

Development of the historic site of

**Beaubassin**

# **Acadian Families Speak Out**

*Final report*

*Submitted to the FAFA*

*By its Advisory Committee*

*December 2006*

*Editor's notice:*

*The following is the result of discussions, visits and research undertaken by Committee members, according to the interpreted mandate. This Report also contains, in due course, our standpoints as well as our recommendations.*

*This Final Report has taken into consideration the feedback received after the handing of the Preliminary Report to the FAFA last September. Without contest to any founding elements, it is thus very similar to said text of the Preliminary Report.*

*We thank the FAFA for entrusting us with a mandate of such importance. We now leave to you the challenges concerning the broadcasting and promotion of this Report, especially with follow-ups that are to be judged in the interest of the Acadian families.*

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## Section A

### INTRODUCTION

#### A – 1 Creation of the Committee

A – 1.1 During its May 13th 2006 meeting, the FAFA has approved Jean Gaudet's proposal requesting 1° that the FAFA file opening on the subject of the Beaubassin historic village; and 2° that an advisory committee be formed under the leadership of the Bourgeois family as its councilors.

A – 1.2 Said Advisory Committee having not received any other specific directive, representatives of the Bourgeois family, Louis and Paul-Pierre, have thus been entrusted with an open mandate according to their judgment.

#### A – 2 Formation

A – 2.1 Louis and Paul-Pierre have reached an agreement to include at least five members representing families affiliated with the FAFA and with deep roots at Beaubassin within the formation of the Committee. The Bourgeois family in accordance with the FAFA president then recruited these members.

A – 2.2 Other than Louis and Paul-Pierre, people participating in the Committee's work include Thelma Richard, Jean Gaudet, Pierre Arsenault, Camille Gallant, Alyre Richard, Jean-Claude Cormier, Gilles Babin and Gordon Hébert.

#### A – 3 Mandate

A – 3.1 The Committee has defined a detailed mandate, summarized by the following ideas: a) to examine the situation; b) to define a vision specific to Acadian families; c) to recommend development projects pertaining to the historic site acquired by Parks Canada as well as surrounding landscape; and d) to submit a report to the FAFA for follow-ups

A – 3.2 The Committee's self-given mandate has been approved by the president of the FAFA.

#### A – 4 Timetable

A – 4.1 The Committee has outlined a timetable defining a *Preliminary Report* in mid-September and a *Final Report* in mid-November 2006.

#### A – 5 Meetings and Representations

A – 5.1 The Committee has called four meetings under the presidency of Louis Bourgeois during which he has striven to carry out its mandate.

A – 5.2 Committee representatives participated by invite to a meeting of the *Beaubassin Development Committee*, an advisory committee of the Cumberland Regional Economic Development Agency (CREDA), held on June 26<sup>th</sup> 2006 in Amherst.

A – 5.3 Committee representatives participated by invite to a visit with exchanges organized by Parks Canada on July 6<sup>th</sup> 2006 in the NB/NS frontier region.

A – 5.4 Committee representatives held exchanges with Claude DeGrâce, Parks Canada manager of national historic sites.

#### A – 6 Preliminary/Final Report

A – 6.1 Our Preliminary Report has been submitted to the FAFA within the defined timetable. The FAFA leaders and member families considered said Report. Our Committee was made aware of the feedback received towards the preparation of the Final Report.

A – 6.2 Given the above and the Editor's outstanding health situation, it was decided unnecessary to call a Committee meeting for the mandate's final phase, being the drafting of the Final Report. The current text thus amounts to said Final Report, which terminates our mandate.

## **Section B**

### **BEAUBASSIN: A REMINDER OF HISTORICAL REALITY**

#### **B – 1 A Beautiful Basin Named “the Beau Bassin”**

B – 1.1 The French Bay on Acadian maps (present Fundy Bay) divides at the Cap de Chignectou, the northeast fraction narrowing into a bay called Chignectou. The Chignectou Bay then divides itself again at the Cap Maringouin, its east fraction consisting of a rather beautiful basin that receives alluvia from a great number of rivers, and streams neighboring lovely hills. Since the start of Acadian colonization, Champlain has named this water surface the *Beau Bassin!*

B – 1.2 Following the Great Upheaval, the British erased the word from maps and renamed it Cumberland Basin, after an English nobleman.

