



Media Release

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UNESCO Nomination Grand Pré Reaps Significant Findings from Archaeology Dig...

Katie Cottreau-Robins, Curator of Archaeology for the Nova Scotia Museum, and field crew spent three weeks in June surveying the Acadian settlement area of Vieux Logis in Hortonville, Kings County. The archaeology team was in search of archaeological evidence of settlement and land use from the period when the Mi'kmaq inhabited the land to the post Planter era. The artifact found and discoveries made during this search, point to the notion of a long standing historic landscape with “outstanding universal value” as described by UNESCO.

With the support of local landowners, nine parcels of land were surveyed during the three weeks of fieldwork in June. A finding of particular interest includes a Middle-Archaic ground stone tool collected near the shoreline which is estimated to be approximately 4,500 years old. The partially uncovered remains of a structure described as from the Planter period which may date back to the early periods of planter settlement in addition to an early nineteenth-century domestic structure adjacent to a planted corn field. These findings stand as evidence to support the area’s rich history and cultural diversity. Other recent discoveries include an aboiteau found in the marsh is being studied by the UNESCO project in collaboration with Mount Allison to date the tree trunk.

“It has been an exciting three weeks of fieldwork here in Hortonville,” says Cottreau-Robins. “The Middle-Archaic find speaks to a presence in Vieux Logis long before French Acadian settlement. The Planter period site has only been briefly exposed and has yielded an intense level of material culture and structural evidence. And the nineteenth century site adds another layer that supports the theme of a historically valued landscape over the centuries in the Grand Pre area.”

Three more archaeology field crews will work in different areas of the Grand Pré landscape over the next two months. All will focus on making additional discoveries that

can contribute to the development of the UNESCO application. This initiative has been part of the UNESCO funded work, in collaboration with Parks Canada, Nova Scotia Museum, and St. Mary's University to better understand the different people that lived and settled in the area.

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