

## Special Places Protection Act

Nova Scotia's Special Places Protection Act protects archaeological sites and remains throughout Nova Scotia and oversees research through its heritage research permit system. If, during the construction of a building or road, archaeological heritage or remains are found, the Act requires that mitigation measures be carried out.

In areas with high archaeological potential, such as Grand Pré and area, it is the best practice and more cost effective to have a professional with a heritage research permit determine the presence of archaeological resources before work begins. This allows the landowner to consider the protection of the resource in planning the development.

The Minister may order that activities cease until the site is surveyed, investigated or salvaged under the direction of a professional archaeologist. The property owner may be required to cover the cost of these measures. In the past, the provincial authorities have been alerted to potential impacts by heritage research permit applications or external triggers like environmental assessments or complaints from the general public or inquiries from property owners.

The Municipality, the Landscape of Grand Pré Incorporated and the Province are working collaboratively to help protect our archaeological heritage. The Municipal role is to make the public aware of the Provincial legislation and provide information to the Province regarding development.

To view the Special Places Protection Act Legislation online go to:  
<http://nslegislature.ca/legc/statutes/specplac.htm>



## LANDSCAPE of ~ le PAYSAGE de GRAND★PRÉ

A UNESCO | SITE DU PATRIMOINE MONDIAL  
WORLD HERITAGE SITE | DE L'UNESCO

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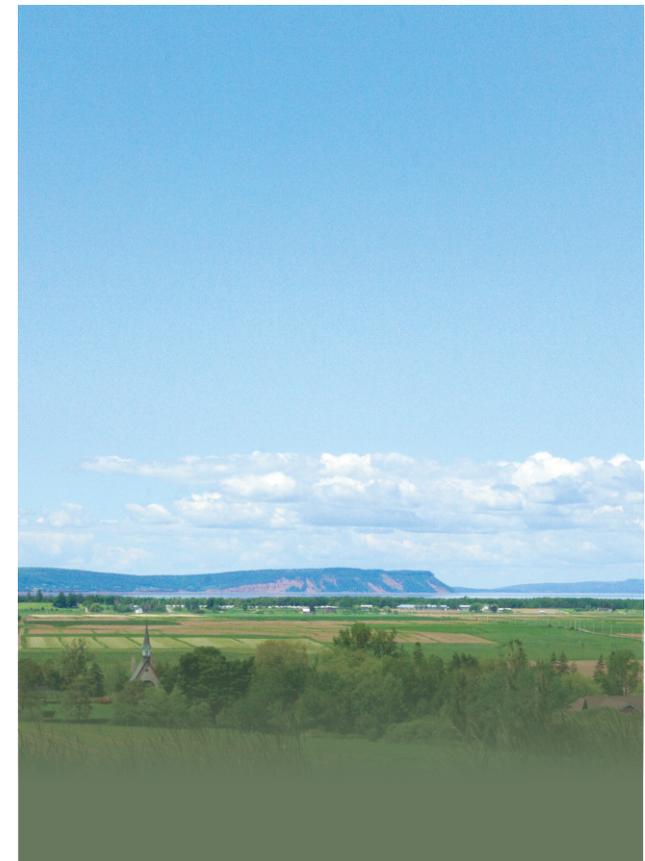
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## LANDSCAPE OF GRAND PRÉ

A UNESCO World Heritage Site

Archaeology  
&  
Development

World Heritage Site Since 2012

While recognizing that Grand Pré and area is a living and changing landscape, archaeological sites in Nova Scotia are protected by the Special Places Protection Act. Landscape of Grand Pré Inc. has put in place a pilot initiative to cover the cost of an approved archaeological assessment in the Landscape of Grand Pré and its buffer zone.

## Why is Protecting Archaeological Heritage in Grand Pré and Area Important?

The archaeological heritage of Grand Pré is a key element of its significance and one of the reasons for it being recognized locally and nationally. There is a great diversity of sites in the area, associated with the Mi'kmaq, the Acadians, the New England Planters and more recent groups that lived in the area over the past 4000 years.

UNESCO World Heritage Sites are recognized as having Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) for humanity as a whole. This means they have cultural and/or natural significance which is so exceptional as to transcend national boundaries and to be of common importance for present and future generations everywhere.

The "essence" of the Outstanding Universal Value of this remarkable agricultural and symbolic landscape is captured below:

*"The Landscape of Grand Pré is an outstanding example and enduring model of the human capacity to overcome extraordinary natural challenges and cultural ordeals. It is a living agricultural landscape, claimed from the sea in the 17th century and still in use today applying the same technology and the same community-based management. It is also a powerful symbolic landscape for the Acadians who lived in harmony with the native Mi'kmaq people, were dispersed by the Grand Derangement, and symbolically re-appropriated it in a spirit of peace and cultural sharing with the English-speaking community."*

## Municipal Procedure

The Municipality of the County of Kings has two sets of procedures for development in the World Heritage Site or buffer area that might impact archaeological sites. One covers **(1) inquiries** into building in Grand Pré and the other covers issuing building **(2) permits**.

### (1) Inquiries:

a) The Municipality will notify the individual that the property is within the World Heritage Site or buffer area.

b) The Municipality will aid the inquiring person by making them aware that there is provincial legislation relating to archaeological heritage and providing the contact information for the Provincial Special Places Program Coordinator.

c) It is the inquiring person's responsibility to contact the Province for more information. The Municipality will inform the inquiring person that, should the inquiry result in an application, the Municipality will contact the Provincial Coordinator of Special Places to advise that a permit has been issued and provide supporting documentation.

### (2) Permits:

a) The Municipality will inform the applicant that the property is within the World Heritage Site or buffer area.

b) The Municipality will provide the applicant with the contact information for the Provincial Special Places Program Coordinator. There is potential that the lands may be archaeologically significant.

c) Once the permit has been issued, the Municipality will contact the Special Places Program Coordinator to advise that a permit has been issued. The Municipality will provide a copy of permits and any other pertinent information. It is the property owner's responsibility to fulfill obligations under the Special Places Protection Act.

### UNESCO World Heritage Site Grand Pré and Area



- World Heritage Site Buffer Area
- UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Transportation
  - Highway 101
  - Collector Highway
  - Trunk Highway
  - Local Highway
- Hydrology Features
  - Dykes
  - Rivers

