



Association du patrimoine de Potton

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Potton Heritage Association

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**20th GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE MEMBERS
POTTON HERITAGE ASSOCIATION
HELD MARCH 13, 2010
IN THE TOWN HALL, MANSONVILLE, QC**

Minutes

1— Opening of the assembly

Having determined the presence of a quorum of more than 50 members present, in accordance with Article 6.4 of the General regulations wherein 10 persons are required to be present in person, Hans Walser, President of the Association declared the meeting open at 10: 10

2— Agenda

It was moved by Claude Fortin, seconded by Angèle Hébert and resolved that the agenda be adopted as proposed. Unanimous.

3— Adoption of the Minutes of March 22, 2009

It was moved by Michelyne Fortin, seconded by Jacqueline Robitaille that the minutes of the General Assembly held on March 22, 2009 be adopted as read. Unanimous.

4— President's Report : Hans Walser

The President thanked the members for having attended in such large numbers. He greeted Mayor Jacques Marcoux and Councillor Michael Head and thanked them for their presence and for their support in 2009.

He then presented the members of the Board of Directors: Jean-Louis Bertrand, Yolande Lamontagne, Bernard Sansoucy, Édith Smeesters, and Jacques Thouin, thanking them for their support and work throughout the year. He noted that Carol Bishop and Sandra Jewett were absent for cause and that they too, had worked with enthusiasm on the Board during the past year.

The President reminded the Assembly that the mission of the Association is to make known and to promote the protection and preservation of the heritage of the Township of Potton for the benefit of all its citizens. Since Potton Heritage celebrates the 20th anniversary of its founding this year, Mr. Walser, read an excerpt from the Epilogue of the Chronicle of those past years – and noted, in so doing, examples of the Association's many accomplishments: *As this Chronicle demonstrates, the Association has contributed in an exemplary fashion, to the promotion and preservation of Potton's heritage. Such success was due to innumerable hours of work by a hundred or so volunteers over the course of the past twenty years.*

By integrating itself into the social, economic and political life of the Township of Potton, the Association has, in its own way, changed the face of Potton. Thanks to its publications, walking the streets of Mansonville or the roads of Potton has become a return to the roots of this place and renders homage to those who built it. Neither the Pont de la Frontière nor Mansonville's Round Barn would not have been cited as historic sites had it not been for the persistent and persuasive efforts of the Association.

Potton Heritage Association has dusted off the history of the Township, and made it live again, accessible to all. The Association has been a participant, often as the organizing force, at all of the important celebrations and events, which have taken place in Potton over the past 20 years. Because of that presence, the reputation of the Association has grown in the eyes of Pottonites and that of the municipal administration.

Insofar as concerns 2009, the President noted the following successes: citation by the Municipal Council of the Pont de la Frontière and Mansonville's Round Barn as historic monuments; the substantial progress regarding the Round Barn; the success of Heritage Day activities on June 28th; the Multicultural Festival on August 9th; the many excursions and conferences; the annual corn roast; Autumnfest and Oktoberfest; as well as the Winter Solstice activities. He noted that the Municipal Council agreed this year to the Association's 2008 request for the formation of a Cultural and Heritage Committee. This Committee has been up and running since January 2010 with two permanent representatives from Potton Heritage Association as Directors on it.

The President outlined the priorities for 2010-2015: mobilize the Community; continue to follow closely the files on the Round Barn and on the Pont de la Frontière; finalize the revision of our folders; publish the Répertoire Toponymique in English; get our Association's website up and running; put into place a programme of increasing the value of our built and natural heritage; establish and validate an inventory of our archeological assets; and finally, to celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the Association on Heritage Day 2010.

Mr. Walser ended by reiterating that the collaboration of the Municipal Council was essential to attaining these objectives, and emphasized that he was much encouraged by the dynamism of the new administration in this regard.

5— Secretary's Report, M. Jean-Louis Bertrand

The Secretary confirmed that the Board of Directors of the Association had held 13 meetings in 2009. The sub-committee for the Round Bard had met 10 times and the Board and 23 members of the Association had piloted 48 files. These included the Round Barb, the finances of the Association, excursions and conferences, Heritage Day, liaison with the Municipal Council, communication with the membership, Potton's Multicultural Festival, Autumnfest and Oktoberfest in partnership with the Ken Jones Center. 131 copies of the Répertoire Toponomique of Potton were printed, and already 80 of these have sold or have been donated.

The archiving of documents has been finished and the Chronicle of twenty years of the Association is now available at the Municipal Library. The Secretary also noted the publication of 2000 copies of the folders pertaining to the Pont de la Frontière and of the Round Barn; publication of the History of the Association's past 20 years, new versions of folders on Owl's Head, Knowlton's Landing, Vorokhta and the Russian monastery. This, in addition to the revision of the Association bylaws and of the Board's internal policy.

6—Treasurer's Report – Yolande Lamontagne

The Treasurer presented statistics on the membership numbers for the Association, which were judged quite satisfactory. Membership stands at 245 as of December 31, 2009. 38 had joined the Association while 25 members had left. Thirty members made donations over and above membership fees.

