

L'ANSE-DES-BELLIVEAU



ABOUT L'ANSE-DES-BELLIVEAU

L'Anse-des-Belliveau is located on a 9.6 kilometre sand flat (platain) stretching from the village of Saint-Bernard in the north to Pointe-de-l'Église in the south. Here, the seabed of Baie Sainte-Marie consists of brown sand covered by the ocean at high tide and exposed for about one kilometre seaward twice daily at low tide. Powered by the tides of the Bay of Fundy, the change of sea level measures approximately 6.7 metres vertically. Boasting a rich Acadian history, the community is known for its port—historically used for fishing, lumber exports and shipbuilding.

PARC JOSEPH-ET-MARIE-DUGAS

Parc Joseph-et-Marie-Dugas is named after the first Acadian couple to arrive in the area in 1768. The park is accessed off Trunk 1 and has a wharf, old post office building, restroom facility, lighthouse and Sentier Piau, a five kilometre long trail that borders the shoreline and freshwater wetlands. A pepper-shaker-style lighthouse is located on the end of the north wharf, originally erected in 1889 and then reconstructed in the 1980s after detriment from a storm. It continues to operate for navigation.

In recent storm events this year, the wharf and lighthouse have been damaged and will once again need to be reconstructed.

The harbour is used mainly for recreational small boats and some lobster fishing boats, although they are challenged by rising and falling tides, causing moored boats to be on land at low tide. Tides from the Bay of Fundy lend ideal conditions for clamming at low tide. The park hosts a popular Farmers Market every Saturday from May to September.

POINTE-À-MAJOR

Pointe-à-Major (Major's Point) is approximately two kilometres south of the wharf at L'Anse-des-Belliveau. The heritage site includes a chapel, cemetery and a commemorative cairn with a heritage plaque. The surrounding area offers an extensive network of salt marshes and wetlands along with unique stone berms that have formed over time along the coastline and offer panoramic views of Baie Sainte-Marie.

The Sentier Piau Trail connects Pointe-à-Major to Parc Joseph-et-Marie-Dugas.



L'Anse-des-Belliveau
Map showing sand flats between
St. Bernard and Pointe-de-l'Église.
(Clare Natural Resources Studv. René Belliveau)

L'ANSE-DES-BELLIVEAU



L'Anse-des-Belliveau

**PARC
JOSEPH &
MARIE
DUGAS**

**POINTE-À-
MAJOR
HISTORIC**

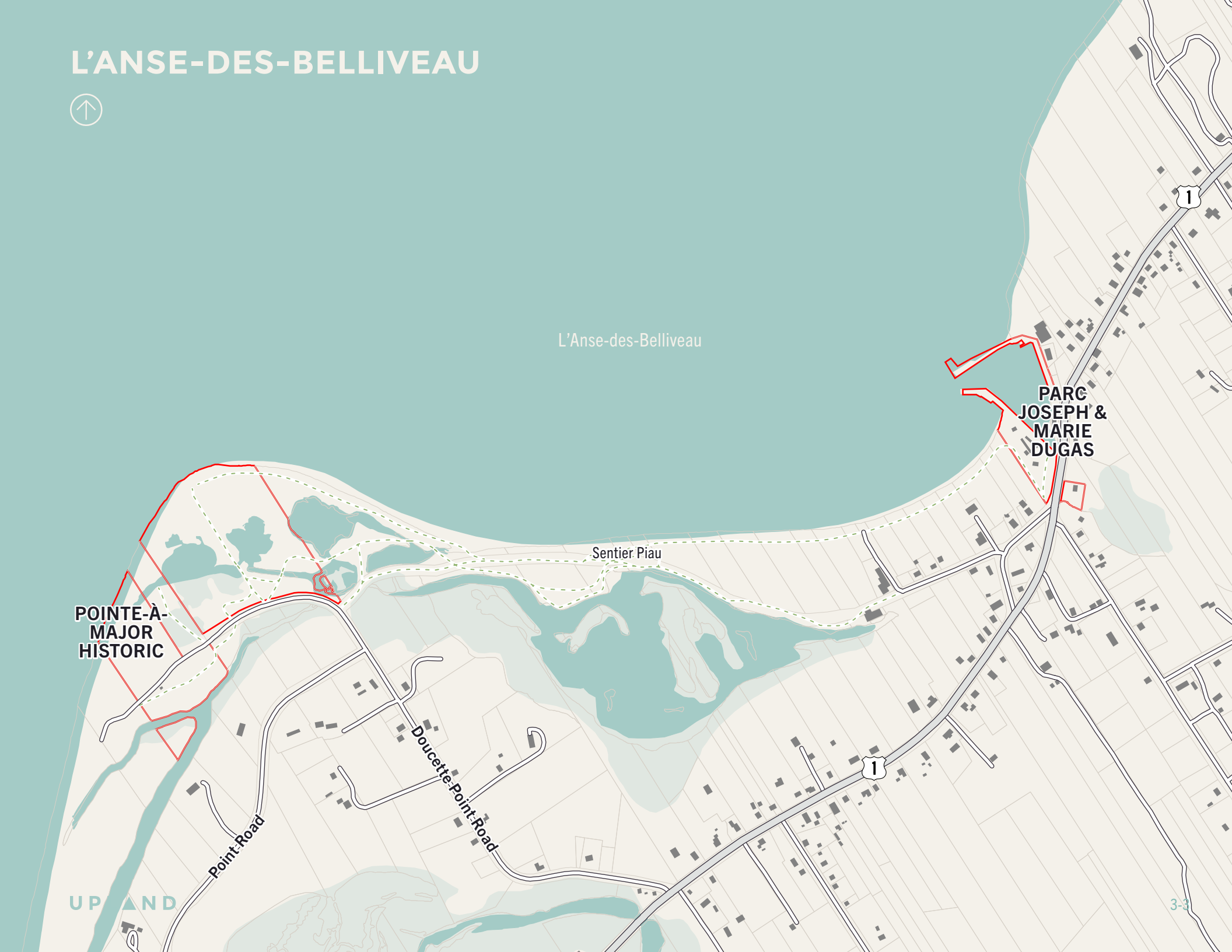
Sentier Piau

Doucette-Point-Road

Point-Road

UP AND

3-3



HISTORY OF L'ANSE-DES-BELLIVEAU

For thousands of years, this part of southwestern Nova Scotia was the nomadic territory of the Mi'kmaq people. One of their seasonal camps, Chicaben, was located near Pointe-de-l'Église in the cove a few hundred yards north of the village crossroads. The abundant shellfish in the seabed made this particular stretch of coastline a preferred summer camping location for the Mi'kmaq.

In 1768, Governor Michael Franklyn granted the region of Clare to the dispossessed Acadians who were returning to Nova Scotia after the deportations of 1755. The Acadians had been refugees from 1755 until 1763 when peace had been restored. Franklyn ruled that Acadians could once again own land and settle in Nova Scotia. The district of Clare was to include the land from the Sissiboo River (Weymouth) in the north to Yarmouth in the south.

The first Acadians to settle in the new 'township' of Clare were Joseph Dugas, his wife Marie-Joséphé Robichaud, and their daughter Isabelle, who walked from Annapolis Royal arriving on the 5th of September, 1768. Their second child, a son, was born two weeks later.

The young family passed the winter of 1768-1769 alone on their land at L'Anse-des-LeBlanc about three kilometres north of L'Anse-des-Belliveau. The Parc Joseph-et-Marie-Dugas is named after these first settlers.

The second wave of Acadian settlers arrived by boat the following year in the spring. There were 98 people in this group, making up 14 families. Most of them settled along this sandy stretch of coast around the cove where abundant shellfish assured an easy supply of food. At L'Anse-des-Belliveau, Jean Belliveau, his wife Marie-Madeleine Gaudet, and their three adult sons Joseph, Frederic 'Soudic' and Charles Marin settled on four adjoining lots (later registered as lots #11, 12, 13 and 14). These four Belliveau lots covered at least 200 hectares and appear to have included all of the area around the harbour mouth where Parc Joseph-et-Marie-Dugas is located today.

Settlers began exporting surplus lumber, dried fish and potatoes, and imported goods such as sugar, flour, molasses, rum, wine, fabric and window glass from stores operated by Acadian



The "Shipbuilders"

The shipwrights at the Theriault shipyard, L'Anse-des-Belliveau.

sea captains, first at Pointe-à-Major and later at L'Anse-des-Belliveau. Along Baie Saint-Marie, shipyards sprang up building freight-hauling vessels, some as large as 2000 tons, for traders based in Yarmouth.

In 1840, Jean Belliveau's grandson, Urbain Belliveau set up a shipyard on the north side of the harbour. Urbain built wharves, a warehouse, forge, store, and a water-powered mill at the mouth of the river. Ships were built directly on the shore. Local entrepreneurs milled wood products such as barrel staves, shingles and lumber for export. In 1887, Urbain launched his own trading schooner, *the Urbain B*. A pepper-shaker type lighthouse was built in 1889. Urbain's obituary in 1897, reported that his yard had built 26 ships in total. One of them, *the County of Yarmouth*, was the second largest wooden ship ever built in Canada.



The Edith Belliveau

Edith Belliveau with two other ships built in L'Anse-des-Belliveau.



Ben Belliveau & Co. Store

The Ben. J. Belliveau & Co. store sold dry goods, footwear, provisions, hardware, lumber and other merchandise. This building is still standing today.



Jacques Belliveau Mill

Aerial photo of Parc Joseph et Marie Dugas (lower right) and parts of the Jacques Belliveau mill and lumberyard, the village schoolhouse (still standing today, and since fall 2019, renovated as a restaurant) and the mill buildings (one of them equipped with a tall smokestack). ca. 1960s (Centre Acadien)

By the 1860s, the port of Yarmouth was home to the largest merchant fleet in Canada, and the majority of these ships were built in Clare. The shipyards at L'Anse-des-Belliveau were not the first or only shipyards along the Bay, but the cove was economically important enough to warrant its own customs office. Two other shipyards, the Adolphe Theriault yard and the Sinclair & Pierre Theriault yard, also opened in the cove and operated until the early 1920s. Local historian Delbé Comeau asserts that the shipyards at L'Anse-des-Belliveau built at least 56 ships between 1862 and 1919.

Urbain's sons, Benjamin and Charles, inherited the shipyard and store and carried on with the business into the 20th century. Between 1887 and 1933, the Belliveau men had 7 trading ships engaged in international commerce.

Wooden shipbuilding declined steadily in the early twentieth century and eventually the shipyards along the cove closed. The warehouses continued operating as the village's retail centre and a co-operatively run hardware and lumber store operated on the north side of the harbour where the lobster pound now stands. Windows and doors were manufactured there as well. The grounds of the Parc Joseph-et-Marie-Dugas served as a lumberyard attached to the Jacques Belliveau mill until the 1960s. Commercial shipping declined and the wharves slowly deteriorated. Other larger commercial hubs emerged in Saulnierville and Meteghan and the economic importance of L'Anse-des-Belliveau declined.

In 1976, the original lighthouse was destroyed and the wharves were badly damaged during a ferocious winter storm. In 1980, concerned citizens formed a Waterfront Improvement Committee (BCWIC) to improve the harbour. This organization later became the Belliveau Cove Development Commission (BCDC). In collaboration with them, the Municipality of Clare purchased the land south of the harbour from Clara Theriault. The federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) transferred ownership of the wharves to the Municipality at this time as well. The BCDC became responsible for the administration, development and maintenance of the park.



Jacques Belliveau mill and lumberyard (left)

An aerial photo from a glass negative of the Parc Joseph-et-Marie-Dugas lands being used as part of the Jacques Belliveau mill and lumberyard. After the Great War (1914-1918), the commercial activities at the harbour at L'Anse-des-Belliveau consisted of lumber exports (by sea) and general mercantile for the local community in warehouses built on pilings at the harbour mouth. 1931. (Nova Scotia Archives)

In 1990, the BCDC built a replica lighthouse on the north wharf and a trail linking Pointe-à-Major with L'Anse-des-Belliveau. The Belliveau store/post office building was re-located, restored and now operates as a craft shop. The Farmers' Market, public restrooms and landscape improvements including a bandstand and other site amenities were completed in 2001. More recently, interpretive signs and a memorial marker have been installed along the wharf apron. On Fridays during the summer months an outdoor seafood dining experience is offered for residents and visitors by a private sector operator. New for 2020, a guided walking tour will be offered by a local entrepreneur. Public celebrations for the community, such as Festival Acadien events, are held there as well.

Since the 2019 season, the Municipality of Clare and Belliveau Cove Development Commission have signed a management agreement to clarify roles and responsibilities in the park.

