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## Association du patrimoine de Potton

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## Potton Heritage Association

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### **23<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Assembly – March 24 2013**

#### **General Assembly of Members POTTON HERITAGE ASSOCIATION, MARCH 24 2013 IN THE TOWNHALL, MANSONVILLE**

##### **1 — Opening of the Assembly**

Having noted that a quorum had been obtained, in accordance with Article 4.3 of the General Bylaw, requiring that ten members be present, President Sandra Jewett declared the opening of the Assembly at 10:20 am. She noted the presence of Mayor Jacques Marcoux. She informed the Assembly, and extended the condolences of the Association to Michael and Hilary Head on the tragic death of Michael's brother and Association friend, Tim Head, on March 22.

##### **2 — Agenda**

The agenda was shown on the A/V screen. It was moved by Suzanne Beudet Fortin, seconded by Gilles Provost and unanimously resolved that the agenda be adopted as proposed.

##### **3 — Adoption of the Minutes of the Annual General Assembly, held April 1, 2012**

Copies of the minutes of the April 1, 2012 Annual General Assembly had been previously circulated by e-mail and mail to the Association members. There being neither error nor omission, it was moved by Bernard Sansoucy, seconded by André Lamer and unanimously resolved that the minutes of the Annual General Assembly, held on Sunday, April 1, 2012 be adopted. Annex 1.

##### **4 — Presentation of the Secretary's report : Jean-Louis Bertrand**

###### **Members of the Board of Directors in 2012 :**

Jean-Louis Bertrand, Secretary; Carol Bishop; Jacques Huppertz; Sandra Jewett, President; Denis Lamontagne, Vice President, Yolande Lamontagne; Serge Normand, Treasurer; Édith Smeesters; Hans Walser. Yolande Lamontagne resigned from the Board of Directors in July 2012.

###### **Number of Board meetings : 10**

**24 Committees and files**, involving 9 Directors, 23 Association members as well as three non-members.

**Number of hours volunteered** : Estimated at more than 10 000 hours, calculated at \$9.65 according to the MRC : a value of 96 500 \$.

## Committees :

**Excursions :** Carol Bishop and Édith Smeesters aided by 20 or so volunteers.

**Exhibition Committee for the Round Barn and visits to same :** Michel Bastien, Gérard Leduc, Denis Lamontagne, Sandra Jewett, Serge Normand, Bernard Sansoucy and Hans Walser. Participation Hilary Head.

**Centenary Committee for the Round Barn, Autumnfest, Culture and Heritage Days :** Chairman Hans Walser. Members : Michel Bastien, Jean-Louis Bertrand, Jacques Huppertz, Sandra Jewett, Gérard Leduc, Serge Normand, Hans Walser, Carol Bishop, Thérèse Descary, Denis Lamontagne, Bernard Sansoucy, Édith Smeesters. Non-members : Trish Wood, Marie-Louise Vallée, president of La Locomotive.

**Autumnfest, cantine participants :** Jacques Thouin, Jean-Louis Bertrand, Carol Bishop, John Haberl, Muriel Parkes, Ralph Milot, Yolande Lamontagne, Bernard & Denise Sansoucy, Hans Walser & Angèle Hebert, Colin and Lucette Field, Jacques Huppertz, Denis Lamontagne, Serge Normand, Janine Sourdif, Christian & Edith Smeesters, Sandra Jewett, among many others Cantine profits for the Association: 1 996 \$

Total participation: 4 675 persons for the Centenary celebrations and the Culture and Heritage Days : 675 for the Centenary and Culture & Heritage Days; for Autumnfest 2 800 persons, in addition to more than 80 volunteers.

Le Comité culturel et patrimonial de Potton contributed \$3 243, Potton Heritage contributed \$1,660 and Owl's Head Development, \$375.00 Revenues : \$9 933.00 Expenses : \$7 837.00

**Committee for the Float in parade at Multicultural Festival :** Angèle Hébert, Denis Lamontagne, Ralph Milot, Hans Walser, John White.