#### **B – 2 The Beaubassin Seignior**

B – 2.1 In 1676, a Trois-Rivières nobleman, Michel le Neuf, sior of La Vallière, was given a large seignior by the length of the present-day New Brunswick and Nova Scotia frontier isthmus. He called his seignior *Beaubassin*.

B – 2.2 The seignior of Beaubassin then became Governor of Acadia, Acadia's capital thus situated for a time in that seignior. However, conflicts with local inhabitants, on the administrative and political level, caused his departure and the seignior's cancellation.

#### **B – 3 The Bourgeois Colony and the Beaubassin Village**

B – 3.1 Jacob Bourgeois, a surgeon and trader from Port-Royal, had undertaken since 1671 the establishment of a colony on the hill between the Missagouèche River and the river that would soon take the name of La Planche. He settled many of his children and workers useful to his project. The endeavor aimed at making profitable the exploitation of the region's salt-water marshes for agricultural and cattle breeding ends. The first grouping of families in that location will become known under the name *Bourgeois Colony*.

B – 3.2 After the seignior of Beaubassin's arrival in the area, the original little village gradually took on the name of *Colony of Beaubassin*, or simply *Beaubassin*.

#### **B – 4 The Beaubassin Community: a Network of Hamlets**

B – 4.1 With the arrival of new families and new generations of descendants, village growth took place along rivers emerging in the basin named Beaubassin, at the start of the original hamlet. The small groupings of families were soon identified by hamlet name, such as La Butte, La Planche, Jolicoeur, Ménoudie, Beauséjour, la butte à Roger (Roger's hill), la butte à Buote (Buote's hill), Veskok, etc. All these hamlets had tight bonds with the original village, where their church, their cemetery, the dock and other points of social and economic activity were located. Seen from the outside, this network of hamlets make up one and same community, the Beaubassin Colony.

B – 4.2 It has to be recognized that, near the end of the Acadian colonial period, a small chapel dedicated to Saint Anne was arranged for the occasional service of more distant inhabitants of Tintamarre. New communities were beginning to form remotely.

## **B – 5 End of Beaubassin**

B – 5.1 The 1713 Treaty of Utrecht had already torn the political canvas, while the south fraction of the Missagouèche River went under British administration. The north fraction was still considered French by New France's administration, although the English contested. In daily practices, the inhabitants did not see great difference, however.

B – 5.2 It was in 1750 that a great blow was struck. Acadian citizens on the English side were forced by the French administration to burn their homes and their churches, and to move to the French side as refugees. Start of construction of a fortress in the Beauséjour hamlet and the grouping of refugees on that hill led to a weakening of the traditional identity and name, and a strengthening of those of Beauséjour. A chapel dedicated to Saint Louis was arranged there.

B – 5.3 Following the tragic events of 1755 and the treaty of 1763, the Acadian population was scattered to the four corners of the world and robbed of its belongings. The beautiful name of Beaubassin was stricken from both French and English geographical maps.

## **B – 6 Precisions**

B – 6.1 We acknowledge that descriptions and graphics in the above articles may have to be corrected or improved by more knowledgeable historians than ourselves.

## **Section C**

### **BEAUBASSIN: THE PRESENT REALITY**

#### **C – 1 Names**

C – 1.1 As we have seen, the name of Beaubassin was relegated to archives in a final manner since 1763. Local authority did not see the interest to revive it under any circumstances, nor did the Acadian population. Shameful, isn't it?

C – 1.2 There are certain exceptions, however. Since a few years back, a zone in southeastern NB has a planning authority called *Commission d'aménagement régional de Beaubassin (Beaubassin Regional Landscaping Commission)*. A group of communities in a part of this territory (Grand-Barachois, Haute-Aboujagane, St-André-Leblanc, Shemogue...) established according to the new municipalities law was created under the name *Communauté rurale de Beaubassin-Est Incorporée (Beaubassin-East Rural Community Incorporated)*.

C – 1.3 It also has to be noted that the *Fort Lawrence Society* had eventually added the name of *Beaubassin* at the head of its own and had integrated the word *Historical* as well, in acknowledgement of the global historical reality of the place. The strategic benefits of such a decision were also an issue. And now, a *Beaubassin Development Committee* was created by CREDA as a planning tool.