POINTE-À-MAJOR

As recently as 265 years ago, this point of land was an island. Known as L'Ile-à-Piau, it was separated from the mainland by a narrow gully of nearly a mile long – le Goulet-des-Chiens de Mer (Dogfish Gully). The gully opened on the north on the curve of the cove at L'Anse-des-Belliveau and ran in a straight line until it met the mouth of the Grosses Coques River. The western coast of the island had a cliff, a few hundred feet long. The island was covered in mature evergreens. Historians say the Goulet had sufficient depth for boats to enter and shelter from the tides and winds. Mi'kmaq shell middens have been found here.

In the winter of 1755-1756, this site was a refugee camp occupied by 120 Acadians who had fled Port Royal to avoid deportation. Led by Pierre 'Piau' Belliveau, these families traveled over North Mountain to Chute's Cove where their small fishing boats were hidden. They made their way by boat into Baie Sainte-Marie and came ashore in the hidden sheltered gully behind L'Ile-à-Piau. Soon thereafter, another 232 Acadian refugees arrived from Port Royal. This group had been arrested, put aboard the

42-ton *Pembroke*, and were destined for New England. Shortly after setting sail, however, the Acadians had taken control of the *Pembroke* and diverted it into Baie Sainte-Marie. It is unlikely that the Goulet would have accommodated a 42-ton ship. The Acadians from the *Pembroke* stayed only for the month of December and in early January 1756 sailed across the Bay of Fundy to the mouth of the Rivière Saint-Jean (Saint John River, New Brunswick), a territory controlled by the French. The 120 who had arrived in smaller boats wintered on the island in rudimentary shelters. We are uncertain as to how many died during that winter. In the spring, these refugees also crossed the bay to Saint-Jean, leaving their dead in a small cemetery on the island.

Twelve years later, the township of Clare was granted and the first Acadian settlers arrived. The story of the refugees and the existence of the cemetery were common knowledge to these settlers. A missionary priest consecrated the cemetery in 1774. The next year, Captain Pierre Doucet whose family had been deported to Massachusetts (1755-1774), came to settle in Clare and purchased the land (lot #23) only



Chapel and cemetery at Pointe-à-Major.
Log benches on the cemetery grounds were used for religious services. ca. early 20th century. (Centre Acadian)



Doucet residence.
The Doucet residence at Pointe-à-Major. early to mid-20th century. (Pat Ternan)



1771 Tombstone
Possibly the oldest tombstone in Clare from 1771 (two years after the arrival of the first settlers). Marie Doucet, who died in childbirth in 1771, was the sister of Captain Pierre Doucet and the wife of Amable Doucet. In 2021, this stone marker will be 250 years old.

a few hundred meters as the crow flies across the Grosses Coques River from the cemetery. Operating the ship *Hannah*, he opened the first store in Clare on this property, selling goods he traded for in Halifax, the West Indies and New England. He exported lumber, potatoes, apples and dried fish. As a result, Pointe-à-Major was Clare's first commercial zone. Captain Doucet and a group of his neighbours built levées (dykes) and two aboiteaux (sluice drains) in the salt marshes along the river. This was a co-operative venture, and each partner could keep or sell the hay harvested from the desalinated marshes. The community continued to use the cemetery until 1791 when they would clear land for a church and cemetery elsewhere.

From the 1780s to the 1880s, erosion and deposition of gravel slowly connected the island to the mainland. Gravel dams blocked the entrance of the Goulet and the channel dried up. L'Ile-à-Piau was renamed Pointe-à-Major,

a reference to Major Anselme Doucet, who was Pierre Doucet's son. The cemetery was neglected until 1866 when the community rehabilitated the site to prepare for the Clare centennial celebrations. The cemetery came into more frequent use after 1889, when local parishioners cleared away overgrown vegetation, built new grave crosses, fenced the cemetery and added a small chapel and large cedar cross. In 1892, a larger chapel was built at the site and it is the one still standing today. The site was and continues to be a meeting place for the community used for both solemn religious services and more joyous public celebrations. The cemetery grounds are now the property of the Municipality of Clare, and the site is managed and maintained by La Société historique de la Baie Sainte-Marie.

In 1990, the Waterfront Improvement Committee built a walking trail to Pointe-à-Major. Sentier Piau (Piau Trail) is named after

Pierre 'Piau' Belliveau, leader of the refugee group of 1755. The cemetery and chapel were formally recognized as one of Canada's Historic Places, and marked with a cairn with a bilingual heritage plaque in 1993. In recent years, the location of the levées and aboiteaux on the Grosses Coques marshes have been identified and the aboiteau at the mouth of the Grosses Coques is now registered as an archaeological site on the Maritime Archaeological Resource Inventory. Around 2008, the Municipality of Clare placed an identification sign at the entrance to the site and a small interpretive panel adjacent to the chapel as part of the Acadian Shores Interpretive Tour project. The historical society has also installed its own directional sign at the Route 1 turn-off signaling the turn onto Doucet's Point Road. The site is a place of pilgrimage for Acadians who are interested in history and genealogy and many of its visitors are descendants of the refugees of 1755-1756.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

LANDSCAPE

L'Anse-des-Belliveau is relatively flat and low-lying with hummocky terrain. As a result, much of the area is susceptible to damage from sea level rise and storm surge, as experienced during Hurricane Dorian in 2019, which caused significant damage to the lighthouse and Sentier Piau.

At Pointe-à-Major, unique rock deposits form berms at the water's edge. Glacial deposits of gravel and sand in the cliffs at Grosses Coques are continuously eroding and being carried northward toward the point by the ocean. This process deposits gravel where it encounters obstructions (such as the southern side of Pointe-à-Major) and it also deposits sand creating the tidal flats from Pointe-de-L'Église to L'Anse-des-Belliveau. The coastline here is changing rapidly and rising sea levels have increased the erosion process.

L'Anse-des-Belliveau is characterized by large swaths of **coastal beach** comprised of sand, gravel and stones. These sand flats are an abundant clam habitat for small soft-shelled clams, hard-shelled clams and razor clams.



The sand flats also contain the much scarcer Atlantic Surf Clam that can measure 15 millimetres long, and weigh as much as 900 grams. In Acadian French, Atlantic Surf Clams are called les grosses coques (the large clams).

Unique **coastal rock berms and dunes** are located in close proximity to Pointe-à-Major. Rock berms extend onto the beach area and edges of the surrounding wetlands.

The low lying terrain of L'Anse-des-Belliveau has generated several large **salt marsh wetlands** between Parc Joseph et Marie Dugas and Pointe-à-Major. These areas have hummocky terrain with imperfect drainage and coarse soils. Wetlands provide vital ecological functions for improving water quality, controlling floods, recharging groundwater, protecting coastal infrastructure, providing habitat and other cultural and economic services. Vegetation within the wetlands include grasses and small shrubs and some significant aquatic species such as sweet pepperbrush and golden crest. The salt marshes are provincially classified as significant habitats for migratory birds.



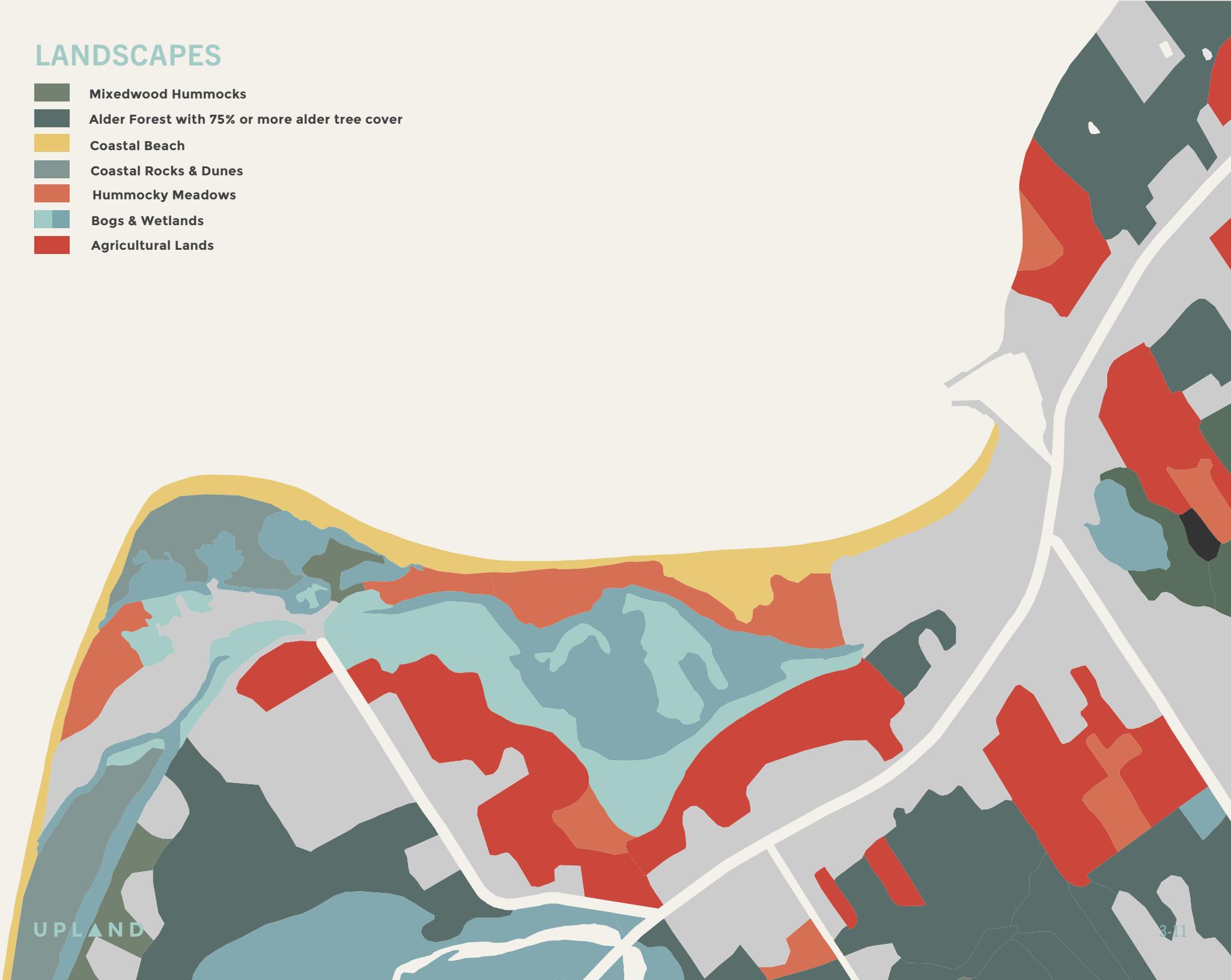
Hummocky terrain occupies the majority of the landscape surrounding Pointe-à-Major and some of the low-lying terrain next to the trail toward Parc Joseph et Marie Dugas. These areas are densely covered with coastal grasses and scattered with woody shrubs such as bayberry. They are ideal hunting grounds for predatory birds seeking small rodents.

The remaining area is covered by **alder forests** and **mixedwood hummocks**. Alder forests are located inland surrounding Pointe-à-Major and next to wetland zones, and feature various grasses, low lying shrubs and groundcovers.

These areas provide habitat for small bird and mammals. Mixedwood forest patches scatter the hummocky meadow area surrounding wetlands. Vegetation in these areas consist of white spruce, red maple, trembling aspen and some white pine.