**Photography Contest :** Jean-François Boulais, Serge Normand, Jacqueline Robitaille and Édith Smeesters. Theme in 2012 : Potton in Winter. 28 photos were submitted. 188 votes were counted by Jacqueline Robitaille, Édith Smeesters and Serge Normand: 1<sup>st</sup> Robert Coulombe, *Sur le chemin West Hill*, 24 votes; 2<sup>nd</sup> Diane Marcoux, *Naturally Framed*, 21 votes; 3<sup>rd</sup> Sandra Jewett, *Ukrainian Chapel*, 12 vote tie with Serge Normand *Ah l'hiver*. Serge ceded his win since he was a member of the Organizing Committee.

**Publications Committee:** Jean-Louis Bertrand, Jacques Huppertz, Sandra Jewett, Serge Normand, Jacqueline Robitaille, and Bernard Sansoucy.

## Files :

**Photo archives:** Hans Walser, Serge Normand.

**Chants de Noël :** Jacqueline Robitaille, Hans Walser.

**Communication with Association members:** Édith Smeesters, Serge Normand.

**Grant requests :** Jean-Louis Bertrand.

**Excursions and conferences :** Édith Smeesters, Carol Bishop.

**Finances :** Yolande Lamontagne and Serge Normand.

**Townshippers 2012 :** Sandra Jewett

**Katimavik,** Édith Smeesters

**Liaison with the Municipality :** Sandra Jewett et Hans Walser.

**Culture and Heritage Prize :** Jean-Louis Bertrand, Jury, Boards of Directors for Potton Heritage and the Committee for Culture and Heritage.

**Answering requests for information from Potton Heritage :** Jean-Louis Bertrand, Sandra Jewett, Édith Smeesters, and Hans Walser

**Valentine event :** Carol Bishop, Édith Smeesters.

**Record keeping and secretarial :** Jean-Louis Bertrand.

**Site Jones :** Jean-Louis Bertrand and Sandra Jewett.

**Web sites:** Serge Normand.

**Corn roast:** Carol Bishop.

**Membership** : Serge Normand.

## **5 — Report of Webmeister, Serge Normand**

**Membership** : The Association had 212 members in good standing on December 31, 2012, and 220 on March 24, 2013. Of these 57% or 126 persons, were French speaking and 43% or 94 persons were English speaking. Approximately 10% of our membership leaves the Association annually, and roughly the same percentage joins, thus giving stable membership numbers.

Serge reported that the Web sites, English and French versions are a work-in-progress with the regular addition of texts, photographs and information.

## **6 — Activities and Excursion report : Carol Bishop and Édith Smeesters**

10 winter excursions drew an average participation of thirty persons each outing.

Elephantis; St-Etienne-de-Bolton; Sugar Loaf Pond-Missisquoi Brook; Owl's Head Golf Course; Chemin Fontaine - Schoolcraft; Sentier du village, along the Missisquoi River; Highwater (pine-line); Chapelle St-Agnès; Singer Mountain and the Ruitter Valley; Clark Hill.

Valentine party : 50 persons

6 summer and fall excursions drew an average of 25 persons :

Visit to the wetlands of the Cherry River in Magog with a naturalist was poorly attended due to rain (5 persons) ; excursion on Singer Mountain; Walking along Clark Hill to Chapel Hill Cemetery, with commentary at Cemetery, 46 persons – Missisquoi River by kayak drew only 8 persons, again because of inclement weather. Visit to the new covered bridge trail, and visit to the Municipality's natural water treatment site and its filtering wetlands – 25 persons. Visit to Jones and George Cemeteries on Chemin du lac with commentary provided by Sandra Jewett, 47 persons.

Participation during Multicultural Festival on August 11th, with float themed on the Round Barn; kiosque ; and photography contest.

Corn Roast in September drew 54 persons.

Autumnfest which takes place over three weekends with canteen and Association kiosk – Success this year was mitigated by uncertain weather. Approximate \$2000 profit to the Association.

Culture and Heritage Days (28-29-30 September)

A good success in spite of inclement weather. Proceeds : return of \$756.88 to the Culture and Heritage Committee (CCPP) representing the unused portion of \$4,000 received from the Committee. A surplus of \$339.06 of the \$2 000 earmarked for the use of the Centenary Committee, by the Association, remained. The community supper, sponsored by the Association, was unusually successful with over 100 persons participating.

