horton Landing

This designation commemorated the combined agricultural traditions of the Acadians and the Planters, which evolved to create the distinctive rural landscape of today's Grand Pré.

NOVA SCOTIA DYKELAND SYSTEM UPGRADES PROJECT

CLIMATE CHANGE is already having a significant impact on Nova Scotia's ecosystems, economies and communities, including cultural and historic sites. In 2018, the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture (NSDA) applied for federal funding to upgrade dykelands that are at high risk of damage from climate change. The application was successful in bringing close to \$25 million to the project, which is matched by the provincial government for a total of almost \$50 million over eight years.

As per the federal criteria, this project is about protecting natural infrastructure that is both primarily for public use and at high risk of damage from climate change. The sites that have been identified for upgrade include 64 kilometres of dyke systems and five aboiteaux.

This is an exceptional opportunity to improve more than 25 per cent of the province's 241 kilometres of dykeland along the Bay of Fundy. These sites provide flood protection to tens of thousands of residents and businesses, historical and world heritage sites, Mi'kmaq communities and more than 20,000 hectares of farmland.

Since the early 1600s, European settlers have converted tidal salt marshes along the Bay of Fundy into rich and productive agricultural farmland. The Dykeland System was begun by the Acadians, expanded by the English, and today is sustained by the province with the assistance of the Government of Canada.

The dykes and aboiteaux



Jamie Robertson

were designed to an agricultural standard in the 1950s and 60s. Unfortunately, the standards of construction used then are no longer adequate. The rising sea levels due to climate change require that dykes be built higher and erosion caused by the increased frequency and intensity of storms demands that they be made more robust.

Mi'kmaq communities along the Bay of Fundy also have a vested interest in protecting culturally significant land and artifacts as well as continuation and restoration of fish passage. Consultation with Mi'kmaq communities is subject to a separate formal consultation process under the 2010 Mi'kmaq-Nova Scotia-Canada Consultation Terms of Reference and is being coordinated with Nova Scotia's Office of Aboriginal Affairs.

A project of this magnitude involves a number of stakeholders that include landowners, Marsh Bodies, numerous not-for-profit associations and environmental groups.

NSDA will engage and communicate with the

The Grand Pré Marsh (NS008) is located in Kings County between the Cornwallis and Gaspereau Rivers. The marsh is approximately 1,221 hectares (3,016 acres) with two dyke tracts totalling 8,673 m (28,454 ft.) and seven aboiteaux. The marsh is bordering the communities of North Grand Pré, Hortonville, Grand Pré, Lower Wolfville, Wolfville and is located within the Landscape of Grand Pré UNESCO World Heritage Site.

stakeholders affected by the planned work. Currently 15 sites are under consideration. Preliminary technical data collection began at five sites in 2019; work on additional sites has been underway throughout 2020.

More information will be forthcoming as the project unfolds. In the meantime, if you have questions or comments please contact us by email at dykelandupgrades@novascotia.ca and watch for our new website on this project called Working with the Tides at: www.novascotia.ca/agri.

GRAND-PRÉ NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE UPDATES

Géraldine Arsenault, *Parks Canada*

Parks Canada would like to provide updates regarding projects underway as well as noteworthy findings made during J. Fowler's latest research at Grand-Pré National Historic Site.

1. Restoration and Conservation Work

Parks Canada is committed to preserving both the natural and cultural heritage of our special places, while ensuring safe, high-quality experiences for our visitors. As part of that commitment, and with the support of the federal infrastructure funding, important conservation and restoration is underway at Grand-Pré National Historic Site.

Repointing of the Memorial Church

The Memorial Church repointing project is underway and entails the following work:

- Masonry and carpentry on the exterior front facade of the Memorial Church;
- Improvements and repairs to the rainwater leaders and flashing;
- Paint touch-ups on the front doors; and
- Restoration of the lunette window above the front doors.

As part of this project, no conservation or restoration work will be conducted inside the Memorial Church. Artefacts that are typically stored and showcased inside will be kept safe and protected during the duration of the repointing project, and will once again be available for public enjoyment next season.