LANDSCAPES

- Mixedwood Hummocks
- Alder Forest with 75% or more alder tree cover
- Coastal Beach
- Coastal Rocks & Dunes
- Hummocky Meadows
- Bogs & Wetlands
- Agricultural Lands



UPLAND

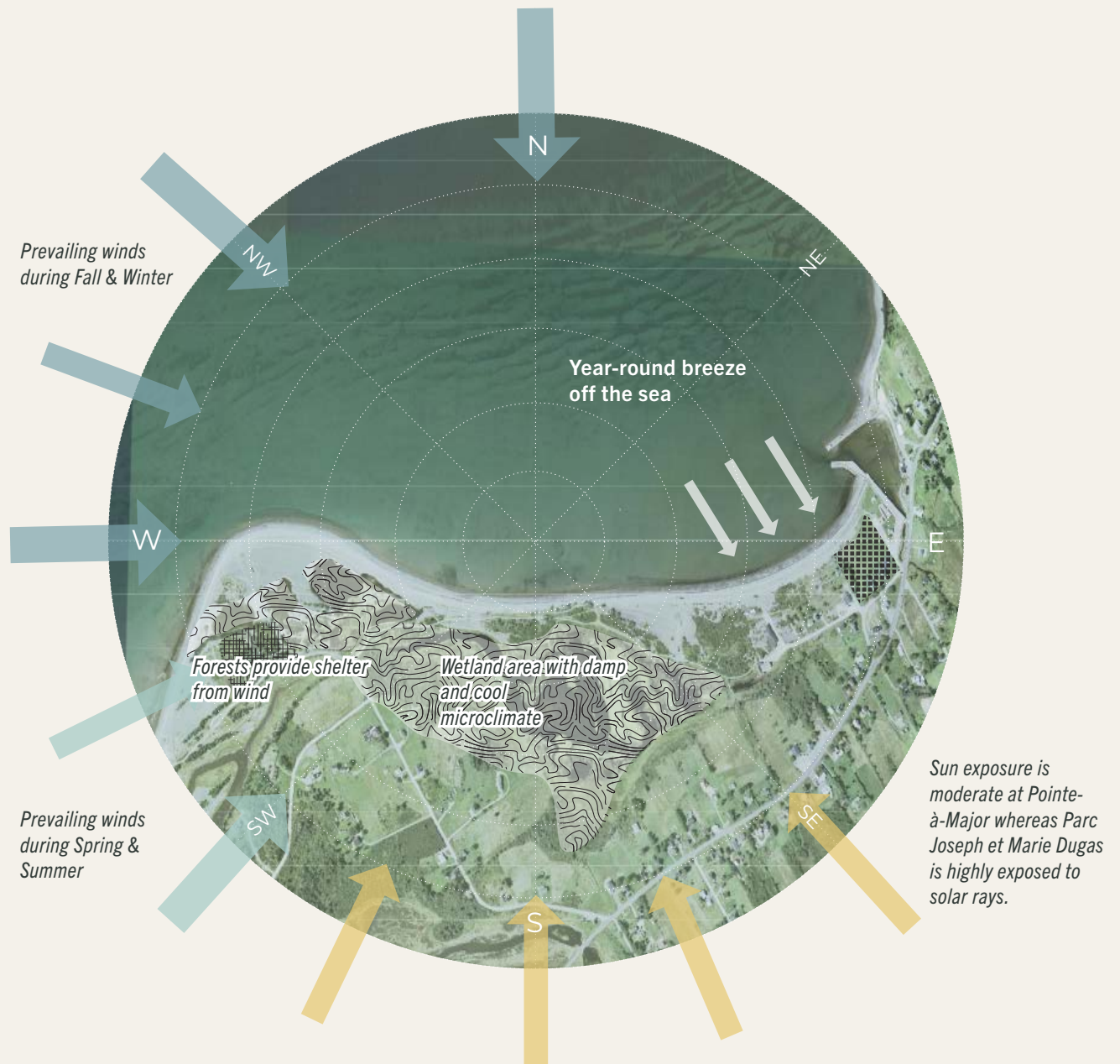
MICROCLIMATE

Parc Joseph-et-Marie-Dugas is north facing with limited tree cover. The site is highly exposed receiving strong northern, northwestern and western winds off the sea in the winter, and a summer breeze from the southwest in the summer.

Similarly, the site experiences a high degree of year-round sun exposure which is optimal for maximizing daylight in shorter winter days.

Pointe-à-Major is surrounded by fairly dense forests, sheltered from the coastal winds and high degrees of sun-exposure. That said, the downward slope toward the coastline and surrounding wetlands make the area fairly cool and damp with limited ventilation.

Both sites are at risk of sea level rise, storm surge and flooding due to climate change.



PARC JOSEPH-ET-MARIE-DUGAS

As the only centrally located public open space in L'Anse-des-Belliveau, the site is frequently utilized for public events and gatherings. During summer months the site hosts a weekly market. Vendors utilize the sheltered structures for their booths, whilst the picnic tables offer a suitable location to enjoy a bite to eat, overlooking the Baie Sainte-Marie. The facilities also support community events such as weekly summer seafood suppers called "Les Beaux Vendredis". Weddings are often hosted at the park, using the open lawn space, pergola and the wharf.

The area is frequented by both locals and visitors walking or cycling along the Sentier Piau. The trail offers a safe and maintained location for exercise. As green space is limited, the Municipality has a desire to expand the park should the opportunity become available to acquire adjacent private land.

Parc Joseph-et-Marie-Dugas contains five key structures: the old post office building, the restroom facility, the market enclosure, the gazebo, and the reconstructed lighthouse.



Other site amenities include the parking lot, benches, lighting and signs.

Sentier Piau connects the park to Pointe-à-Major along the coastline. The trail is unmarked, although the gravel pathway treatment and trail-side benches are key indicators for the path.

PARC JOSEPH ET MARIE DUGAS



Lighthouse

Wharf

Wharf

Sentier Piau

Seating

Market Space

Public Restroom

Old Post Office

Parking

314



Public Restroom

The public restroom building is wood framed and clad. The roof is a 45 degree gable structure treated with what appears to be red asphalt shingle. The building has roofed porches covering the front and rear entries. The women’s restroom facilities are located through front entry and men’s facilities located at rear of building. Walls are clad in blue/green wood shingles. Access to interior of building is via exterior steps on the front, and a ramp on the side, both constructed of wood decking. The structure is aged and in fair condition.



Old Post Office Building

The Old Post Office Building currently hosts a seasonal arts and crafts shop. The building is constructed and clad with wood, with a 30-45 degree gable structure roof, treated with asphalt shingles. The roofed porch at the front covers the gable end of the roof, so the building appears square from the front elevation. Walls are clad in red wood shingles with yellow trim and accents. Accessibility is provided by way of a ramp to the side entrance. The building is aged but in good condition.



Lighthouse

The lighthouse structure is an attractive building that contributes to the site identity when approaching the harbour. The building is constructed and clad from wood. In a recent storm event, the wharf and lighthouses were damaged by storm surge and high winds. Photos of the wharf show damage to the wooden pier structure and the lighthouse structure. In spring 2020, the lighthouse had been moved to a safer more stable portion of the wharf.



Farmers' Market

The Farmers' Market area is a public use space with two open air covered structures, constructed from wood. Roofs are wood-shingled hip roof structures and walls are clad in wood slat/lattice. The buildings are not weatherproof but provide shelter from wind and rain. The paved plaza area between structures makes the area reasonably accessible with a relatively flat and even surface for vendors and the public. Structures are aged but in good condition.



Gazebo / Bandstand

A publicly used open air covered deck structure constructed from wood with wood decking. The gazebo's roof is a wood shingled hip roof structure with a centre gable. The structure is oriented towards the Farmers' Market and has a wood railing facing the water. The open structure provides overhead shelter and provides accessible access and flexibility by providing both stairs and a ramp. Several curb blocks have been placed along the ramp. The structure is aged but in good condition.



Sentier Piau

The five kilometre trail offers a network of pathways along the coastline between Parc Joseph et Marie Dugas and Pointe-à-Major. It is an easy-to-walk gravel trail that winds along beaches, salt marshes, and Clare's first Acadian cemetery.

POINTE-À-MAJOR

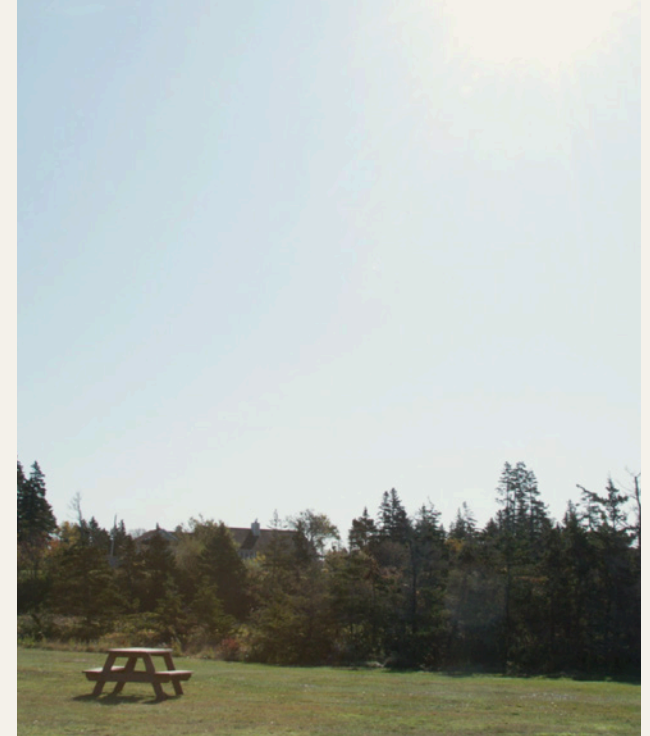
Pointe-à-Major is nestled between forest, marshes and the coastline and features a maintained open lawn area and several character-defining elements such as a:

- small, wood-framed and clad chapel;
- commemorative wooden crosses with engraved names of those buried here;
- interpretive panel;
- Acadian flagpole;
- collection of religious and commemorative materials, including a guestbook, statuary and candles;
- large, white-painted cross in centre of burial lot;
- one stone grave marker;
- wooden fence surrounding burial ground;
- commemorative cairn with heritage plaque; and
- portable toilet.



POINTE-À-MAJOR





Chapel / Cemetery

The chapel and cemetery are open for public access. Within the fenced cemetery, a small chapel hosts historical interpretive content relating to the site's history. The building is constructed of grey-blue wood cladding with what appears to be black asphalt shingled roof

at a 45-degree pitch. Two doors are located on the front elevation swinging outward with a flat, level deck in front to allow people easy access to the interior. The exterior deck requires a step to access. The building is well kept and in good condition.

Picnic Area

The open lawn area located beside the parking lot and adjacent to the chapel has several wood picnic tables.

THINGS TO DO

L'Anse-des-Belliveau offers diverse activities for visitors from near and far, including:

Beaux Vendredis Seafood Suppers

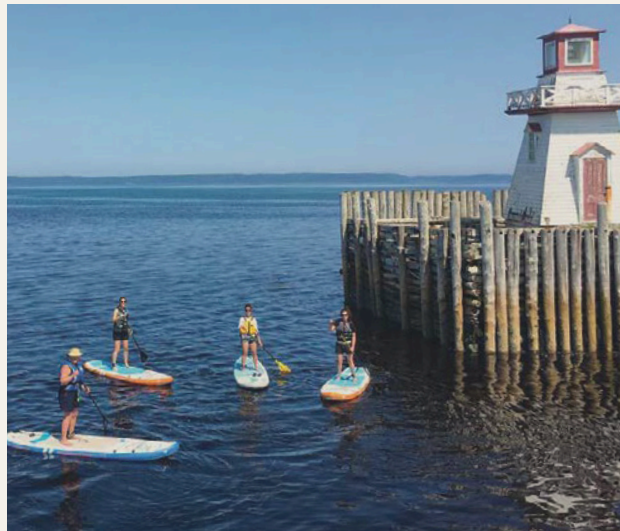
Beaux Vendredis seafood suppers are held at the waterfront every Friday evening during the summer, alongside live local music.

Paddleboarding

During the summer, paddleboard tours take place in the cove.

Farmer's Market Shopping

Between June and September, the Parc Joseph et Marie Dugas hosts a Saturday Farmers' Market for local farmers, producers, artisans and more.





Clam Digging

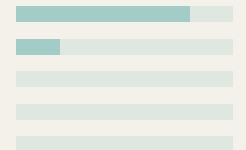
Throughout time, people have been digging clams along the tidal shores of the Baie Sainte-Marie. Visitors can dig for clams independently (there are 20-30 dates available each year), or they can learn about the experience on a tour with a local bilingual expert.

Sentier Piau Walking Tour

Bilingual walking tours are available along Sentier Piau, which discuss the history of the early Acadians and unique ecology of the area.

REVIEWS

L'Anse-des-Belliveau has received only ten reviews on tripadvisor.com, indicating that perhaps the area is more used by locals than tourists or that the park is used more as an event venue than for general leisure. Of these ten reviews, however, visitors have left generally positive reviews.



Comments:

“One of the highlights of our visit to southern Nova Scotia. We will be back next year. Loved the park and the hiking trails, and the water front area. So many unique plants, ecosystems and photo view points.”

“Good place to take a break in a drive if you are passing through.”

“Lots of parking at this small place ! Cute little lighthouse on the wharf, walking trail goes along the beach that leads to a nice look off across the ocean. Gorgeous on a nice clear day.”

SWOT ANALYSIS

STRENGTHS

- L'Anse-des-Belliveau has rich histories of Acadian settlement, lumber and fishing industries, and heritage that attract visitors.
- Both public spaces are well-linked with an established trail that offers extensive viewing of the Baie Sainte-Marie.
- The area hosts diverse habitats with unique wetland areas and stone berm formations, unseen in other areas of the region.
- Site amenities such as the market space and gazebo support weekly markets and annual festivals in summer.
- Local community members are keen to contribute to site developments in various capacities.

