

# Expansion of Acadie



## EXPLORE Grand-Pré / Piziquid Region

With the birth of second and third generation Acadians, the population of the Port-Royal area started increasing. Most of the fertile salt marshland had been diked and reclaimed. They had to start looking for larger expanses of tidal marshland.



Explore Grand-Pré National Historic Site, the Attack at Grand-Pré HSMBC Monument, the Landscape of Grand-Pré UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Deportation Cross at Horton's Landing, Fort Edward National Historic Site in Windsor and Sainte-Famille Cemetery in Falmouth. Visit Starrs Point and the French Cross in Morden on your way back to Annapolis Royal.



In the 1670s at Beaubassin (Amherst area) and continuing in the 1680s with Grand-Pré, Piziquid (Windsor) and Cobequid (Truro), the Acadians started expanding along the tidal shores and basins of the Bay of Fundy.



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### Grand-Pré NHS is 75 minutes from Annapolis Royal

The church is one of the highlights at Grand-Pré National Historic Site. The dikes built by Acadians and expanded by later settlers prevent most of Grand-Pré NHS from flooding at the extreme high tides. From your home base in Annapolis Royal you can easily visit and explore the former Acadian regions of Grand-Pré and Piziquid.

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**Grand-Pré**  
National Historic Site

**Uncover profound Acadian stories**

902-542-3136  
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### WHAT TO SEE & DO

1. Grand-Pré NHS
2. Battle of Grand-Pré Monument
3. UNESCO World Heritage Site
4. Deportation Cross
5. Fort Edward NHS
6. Sainte Famille Graveyard
7. Starr's Point
8. French Cross at Morden

1755 DEPORTATION  
Grand Pré 2,202 Piziquid 1,000

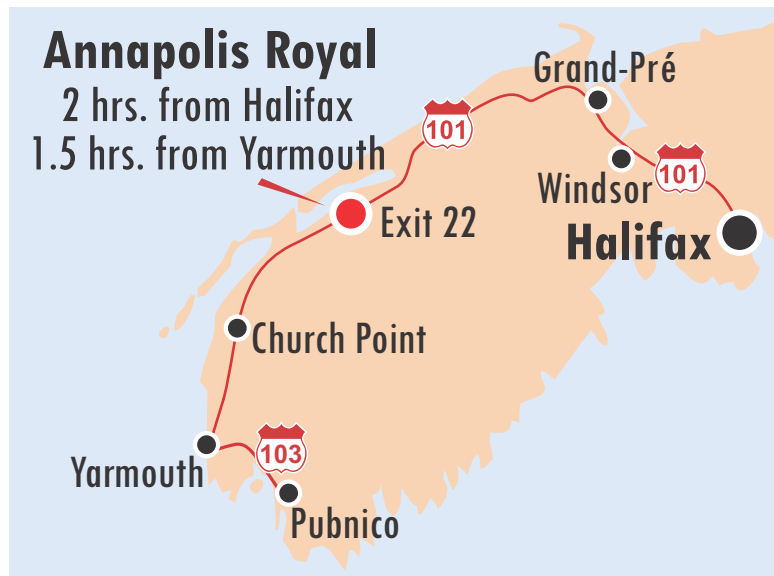


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For more about Expansion of Acadie attractions, maps, videos, history, recipes, music, dances and deportation visit: [www.ExplorerGuide.ca/acadians.html](http://www.ExplorerGuide.ca/acadians.html)

## EXPLORE The Grand-Pré / Piziquid Region

# The Expansion of Acadie



From your home base in Annapolis Royal, you can easily explore the former Acadian regions of Grand-Pré and Piziquid (Windsor).

### 1. Grand-Pré National Historic Site

Located about 1 hour and 25 minutes from Annapolis Royal at 2205 Grand-Pré Road, Grand-Pré NHS is the best place to learn about the Acadians who started settling in this area in 1682. Their hard work made the Grand-Pré region the “Breadbasket of Acadie.” Follow the story through to the deportation of about 2200 Acadians from the area during the Great Upheaval that started in 1755. As you enter the Visitor / Interpretative Centre, be sure to view Wayne Boucher’s striking painting and watch the video in the amphitheatre that summarizes the Grand-Pré Acadian story. Go through the interpretive displays to gain a more thorough understanding of the history. You’ll even see part of an original Acadian aboiteau from the Melanson Settlement in Port-Royal. A stroll through the park with the Statue of Evangeline; the Acadian Memorial Church with its magnificent stained glass window, created by Terry Smith Lamothe, and the six beautiful paintings by Claude Picard; the old Acadian Blacksmith Shop, brought from Wedgeport; the Monument to Longfellow; Herbin Cross; and the willows, ponds, manicured gardens, complete with an apple orchard, is an experience you won’t soon forget.

### 2. Attack at Grand-Pré HSMBC Monument

Located about 1 hour and 24

minutes from Annapolis Royal, the monument stands on the right-hand side of the road before arriving at Grand-Pré NHS. It recounts the story of a surprise attack on February 11, 1747 by a French and First Nations force led by Coulon de Villiers against Colonel Arthur Noble and his troops who were billeted in Acadian homes in the Grand-Pré area. The French and First Nations forces attacked at 3:00 am in a blinding snowstorm under cover of darkness. Colonel Noble and about 70 of his soldiers were killed in the attack. The British surrendered once the French ensured they could return to the capital in Annapolis Royal. The French troops and their allies departed shortly afterwards. This battle occurred during the War of the Austrian Succession (1745-1748), seven years before the 1755 Deportation. Skirmishes like this certainly affected the British decision to deport the Acadians.

