



Hon. Kelvin K. Ogilvie, C.M., Ph.D., D.Sc., F.C.I.C., H.col.
Senator

L'hon. Kelvin K. Ogilvie, C.M., Ph.D., D.Sc., F.C.I.C., H.col.
Sénateur

November 26th, 2009

Dr. Gérald C. Boudreau
Kings RDA
35 Webster St.,
Kentville NS B4N 1H4

Dear Gérald:

I write to support the recognition of the historic rural and inspirational area known as "Grand Pre" through the designation as a World Heritage Site.

"Grand Pre" is one of the great ecological sites in the world and in that regard alone it would deserve unique recognition. But it has also been the site of a remarkable, and remarkably chronicled, human ecological history.

Originally part of an aboriginal transient life experience, Grand Pre attracted early European settlement interest. Over a period of more than a century it was the site of community development largely defined as Acadian. As such it was a focal point in eastern North America reflecting the military, political and religious conflicts of Europe. The Acadian period saw one of history's true examples of humans transitioning from aboriginal life styles to European adaptation of a remarkable ecological environment and the development of dynamic human community life styles.


Never escaping the European conflicts the Grand Pre area was subjected to a victor-conquered interaction that was remarkable in the lengths of time it took for the "victors" to ultimately exercise complete control using one of the methods of the day – eviction of the conquered. This was followed by clearly defined waves of settlement of peoples arriving because of historic developments in other parts of the world and especially in North America.

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It is not just that the historic events of Grand Pre occurred it is also the relatively short time frame (in historical time terms) that they occurred; the chronicling of the events in a manner that appeals to the sense of the romantic and the tragic; and the fact that ordinary citizens can get their heads around the events and be affected by them even in today's world.

Grand Pre is to this day a compellingly beautiful natural place. It resides in the minds of people everywhere. It is the heart of a people's cultural identity. It truly deserves to be recognized at the level of a World Heritage Site.

Sincerely,



Senator Kelvin K. Ogilvie