OPPORTUNITIES

- Located on Trunk 1, the site could be an accessible gateway for visitors to the Clare region.
- The existing boardwalk trail and network could incorporate more interpretive information.
- Parc Joseph-et-Marie Dugas has a large open space that can accommodate additional amenities and placemaking features.
- Parc Joseph-et-Marie Dugas already hosts functioning restrooms and is serviced, offering opportunity for expansion and more intensive uses.
- The wetland area and berms offer a unique nature-based experience for visitors.

WEAKNESSES

- Buildings and infrastructure need repairs or updates.
- Site configuration is not optimal. When visitors reach the parking lot at Parc Joseph-et-Marie-Dugas, the main building is underutilized and requires re-programming.
- The wharf area is not well integrated into the public space and not cohesive with the existing site features.
- When events and festivals are not occurring, the site does not have many activities or features to attract visitors.
- The site lacks effective signage at the entrance and throughout the site. Signs would benefit from updating and rebranding.
- Site features and activities are unmarked and require regional and local promotion.

THREATS

- Proximity to the water's edge and low-lying terrain makes the site vulnerable to storms, sea level rise and flooding.
- Sensitive habitats in the wetland and berm areas could be threatened by increased development.
- Parc Joseph-et-Marie Dugas is highly exposed with little to no shade or wind protection.
- Pointe-à-Major is located in a densely treed forest area in close proximity to low-lying wetland areas. Microclimate is cool and damp making it challenging for long-term stays.

PARC JOSEPH-ET-MARIE-DUGAS SITE IMPROVEMENTS

Parc Joseph-et-Marie-Dugas is an important site for the community of l'Anse-des-Belliveau. From hosting annual community events and festivals to regular recreational trail use, the park is a key destination for community members and visitors.

To better accommodate the site's existing programming and diversify site uses, several improvements could be made. Some of these could include reconfiguring the parking lot and public open space and implementing an Experience Centre that is well integrated with a re-designed market space. Additionally, the visitor experience between Parc Joseph-en-Marie-Dugas and activities at Pointe-à-Major could be strengthened by expanding the boardwalk trail and wayfinding program.

PJMD 1

Harbourwalk

PJMD 2

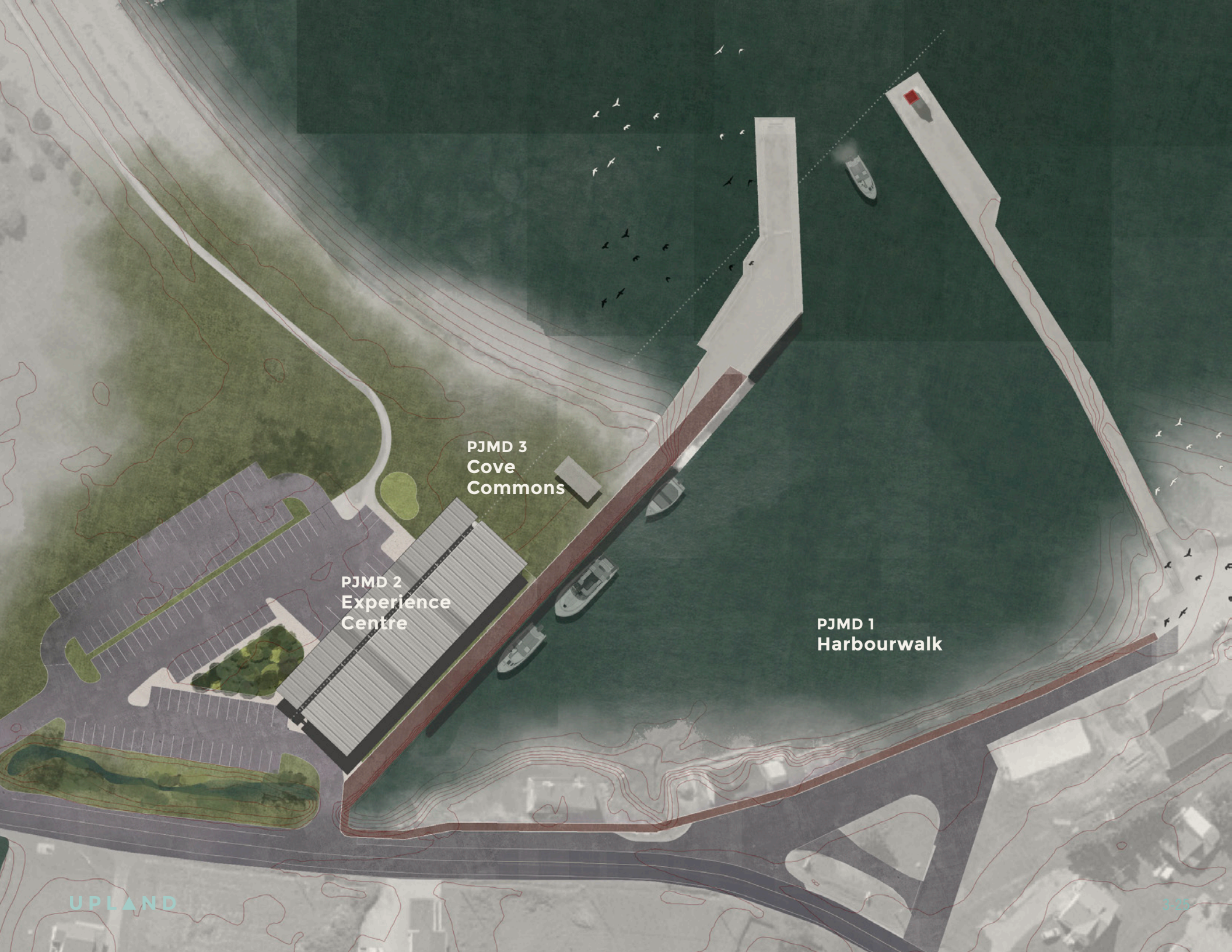
Experience Centre

PJMD 3

Cove Commons

PJMD 4

Interpretive Plan



**PJMD 3
Cove
Commons**

**PJMD 2
Experience
Centre**

**PJMD 1
Harbourwalk**

UPLAND

3-25

OBJECTIVES



TIMELINE



The wharves and harbour of Belliveau Cove are key features of the Parc Joseph-et-Marie-Dugas, particularly for visitors who are witnessing boats on the harbour floor for the first time. Between the two wharves are a pair of buildings that host seasonal, local businesses and a lobster pound that will also be attractive to guests.

Many visitors will naturally be interested in walking around the harbour to see each wharf and the businesses along the way; however, there is currently no formal pedestrian connection between them. The high speed and traffic volume along Trunk 1 prevent most visitors from trying to make the connection.

Recognizing these interesting destinations, a formal pedestrian connection between the two wharves would encourage visitors to explore the surrounding area and to visit each wharf and the businesses along the way.

A sidewalk/boardwalk feature is proposed that wraps around the harbour, linking the two wharves and nearby buildings. A portion of this connection would cross private land, and would require their support and cooperation. As the area experiences more visitors and



traffic, it may be desirable to add more business opportunities. One option to facilitate this is to relocate the washroom building to this area to create a small, but quaint “wharf district” that includes a handful of businesses

and restaurants. A small beach can also be created near the north wharf - which is a popular spot for locals. A few parking areas in this area would also be useful.



Hammocks

Floating Dock

Expanded Wharf

New Sidewalk/
Boardwalk

New Sidewalk

On-street Parking

OBJECTIVES



TIMELINE



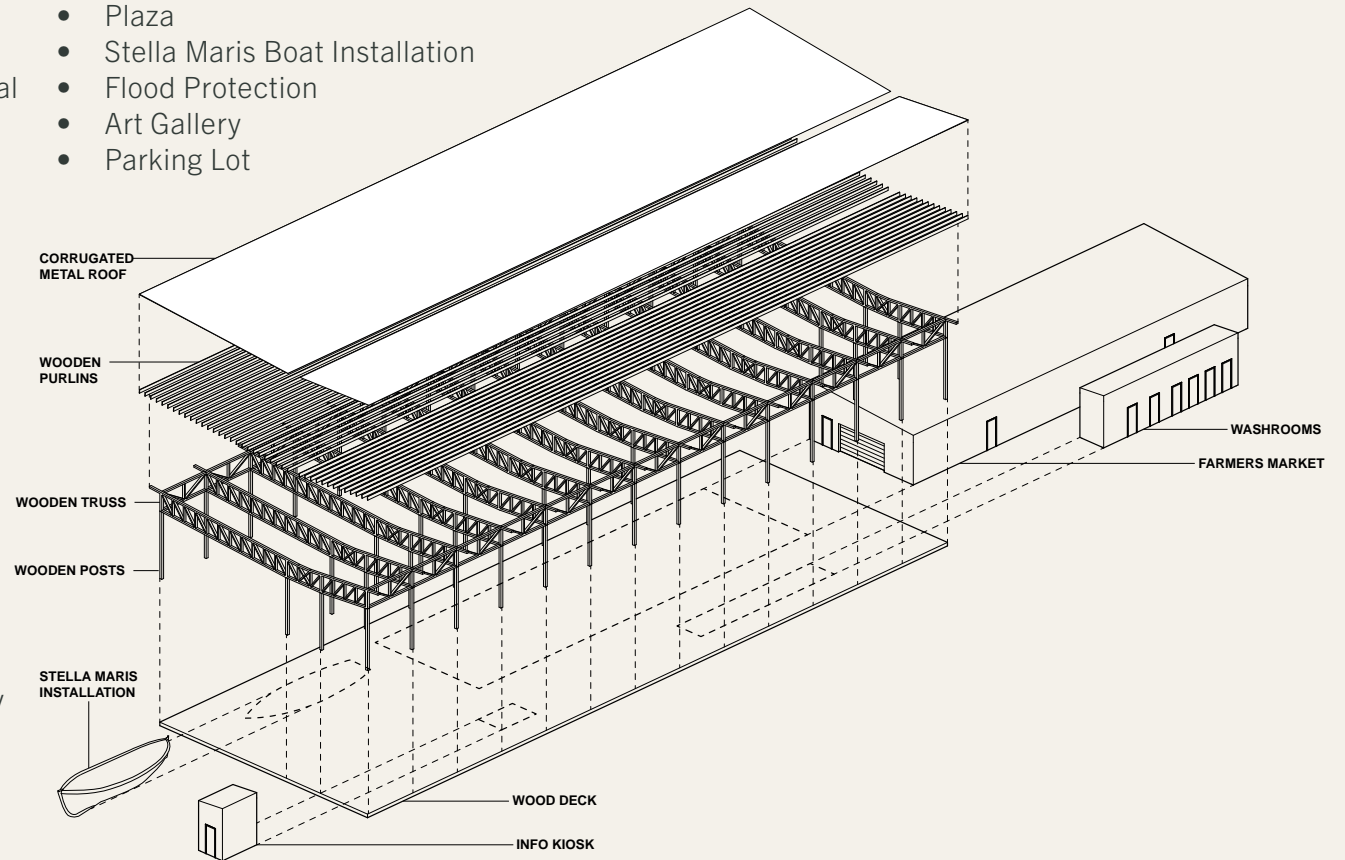
The success of the Farmers' Market, Beaux Vendredi lobster suppers and other community events have placed an increasing demand on the park and its facilities. Currently, there is very little opportunity to expand or enhance the current operations to allow for growth.

Recognizing the opportunity to realize potential growth, a new Experience Centre is proposed. The new facility will enable the market to expand in capacity, extend its operating season, while offering new experiences and services for related activities. The proposed Experience Centre is a combination of indoor and outdoor spaces, all situated on a raised wooden platform that is well above the expected flood area. The platform is covered by a butterfly-style shelter that offers protection from precipitation while allowing wind and air to circulate freely.

The architectural identity of the building will contribute to the overall site design motif and become an iconic destination feature in itself. The market space would be strategically designed in response to microclimate (wind and sun).