Photography exhibition in October, at the municipal library.

Winter Solstice – sunrise atop Owl's Head, in collaboration with Ski Owl's Head drew 36 persons.

Christmas Carolling at Place Manson drew 20 persons

## **Programming planned for spring and summer 2013 :**

May 4th, screening of *Le Galet* in the Townhall with the Director and crew.

May 26: Bilingual, guided visit to St. Paul's Anglican Church, Victorian style tea following.

June : walking tour of the Dr Wilder Penfield estate, on Coolidge Road, close to Mountain.

July 4th, 10 am : visit to the Brûlé on Chemin Laliberté with a biologist.

July 6th : Opening of the exhibit : *Archéologie à Potton – Archeology in Potton*

July 25th : Inauguration of the self-guided tour of Potton : « *Incomparable Potton* »

August 14th, at 4pm : Guided visit to the barn formerly belonging to Lawrence Jones, dismantled, moved and reconstructed by Neil Manson in Austin, with presentation by Louise Abbott

From July 6th to October 14th – exhibition in Round Barn – Archéologie à Potton – Archeology in Potton.

Multicultural Festival

Autumnfest

Journées de la culture et du patrimoine – Culture and Heritage Days

## **7 — Treasurer's Report - Serge Normand**

Serge Normand deposited the audited financial statements prepared by Ralf Bushenbaum Financial Services. Revenues of 20 425 \$ and expenses of 11 589 \$ resulted in a surplus of 8 836 \$ for 2012 and an accumulated surplus of 15 580 \$ to December 31 2012.

Annex 2

In response to a question posed by Michael Darney, the Treasurer explained that delays in the editing of publications, with resulting delays in printing, planned for 2012 meant that publication costs were much less in 2012 than budgeted

It was moved by René Guertin, seconded by Claude Bouffard, and unanimously resolved to adopt the financial statements for 2012 as presented.

The Treasurer presented the Association's budget for 2013 : Revenues of 18 500 \$ and expenses of 23 800 \$ are foreseen, will mean a projected deficit on operations of \$5,300, related to our numerous publications and extra printing costs foreseen in 2013.

If the budget forecasts holds, the Association will end 2013 with an accumulated surplus of \$10 285. Annex 3.

It was moved by Micheline Fortin, seconded by Hélène Gaudreau, and resolved unanimously that the budget for 2013 be adopted as presented.

## **Grants obtained in 2012**

Municipalité du Canton de Potton : 5 000 \$

Comité coutlurel et patrimonial de Potton : 3 243 \$

MRC Memphrémagog, programme d'aide à la consolidation culturelle : 1 900 \$

Owl's Head Corporation, Autumnfest : 375 \$

## **8 — President's report - Sandra Jewett**

### **Continuity and Transition**

«A year ago when Hans delivered his address to this Assembly – he said that 2011 was a year of continuity and transition. Those words struck me as an apparent dichotomy. Continuity is a state of stability and the absence of disruption; transition is the process or a period of changing from one state or condition to another. The year that was 2012 was both!

The Round Barn, and the events surrounding a marvellous celebration of its centenary was the focus of much energy this past year – itself, a visible and practical example of continuity and transition. We celebrated the end of the Barn's original vocation – and introduced to our community to the possibilities of a new life of service.

To be the public face of a forward-thinking Association such as ours, which aims to protect our heritage in all its forms, has had both its privileges and reward. The challenges have been minor, thanks to the wonderful support of my fellow Board members. Through this past year, I have had the privilege of observing, participating and listening

while I learned the ropes, so to speak. That in itself has been instructive. My occasional notes to you appear to have been well received and I intend to do this on a more regular basis in the future.

Insofar as concerns 2013, the play-list you have come to expect from us is already well started. Excursions, conferences, and publications are standard fare. We are launching, in the coming months, a bi-annual magazine called Histoire Potton History. Bilingual, it will deal with fact, stories and ancestry – subjects sure to fascinate the heritage buff! Look for it in May. You'll have to shuck out a few bucks for your copy, though. Such delight does not come cheap! You might be interested in knowing that our brochures and publicity folders are among the most popular and best quality at the Bureau d'information touristique on Autoroute 10.