C – 1.4 On the other hand, some hamlets' and rivers' names have subsisted, with sometimes derived pronunciations and spelling: Westcock (Veskok), Maccan (Mécanne), Nappan (Nanpanne), River Hebert (Rivière Hébert), Minoudy (Menoudie), Jolicure (Jolicoeur), Missaguash (Missagouèche), La Planche, Tantramar (Tintamarre), etc.

#### **C – 2 The Territory**

C – 2.1 After 1763, the entire territory was officially British under Halifax authority. In 1784, however, Loyalists insisted that the Province of Nova Scotia be split into two provinces by the creation of the Province of New Brunswick, the frontier being established along the Missagouèche River. Politics thus reconstructed an artificial wall throughout the old village of Beaubassin.

C – 2.2 Two cities were developed on each side of the frontier, on hills neighboring the central hamlet, being Amherst and Sackville. They were flanked by agricultural villages. The salt-water marshes were still cultivated, protected by the old dykes (even if the tens of thousands of cattle that were feeding “at the times” were no longer to be seen).

C – 2.3 Other than the streets and rural roads, a great four-lane road went in a north-south direction through the territory.

C – 2.4 A railroad traverses the old village centre, even digging an inconsiderate trench in the middle of the colonial cemetery.

C – 2.5 A lot of land had been acquired long ago by the Nova Scotia Ministry of Tourism on the Beaubassin hill, to be arranged into its tourism information office. Another lot (the **pastoral** mass site of 2004) was also Nova Scotia government property, through its Ministry of Transportation. A lot of land west of the information office is Municipality of Cumberland property. Recently, on July 23<sup>rd</sup> 2004, just before activities start for the 3<sup>rd</sup> CMA, an important piece of land (roughly equivalent to 137 acres, property of John Baxter) was acquired by Parks Canada as a historical site. The property was located on the Fort Lawrence Road’s north side, by the railroad region to the top of the hill.

### **C – 3    Precisions**

C – 3.1 Along the same idea as in B – 6, we acknowledge that expert historians/geographers will be able to contribute any corrections and precisions to the above descriptive articles.

## **Section D**

### **BEAUBASSIN: TOWARDS A FUTURE VISION**

#### **D – 1    A Common Vision Awaiting**

D – 1.1 We cannot escape the observation that the Beaubassin historical reality has been characterized by a lack of vision towards the future by local authorities, historical organizations, etc.

D – 1.2 On the other hand, some initiatives have been taken to this day, but always on an individual scale. Also during the last two years, thanks to the CMA 2004 preparations and to CREDA’s and Parks Canada’s work, an awakening to the need for a common vision seemed to take shape in the legitimates powers that were able to take action.

#### **D – 2    Past Initiatives**

D – 2.1 In 1931, the Commission for National Historical Sites had installed near Fort Lawrence Road in front of the fort by the same name, a carrion of stones with a bronze plaque remembering the past life of this military shelter. A mention was made of the Acadian colony founded by Jacques Bourgeois.

D – 2.2 The *Fort Lawrence Society* began a project to rebuild Fort Lawrence a little ways from its original position on municipality land, which means behind the tourism office. This project, developed to the point of groundwork, collapsed on itself and the lifted land was razed for the 2004 activities.

D – 2.3 Having become the *Beaubassin – Fort Lawrence Historical Society*, this organization developed on paper a project for the reconstitution of an Acadian colonial village upon the same territory. This aimed at recreating the various types of houses and buildings in the colonial era, and the making of, of course, a

tourist attraction. This project, needing a fair amount of funding, **was put at the expenses**, said historical society being paralyzed itself by conflicts between its members. However, it is important to acknowledge that a first house was partially made thanks to government subsidies, and in the hopes of a dedication to the Bourgeois family for the 2004 CMA. Some construction standards not being met, the house was discarded.

D – 2.4 This same historical society had installed a monument near the tourism office, with the names of adults habiting the hill in 1750.

D – 2.5 During the 2004 CMA, the name of Beaubassin was revived in some documentation. Many families (Arsenault, Babineau, Cormier, Gauvin and Henri(e)(y), Haché-Gallant, Hébert), held their “Retrouvailles” (Reunion) in Amherst and on the hill of the original Beaubassin, emphasizing on the historical aspect of the location. A pastoral mass was celebrated there (the first since 1750). The church bell from the area was brought back to ring the Angelus and the call to mass anew. A great wood cross marked the site, a cross still there nowadays, and even lit up in the evening.