The Experience Centre will include the following uses and features:

- Farmers' Market/Winter Market
- Public Washrooms / Washing Station
- Plaza
- Stella Maris Boat Installation
- Flood Protection
- Art Gallery
- Parking Lot



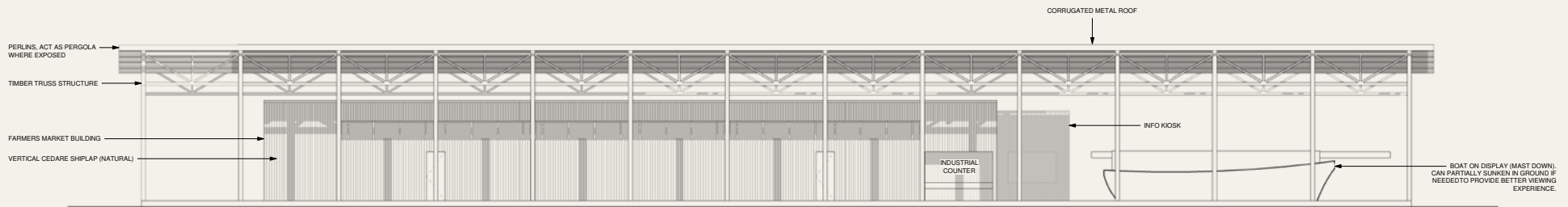


Optional
Overflow
Parking

Rain
Garden

Experience
Centre

Concert
Stage



Farmers' Market

The new Experience Centre can accommodate more vendors and with the addition of an overhead shelter and walls, the operating season of the Market can expand well into the shoulder seasons. Each stall will be serviced with electricity and water. Loading areas are provided on both sides of the building (from the parking lot and from the wharf).

The Market at Belliveau Cove is the most significant proposed project but can be simplified into three “boxes” and one “frame”. The three boxes are comprised of the main Farmers’ Market building, the public washrooms, and an information kiosk. These three boxes are all housed under one communal frame acting as the roof for all the boxes below and allowing for sheltered areas for people to enjoy. This is a good example of how this strategy can amalgamate and centralize services instead of having disparate buildings scattered throughout sites.

The modularity of the proposed design allows for different configurations, depending on the community’s needs. Two site plans are proposed. The first proposed an enclosed shell for the Market, and the other proposed an open air Market with a widened central corridor.

Green Technology

The large roof of the shelter offers an opportunity to integrate solar panels that can be used to power the Farmers’ Market or a few electric car charging stations. Small wind turbines could also be integrated into the design, as well as rainwater collection for the washrooms.

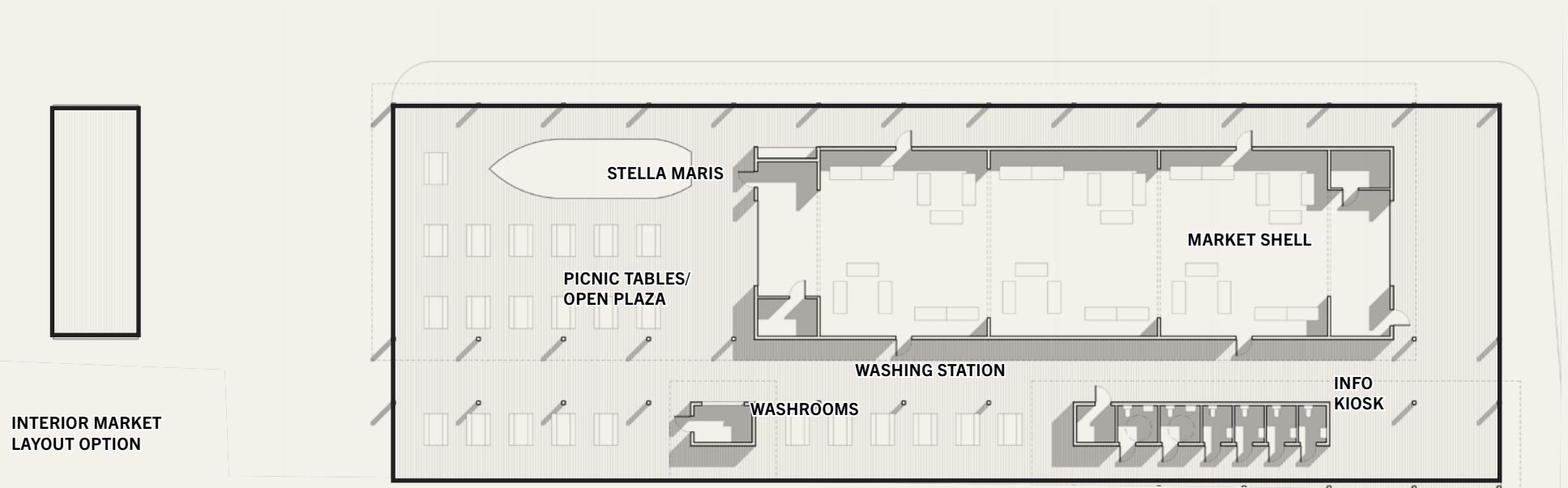
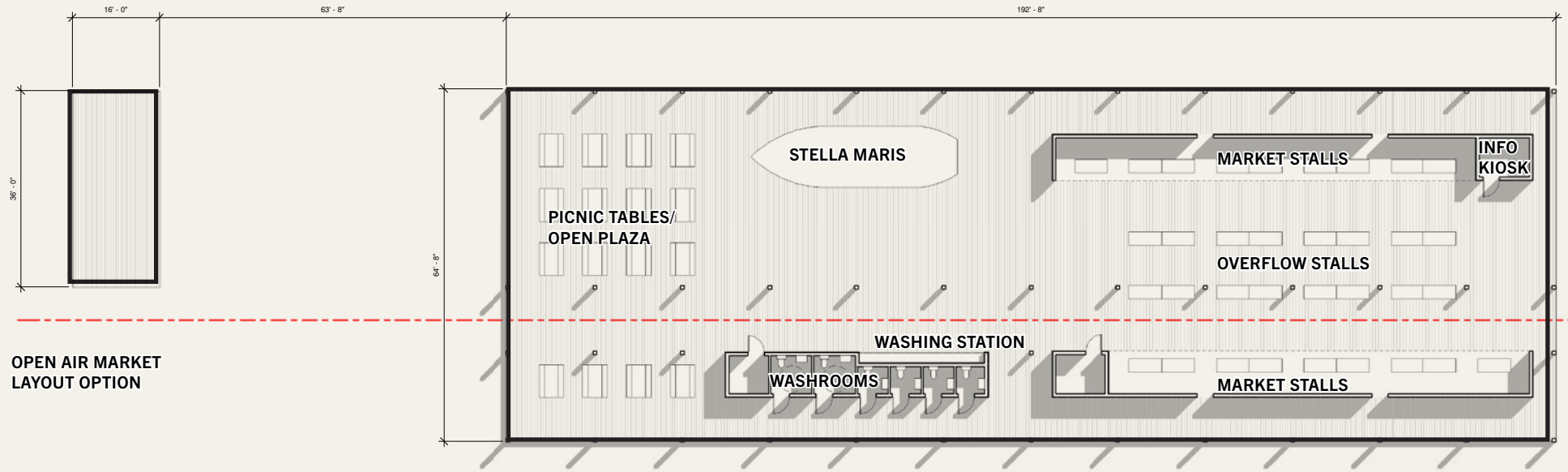
Winter Market

The new Experience Centre will not only offer expansion opportunities for existing events, it will also create new ones. For example, the layout and functionality of the facility will offer a higher level of comfort and protection that will

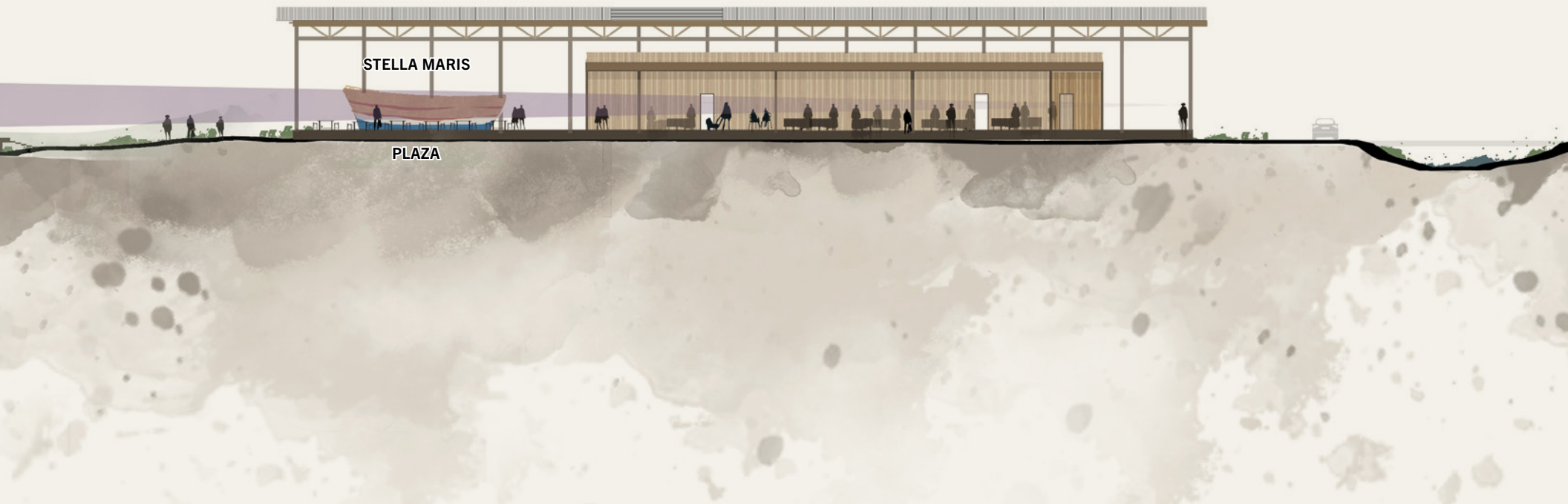
enable more events during the winter, such as a Christmas/Winter Market. The sheltered plaza could accommodate a large Christmas tree and local vendors and artisans can sell crafts and treats from the market stalls. Outdoor heaters can be brought in for warmth and ambiance.

Public Washrooms/Utility Kitchen

The Experience Centre also features three washroom facilities that will be open to the general public as long as the Municipality desires. Next to the washrooms is a medium-sized commercial Utility Kitchen, featuring a commercial rangetop and two large commercial basins. This facility can be rented to Farmers’ Market vendors, events operators (such as the Beaux Vendredi), or other interested commercial enterprises to cook or prepare food on-site. The kitchen can also be used to more easily clean up after events. The kitchen can also be used by local fishing enterprises to clean up traps or equipment.







Stella Maris Plaza

The waterside section of the facility hosts an open plaza area that can be used to host community gatherings and events, such as concerts, lobster suppers, etc.

Stella Maris Boat Installation

For years, Belliveau Cove was a major boat building industry. Boat building is alive and well in the region, but is now focused in Meteghan,. There is an opportunity to honour the tradition of boat building in Belliveau Cove through a replica boat installation that will be placed in the Stella Maris plaza.

Jean Belliveau, a local Acadian boat builder from nearby St. Bernard, spent over 25 years

building a 17th century Dutch class sailing ship called the *Stella Maris*. The 11 metre long vessel was hand-made from spruce, oak and cedar. Although Jean Belliveau wasn't able to finish the boat before his unfortunate passing in 2017, the community is actively working on raising funds to finish the project and put it on display, so that the public and visitors can witness first-hand the boat-building skills of Jean and his fellow Acadians.

When finished, the Stella Maris boat installation will be a wonderful addition to the Experience Centre. The boat will be recessed into the wooden platform of the building so that its features are more visible without the need for additional decks. The placement of the boat on

the harbour side of the building is intentional, as it will blend in meaningfully with the nearby fishing vessels in the active harbour.

The boat will be accented with indirect external and internal lighting so that it is highlighted at night. Interpretation panels are provided around the boat that explain the history of Jean Belliveau and the Stella Maris, while also highlighting the boat-building history of Belliveau Cove. The overhead shelter of the Experience Centre will offer a high level of protection from sun and water damage. During winter, a temporary structure can be built around the boat to protect it from the cold or it can be relocated to another location.





Flood Protection/Accommodation

As a low-lying marine environment, Belliveau Cove has experienced many floods during past storm events. During storms, the wharves take the brunt of storm surge damage, but flooding still occurs at inland areas by the existing Farmers' Market and even up to Trunk 1.

The new Experience Centre will be a wonderful asset for the community and a significant investment for the Municipality. As a result, it is essential that the siting and design of the facility are done in such a way that either offers protection or accommodated from storms.

Recognizing this, the Experience Centre platform is raised several metres above the existing natural elevation at five metres above sea level. The platform itself is built out of water-resistant material such as pressure treated decking and galvanized steel posts so that the platform can accommodate periodic inundation during a significant storm event.

Prior to design and construction, a coastal engineer should be hired to determine the true high water line for the specific context of Belliveau's Cove to ensure that new infrastructure is not at risk of inundation.

Expanded Parking Lot

The proposed site plan provides several gravel parking areas. In total, there is space for 84 vehicles, plus six accessible parking stalls. The overall capacity of the lot could increase by about 10% if it is paved with asphalt with painted stall lines. If additional parking is required, an overflow lot could be created on the adjacent privately-owned property; however, this land would need to be acquired for this to be a possibility. Loading and drop off areas are provided around the Experience Centre to improve operations. Within the parking lot, there are also opportunities to provide electrical vehicle charging stations for the public to use.

