

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

**Project Manager's Report 5
 November 2008
 FOR DISCUSSION**

GENERAL

Schedule and tasks

- The Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) working group held its second meeting on October 24th at Acadia University. Its third and final meeting is scheduled for November 28th also to be held at Acadia University.
- The development by ICON Communications of the communication and public engagement strategy is underway. It is scheduled to be ready by November.
- The planning process for the national historic site has experienced delays. The planning process for the community has stimulated a high level of interest that requires more time to engage. The target dates of completion have been revised.
- Archaeological work is underway in the dykelands. The second phase of coring managed to extract a few samples before an unexpected damage to the coring machine delayed the work. Expected completion date is currently delayed by a number of weeks.
- The request for financial support to implement the Acadian community engagement has been reviewed. It is expected to be sent in time for consideration in the next fiscal year. Start date for the implementation of the Acadian engagement strategy is targeted for July 2009.
- The budget is expected to be finalized in the near future following the announcement in early November of the funding approval by ACOA.

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	Delayed
	Plan and community vision	March 2009	On target
Funding	Budget	July 2008	Soon to be completed
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 been confirmed.

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

Retreat

On October 20th, members of the Steering Committee met on a retreat at a camping resort near Kejimikujik National Park. The objective of the retreat was to review the accomplishments of the past year, the schedule, the budget, and discuss the next steps. The retreat was an opportunity to take the time to have a critical discussion of all aspects concerning project operations, challenges in the process, untapped opportunities, and to propose concrete measures to adjust the course.

The outcomes of that retreat were a revised timeline, modified budget items, and improved protocols for internal communication and distribution of information. The memos to the Advisory Board on the budget and on the schedule provide further details and recommendations for consideration by the Advisory Board.

PHASES (SEE PROGRESS REPORT 5 FOR OUTLINE)

Description of Area:

See below.

Next steps: see below

Justification for Inscription:

The OUV working group has had a number of discussions in smaller groups to address specific issues raised at the September 12th meeting. Meetings were held with, amongst other, Jonathan Fowler, John Reid, Phyllis LeBlanc, Daniel Paul, Gerald Gloade, and Sherman Bleakney to refine the archaeological, historical, Mi'kmaq, Acadian, and natural understanding of the area. In addition, a presentation was made to the *Comité consultatif acadien* (Acadian advisory committee), a Parks Canada committee that includes representatives of the key Acadian organisations in the Maritimes, to discuss the Acadian dimension of the site. Finally, the issues raised at the September 12th meeting were forwarded to the members of the Canadian delegation (Parks Canada in Ottawa) to seek guidance based on their experience with dealing with them.

The OUV working group held its second meeting on October 24th. Hereunder is John Johnston's (chair) report, sent by email to the project manager on October 30th.

OUV Working Group

We had our second meeting on October 24 at the Irving Centre on the campus of Acadia University. Dr. Stephen Henderson of our Working Group made the arrangements for the room and Marianne Gates of Kings CED looked after the other logistics. Attendance was not as good as it had been at the first meeting (back on September 12), but that was because of other commitments for members and not any lack of enthusiasm on their part for the work of the committee. Translation services were not available this time, but arrangements have already been made for the interpreter to be with us at what is expected to be our final meeting, either November 28 or December 5. As of right now, it looks as if that meeting will be held on November

28. It too will be held at Acadia University, but in a different room that will better accommodate the large attendance and which will offer better acoustics than we had on October 24.

The second meeting achieved its objectives of (i) exploring the basic elements that will need to be communicated when the OUV is articulated; (ii) identifying the attributes associated with those messages in terms of integrity and authenticity; and (iii) identifying the UNESCO criteria which seemed to offer the best fit for the elements identified. Those criteria were iii, v and vi. We did not have sufficient time to make firm recommendations on the area(s) that should be included within the boundaries of a projected World Heritage Site. That will be addressed at the next meeting, at which time we will also -- it is expected -- come to a consensus on a Statement of Outstanding Universal Value and confirm the applicability of the criteria tentatively selected on October 24.

Between now and the third meeting, the Parks Canada staff working with the Working Group will be meeting with experts on the history of the Mi'kmaq, the Acadians and the Planters to confirm the focus and story-lines being emphasized. Several such meetings have already been held -- sometimes with small groups of Working Group members and sometimes with other experts. Those smaller meetings along with exchanges of emails have been extremely helpful. A consensus among Working Group members seems to be developing on how best to frame the argument for Group Pré to be considered as a candidate for a World Heritage designation.

Two of the Parks staff, Ronnie-Gilles LeBlanc and John Johnston, will be communicating some of their research findings with the local community on Nov. 5, at 7 pm, at the Horton Community Centre. This will be a public presentation and the focus will be on the evolution of the landscape as revealed through maps, photos and documents. While the presenters are not going to be speaking about the UNESCO project per se there is of course a possibility that questions on that topic might arise during the question period. If so, neither speaker will speculate about any possible boundaries but will confine themselves to the elements that they and the Working Group have so far identified as being of possible World Heritage significance.

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 second phase of the survey, consisting of the coring of target areas of interest, began in early October. Unfortunately, the coring machine broke down after only a few core samples were taken. The coring is expected to resume early November, once the machine is repaired. This has introduced a delay and required a scaled down coring strategy. Cores will be taken from two areas instead of the three originally considered and fewer samples will be extracted. The archaeologists suggest that it will not significantly impact the results. It will, however, have an impact on the target date to get the the results of the survey back. It is not expected to require additional funds to complete the project.

Next steps: small groups of members of the OUV working group have separate discussions on the criteria, the justification, and the boundary proposed at the October 24th meeting. A teleconference is scheduled with the Canadian delegation to discuss the outcome of the October 24th meeting and confirm the viability of these outcomes and seek guidance for the next steps. A third and expected final meeting of the OUV working group is scheduled for November 28th. A community presentation on the latest research results by the John Johnston and Ronnie-Gilles LeBlanc is scheduled for November 5th. The archaeologists will return in the field in November for to continue the second phase of the survey.

Evaluation of present state of conservation:

Being addressed in the ToR for the management and land use working group. Kings CED staff will assist in compiling information under the direction of Chrystal Fuller and Christophe Rivet.

Next steps: compile information about past evaluations

Assessment of factors affecting the property:

Same as above.

Next steps: 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 penultimate draft of the scoping document is completed and should be ready for review by the field unit superintendent in November for submission to the CEO in November. 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. Complete the compilation of information concerning legislation and coordinate the review by policy officers within the agencies responsible for the Acts. Begin draft of the Statement of OUV.

Project administration:

Budget and schedule were reviewed by the Steering Committee. See memos to the Advisory Board.

Next steps: none

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 was discussed by the Steering Committee at its October 20th retreat and will be updated.

Next steps: update and implement the internal communication protocol. Update the website.

Engagement of the Acadian community

The proposal is being further modified. Discussions between the Acadian groups is ongoing to ensure support.

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

Economic development & interpretation strategy:

Compilation of information from the summer survey is complete. The analysis has begun and preliminary results will be communicated to the Advisory Board at its next meeting.

Next steps: Analyze information compiled in survey.

Approval process for final document:

N/A

ISSUES AND PROPOSED MITIGATION MEASURES

Issue: see memos on budget and schedule.

Proposed mitigation: see memos on budget and schedule.