

**UNESCO World Heritage Nomination Proposal
 Grand Pré and area
 Advisory Board**

**Project Manager's Report 4
 September 2008
 FOR DISCUSSION**

GENERAL

Schedule and tasks

- The Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) working group held its first meeting on September 12th at Grand-Pré NHSC.
- The communication and public engagement strategy is now being developed by ICON Communications. It is scheduled to be ready by November.
- The planning processes for the national historic site and the community are going slower than expected but the target dates of completion remain possible.
- Archaeological work is underway in the dykelands. The first step in the work was unsuccessful but should have a limited impact on the second phase of coring. Expected completion date remains the same.
- The request for financial support to implement the Acadian community engagement is being finalized and is expected to be sent in time for consideration in the next fiscal year. This may leave a gap of six months in actively implementing the communication and engagement strategy.
- The budget remains the project component that is experiencing the most delays as funding has yet to be confirmed from ACOA. Expenses are expected to increase significantly with the operations of the working groups, the development of the communications strategy

Phase	Task	Target date of completion	Status
Justification for inscription	Statement of OUV	December 2008	On target
	Comparative analysis	March 2009	On target
	Statement of Integrity and Authenticity	March 2009	On target
Develop protective management plan	Management plan for the National historic site	October 2009	On target
	Plan and community vision	March 2009	On target
Funding	Budget	July 2008	Delayed
Communication and public engagement strategy	Communication and public engagement strategy implementation	April 2010	On target
Approval/ support process	Municipal approval process	September 2009	N/A
	Federal approval process	November 2009	N/A
	Canadian delegation approval process	January 2010	N/A
	Acadian Support	December 2009	N/A
	First Nation support	December 2009	N/A
	Other support	December 2009	N/A
Final proposal	Final content	December 2009	N/A
	Final formatted document	January 2010	N/A

Finance and resources

Funding from ACOA has not yet been confirmed.

Forecasted expenditures for the next 3 months include the development of the communication and public engagement strategies, an archaeological survey of the dykelands, support for the OUV working group's work (including an additional meeting) and

PHASES (SEE PROGRESS REPORT 4 FOR OUTLINE)

Description of Area:

See below.

Next steps: see below

Justification for Inscription:

The OUV working group held its first meeting on September 12th, at Grand-Pré NHSC. Hereunder is John Johnston's (chair) report, sent by email to the project manager on September 25th

OUV Working Group

We had our first meeting on Sept. 12 at Grand-Pré NHSC. Five members were unable to attend.

The opening meeting achieved its objectives of explaining the overall UNESCO process and where the OUV Working Group fits into that process, as well as communicating the timetable we are aiming to meet.

We also gave an outline of the research that has been carried out to date and where there are still some gaps. Further, we identified the key issues of the OUV that still need discussion and eventually a resolution. The rest of the session was a stimulating discussion with a range of viewpoints and perspectives being expressed on the draft documents that had been circulated prior to the meeting. The end result of the meeting was that the Working Group expressed a desire to meet again in about six weeks time -- October 24 -- when we will further progress on arriving at an agreed-upon OUV and a suggestion of where the boundaries should be.

In preparation for the October 24th meeting, the Parks Canada staff working with the Working Group committed to distributing a summary of the points made during the Sept. 12th meeting by late September or early October. That target will be met.

In anticipation of the October 24th meeting, Parks Canada staff has begun to meet with different members of the Working Group in smaller meetings, where we focus on their particular interest and expertise. A discussion document has been sent to the "natural history" specialists and we will get their feedback soon. A meeting was held with the Mi'kmaq and another will take place on October 1. Other meetings are in the works with Acadian and Planter history specialists. These various small meetings should lay the groundwork for much progress to be made on the OUV at the October 24th meeting.

Also, in the interest of communicating with the local community, a public meeting is being organized for late October or early November, at which time we will share our understanding of the way in which the cultural landscape in the Grand Pré area has evolved over time. If

consensus on aspects of the OUV and possible boundaries are reached at the Oct. 24th meeting, conceivably those elements could be shared as well. If there is still work to be done on the OUV and boundaries after the Oct. 24th meeting, then the public meeting will focus exclusively on the evolution of the landscape as revealed through maps, photos and documents.