OBJECTIVES



TIMELINE



The new Experience Centre will be augmented by an outdoor commons space that will be used for passive recreation (picnics, ball tossing, kite flying, etc) or outdoor events, concerts and gatherings. The greenspace will extend out from the north side of the facility, so that the sheltered plaza area can be used in tandem. This will allow for an improved connection between the market and the greenspace, while also expanding the capacity for large events, concerts or festivals. The sheltered plaza is situated on the raised platform, so it will be slightly elevated above the greenspace. A wide staircase/seating feature will step down to the greenspace. The grade change will allow for a much larger audience to take in concerts while still maintaining sight lines.

Stage

For concerts and community events, a small stage is placed on the end of the greenspace for bands or speakers to perform from.

Playground

A small natural, nautical themed playground is proposed to the west side of the greenspace, near the Sentier Piau trailhead. This playground will be a major attraction for visitors that are travelling through the area with young children. During concerts or community events, parents can keep an eye on their kids playing on the playground while also enjoying the event.

Sentier Piau Trailhead

The trail head to the Sentier Piau Trail could be more formally defined with a small map kiosk with visitor information and interpretive panels (depending on the scale of the structure). Interpretive trail markers and additional interpretive experiences could be incorporated along the trail, extending to the wetland walkway that joins to Pointe-à-Major. Cultural markers could be installed with interpretive information and as distance markers along the trail.

Sentier Piau



Beach

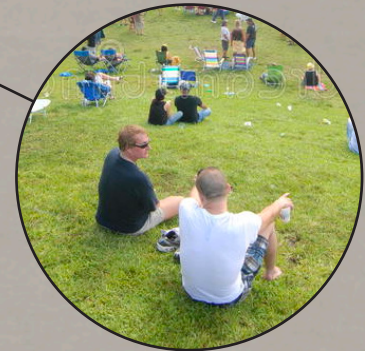
Open Lawn

Trailhead

Natural
Playground

Stage

Sloped Lawn



OBJECTIVES



TIMELINE



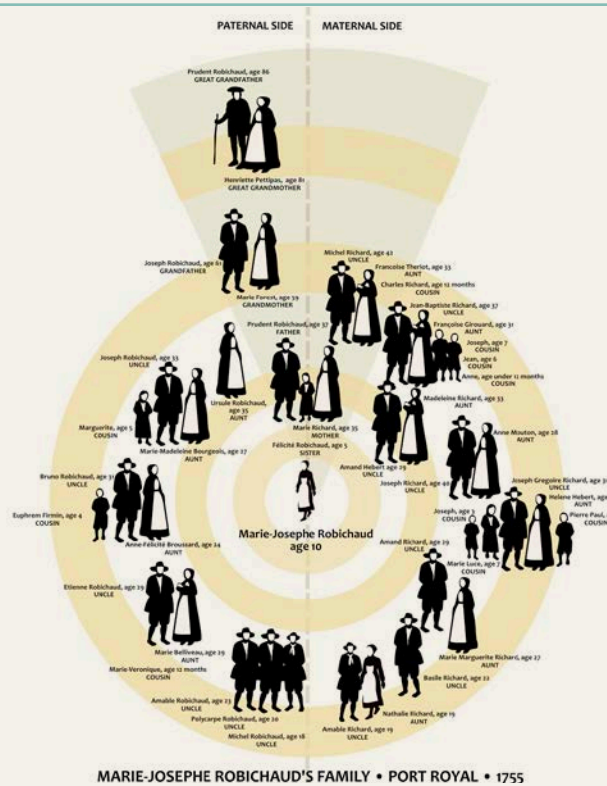
An outdoor interpretive plaza (Panels 1-4) on the southern wall of the Farmers' Market building assembles all of the Acadian history and culture themes into one location.

1 Acadian History and Clare Settlement

This panel connects the history of Clare to the broader history of the Acadian settlement of Nova Scotia and the deportation of the Acadians. It relates the story of how Clare came to be settled by Acadians displaced from their farms in the Annapolis Valley region. The panel is illustrated with historic maps and engravings. Clare's first settlers, Joseph and Marie Dugas are introduced, along with the story of their walk from Annapolis Royal to Clare.

2 Marie Robichaud's Refugee Story

An interpretive panel charts the life of Marie Robichaud, who was 10 years old when her family fled Port Royal (Annapolis Royal) to avoid deportation in 1755. The panel details her childhood years fleeing the British military, the starvation and disease of the refugee camps, and the dispersal of her family to other places. The story continues with her capture and imprisonment at Fort Edward, and years later, her release and subsequent marriage to Joseph Dugas. Connections between the Robichauds of Quebec and the Robichauds of



Baie Sainte-Marie are made via Marie's sister and cousins who resettled there. The panel will include a reconstruction of Marie-Joséph Robichaud's immediate family (parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, aunts, uncles, and first cousins) living at Port Royal at the time of the deportation in 1755. Ten years later, when hostilities ceased, only her father and her cousin Marguerite were still with her.

3 Joseph Dugas's Refugee Story

An interpretive panel charts the life of Joseph Dugas whose family was settled in Ile-Saint-Jean (present-day PEI) at the time of the deportation. In 1758, Joseph Dugas was serving in the militia in Louisbourg at the time of its conquest by the British. He was wounded, taken prisoner, escaped, and fled northward through New Brunswick. A sidebar on the panel details the fate of Joseph's large family, deported to France, and decades later resettled in Louisiana. Connections between the Dugas of Clare and the Dugas of Louisiana are explained.

4 L'Anse-des-Belliveau Shipbuilding Village

A large photo array tells the story of the Belliveau family and their shipbuilding and mercantile enterprises spanning over 100 years.



5 Jean Belliveau Stella Maris Ship

Interpretive panels placed next to the Stella Maris relate the story of Jean Belliveau and his boatbuilding hobby. Photographs of Jean, photographs of the vessel at various stages of construction, and QR code link to video interviews of Jean appear on the panels.

6 High Tide/Low Tide

Along the wharf apron, an interpretive station provides an explanation of the tides at this harbour and provides photographs of the wharf at high and low tide.

7 The Beautiful Bay

Natural history and geography are the topics of this panel. Illustrated with maps, the formation of the bay is explained, and the geographical features of Digby Neck and its islands are introduced. A sidebar on the panel explores the bay as a rich biological zone and the source of the region's fishing industry.

An elevation map showing the North Mountain Range and the Annapolis Valley lowlands. Baie Sainte-Marie is an extension



of the valley lowlands and Digby Neck is the extension of the mountain range submerging into the Bay of Fundy.



8 Les Grosses Coques

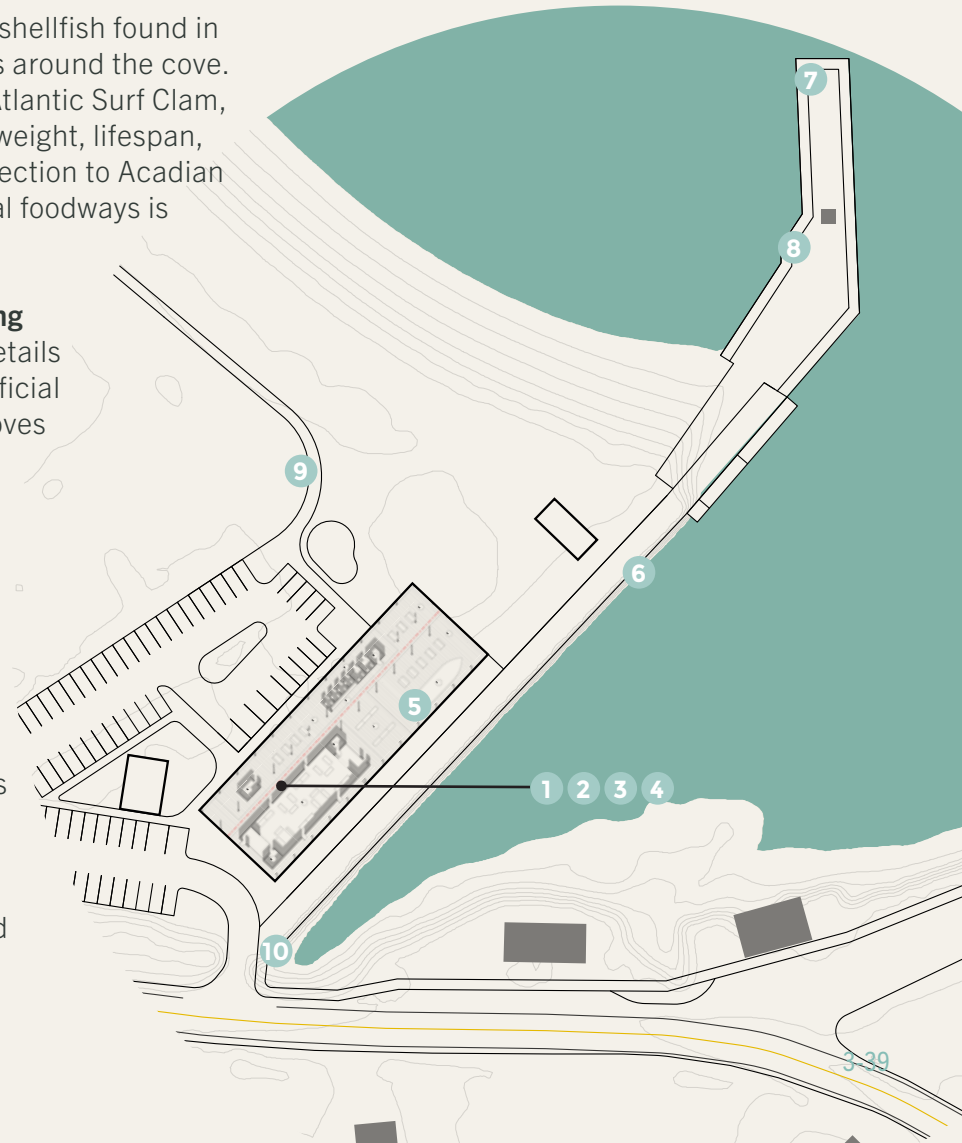
This panel informs about the shellfish found in the platin, the large sand flats around the cove. Featured prominently is the Atlantic Surf Clam, with a description of its size, weight, lifespan, and feeding habits. The connection to Acadian settlement history and to local foodways is explained.

9 Health Benefits of Walking

An interpretive station that details the ways that walking is beneficial to the human body and improves mood.

10 L'Anse-des-Belliveau Hinterland

A map panel showing local features from St. Bernard to Grosses Coques with important landmarks and attractions listed and described. A QR code permits visitors to access additional information about local businesses, services, restaurants, and programmed events.



POINTE-À-MAJOR SITE IMPROVEMENTS

Pointe-à-Major is in close proximity to Parc Joseph-et-Marie-Dugas and has a strong existing physical connection via the boardwalk trail. That said, opportunities exist to bridge programming between the two sites in order to draw visitors from the Experience Centre and Belliveau Cove. Tactics might involve installing more formal boardwalks throughout the wetland, improve signage, draw attention with cultural placemaking markers and interpretive features, and highlight the unique topography and wildlife by considering a birdwatching tower in the wetland area. Once visitors reach Pointe-à-Major, they can explore the historic site or meander to the water's edge to investigate the unique berm formations.

The following recommendations are proposed for Pointe-à-Major.

