

All Across the Landscape



OFFICE OPENING

On October 1, we leased office space at 189 Dykeland Street in Wolfville, Nova Scotia.

We can be found in the front lobby within the middle suite. Our space is just over 400 sq. ft. with reception, conference table, and office area.

From our office, we can gaze over the dykes with a view across the patchwork of farmers' fields to the silos at the east of Long Island.

Heartfelt thanks goes to the Landscape of Grand Pré Society for the office furnishings and equipment donated to us.



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DECEMBER 2017 ISSUE

Hi, and welcome! My name is Steven Gaudet, and this is the newsletter of Landscape of Grand Pré Inc., established as a not-for-profit corporation in January 22, 2016. I serve as site management coordinator of the UNESCO World Heritage Site at the Landscape of Grand Pré.

SINCE THE LAST ISSUE...

During the summer, the corporation's Board of Directors completed their evaluations of candidates for the position of Executive Director. By mid-August, I accepted the job offer and began work only days after having taken my family to the Celebration of Peace and Friendship, the legacy of the 400-year-old Mi'kmaq-Acadian bond at the Grand-Pré National Historic Site. It was a week I will remember for a long - stories old and new, friendships old and new, culture old and new, and most exciting for me, a dramatic start to my new job supporting the UNESCO World Heritage Site.

As I complete my orientation, study the work of others who have made the Landscape what it is today, and begin to meet many of the stakeholders, I find myself humbled and awestruck. Preparing a successful World Heritage Site nomination and now operating an inscribed Site has required tens of thousands of volunteer hours by a diverse group of stakeholders. You should be very proud of your work, perseverance and continued accomplishments. Your efforts have been exceptional and they support and assure the Landscape's continued *Outstanding Universal Value*.

The Outstanding Universal Value of a World Heritage Site refers to its cultural and/or natural significance, which is so exceptional that it is of common importance for present and future generations of all humanity



A UNESCO World Heritage Site of Acadian and Planter dykelands agricultural heritage nestled amongst the villages of Grand Pré, Hortonville, North Grand Pré, and Lower Wolfville, Nova Scotia.

HOW UNESCO DESCRIBES THE LANDSCAPE

“Situating in the southern Minas Basin of Nova Scotia, the Grand Pré marshland and archaeological sites constitute a cultural landscape bearing testimony to the development of agricultural farmland using dykes and the aboiteau wooden sluice system, started by the Acadians in the 17th century and further developed and maintained by the Planters and present-day inhabitants. Over 1,300 ha, the cultural landscape encompasses a large expanse of polder farmland and archaeological elements of the towns of Grand Pré and Hortonville, which were built by the Acadians and their successors. The landscape is an exceptional example of the adaptation of the first European settlers to the conditions of the North American Atlantic coast. The site – marked by one of the most extreme tidal ranges in the world, averaging 11.6 m – is also inscribed as a memorial to Acadian way of life and deportation, which started in 1755, known as the Grand Dérangement.”

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MOST COMMON QUESTION I HAVE HEARD

Q: What are the plans of the organization and the new executive director?

A: For the well-being of the organization, the Board of Directors’ main focus continues to be the development and implementation of the good governance and policy that will sustain the organization over the long term. Towards that goal, they have set a busy meeting schedule to continue their progress.

For me as Executive Director, three activities have most of my attention and effort: (1) engagement and communication with our stakeholders and neighbors, (2) key technical and management activities expected of the Site Management Coordinator of a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and (3) business planning and administration demands for our not-for-profit organization, Landscape of Grand Pré Inc.

WHAT IS TO COME

What we are today as an organization is owing to the foundation created by those stakeholders who first had a vision of a UNESCO World Heritage Site, those who put forth the Nomination case, and those who planned and coordinated the management of the Site.

The World Heritage Site will be buoyed by programs and activities delivered by our friends, stakeholders, and neighbours in non-profit, for-profit, and government sectors who add value to culture, heritage, interpretation, tourism, and access for the Site in sustainable ways.

The Landscape of Grand Pré’s *Outstanding Universal Value* comes as much from the people involved as it does from the landscape.

As we celebrate this season, everyone at the the Landscape of Grand Pré Inc. wishes all of you the very best, and hopes for safe and rewarding times into the New Year!

Contact Us

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