

- ❖ Welcome to Grand-Pre National Historic Site. Commemorative to the Acadian people.
- ❖ Introduce oneself
- ❖ Explain that the site is a part of Parks Canada's system of National Historic sites. The mandate of Parks Canada is to preserve and present nationally significant examples of Canada's natural and cultural heritage, and foster public understanding, appreciation and enjoyment in ways that ensure their ecological and commemorative integrity for present and future generations. It is also a site co-managed by the Acadian community represented by the Société Promotion Grand-Pre and Parks Canada.
- ❖ Does anyone know who the Acadians are?
- ❖ Acadians were French settlers who established in the colony of Acadia in the early 1600's. Explain what and who the colony was.. It includes present day Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, the Gaspé and parts of present day Maine... (which is why there is an Acadia National Park in Maine)
- ❖ Has anyone heard of the famous tides of Fundy... these tides and the salt marshes are linked to the settlement patterns of the Acadians. Explain.
- ❖ Where does the term Acadia come from? (Verrazanno's "Arcadia" and the Mi'maq "Ekati")
- ❖ These French settlers who settled in the colony of Acadia were referring to themselves as "Acadians" by the early 1700's.
- ❖ The Acadians came from other areas to this region in the 1680's. It was common for the Acadians to build their houses on the uplands adjacent to the marshes (indicate the hills where the houses would have been found). Upon looking at this vast flat plain ahead of us, which at that time was marshland, they were reminded of meadows.. and hence the village was named "le village de la Grand-Prée". In English "Great Meadow".
- ❖ Traditionally they settled on the uplands near the marshes as they built dykes to drain these marshes to be transformed into farmland. (use the aboiteau and explain how they used these to build dykes and how the dykes were built... explain that it took 3-5 years to drain the salt from the soil.. ) Explain that the land was of fertile soil and within a very short period of time they could live

almost self sufficiently. They were even able to trade and agricultural surplus with their neighbors. They established this system of dyke building early in the 1600's and because of its success they continued with this concept of farming until the events of the Deportations unfolded.

- ❖ They lived in the colony almost 150 yrs prior to the Deportations, which began in 1755.
- ❖ Grand-Pre National historic site is the site of the Church "L'Église de Saint-Charles des Mines" and the cemetery that existed prior to the Deportation.
- ❖ Briefly explain the monuments. The stone cross marks the cemetery (this is very important to mention since there is no signage indicating such). Also, make reference to Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and the statue of Evangeline.
- ❖ In the church, there will be a guide, her/his name is \_\_\_\_\_, it is there where you will learn about the Deportation and "the rest of the story...."