While I am on the subject of publications, please share your opinion as to whether you think the download of our newest web offerings should be free of charge or not. It is a subject the Board will soon be examining.

This May, our delegate to the Congrès of the Fédération des sociétés d'histoire du Québec (FSHQ) in Chicoutimi will be Serge; while I will attend the QAHN general meeting at Stanstead's Golden Rule Lodge in June. (Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network) Last year, both Serge and I participated at the joint FSHQ-QAHN annual meeting in Sherbrooke where several valuable contacts were established, which are in our interest to maintain. In that same vein, exchanges have taken place locally with Mme Jeanne Morazain, President of Heritage Sutton, and with Lizanne Ryan of the East Bolton Historical Association. Additionally we continue to work with the municipal authorities for the protection of heritage buildings in Potton. Although Hans has resigned from the Board, he will continue to be in charge of this file. We will of course be preparing an exhibition again this year in the Round Barn – this year called Archéologie à Potton, and it goes without saying that we wholeheartedly support the financial campaign about to be launched.

I hope to present a policy for the consideration of our municipal council, which will address our shameful lack of minimal care of our abandoned burial grounds and cemeteries. Several of these are found in Potton. They are neither under the care of the Mansonville Cemetery Company nor Eglise Saint-Cajetan. As a member of this community I find it unacceptable that we do not and have not given these places one modicum of decent respect and care.

2013 promises to be another busy year – already well started; and we could use any help you might feel you can offer. Last year, Bernard made the observation that more help was needed. In case you wondered, that need has not decreased! In fact with Hans departure, we are looking for another member of our team. At the moment, the Board of Directors numbers seven, of a possible nine. Many hands make light work – so perhaps you could write an article for the new magazine, or offer to guide our exhibit in the Round Barn, or something of the sort. Come to one of our meetings – you would be most welcome, though our quarters are a little cramped in the Reilly House.

Quite frankly, what I would find most reassuring is some feedback that we are reflecting your expectations. There is an old « country » expression to the effect that it is the willing horse who gets the most work. You have a Board of Directors comprised of willing horses. Need I say more? Let's not wear them out!

Which brings me to another and final point : – A great deal of energy was expended by the Association this year in reacting to issues confronting our municipal government. Flash points flared with a fervour and frequency that I have not before witnessed : – concern over the placement of the Bell cell towers, a referendum concerning the

revitalization of the Village, the now distant issue of contracts and equipment purchase; the issue of snowmobile races and their location at the intersection of nature conservancy and the use of private land.

Inevitably, and of some concern to me both personally and as the chair of this Association, is a rift - once unspoken but now voiced between native and newcomer – whether resident or not. As I see it, part of this is the growing pains inherent in our evolution – as we transition from a community of « natives » to a preponderant culture devoted to récréo-tourism. How we might help avoid the unnecessary pain if this « rift » widens, preoccupies me. Our strength is in our diversity of community. Community is made up of people, who think and act differently. It takes seasoning to make a good broth, after all!

As a Board of Directors, we are aware of the influence we have in this community. To say otherwise would be disingenuous. The Association is a large and credible voice in Potton. That being the case, then there are incumbent responsibilities. E mails pass between us like a rain of spears on the medieval battlefield – information is quickly collated – action plans coalesce, and within the space of hours – a reaction is formulated – a plan disseminated and we're off! This rapid response time has become such second nature to us that in some ways, it seems to invigorate the more politically inclined among us. It is seductive in its powerful appeal.

This « action-reaction » has shaped us and is subtly shaping our Association – particularly as regards our role perceived in the area of civic responsibility. As we tap on computer keyboards, formulating solutions, we in fact, segregate ourselves – distance ourselves from what solves most problems that are human related - which, in my opinion, begins simply by listening and hearing. It's called talking to each other.

Debate and perceived problems heat and cool with regularity, according to season and circumstance in Potton. This year of municipal elections promises to present its own share of consequential and inconsequential rhetoric for each of us to consider. As individuals, we must be vigilant in this world of competing causes.

