

January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2011



**TO: Nomination Grand Pré Advisory Board**

**From: Christophe Rivet, Project Manager**

**Date: January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2011**

**RE: Project Manager's and Progress Report 18 (for discussion)**

---

#### OVERVIEW

- The nomination proposal is complete and is expected to be delivered on time to UNESCO. The boxes containing the nomination proposal will be sent on January 24<sup>th</sup>.
- The focus for the next steps will be to prepare for the review by the World Heritage Committee and its advisory body (ICOMOS);

#### STATUS OF THE NOMINATION PROPOSAL DOCUMENT

The nomination is complete. The following information is a summary of key information. The French version will be completed by February 15<sup>th</sup>. The document will be sent to UNESCO for information. The English version is the official document for submission. Status of public access of the document is discussed in a separate memo, titled: Public access to the nomination proposal.

#### Justification for Inscription:

The criteria under which the Landscape of Grand Pré is being proposed are:

**Criterion (v): “an outstanding example of a traditional human settlement which is representative of a human interaction with the environment.”**

*Grand Pré is a vibrant agricultural landscape, carved out of its harsh coastal environment three centuries ago by Acadian settlers. Working collectively, they applied an ingenious system of dyking and drainage to hold back the highest tides in the world, created extraordinarily fertile farmland, and began a tradition of collective management. This land reclamation system and this management tradition continue to ensure the livelihood of the local community today. The Landscape of Grand Pré is an outstanding example of a thriving farming community that interacts with its environment by using a successful land reclamation system and management tradition that predate the introduction of engineered drainage systems.*

**Criterion (vi): “a property that is tangibly associated with beliefs of outstanding universal significance.”**

*Owing to the imposing presence of the dykelands, the Memorial Church and other memorials, and its enduring use by the Acadian people, the Landscape of Grand Pré is the most important lieu de mémoire for the Acadians, an evocative example of a homeland symbolically and peacefully reclaimed by a diaspora that has triumphed over hardships. The legacy of the Acadian people overcoming the*

*tragedy of a forced removal, the Grand Dérangement, their renaissance, and the ongoing efforts of reconciliation are embodied in the Landscape of Grand Pré. Here, Acadians share their common heritage, reaffirm their identity, and continue to build their sense of community in a spirit of peaceful reconciliation with history. The Landscape of Grand Pré provides a poignant and powerful living example of the universal human aspirations to belong to a community, to connect with one's homeland, and to seek reconciliation.*

### **Protective and management system (excerpt of introduction to chapter 5):**

[...] the relevant federal, provincial and municipal government entities with responsibilities for the nominated property, along with key stakeholders and partners, have developed appropriate measures for the protection and management of the nominated property. They have signed a *Memorandum of Understanding on the Governance of the Nominated Property* (Appendix 2G) that ensures cooperative management of the property and creates a Grand Pré World Heritage Site Stewardship Board that will act as the site manager if the nominated property is successfully inscribed on the World Heritage List. Further, they have jointly developed a management plan for the nominated property (see section 5.e.) that provides an overarching framework to guide their work in protecting and interpreting the nominated property. Each regulatory authority with jurisdiction in the nominated property retains the ultimate authority to make decisions about activities and plans that apply to the nominated property.

The *Memorandum of Understanding* confirms the commitment from these regulatory authorities to support the principles and goals of the management plan for the nominated property and to work together with the Grand Pré World Heritage Site Stewardship Board to protect the property's proposed outstanding universal value.

The mandate of the Stewardship Board, as described in the *Terms of Reference - Grand Pré World Heritage Site Stewardship Board* (Appendix 2G), is to ensure a coordinated management approach between all jurisdictions, provide technical advice on the protection of the property's outstanding universal value, promote the property's outstanding universal value, engage the stakeholders in the stewardship of the property, and coordinate the reporting on the property's condition. The regulatory authorities agree, through the terms of the *Memorandum of Understanding* which creates the Stewardship Board, to provide mechanisms to consult and receive recommendations from the Board on issues pertaining to the management of the World Heritage Site and on means to protect its outstanding universal value.

The Stewardship Board will be composed of residents, Acadian representatives, representatives from the three levels of government, and other representatives of stakeholders or communities of interest. The Stewardship Board will be assisted in its work by a Secretariat and a Site Management Coordinator whose mandate is to coordinate the management of the nominated property. The Stewardship Board will rely on three sources of expertise to provide advice on matters of protection, promotion, and education. The first is a Technical Advisory Committee, which will provide professional advice on matters pertaining to the protection of the dykelands and of the memorials. The second is the Education and Marketing Committee, which will provide direction and coordination between partners for matters relating to interpretation, promotion, marketing, and education. The third will be a variety of outside sources of expertise in government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and consultancies when required.

The Stewardship Board will operate under a 10-year vision described in the *Strategic Plan – Grand Pré World Heritage Site Stewardship Board* (Appendix 5A), reviewed every five years, with yearly reports on conditions and activities. Community members, local residents, and Acadians have all embraced the World Heritage nomination process. They have led the process through their participation in the Advisory Board for Nomination Grand Pré, by contributing to working groups, and by sharing insights into agricultural life in Grand Pré and the significance of the landscape for the identity of a people. They have shown, and continue to exemplify, commitment to the long-term protection of the nominated property.

### **STATUS OF PROJECT ADMINISTRATION AND LEGACY PROJECT**

### **Project administration:**

See financial report.

### **Communication and public engagement:**

A video has been completed which will showcase through a collection of testimonials the character of the Landscape of Grand Pré, what makes it special and why people care about it. This is a 'teaser' for visitors to learn more and a very succinct overview of what makes the place interesting. Testimonials are in French and English. The video currently has no subtitles but the intention is to add them. It will appear on the Nomination Grand Pré website.

The website will be updated with new sections by February 15<sup>th</sup> to provide access to the nomination proposal.

There are a number of occasions for public engagement that need to be pursued in the coming 18 months. These and other opportunities are described as part of the strategic plan for Nomination Grand Pré.

Highlights include:

- February 21<sup>st</sup> : heritage day
- April 18<sup>th</sup>: World Heritage Day: Theme for 2011: the cultural heritage of water
- July 28<sup>th</sup>: National day of commemoration of the Deportation
- Apple Blossom Festival (May)
- Archaeological research activities
- Pumpkin festival (October)

The aim of public engagement and communication activities for the next 18 months is to maintain support, raise awareness about Grand Pré, and support local community activities when they relate to Nomination Grand Pré projects.

Next steps: See Nomination Grand Pré Strategic Plan.

### **Legacy project**

A design of the proposal has been prepared. There is a potential for the presence of archaeological resources including remains of a house nearby. Archaeological surveys will have to be carried out in the footprint area of the project. It is recommended to modify the existing design to integrate the potential archaeological features or at least interpret them in the landscape design. Community presentations are expected in the near future.

The timeline for the next few months is:

- Review of the design based on potential archaeological resources: **February**
- Preparation of a license agreement between Nomination Grand Pré and Parks Canada: **February**
- Public consultation on design: **February - March**
- Environmental assessment: **March**
- Material acquisition and tender: **February - March**
- Review of costs and expenses tied to the project: **March- April**
- Archaeological assessment: **April**

The aim is to implement the design and carry out the work during the summer.

Next steps: Review the design, carry out public consultation, and prepare a license agreement.