### **D – 3 CREDA**

D – 3.1 The *Cumberland Regional Economic Development Agency* became the regional agency most committed to coordinating initiatives and engaging development projects emphasizing the history of Beaubassin. This agency, whose main goal was economic in nature, has shown that its members had development projects valorizing the historical reality of Beaubassin at heart. Its *Beaubassin Development Committee* is working towards such a vision of things.

### **D – 4 Parks Canada**

D – 4.1 Other than the stele mentioned in D – 2.1, the national agency for protection of historical sites has mostly laboured in the region to revive the Fort Beauséjour – Fort Cumberland.

D – 4.2 Finally in 2004, an announcement was made, indicating that a farm on the original village of Beaubassin hill has been bought towards the making of a protected historical site.

D – 4.3 The regional office is currently in the process of finishing a management plan for the many years to come. The administrator Claude DeGrâce has displayed a great interest to involve as many concerned community “players” as possible in the identification of needs, aspirations or projects.

### **D – 5 The Acadian Society**

D – 5.1 Until now, the Acadian society has mainly relied on the sites at Grand-Pré and Louisbourg in order to showcase its history; a little also on Memramcook, the Lefebvre Monument, and recently, on the Île Sainte-Croix (Sainte-Croix Island). (It is to be remembered that these initiatives can only be partially attributed to the Acadian Society.)

D – 5.2 A number of monuments referred to as “*L’Odyssée acadienne*” (The Acadian Odyssey) are installed in various places of historical importance since 2005. These monuments aim to preserve the memory of the Acadian deportations and migrations between 1755 and 1816. The location of the village of Beaubassin is part of the list of considered sites.

D – 5.3 Of course, a throng of historical societies, artistic creations, museums, documentation centres, etc..., were born and highlight various memories of the past. Unfortunately, the major site of Beaubassin has remained a poor child in the emphasis of our most significant recollections.

### **D – 6 The FAFA**

D – 6.1 Here it is that the FAFA, during its May 13<sup>th</sup>2006 meeting, gave itself a «Beaubassin file» and has set up an Advisory Committee towards putting the interests of Acadian families before any development projects at Beaubassin by Parks Canada or other agencies. The current report has this aim.

## Section E

### PROJECTED VISION

#### E – 1 Essential Elements from Acadian Families' Point of View

E – 1.1 For our Committee, there are no questionings. Beaubassin is a historical site for being the living grounds of ancestors for most Acadian families currently living in Atlantic provinces. This is equally true for a great part of scattered descendants in Louisiana and elsewhere in North America; even in France.

E – 1.2 These ancestors were the first to establish a human community in that area. They constitute one of the most numerous and prosperous colonies in Acadian history. Beaubassin was, in addition, the location where the development of market gardening and cattle breeding started as a major economic engine for the country of Acadia. The great meadows of the Bassin des Mines (Mines' Basin), of Chipoudie and elsewhere followed its model.

E – 1.3 It was the place where the unfortunate tragedy of the Great Upheaval, in the facts, started.

E – 1.4 We hence assert that Beaubassin must be recognized as an important piece of the historical fabric in Canada's foundation. An unspecified territory of the old village must be preserved and emphasized, so that the descent may regain contact with the past, to collect and inform within.

#### E – 2 Acceptable Values for Acadian Families

E – 2.1 We are conscious that the presence of military forts and military actions are also elements that have marked the area's history, and mostly, that have considerably affected the life of habitants who underwent the consequences. As descendants of those ancestors, it is this last concern that precedes in our eyes.

E – 2.2 We acknowledge the temporary arrangement of a seigniorie on the territory, as well as the assignement of sior of Beaubassin as lieutenant-governor of Acadia, the seat of government thus at Beaubassin for a time.

E – 2.3 We affirm that the Acadian colonial period is an integral part of the area's actual inhabitants' history. Notwithstanding the destruction and reconstruction, the two histories complement each other.

E – 2.4 We accept that any development project and any promotional strategy may ensure economic consequences for the region, in the measure where the historical and sometimes sacred character of the grounds be respected.