With dedicated alacrity we try to mold the evolving Potton in our image – upscale enough to satisfy urban needs – while leaving enough « country » to maintain a colourful flavour. We champion the protection of our landscapes, our prettiest buildings, our town square and les Samedis à Potton. We frequent services and businesses that serve us well – populated for the most part by people born and raised here. The huge danger found in sterilized, solitary and immediate communication is its validation. Without actually talking to each other, and listening, how do we confirm the foundation of what we sense? How else to arrive at workable solutions of communal benefit but to build from the ground up?

As our earliest settlers did over 200 years ago, we come here of our own free will to build a society based on values we hold dear. The heritage this Association strives to champion, reflects the varied ways of life, land use and historical periods, including the recent past; and illustrates our region's development. Heritage helps maintain a social mix, vitality and identity in our Township, be it old or new, rich or poor. Notwithstanding our recognition of the importance of economic development, I hope that we will, as an Association, continue to insist on preserving the fabric of which « we » are made – that which gives us not only a sense of geography, but also our sense of time, memory and identity – so essential for our spiritual, cultural and creative growth.»

The members rose in warm and spontaneous ovation to this presentation.

## 9 — Nomination of the Auditor

Treasurer Serge Normand requested that the General Assembly designate the firm of Ralf Bushenbaum, financial services, of the Township of Potton, to audit the books of the Association in 2013. It was moved by Yolande Lamontagne, seconded by Bernard Sansoucy, and unanimously resolved that Ralf Bushenbaum, financial services of Potton, be named auditor for the year 2013.

## 10 — Election to Board of Directors

Secretary Jean-Louis Bertrand presented the list of candidates having accepted nomination to the Board of Directors of the Association: Jean-Louis Bertrand, Carole Bishop, Jacques Huppertz, Sandra Jewett, Denis Lamontagne, Serge Normand, Édith Smeesters. He confirmed that the Association had received no other nominations by March 14, 2013. It was moved by Gérard Leduc, seconded by Jacqueline Robitaille, and unanimously resolved that the nominated candidates be elected to the Board of Directors.

## 11 — Resolution supporting the financial campaign proposed for the Round Barn :

Resolution presented by the Board of Directors for the consideration of Potton Heritage Association members:

**Considering that** on March 22, 2009, the General Assembly of members voted unanimously to support the actions undertaken by the Board of Directors *to ensure the saving, the restoration, and the citation of the Round Barn of Mansonville.*

**Considering that** important progress has been made since that date, notably : the citation of the Round Barn as an historic building on May 4, 2009 ; the acquisition of the Round Barn through donation to the Municipality in May 2010 ; the delegation by the Municipal Council of the administration of the Round Barn to the Groupe bénévoles municipal de Potton (GBMP) in January 2011 ; the stabilization of the Barn in 2011 ; and, the creation of Place de la Grange ronde as well as the public market space in 2012 ; culminating with the celebration of the centenary of the Barn organized by Potton Heritage Association in 2012 ;

**Considering that** in December 2010 Potton Heritage Association gave the sum of \$10 000 in order to save the Barn ;

**Considering that** that the GBMP has initiated an ambitious five-year campaign for public funding that will run from 2013 to 2017;

**Considering that** Potton Heritage Association supports the conservation and restoration of the Round Barn in Mansonville ;

**Considering that** our countryside is inherent to our culture, and that the Round Barn symbolizes our attachment to this area which, as Potton's motto says, pleases us and answers our need for a place to commemorate the history of the agriculture which shaped it.

The Board of Directors of Potton Heritage Association therefore urges

**each member of the Association to subscribe personally to the financial campaign for the Round Barn and to invite the active participation of family and friends in this collective effort, since our objective over five years, is to gather the sum of \$100,000.**

**that the Board of Directors regularly update the Association members of the evolution of the fundraising campaign in collaboration with the GBMP.**

The Chairman of the GBMP, Jacques Huppertz, presented a résumé of the state of affairs concerning the renovation of the Round Barn. The financial campaign, presided by M. François Trahan, will range over a five-year period, from

2013 to 2017. The campaign objective is to collect the sum of \$500 000 in donations, and \$552 000 in public funds and private sponsors. A Finance Committee, formed of Mayor Jacques Marcoux, Jean-Louis Bertrand and GBMP Chairman, Jacques Huppertz, has prepared a plan for this effort.