Ronnie-Gilles LeBlanc and I are more optimistic than ever that the Working Group is headed in the right direction and toward a consensus. The small meetings with the different specialists are crucial to achieving that success.

A few Advisory Board members and alternates were able to attend that day, including Neal Conrad, Louise Watson, Jennifer Smith, Chrystal Fuller, and Marianne Gates.

The archaeological survey of the dykelands is being carried out by Katie Cottreau-Robins (provincial archaeologist), Rob Ferguson (Parks Canada archaeologist), and Dave Scott, professor at the department of Earth Sciences (Dalhousie University). The survey is possible because of the support of the landowners who accommodated the team in allowing it access to key areas of the dykelands. The first phase of the survey, which included light probing of the land, was unsuccessful. That phase was meant to get a better understanding of the depth of the dykelands and their composition. Although useful, that information would have added precision to the coring phase, it will be compensated by the archival work done by Ronnie-Gilles LeBlanc and John Johnston. There are no delays or additional costs associated with this change.

Next steps: small groups of members of the OUV working group have separate discussions on the discussion points proposed at the September 12th meeting. A second meeting is scheduled for October 24th. A community presentation on the latest research results by the John Johnston and Ronnie-Gilles LeBlanc is scheduled for November. The archaeologists will return in the field in mid-October for the second phase of survey.

Evaluation of present state of conservation:

Being addressed in the ToR for the management and land use working group.

Next steps: identify resources to compile information about past evaluations

Assessment of factors affecting the property:

Same as above.

Next steps: identify resources to compile information about factors affecting the property

Monitoring plan:

Same as above.

Next steps: none

Develop protective and management system for the proposal:

National historic site process

The planning process for the national historic site is underway. The process is going slower than expected, due to changes in internal policy on planning procedures. The Parks Canada planning team has been set up and has met twice to prepare the scoping document. It is expected that the final draft will be ready for approval by the CEO in October. Once the scoping document is approved, the public engagement phase can begin to draft a management plan that builds on the previous plan.

Next steps: complete the scoping document and seek CEO approval.

Municipal process

See Heritage Planner's report

Next steps: see Heritage Planner's report

Management and land use working group

A draft ToR for the management and land use working group was developed by the Steering Committee and is submitted to the Advisory Board for discussion.

Next steps: Once the ToR is approved, identify individual to participate in the working group. Begin compiling the necessary information for the working group's work.

Visitor and Interpretation:

See economic development and interpretation strategy section.

Next steps: none

Draft proposal:

The historical and geographical contexts are being drafted. The compilation of information concerning legislation relevant to the area is underway.

Next steps: complete a draft of the historical and geographical contexts. Begin draft of the Statement of OUV.

Project administration:

Nothing to report.

Next steps: review budget and schedule.

Communication and public engagement:

The website review has not been implemented and awaits the recommendations from the communication consultants. The draft protocol for internal communication is going to be reviewed by the Steering Committee at its October 20th retreat.

Next steps: approve and implement the internal communication protocol.

Engagement of the Acadian community

Following meetings with officials from the Department of Canadian Heritage, the initial proposal is being modified. Indication is that it would be favourably received. It was also noted that the proposal would only be reviewed in the new fiscal year, which is in April. Discussions between the Acadian groups continues to support and deliver on this initiative.

Next steps: finalize a second draft of the proposal and send to Canadian Heritage.

Economic development & interpretation strategy:

Data collection, under the supervision of Dr. Van Blarcom, is complete. The data was collected by staff from Kings CED Agency and Parks Canada in the form of surveys carried out in key locations in and around Grand Pré. It is currently being compiled by staff at Kings CED Agency and will be ready soon for analysis by Dr. Van Blarcom.

Next steps: Complete compilation of information and begin analysis.

Approval process for final document:

N/A

ISSUES AND PROPOSED MITIGATION MEASURES

(no changes from September report)

Issue: Funding: ACOA has yet to confirm its financial support.

Proposed mitigation: Minimal spending of the money received from the Province of Nova Scotia is authorized to allow for the OUV working group to meet, archaeologists to carry out their work in the dykelands, and the RFP to go ahead.

Issue: Communication: lack of engagement from residents from the three areas, concerns with the imposition of restrictions as a result of a designation.

Proposed mitigation: Communication strategy, municipal public engagement process.