PM 1

Raise the Chapel and Cemetery

PM2

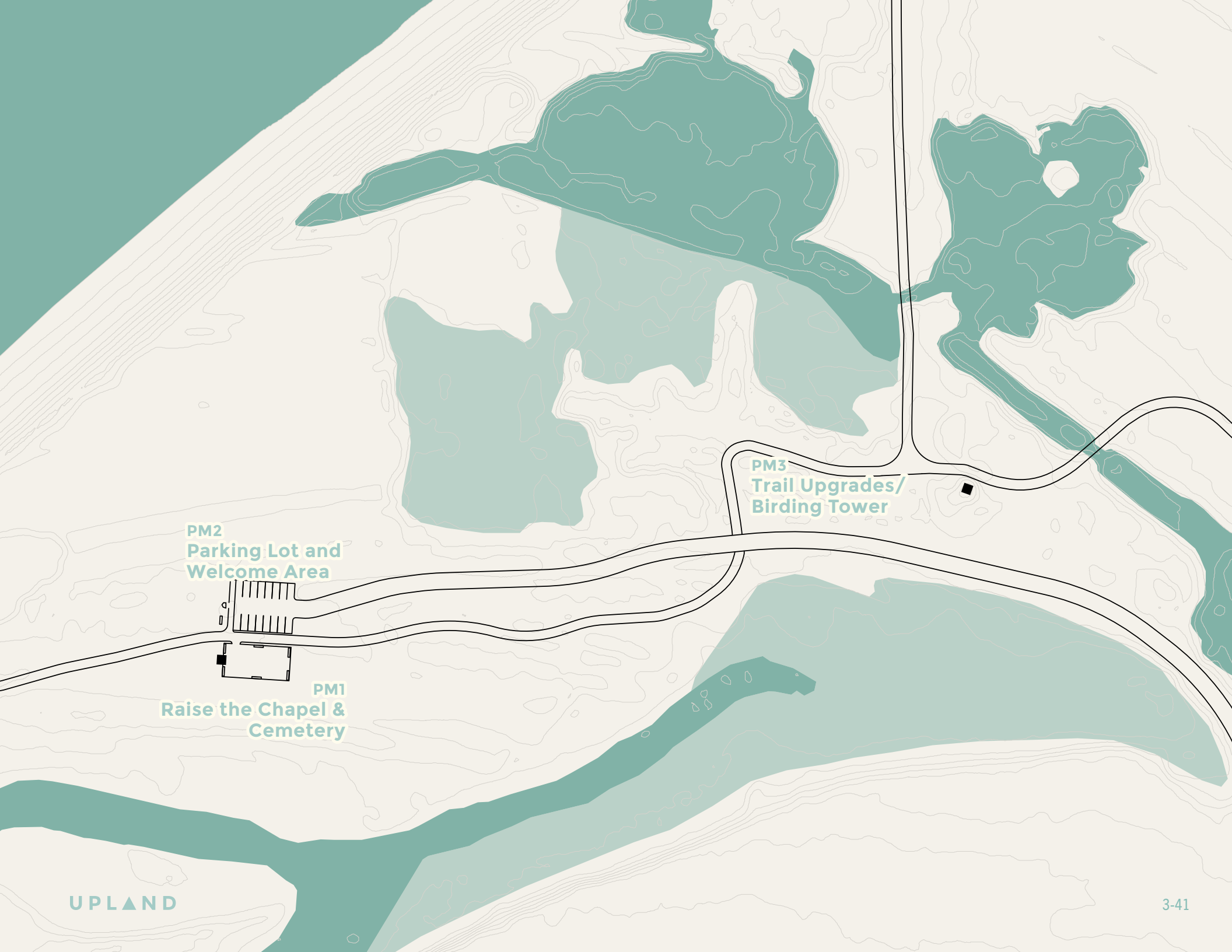
Parking Lot and Welcome Area

PM3

Trial Upgrades/Birding Tower

PM4

Interpretive Plan



PM2
Parking Lot and
Welcome Area

PM1
Raise the Chapel &
Cemetery

PM3
Trail Upgrades/
Birding Tower

UPLAND

RAISE THE CHAPEL AND CEMETERY

OBJECTIVES



TIMELINE



Located in the low lying area next to a watercourse, the Chapel and Cemetery area experience flooding events. As a result, the fence, chapel and wooden crosses are experiencing rot and require repair and/or flood mitigation techniques to reduce the chance of future damage.

To prevent future floods, it is proposed to mark and remove the existing chapel structure and old crosses and adding about one metre of natural fill to the area, creating a small elevated, grassed plateau that would extend around the chapel and cemetery to include the parking lot, trailhead and small picnic area (see next page).

The chapel will be re-clad and painted before being placed back on the plateau, and a new white fence picket fence can be reinstated around the cemetery, if desired. New benches are proposed along the periphery of the cemetery to allow visitors to sit and reflect on

the importance of the site. The fence can be made of a steel or composite material that appears wooden to maintain a traditional look while eliminating the threat of future rot and excessive maintenance. Alternatively the fence can be simply removed. In this case, the benches can be used to demarcate the periphery of the cemetery.

The wooden crosses inside the fences are rotting and will be replaced with more durable crosses made from slate. There is already one example of a slate cross there made many years ago.

Historic cemeteries are protected under the Cemeteries Protection Act, so adding fill may require an archaeological resource impact assessment to define the limits of the cemetery prior to any work. From an archaeological perspective, there may be implications for potential graves outside the known burials.



PARKING LOT AND WELCOME AREA

OBJECTIVES



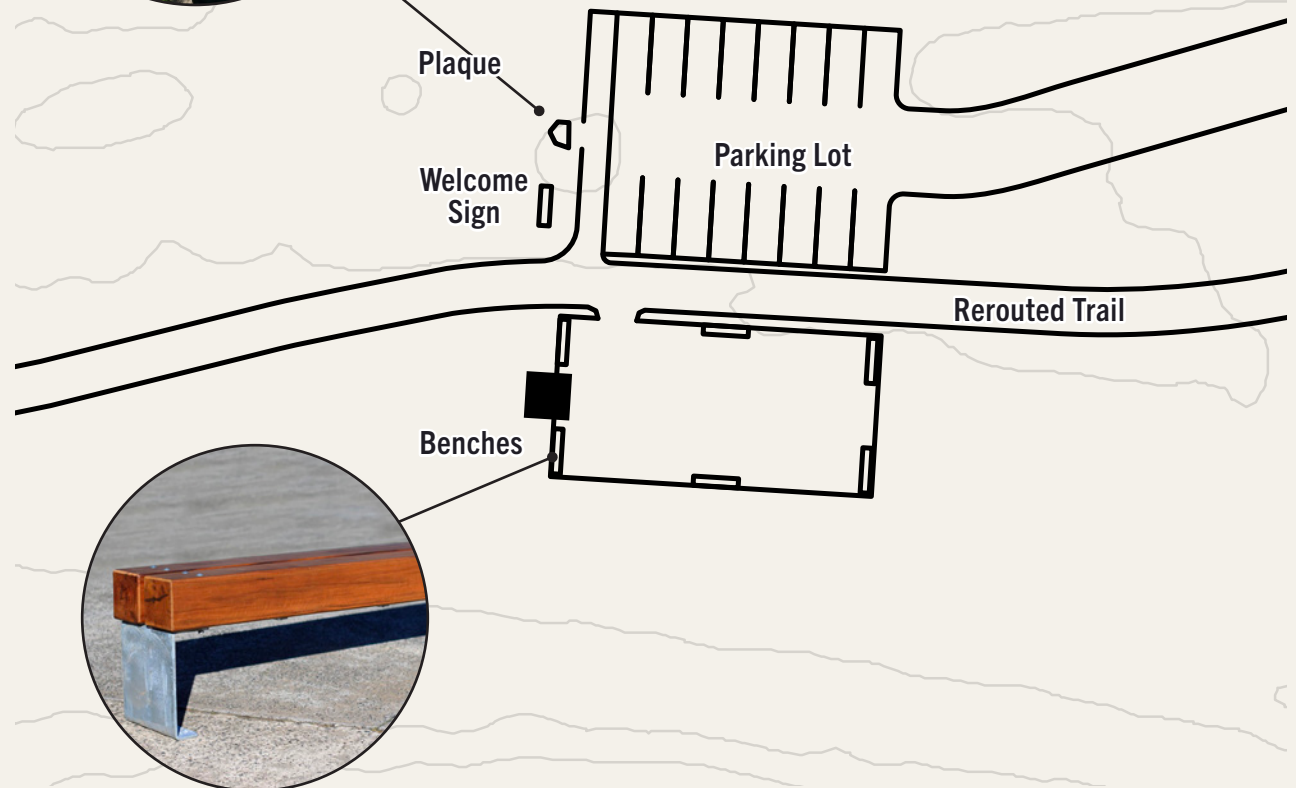
TIMELINE



For visitors coming to Pointe-à-Major, there is no clear welcome area or point of arrival. Next to the cemetery, there is a small gravel area alongside the access road for cars to informally park, although it is unclear which side of the road is meant for parking.

A formalized parking lot and welcome area is proposed that offers a clear point of arrival for visitors. The parking lot is a gravel surface with concrete or wooden bumpers that delineate twenty stalls. There a small grassy next to the cemetery and road that will accommodate a welcome sign, washroom and handful of picnic shelters. The parking lot is designed so that the Provincial Historic Site memorial stone and plaque that is located at the end of the parking lot and will be highly visible.

A welcome sign includes a map of the site and information about the history and natural setting. The outhouse, which is currently difficult to find, will be relocated near this area while ensuring it is far enough away from the cemetery. A handful of sheltered picnic tables are provided in the grassy area to allow visitor to sit and enjoy a snack or meal. Finally, the trail path will be rerouted to terminate at the welcome area.



OBJECTIVES

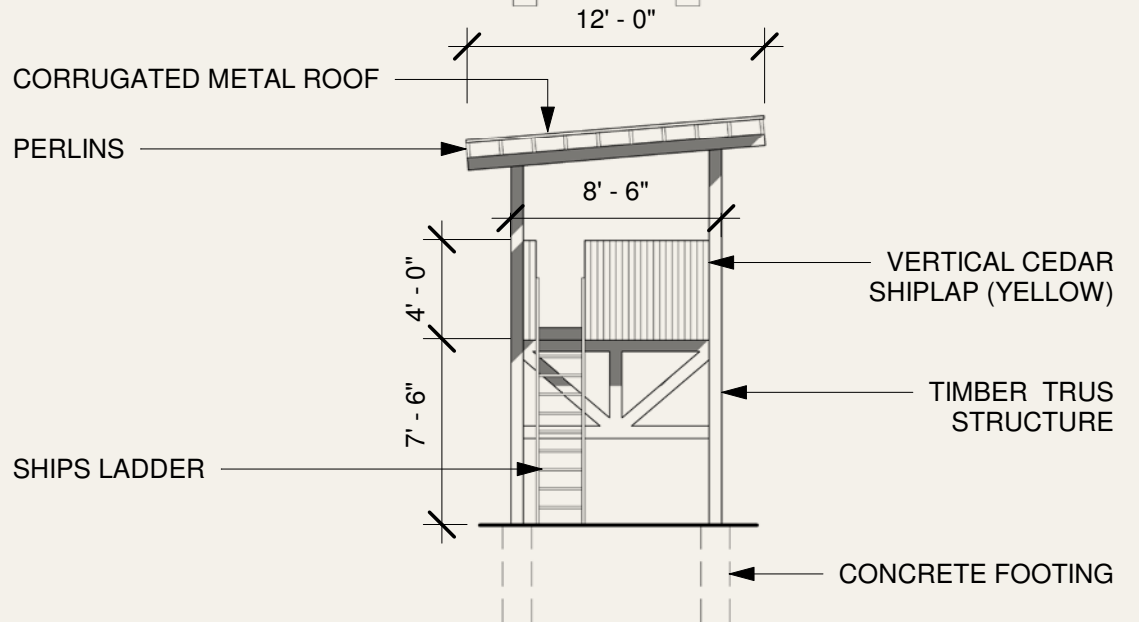
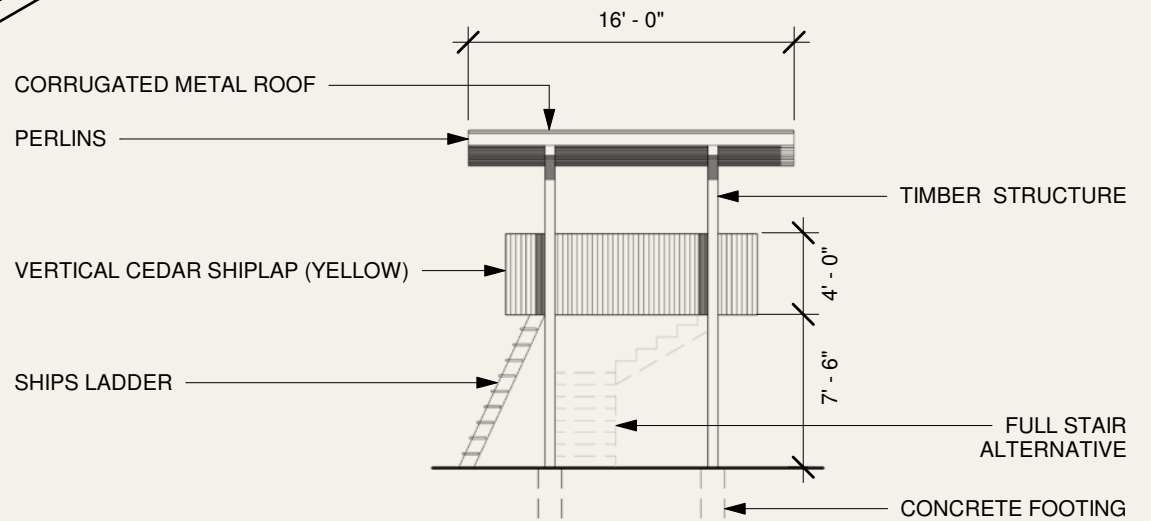
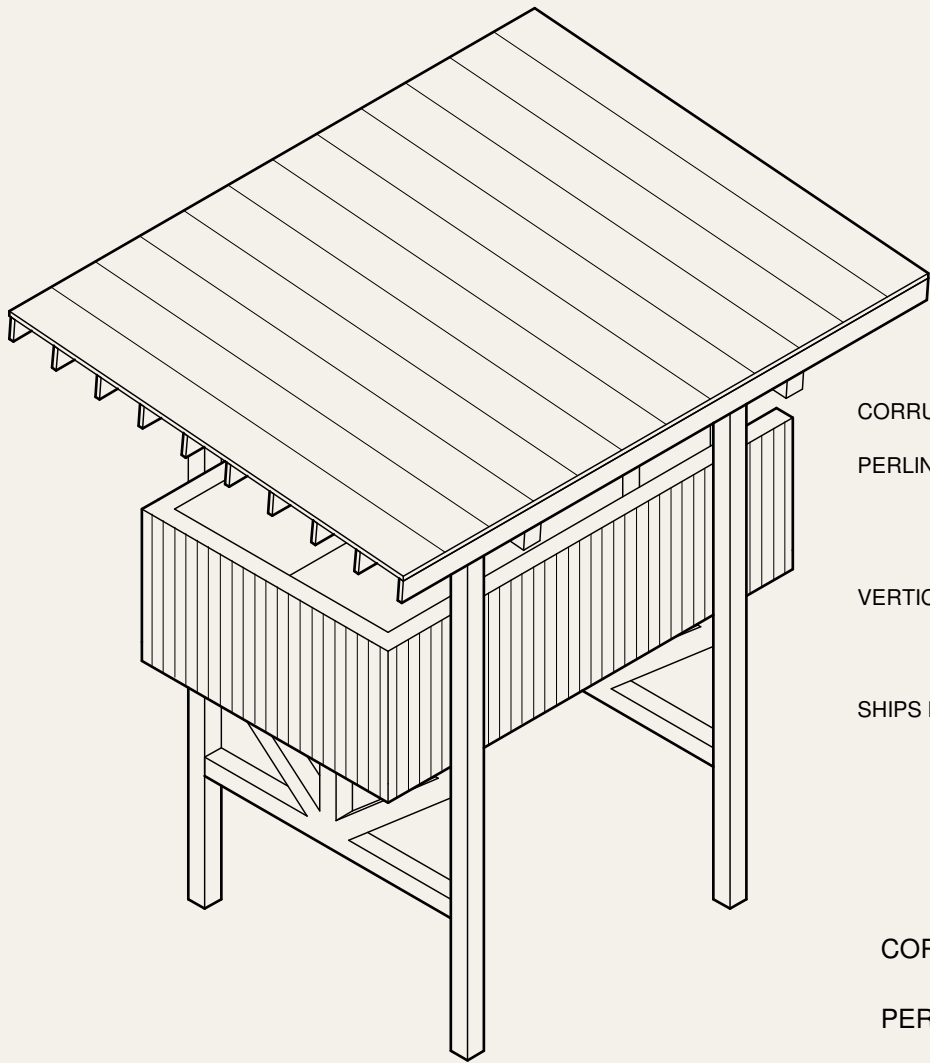