#### E – 3 Statement of Vision Suitable for the FAFA

We RECOMMEND the following elements as having to be part of the statement of vision suitable for Acadian families:

*E – 3.1 The establishment of the Bourgeois colony, afterwards Beaubassin, is a historical reality of great importance for the colony's pioneers' descendants, as well as for Acadia's history, for that of the NB-NS frontier region, and that of Canada.*

*E – 3.2 The region that includes all the colonial era's hamlets linked to the central village (radius of  $\pm 10$  km around the church) is considered as the historical colony of Beaubassin.*

*E – 3.3 The administrative definition (1713 – 1755, and since 1784 until present) of a territorial frontier throughout Beaubassin must not limit in any way the definition of a unified community that was the colonial Beaubassin.*

*E – 3.4 The families descending from the pioneers or from generations of succeeding inhabitants in Beaubassin maintain a “moral property” of the areas.*

*E – 3.5 The lands that became private property must be respected as such. In addition, ways must be set up to facilitate a reasonable access to these properties on patrimonial motives.*

*E – 3.6 The portions of land that became public property must be highlighted to explain the areas’ historical significance and to allow identification for the Acadian descendants as well as relevant visitors.*

*E – 3.7 These lands that became public property (Municipality of Cumberland, government of Nova Scotia, Parks Canada) must allow the development of projects of historical emphasis according to a strategy of cooperation with their legitimate partners, which includes evidently the individual Acadian families, as well as the Acadian society in general.*

*E – 3.8 The specific lands where stood the church and the cemetery are considered as sacred locations for the Acadian people.*

*E – 3.9 The said sacred sites must be protected and valued conforming to this particular situation. This must evidently precede on the subsequent presence (1750 to 1755) of the military bastion of Fort Lawrence, established more or less in the same place.*

*E – 3.10 All specific projects of development of historical sites must ensure a respectful access and the opportunity to inform, while conserving the rustic environment of similar character to the evoked period.*

## **Section F**

### **THE CONCRETE RECOMMENDED DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS**

#### **F – 1 Observation Point**

F – 1.1 One of the area’s visitors’ needs consists of the possibility to perceive the main features and to be able to interpret them.

*We hence recommend that an appropriate arrangement be made such that visitors may have at their disposal a strategic location from which to observe the region’s panorama. This must be accompanied by explanative histo-geographical plaques.*

#### **DISCUSSION**

The particular project of a look-off platform as forwarded by the *Beaubassin Development Committee*, appeared to us perfectly consistent with this objective and receives our encouragement.

Another possibility that may correspond, or be preferably added to the same location, would be the erection of an observation tower of the type found at the entrance to the *Pays de la Sagouine*. This would further increase the visual range of observation points.

#### **F – 2 Trails**

F – 2.1 A second visitors’ need, particularly those claiming to be old inhabitants, concerns the physical contact with ancestral lands.

*We recommend that a network of pedestrian trails be arranged on the ancestral lands.*

#### **DISCUSSION**

Of course, we cannot allow anyone to wander without regulations on the private or public lands. However, given clear and reasonable limits, public property lands should definitely be at disposal to fulfill this need.

We think that the ideal way to accomplish this resides in the arrangement of controlled pedestrian trails. Informative plaques of an administrative and historical nature should accompany these trails. A trail could be arranged from the tourism office (or the look-off platform) to the site of the old church along the Fort Lawrence Road. From this point, a short trail would lead to the site of the old cemetery. From there, a trail would follow the actual railroad closely, leading to the dykes. A trail could also be arranged along this dyke on a western course, until the limit of the lands bought by Parks Canada. This seems the minimum for the short term in this type of development.

Later on, we think it desirable to arrange a pedestrian bridge over the Missagouèche River and to lengthen the trail to the Fort Beauséjour. Also, we think it possible and desirable to extend a network of trail on the entirety of the dykes in the region, thus leading to the ancestors' living grounds by passing through every hamlet of the era's colony.

All this should be planned such that visitors would have a choice of hikes that are of different lengths and are interlinked. This seems very important to us for a successful use.

An even larger concept would join this network of trails to those of *Ducks Unlimited* and to those of Trans-Canadian trails. All these projects will markedly require the cooperation of several partners.

### **F – 3 “Sacred” Sites**

F – 3.1 As previously indicated, we consider the church site of Notre-Dame-de-l' Assomption as well as the colonial cemetery site as sacred ground for our people.

