

Grand Pré

Grand Pré, Nova Scotia



Coordinates: N45° 06.205 W064° 18.656

Geocaching.com code: N/A

Type of Cache: Virtual

The Grand Pré area has a long and rich environmental and cultural history. In July 2012, UNESCO recognized the Landscape of Grand Pré as a World Heritage Site.

Grand Pré was an Acadian settlement from 1682 to 1755. Much of the low lying agricultural lands visible from the look-off owe their origins to the Acadian settlement. Originally salt marshes, the Acadians claimed these fertile agricultural lands from the Bay of Fundy and its highest tides in the world by a series of dykes and aboiteaus. These lands have essentially been continuously farmed and augmented by generations of New England, Loyalist, and Dutch farmers. Grand Pré National Historic Site of Canada, operated by Parks Canada, commemorates the historical settlement, the deportation of the Acadians between 1755 and 1762, and the role of this site as the heart of *Acadie*.

For the Mi'kmaw, who have hunted and fished in these areas for millennia, nearby Cape Blomidon, is where the legendary Kluscap (Glooscap) keeps a watchful eye over his people.

The Minas Basin, and its beaches, shorelines, tidal flats and offshore islands, also provide globally important staging and migration areas for waterfowl and shorebirds. **Evangeline Beach**, located across the dykeland (N 45° 08.290' W 064° 19.143), is an ideal area to view these shorebirds including the Semipalmated Sandpiper (*Calidris pusilla*). At the peak migratory season, flocks of shorebirds, which can number into the thousands, may be seen running along the mud flats or flying in tight formation along the shore. Environment Canada's **Boot Island National Wildlife Area**, at the mouth of the Gaspereau River just to the southeast, also supports significant populations and breeding colonies of Herring Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Great Blue Heron, and Double-crested Cormorant. Due to the significant shorebird concentrations, this area was declared a Wetland of International Importance for the protection of shorebirds under the UNESCO International Ramsar Convention, and was also declared a Hemispheric Shorebird Reserve as part of the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network.



Kathryn Parlee

Learn more about this area:

www.landscapeofgrandpre.ca/

www.pc.gc.ca/eng/lhn-nhs/ns/grandpre/index.aspx

www.ec.gc.ca/ap-pa/default.asp?lang=En&n=1AB8BA89-1

Thank you to: Geraldine Arsenault (Parks Canada), Colin MacKinnon (Environment Canada), Christophe Rivet (Environment Canada), Kathryn Parlee (Environment Canada) and Hillary Davis

Passport Question:

- What artist's painting depicts the collaborative building of dykes at Grand Pré during the Acadian Period? (Hint: read the interpretive panel)
- Bonus @ Evangeline Beach: What is the peak period of shorebird migration for this area? (Hint: read the interpretive panel)

The Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment's (GOMC) 2012-2017 Action Plan identifies goals for three broad issues that benefit significantly from regional collaboration:

1. Restore and conserve habitat
2. Environmental and human health
3. Sustainable communities

More information on the GOMC, its partners and its activities can be found at www.gulfofmaine.org