TIMELINE



A proposed observation/birding tower is proposed at an elevated area along the trail, providing panoramic views of the surrounding wetlands, coastline and beyond.





OBJECTIVES



TIMELINE



1 Acadian Refugees at Pointe-à-Major

An interpretive panel integrated with the new cemetery fence tells the story of 120 Acadians fleeing from the deportation who camped here during the winter of 1755-1756 under the leadership of Pierre 'Piau' Belliveau. The interpretation at the site will also be augmented to include recent discoveries about the 232 Acadians who took part in the Pembroke mutiny under the leadership of Charles Belliveau and brought their vessel here briefly in December of 1755. The cemetery's origins, its subsequent use by Acadians who settled the region in 1769, and its rehabilitation in the late 1800s are detailed.



Traditional fishing boats from the Acadian colonial period. Acadian refugees used their fishing boats to flee the deportation, traveling from harbours along the North Mountain into Baie Sainte-Marie and then onward across the Bay of Fundy to New Brunswick.

2 An Acadian Community Rebuilds

This interpretive panel is located with views across the Goulet des Chiens-de-Mer to the homestead of Captain Pierre Doucet, Clare's first merchant trader. The panel relates the story of Pierre Doucet's life, first as a five-year-old deportee to Massachusetts, and later as a servant to a sea captain where he learned seamanship and obtained his Captain's papers. Captain Doucet settled in Clare, built his home and trading post here and was instrumental in the success of the new Acadian community. The panel is illustrated with historic photos of the Doucet homestead and pages from Captain Doucet's ship's log.



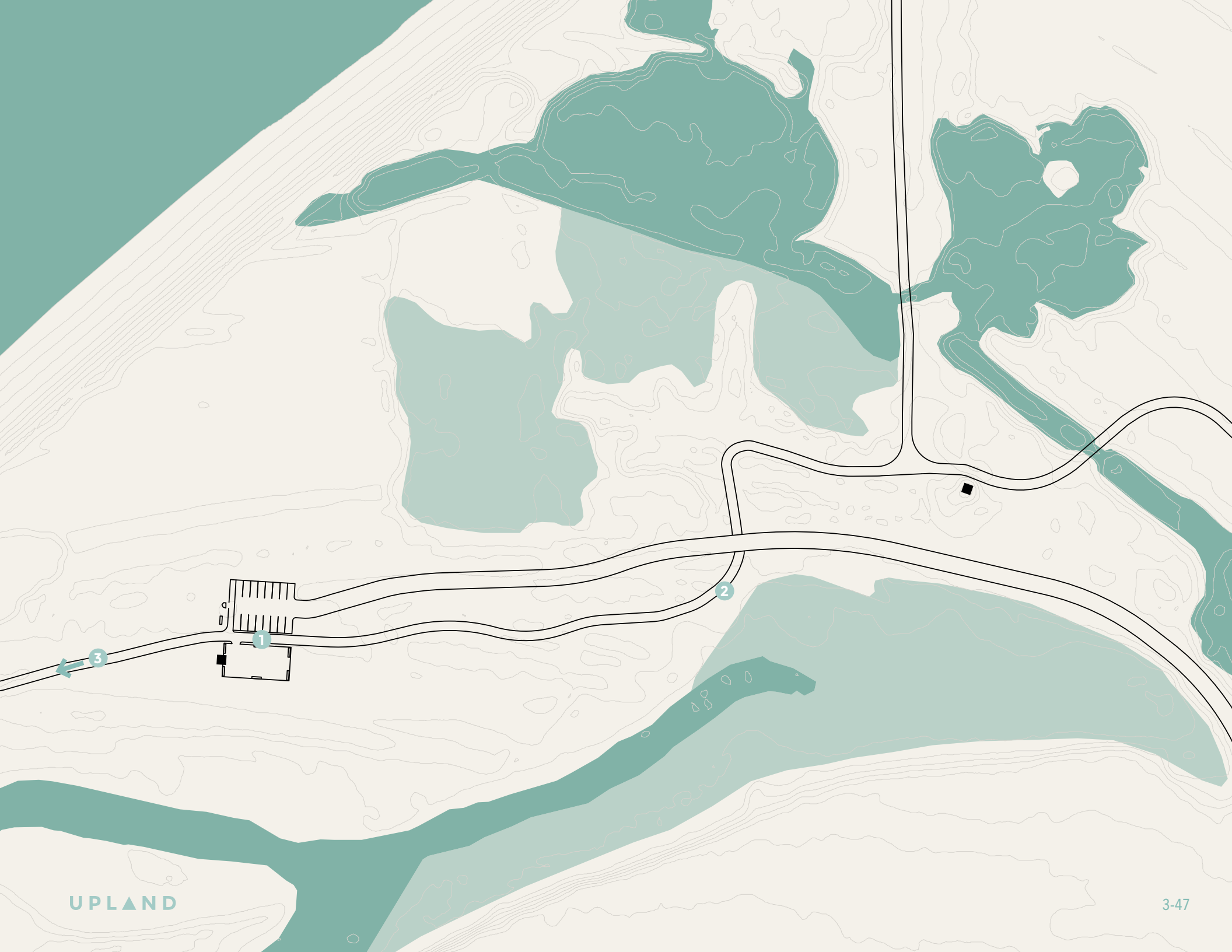
The interpretive panel will include a sample page from Captain Pierre Doucet's ship's log (collection Centre acadien) provides day by day accounts of the ports of call, weather, and products loaded and transported. [Facsimile only.]

3 Geological Upheavals

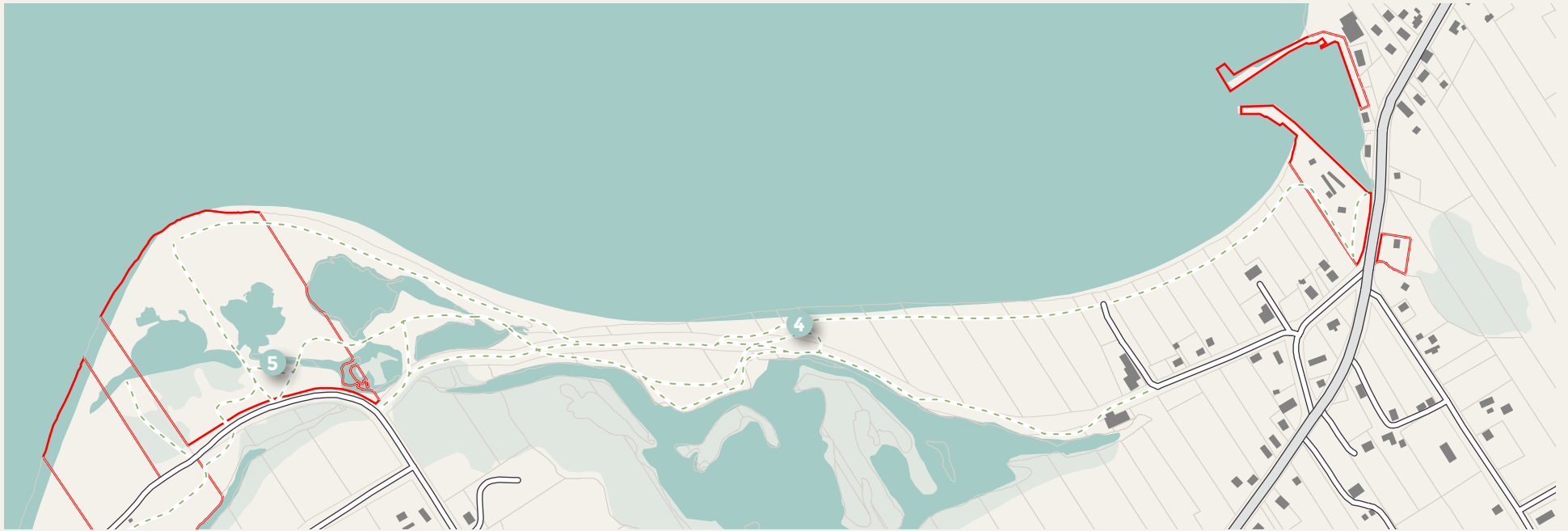
An interpretive panel located at the southern end of the Sentier Piau Trail tracks the substantial changes wrought by nature on this landscape, transforming it from an island in the 18th century to part of the mainland in the 21st century. The panel is illustrated with a historic map of the island (TBD) and an aerial photograph of the current landforms. The phenomenon of gravel deposition is explained.



Surging storm waters deposit tons of gravel overnight along the shore. Giant drifts of beach stone accumulate or are suddenly removed by the same forces.



UPLAND



4 Blue Mind Science

An interpretive panel in the centre of the trail network examines Blue Mind science that tracks the impact of ocean views and exposure to the water on human wellbeing, healing, and improvements in mood.

5 The First Peoples on the Land

An interpretive panel is devoted to the history of the nomadic First Nations in the region, dating back approximately 6000 years. Local indigenous sites are identified, and significant finds are described, including Paleo-Indian

artifacts on Digby Neck, and Mi'kmaq shell middens and fire pits at Pointe-à-Major. The historic relationship between the Acadian settlers and the Mi'kmaq is described. The eventual settlement of the Mi'kmaq on the Bear River Reserve is chronicled.



The healing properties of sea air and ocean views have been recognized by physicians since the time of Hippocrates. William Gale painting, *The Convalescent*, 1862.

A DesBarres watercolour of Mi'kmaq Canoes on the Fundy, dating from circa 1770.