Repointing Evangeline's Pedestal and Conservation and Restoration of Other Monuments

To complete the conservation work needed on the base of the statue, to prevent water pooling and infiltration of pests, to improve ventilation, and strengthen the structure, the following renovations will be made to the statues' base:

- All existing mortars will be removed and replaced;
- A new concrete foundation will be added; and
- Stones in poor condition will be replaced.

The Herbin Cross and Longfellow monuments, as well as the Coming of the New England Planters

Cairn at Horton Landing, will also undergo conservation and restoration work as part of this project.

2. Recent Findings from Geophysical Surveys

Parks Canada is pleased to share that an extensive research program, led by archaeologist Jonathan Fowler of Saint Mary's University and Northeast Archaeological Inc., has made significant strides in mapping archaeological resources at Grand-Pré National Historic Site.

Grand-Pré National Historic Site commemorates the pre-Deportation Acadian settlement (c. 1680-1755), the Deportation of the Acadians, and the significance of Grand-Pré as a place of memory for the Acadian people. Since 2001, the Grand-Pré Archaeological Field School has supported Parks Canada's mandate to protect and present the nationally significant heritage at Grand-Pré through a combination of historical, geophysical, and archaeological research and education. The most recent phase of the research program has relied exclusively on non-intrusive research methods and has been extremely productive.

Most recent findings

- The previously unmarked pre-Deportation Acadian cemetery has been mapped with confidence for the first time. Approximately 289 graves have been identified. Furthermore, the cemetery map advances our understanding of the Acadian cultural landscape and the 1755 New England military camp.
- The absence of architectural evidence of a large building in the obtained data strongly suggests that the Acadian parish church of Saint-Charles-des-Mines, which is known to have stood on site, likely did not have a stone foundation set below the frost line.
- An additional possible house site was identified beneath the path located just east of Evangeline's Well.

Over the next few months, we will be evaluating the potential next steps in regards to these findings.

3. Installation of eight oTENTiks

As cornerstones of Canada's tourism industry, Parks Canada administered places are committed to providing visitors with high quality and meaningful visitor experiences and supporting tourism in communities across the country. Parks Canada's oTENTiks (accommodations described as a cross between a tent and a rustic cabin) will provide an immersive experience to visitors at Grand-Pré National Historic Site and the Landscape of Grand Pré World Heritage Site.

We are pleased to share, that Parks Canada is in the process of installing eight oTENTiks which will be located in the fields south of the visitor information center and railroad tracks. The installation of the structures will be completed in November. Should you have any questions, concerns or comments please do not hesitate to reach me.

Géraldine Arsenault
Superintendent, New Brunswick North Field Unit
Parks Canada / Government of Canada
Geraldine.arsenault@canada.ca



Pamela MacDonald

Ground-Penetrating Radar (GPR) Survey



Angela Morin

oTENTiks, Grand Pré National Historic Site

oTENTiks, Grasslands National Park



Parks Canada



Jamie Robertson

THE GRAND PRÉ UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE FUNDING TRUST

Peter Herbin, *Chair*

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 upon its successful inscription as a World Heritage Site. With the inscription of the Landscape on UNESCO’s World Heritage List on June 30, 2012, the Province delivered on its commitment by establishing the Grand Pré UNESCO World Heritage Funding Trust.

A TRUST INDENTURE between the Province of Nova Scotia and the three trustees (Marie-Paule LaForge, Robert Palmeter and myself) was signed on November 5, 2012, with the following purpose:

- a) providing for the protection, continuing community and agricultural use and appreciation of the Site;
- b) enriching the existing tourism destination by promoting wide recognition, appreciation and understanding of the values represented by the Site;
- c) instilling a strong sense of shared community pride and stewardship in the protection, interpretation and promotion of the Site;
- d) fostering increased economic, tourism and agricultural opportunities through partnerships at the Site; and
- e) ensuring the long-term sustainability of the Site’s governance.

The trustees have diligently invested the funds and provided financial support to the beneficiary. Until 2016, this was the Landscape of Grand Pré Society. Now the beneficiary is Landscape of Grand Pré Incorporated, responsible for coordinating the management of the World Heritage Site. We are pleased to report that the Trust currently holds about 80% of its original value.

The financial resources provided by the Funding Trust to Landscape of Grand Pré Inc. enable the Corporation to support its vision and mission:

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.