*We recommend that Parks Canada be made aware to ensure this recognition and designation.*

#### **DISCUSSION**

This could seem purely symbolical at first glance. However, such a designation seems impossible to circumvent in order to justify things to come.

F – 3.2 Unfortunately, these sites have been scorned by history. It seems the church's was for a time that of Fort Lawrence, replaced nowadays by a barn. The cemetery's was violently wounded by a deep trench allowing passage to the Canadian National's trains, carrying with it numerous tombs with the pioneers' remains.

*We recommend that the agricultural building which became property of Parks Canada be demolished and the land razed, while paying attention not to harm the possible excavations.*

*We also recommend that steps be taken concerning the Canadian National, to have this semi-public agency 1) acknowledge its wrongdoing; 2) pledge to deviate the railroad section running through the cemetery; 3) pledge to restore the land of said cemetery.*

#### **DISCUSSION**

We acknowledge that this last recommendation has a major impact and will be difficult to achieve. However, in our point of view it should be clearly asserted and pursued. By drawing a new layout, the CN could even compromise the actual bridge over the Missagouèche River to the benefit of the pedestrian trails network.

We also think that the CN should concede to Parks Canada thereafter the edge of land it owns throughout the Beaubassin hill.

### **F – 4 Reception Centre**

F – 4.1 We think that an appropriate reception centre is essential to the purposes of receiving, directing and informing visitors in an adequate manner.

*We recommend that this be included in the global development plan for the lands owned by Parks Canada.*

#### **DISCUSSION**

We acknowledge here as well that this is ambitious and that important funding will have to be obtained.

We favour a site neighbouring the old church as the most appropriate location. The architecture could bring to mind in some way the appearance of an old church's frontage.

It is understood that historical information, expressed by various media, would be used by this center, including its human resources.

F – 4.2 Being aware that Parks Canada does not contemplate the construction and operation of such a centre in the near future, we think that an alternative to this could be considered. CREDA could be the agency best suited to fulfill this need in short term.

*In the measure that Parks Canada does not have in its management plan a Reception Centre, we recommend a construction project for a Reception Centre by a reliable agency, with CREDA's support, that could strategically be located in a western direction, near the actual tourism office.*

F – 4.3 The bell that tolled for the pioneers on that hill still exists and is preserved in the care of the Fort Beauséjour museum.

*We recommend the eventual and permanent return of Beaubassin's bell once the Centre referred above is built. The centre's architecture and management will have to protect and highlight the bell.*

## **F – 5 Archaeological Excavations**

F – 5.1 It seems vital to us that professional archaeological excavations be undertaken to locate on a first basis the precise area of the old church and cemetery, and afterwards, the sites promising discovery of the ancient village's historical relics.

*We thus recommend that archaeological excavations be undertaken in the shortest possible delay, allowing the precise location of these sites.*

### **DISCUSSION**

Of course, it is up to Parks Canada to authorize and supervise such excavations. A partnership with a university that has such a program should be in order.

F – 5.2 All the colonial community's history should equally be examined in the archives, updated and published in all possible manners.

*We recommend to the CEA, the SHA and other historical societies in the region to put Beaubassin in their top priorities' list.*

## **F – 6 Arrangement of the Pioneers' Cemetery**

F – 6.1 Once its perimeter is identified, the pioneers' cemetery should become visually recognizable.

*We recommend that a stone enclosure, as was the era's common practice, be arranged around the cemetery's area, including of course a dignified and secured entryway.*

F – 6.2 Even without the railroad's desired divergence, the land should receive respectful and attentive care.

*We recommend that a neat and grassy levelling be done on the land's entirety.*

### **DISCUSSION**

While waiting for the requested divergence, a small temporary railing for protection could be mounted along the railway. Public access would then be reserved for the east fraction of the cemetery.

F – 6.3 It seems vital to us that a development plan include an appropriate testimony to the interred ancestors' ashes.

*We recommend that a major commemorative monument be instated in the area to the memory of the deceased.*

#### DISCUSSION

This could take the form of a great tombstone with all known names, or if the names are to be layed in the reception centre, it would then be a symbolic monument.

This specific project should be the object of an artistry challenge overseen by the entirety of the families solicited by the FAFA or the SNA.

It also seems to us that a visible cross should be somewhere part of this monument.

