



TO: UNESCO Advisory Board

From: Seamus McGreal, Planner

Date: June 4, 2009

RE: Grand Pre and Area Community Plan Update

It has now been one year since I began working with the community of Grand Pre and Area to develop a community plan. The project is on schedule. Among other milestones, we have prepared a draft community vision and goals and we have conducted a survey (Workbook) to assess the community's ideas on a number of important topics.

Community members had an opportunity to voice their opinions about the UNESCO nomination and the community planning process at a public meeting on May 5th. Many of the concerns related to property taxes, traffic safety, and restrictions on land uses. The UNESCO Board will provide answers to questions raised and I will consider specific concerns while drafting policy for the community plan. We have met with the regional representative for the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal and we will work together to understand traffic related issues and address some of the community's concerns. The community plan can provide some key directions for the community. The community's own initiative is also critical in upholding its vision. For this purpose, many community strategies will be identified in the community plan alongside municipal strategies.

The Grand Pre and Area Community Association has provided some key directions for the community plan, based on the draft vision and the survey. We are working closely with the Working Group for the UNESCO Land Use Management Plan. I presented the general outline for the community plan at an initial management plan meeting on May 22nd. Delegates provided some useful feedback. The recommendations from these meetings will be brought back to the Community Association. We will work in tandem with the community to assess initiatives that may help the Management Plan. If the community agrees, these initiatives could find support in the community plan. The central focus of the community's draft vision is supportive of the statement of Outstanding Universal Value in terms of protecting the agricultural landscape, rural residential setting, and cultural heritage.

We expect to have a draft community plan prepared by the end of July, a final before the Planning Advisory Committee in October and before Council in February 2009. If you would like to review the Community Workbook Summary Report and other material related to the community plan, please visit our web page:

Grand Pre and Area Community Plan

www.county.kings.ns.ca/comdev/plan/GrandPre/GrandPrePlan.asp