### 3. Landscape of Grand-Pré UNESCO World Heritage Site

Located 1 hour and 26 minutes from Annapolis Royal at 69-161 Old Post Road in Grand-Pré, the site offers a great panoramic view of the cultural and natural landscape of an area that has been influenced by man from time immemorial to the present day. The Mi’kmaq frequented this area long before Pierre Melanson and his wife Marguerite Mius d’Entremont established the village of Grand-Pré in 1682. They were allies and helped the Acadians thrive in the area by sharing their knowledge. The Acadian community started reclaiming the fertile salt marshes

by building dikes and draining the salt from the land using a series of drainage ditches and aboiteaux.

After the Deportation of the Acadians in 1755, the former Acadian lands throughout Nova Scotia were granted to British settlers from Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut called the New England Planters. The community became known as Hortonville, and descendants of the Planters have maintained the dykes and farm the land to the present day.

There is a parking area, chairs, an informative interpretive panel, the Acadian Flag flying, and of course, a breathtaking vista.

### 4. The Deportation Cross

Located about 1 hour and 28 minutes from Annapolis Royal at Horton’s Landing, near Grand-Pré National Historic Site, the Deportation Cross commemorates the fact that about 2,200 Acadians were loaded onto ships and deported to the British Colonies from the Grand-Pré area in 1755. It was commissioned by the Dominion Atlantic Railway in 1924 when they owned the Park and promoted the area as the “Land of Evangeline.” The railroad passed right in front of Grand-Pré Park, and the train would stop to let visitors off. They commissioned the Statue of Evangeline to welcome visitors as they walked into the Park. From 1924 until 2005, the Deportation Cross was located along the railroad tracks a couple of kilometres from the Park, so visitors could view it as the train travelled to and from Halifax. In 2005, Parks Canada moved the cross to Horton’s Landing because that is where Acadians were loaded onto ships for expulsion.

### 5. Fort Edward National Historic Site

Located about one hour and 35 minutes from Annapolis Royal at 67 Fort Edward Street in Windsor (formerly Piziquid), Fort Edward was built in 1750 by the British to protect the overland route between Annapolis Royal and the new capital of Halifax. The British wanted the fort to give them more oversight and control over the Acadian population and the Mi’kmaq who travelled the Avon and St. Croix Rivers, often stopping here in their travels.

Of significant interest for Acadians is that over 1,000 Acadians from the region were

deported under the command of Captain Alexander Murray in 1755. Many Acadians who had escaped and were later captured were held prisoner at Fort Edward during the 7 Years’ War. Some Acadian prisoners helped the New England Planters rebuild dikes on the former Acadian lands and taught them the technology. The Acadian prisoners were released after the War, and some went to Clare in 1768. Today, only the old 1750 Blockhouse and remnants of the earthen walls remain. It is the oldest original Blockhouse in Canada.

### 6. Sainte-Famille Parish Cemetery

Located about 1 hour and 35 minutes from Annapolis at 419 Gabriel Road in Falmouth, this is the site of the cemetery of the Acadian Parish of Sainte Famille started in 1698 following an edict from the Bishop of Quebec to create parishes on both sides of the Rivière Pigouit (now Avon River). The other was Assumption Parish in what is now Windsor (formerly Piziquid). Acadians from Sainte-Famille Parish count among the 1,000 Acadians deported by Captain Alexander Murray in 1755. In 1996 an archaeological survey conducted by the Nova Scotia Museum estimated about 300 graves are in the cemetery.

### 7. Starrs Point Deportation Embarkation Site

Located about 1 hour and 15 minutes from Annapolis Royal on Town Plot Road off, Starrs Point Road, is a Deportation Embarkation Site that is not as well known as

Grand-Pré, Piziquid, Beaubassin and Annapolis Royal. Acadians who were deported from the north side of rivière Saint-Antoine, also known as rivière Grand Habitant (now Cornwallis River), embarked here between October 19-21, 1755. They were loaded on sloops named the Industry, Endeavour, Mary, and Prosperous. Before the Deportation, this area was mainly known as la Pointe des Boudrots.

### 8. French Cross at Morden

Located about an hour from Annapolis Royal on the Bay of Fundy shoreline in the village of Morden on Route 221, this monument commemorates Acadians from the BelleIsle area who escaped the 1755 Deportation from Annapolis Royal. By walking over the North Mountain to this remote spot, they could hide from the British during the Winter of 1755-1756. They survived mainly from shellfish and what the Mi’kmaq brought to help them. There is a story of an elderly Pierre Melanson and a Mi’kmaq boy crossing the Bay of Fundy by canoe to see if they could get help on the other side. On the way back, Pierre Melanson died from exposure not far from the shoreline, but the boy survived. About two-thirds of the refugees died over the Winter. Still, the survivors erected a cross on the site to honour the deceased before starting the arduous journey to the friendly territory of Québec. The stone cross monument is the fourth erected on this site, as the other three have eroded into the sea. Take exit 16 off Highway 101 to access route 221 into Morden.

## EXPLORE ACADIE with Explorer Visitors Guide

The Port-Royal / Annapolis Royal Area, “The Cradle of Acadie”, is centrally-located and a perfect home base to Explore Acadie. Travelling towards Halifax, you can visit the former Acadian regions of Grand-Pré and Piziquid to learn about the Expansion of Acadie before the deportation. Head towards Yarmouth from Annapolis Royal for a visit to the Clare and Argyle regions and discover modern-day Acadie. Make the most of your visit with the Explorer’s new Acadian Guide online at [www.ExplorerGuide.ca/acadians.html](http://www.ExplorerGuide.ca/acadians.html)



More ways to Explore Acadie will be added to our Acadian Guide before CMA 2024. Check back often: [www.ExplorerGuide.ca/acadians.html](http://www.ExplorerGuide.ca/acadians.html)