Although a guided tour service is available, visitors would be free to tour the island on their own, at their own pace. Nevertheless, various «menus» and tours would be proposed. A walking route is especially designed to enable visitors to appreciate the natural landscapes of Grosse île while getting to know the environmental features of an island milieu.

Commemoration of the theme

The commemoration of the theme is based on the present character of the site's present character as well as on the preservation of the site's present character and evidence of the past. Consequently, the proposed development concept for Grosse île NHS is based on the idea that, as far as historical and heritage awareness is concerned, nothing is more valuable than direct contact with authentic resources and the resources themselves are preserved in their existing state. The proposed development concept for Grosse île NHS is based on the idea that, as far as historical and heritage awareness is concerned, nothing is more valuable than direct contact with authentic resources and the resources themselves are preserved in their existing state.

General Directions for development

The immigra­tion theme is based wherever possible on the resources themselves and on the conservation of the landscape and heritage resources. Therefore, mainly «light» and rather sober means of interpretation are implemented (exhibit modules, texts and illustrations, furniture and objects set up inside the buildings...). The means of interpretation are harmonized with the conservation techniques of the resources. Therefore, mainly «light» and rather sober means of interpretation are implemented (exhibit modules, texts and illustrations, furniture and objects set up inside the buildings...).

Treatment of Historic Resources

Restoration work, as far as visible archeological resources, structures and buildings are concerned, is of a discreet nature. These elements are undergoing stabilization and repair work to maintain those features that have been preserved to date and to protect them from further deterioration.

Work on indoor spaces is similar in nature to that planned for the exterior following the same conservation objectives. In general, the archeological resources found during the digs are reburied. However, certain particularly evocative vestiges may be stabilized and exhibited in situ to enable visitors to better visualize the traces of all the periods that have shaped the history of the quarantine station. On the whole, the services offered on the island, considering the specific requirements of the site impose, remain intentionally low profile. Essentially, in the visitor reception sector, there would be a group of services : reception and information area, washroom facilities, restaurants serving refreshments...

A number of sub-themes related to the history of the quarantine station are presented in various places on the island and are closely linked to the resources. Visitors can enter several of the old buildings such as the second-class hotel, the former quarantine building, the Anglican chapel, the Catholic chapel, and the latrines.

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The aim of this pamphlet is to give you a concise introduction to the objectives the Canadian Parks Service intends to pursue on Grosse Ille as well as the proposed orientations for the preservation and development of this heritage site. These objectives and orientations will be explained to you in greater detail during the information sessions to be held in the near future. Public hearings are also planned so that you may express your opinion on the subject.

I therefore invite you to participate in this consultation exercise, and in forming your point of view to us. We will welcome your every suggestion and comment with a view to improving this project.

Thank you for your contribution to this consultation process.

Gilles Desaulniers
Director General
Quebec Region
Canadian Parks Service

Grosse Ille is anchored in the middle of the St. Lawrence Estuary approximately 50 km down the river from Quebec City. This island was designated, in 1832, as an advanced quarantine station to protect Canadians from the epidemics that raged in Europe at the time and which new arrivals to the country could be carrying.

Grosse Ille served as the principal Canadian quarantine station until 1937. During this long period, the city of Quebec, then considered the "gateway to the continent", apparently welcomed thousands of immigrants, among them the "fondue of sea-wrack.

In 1984, the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada recommended that the Canadian Government designate the island a national historic site dedicated to the commemoration of immigration. Substantial, diversified historical resources still remain on Grosse Ille:

- several down structures and buildings remaining from the various periods of the quarantine station's long history
- archeological remains associated with the different phases of occupation of the site
- a number of objects found on site which are associated with the functions and activities of the station and the subsequent period of occupation.

With its geographical setting and island character, Grosse Ille offers one of the most picturesque natural windows on the wind-swept shores washed by the tides, enmarcing the smell of sea-truck.

In the future, we feel that visitors should be able to establish regular, constructive relationships with the main players in the region and to elicit participation of the local partners in improving existing services to visitors so as to promote harmonious integration of the site into its region.

A QUARANTINE STATION

THEMES AND OBJECTIVES

Main theme:
Immigration to Canada via Quebec City (1800 - 1939)

Secondary theme:
Quarantine Station Grosse Ille (1832 - 1937)

General theme:
Canada: Land of Welcome and Hope

Objectives:
- to ensure the preservation of the overall historical resource, including its technical, archeological and ethnographic aspects
- to establish regular, constructive relationships with the main players in the region and to elicit participation of the local partners in improving existing services to visitors so as to promote harmonious integration of the site into its region.

Respect for the "spirit of the site".

The term respect for the "spirit of the site" refers to the preservation of the emotional role of a heritage site. At Grosse Ille it is obvious that the site has not changed over time and that the island is a veritable open-air history book. Ensuring the traces of such a particular atmosphere as that which envelops the island would be tantamount to cutting of its tompor right when the island was ready to spoly it's story.

Integral presentation of the theme.

It is important to present Grosse Ille both as a whole, with respect to its role in immigration to Canada, as well as more specifically, in its role as a quarantine station. Therefore, we feel that visitors should be given the chance to learn about the overall geographic themes to be commemorated at this site.

A Nature-Culture Approach

The humanized landscape of Grosse Ille, shaped by a century and a half's occupation, falls within a geographic and natural framework which has changed very little throughout the ages.

On a different level, the insular character of the place emphasizes the heritage interest the site already presents. Given the context, it is understandable that visitors be offered a multipurpose "visit experience" which will enable them to appreciate the overall historical and environmental attractions of the island while benefiting from the educational and recreational potential of the resources.

FORMER WASH HOUSE

DEVELOPMENT PRINCIPLES

There is an outline of the main principles which inspired the proposed development orientations:

- to protect the island's natural milieu
- to preserve, in collaboration with Agriculture Canada, the heritage of Grosse Ille while taking appropriate steps to ensure the quality of the environment
- to publicly recognize the existence of Grosse Ille National Historic Site and encourage visits to the island
- to offer visitors a choice of visits likely to increase their understanding of the themes as well as their appreciation of the site's heritage resources

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