#### **F – 7 Other Monuments**

F – 7.1 Beyond a monument in the cemetery or a plaque in the reception centre where the names' list of inhabitants born pre-1755 could be read, some families may want to establish an unspecified monument to the memory of their Acadian ancestor. At the least, a plaque that would further locate its period, its family, its trade...

*We recommend that a policy allowing and showcasing such a practice be defined.*

#### DISCUSSION

This would surely be helped by reserving a common piece of land and by sharing common supports.

With the permission of current owners, simple plaques could be instated along the dykes, facing the known ancestral lands.

F – 7.2 It appears vital as well to us that a special monument be established to the memory of Jacob Bourgeois, in his capacity as founder of the colony.

*We thus recommend that a joint project of the Acadian families in general and specifically of the Bourgeois family be developed towards the establishment of a monument worthy of the memory of Beaubassin's founding pioneer.*

#### DISCUSSION

This is already a project of the Association des Bourgeois de Descendance Acadienne (Association of Bourgeois of Acadian Descent). It has in addition placed a memorial plaque in front of the tourism office for its 2004 Reunion. However, all of the area's concerned families, as well as all the organizations claiming to be of the colony's history, would be legitimate partners in such a project that could hence be of a scale worthy of the founder.

F – 7.3 It seems legitimate to us that other monuments be housed somewhere in the surroundings.

*We recommend that a policy allowing and showcasing such a practice be established.*

#### DISCUSSION

For example, a simple monument could call to mind Fort Lawrence's presence (historical information being properly kept at the reception centre and at Fort Beauséjour) and the memory of Lieutenant Governor Michel Leneuf, on his housing hill, along with the entirety of the missionaries that have fulfilled the religious needs of inhabitants.

F – 7.4 As for the establishment of a reproduction from the series of monuments said to be from "L'Odyssée acadienne" (referred in D – 5.2), we think that it absolutely concords with our vision for the area.

*We thus recommend that this project be retained within the global development plan for the historical site.*

## DISCUSSION

We deem acceptable that such a monument be located near the tourism office, and perhaps on land belonging to the Cumberland County. This would already be a first attraction for visitors stopping by the office and who are generally curious about the information displayed on said monuments.

F – 7.5 As for the great wooden cross installed in 2004 on the hill's site of mass, we think that it has a useful function and may very well be left permanently.

*We recommend that follow-ups be done to ensure the permanence of the great cross in its current location and that it continues to be lit.*

### **F – 8 Reconstitutions**

F – 8.1 The aborted project of a Fort Lawrence reconstitution should not in our point of view be redone. We think it would become a physical importance far greater than its historical one, considering that it was a military shelter for a mere five years, where there never were any military engagements and was abandoned to the advantage of Fort Beauséjour once the French surrendered. In comparison to the importance of the three generations of inhabitants that began constructing this corner of land, it does not make the balance.

*We thus recommend that no project of reconstituting the Fort Lawrence be supported.*

F – 8.2 In addition, the aborted project of an Acadian colonial village reconstitution, emphasizing the era's various types of buildings, appears to us to have an enviable potential.

*We recommend that the FAFA support in theory the concept of an eventual Acadian colonial village reconstitution project.*

### **F – 9 Activities**

F – 9.1 In the near future, we see the revival of the ancestors artisan life in a historical village context of touristic vocation, as referred in the above article. This could already be started during organization of annual festivities.

*We recommend that a coordination committee of such a festivity be created under CREDA's leadership.*

F – 9.2 We think it to be a worthy initiative to periodically resume an undetermined celebration in the location of the 2004 August 14<sup>th</sup> pastoral mass.

*We recommend that ecclesiastic authorities and other potential partners be approached in order to establish an agreement in the subject.*

## DISCUSSION

This could take on a special symbolism, such as the blessing of crops.

The era's parish being under the helm of Notre-Dame-de-l'Assomption, the precise or approximate date of August 15<sup>th</sup> should be considered.

Concerned groups, such as the Chevaliers de Colomb, should be involved in the project.

F – 9.3 We think that activities that are theatrical, musical or ceremonial in nature linked to the history of Beaubassin should be created and have there (or even in the region's other areas) an appropriate location.