In addition to the Statement of Revenues and Expenses, she tabled the auditor's report prepared by Ralf Bushenbaum, Financial Services. She explained the various revenues and expenses, concluding with the positive budgetary situation of the Association in spite of an operational deficit of \$1269.00 for 2009. The accumulated surplus stands at \$11,983.00. Actual results for 2009 were compared with the budgetary forecast for 2010. It was moved by Christian Smeesters, seconded by Robert Joly, and resolved that the Treasurer's Report and the Auditor's Report be adopted. Unanimous.

7— Nomination of Auditor

The Treasurer Yolande Lamontagne requested that the General Assembly designate Ralf Bushenbaum, Services financiers, of the Township of Potton, to be named as Auditor for 2010.

It was moved by Rudy Koch, seconded by Ralph Milot and resolved to designate Ralf Bushenbaum, Services financiers, of the Township of Potton as Auditor for 2010. Unanimous. .

8— Report from Vice-President Édith Smeesters and Activities Directrice Carol Bishop.

The report was presented by Édith Smeesters. The 2009 excursions were very successful. Numerous photographs were displayed illustrating the various outings which highlighted our archeological, historic and natural heritage. More than 400 persons participated in several activities. Three conferences were presented, with over 100 persons attending.

9—Election to the Board of Directors

The Secretary of the Association presented the listing of candidates submitted by the Nominating Committee. These were Michel Bastien, Jean-Louis Bertrand, Carole Bishop, Sandra Jewett, Yolande Lamontagne, Serge Normand, Édith Smeesters, Hans Walser. He confirmed that no additional nominations had been received by the Association by the cut-off date of March 3, 2010

It was moved by Thérèse Beauchemin, seconded by Madeleine Soucy and resolved to elected persons named by the Nominating Committee as Directors. Unanimous.

10—Question period

The President Hans Walser began by presenting more details on the Round Barn: Claude Migué, surveyor, has been mandated to survey and to prepare a technical description of the property prior to its acquisition from M. Jean-François Giroux. The Municipality has decided to acquire the Richard Labbé property for its municipal evaluation of \$43,500. The acquisition of this property will allow better showcasing of the Barn and will contribute to the revitalization of the Village. On behalf of the Municipality, and as a necessary first step in its preservation, the Round Barn sub-committee is in the process of preparing a grant request from Pacte Rural to stabilize the building and consolidate the property. A firm specializing in museums and their use will prepare plans for the future use of the Barn. Total renewal costs of the Barn could reach \$1,000,000.00

Robert Joly asked about the future use of the Barn, to which Hans Walser indicated that the services of the specialists would be used to finalize the project. The sub-committee is proposing an agro-touristic vocation including its use as an interpretation centre. The Mayor, Jacques Marcoux, noted that our Deputy, Pierre Paradis, has promised his support in obtaining grants from the Ministère de la Culture du Québec.

Alberte Ledoyen inquires about Association actions to revitalize Potton's landscapes. Hans Walser re-iterated past initiatives, noting particularly works on the property of Helga and Dennis Heath located on la Route de Mansonville that have re-established access to a splendid view. In the coming year, the Association hopes to put into place, with Municipal support, good management practices for landscapes as advanced by Les Paysages estriens.

Jacques Thouin, who is leaving the Board after 7 years, with two of these as President, assured the Assembly that he will continue to be actively involved with the Association, particularly Autumnfest and Oktoberfest. He noted that his Masonic duties, especially locally, were taking much of his time. He emphasized that the Masonic Order of Québec had opted for a closer association with the population at large. The local Lodge will be actively involved with the Cultural and Heritage Committee as well as in the organization of the Multicultural Festival. On May 15th, in association with Gérard Leduc, the Lodge will present conferences featuring Tim Wallace Murphy, a Scottish mason, speaking about Roselyn Chapel, founded in 1446 by Sir William Saint Clair, as well as the secret Geometry of the Knights Templar. In answer to a question from Maria Joli, Mr. Thouin confirmed that the local Lodge has a membership of 30.

Jacqueline Robitaille suggested that holding an information meeting might be one way of increasing public interest for the preservation of the Round Barn. She further suggested that collection boxes might be placed in the businesses of the Township to collect funds for the Round Barn. Jean-

Louis Bertrand added that Michel Bastien, architect, would be a good candidate to give details of the work to be done and of the steps to be taken for the preservation of the Round Barn. Hans Walser indicated that Gérard Leduc had agreed to organize a fund-raising campaign for the Round Barn.

Mayor Jacques Marcoux noted that following reception of a status report on the covered bridge, prepared pro bono by Michel Bastien, architect, the Council had voted the sum of \$15,000 be earmarked for the repair of the structural beams of the Pont de la Frontière. Claude Fortin congratulated the Council on this initiative. All approved.

Édith Smeesters invited all members, as a personal initiative, to sign the petition requiring that environmental impact studies be undertaken concerning the Montreal Pipeline Limited project and installations, including that in Highwater. She hoped that municipal regulations concerning noise, established before June 6, 2005, be enforced. Finally she noted that a project for the revitalization of Potton Springs was underway, in which the developer wished to establish a Center for meditation.

11— Adjournment

It was moved by Elisabeth Alliston, seconded by Jacqueline Robitaille and resolved that the meeting be adjourned. Unanimous.

Drawn up March 14, 2010 by the Secretary, M. Jean-Louis Bertrand, and translated to English by Sandra Jewett

Annex 1: Minutes of the General Assembly held March 22, 2009

Annex 2: Presentation Documents

Annex 3: Audited financial statements for 2009

Annex 4: Fall Bulletin 2009.