*We recommend that the FAFA explore with useful discussion partners and recommend follow-ups in this aim.*

## **F – 10 Promotion**

F – 10.1 The two provinces' Ministries of Tourism can contribute a great deal to recognition of these historic lands.

*We recommend that the said Ministries give a high visibility to the historic site of Beaubassin in their promotional strategy.*

F – 10.2 The cities of Amherst and Sackville could also bring a useful contribution.

*We recommend that these two cities take on a policy favourable to the emphasis of the Acadian colonial heritage.*

F – 10.3 The two provinces Ministries of Transportation have responsibilities linked to the display and road names.

*We recommend that the said Ministries prepare and establish appropriate road signs to inform passers-by and to direct visitors.*

F – 10.4 Nova Scotia's Ministry of Transportation is responsible for identifying public roads.

*We recommend to this Ministry to rename according to more respectful terms the section of the "Fort Lawrence Road" stretching from the TC to its western limit. For example: "Chemin des Pionniers/Pioneers' Road" or even "Chemin de l'Église de Beaubassin/ Beaubassin Church Road".*

F – 10.5 Acadian organizations can also contribute promotional efforts.

*We recommend to Acadian organizations to recognize a responsibility in this subject, and to find ways to discover and highlight to its right value the historical reality that was Beaubassin.*

F – 10.6 It appears important to us that symbols characteristic of Beaubassin be created and adopted.

*We recommend that the SNA take the initiative to lead such a project to fruition.*

## **Section G**

### **PARTNERSHIPS AND STRATEGIES**

#### **G – 1 Common Vision**

G – 1.1 It appears essential to us that steps be taken with all legitimate partners for a common vision of the area's historical usage to be defined.

G – 1.2 We are aware and appreciate that Parks Canada has taken initiatives in this aim and deem Parks Canada to be the most appropriate organization for this leadership.

#### **G – 2 Cooperation**

G – 2.1 It is obvious that, with many public «players» already having their property on neighbouring pieces of land, any development project needs to be approached with good cooperation. Adding to these are other legitimate partners such as Acadian organizations, Acadian families, historical organizations, civil organizations, etc.

G – 2.2 With defined common vision and by respecting each partner's personality, it seems that this would clarify individual needs, without obstructing the progress of specific projects.

### **G – 3 Partners**

G – 3.1 We deem Parks Canada as a key partner in the development strategy of an overall plan and in the role of coordinator of cooperation efforts, which fortunately is what the agency has already resolved to do.

G – 3.2 We deem a very important role for the CREDA, not only in the definition of certain specific projects for the land it owns, but also in its capacity to facilitate access to various resources necessary for the realization of many other projects.

G – 3.3 We think that the Fédération des Associations de Familles Acadiennes must play an essential role in the representation of Acadian families' interests. Also, it appears unfeasible to us that the Société Nationale de l'Acadie, as well as its territorial components (the SAANB, the FANE, the SSTA), the Centre d'Études Acadiennes and other organizations representing Acadia (of which the Louisianan CAFA, in addition to contacts in the Îles-de-la-Madeleine and at St-Pierre et Miquelon) would not be part of this effort.

G – 3.4 Beyond a role as moral guarantor that must be played by Acadian organizations, concrete steps must equally be taken, should it be research, promotion, or even financial support in order for the decided plan to succeed.

G – 3.5 We consider that many occasional partners will be of vital importance so as to favour particular projects. It is notably the case of the region's municipal councils, politicians, clergy, civil servants from various ministries, historical and artisan associations, Canards Illimités, etc.

G – 3.7 We consider appropriate to create an unspecified organization or foundation of the type created for the site at Grand-Pré. It would serve in coordinating efforts to fund approved projects.

## **Section H**

### **Conclusion**

H – 1.1 Here it is! We have worked with enthusiasm and conviction in pursuit of the mandate that we now consider complete.

H – 1.2 It is understood that we have not strived to present all the details, all concerned partners, all recommended strategies and timetables. This seemed to us impossible as well as undesirable. Much discussion will be required in order to accomplish each and every one of these.

H – 1.3 We dare believe, however, that our efforts will have been useful for the necessary consideration. Our thanks again to the FAFA for its trust; in the same way, our thanks to all the agencies that will support this Report's main ideas.

H – 1.4 We hope that funds will be obtained in order to translate this Report, and thus give broader access to our thoughts for all potential partners.