To a question posed by Gilles Latour, he explained that the sums so raised would be used to raise, and reseal the barn on a new foundation, as well as for interior renovations in order to make an interpretation center and to provide exhibition space. The renovations will proceed step by step with the foundation work being the first effort.

Claude Fortin indicated that the Association's objective of \$100000 could easily be met if each of 200 members gave \$100.00 per year for five years and noted this to be a realistic objective.

At the request of Michael Darney, the President clarified that our aim is collective and the mention of \$100.00 per member was by way of example only. Each individual is free to give according to his own conviction and means.

Jacqueline Robitaille requested to know when the donation forms would be available, in response to which Jean-Louis Bertrand indicated that they would soon be available for downloading from the website and will be sent to the Association members by e-mail.

Céline Bélanger inquired about the contribution foreseen by the Municipality to this collective effort. Mayor Jacques Marcoux responded by reiterating that most of the municipal expense came in the acquisition phase: citation of the Barn as a historic building in 2009, acquisition of the building through a donation in May 2010, purchase and demolition of the building which obscured view of the Barn ; the stabilization of the barn in 2011 ; the creation of Place de la Grange and public market space in 2012. Close to \$100 000 has been invested by the Municipality thus far. Robert Joli suggested that an annual auction of antiques and collectibles furnished by Association members might be considered as a fund raising possibility.

Lucille Veilleux finds that the Round Barn project is a good one for the community to rally around, it being a common cause which would thus encourage a sense of belonging and carry pride in this historic building.

It was moved by Francine Brassard, seconded by Madeleine Soucy and unanimously resolved that the resolution supporting the financial campaign proposed for the Round Barn as suggested by the Board of Directors be adopted.

## **12 — Questions – comments from the floor**

Hélène Gaudreau proposed that the Association organise excursions which would couple the clean up of an abandoned cemetery with the pleasure of exercise and companionship (with the property owner's agreement).

Francine Brassard asked when the works foreseen on the pont couvert de la Frontière would begin. The Mayor responded that engineer's plans for the reinforcement of the bridge's footing are available and that a call to tender would soon be issued to interested contractors.

Bernard Sansoucy would like the Board of Directors to regularly inform the membership about the activities of the Board. The President promised that the Board would regularly publish a resumé of the minutes of the Board, both by individual e mails and publication on the Website.



Claude Bouffard mentioned that the President's remarks were excellent and that she hoped they would be published on the Association's website in addition to that of the Municipality. She noted that she was in agreement with the adoption of a user-pay policy for new articles or books downloaded from the Association website. Insofar as concerned the Round Barn, she asked what events were proposed during the planning of the financial campaign. Jacques Huppertz noted that these would be widely publicised on the websites of both the Association and the Municipality.

Helen Midgley asked the President how best the Association might interest the native population of Potton. Sandra responded that the Association and its activities seem well known throughout the community. It may be that they do not feel at ease in an association such as ours. There are, of course, exceptions such as our Mayor, a member since 1991; Paul Rouillard who was a member from 1990 to 2005, and a Director from 1993-2003 ; and myself, who has been a member since 1998. Pierre Giroux supports our activities, without however, ever having joined the Association. We will continue to welcome everyone who participates in our activities, without illusion as to our probable success with the resident population.

Michel Trudel noted that our folders and brochures are distributed without charge. Should we not at least ask for a voluntary sum? Has the Board of Directors ever thought of regrouping our publications into a single document, so that there would be less of a tendency to discard after reading? Has the Board ever thought of sending or distributing some of these documents to the residents of Potton. In response Sandra noted that \$5 000 is given annually by the Municipal Council in order that we furnish our brochures and folders to the Tourist Information Bureau of Potton and to that of the MRC.

The idea of a book dedicated to the history and heritage of Potton is slowly taking form. Our magazine Histoire Potton History is a first step in this direction. Additionally, the Association has welcomed new residents to Potton with a letter, programme schedule and a folder about Owl's Head.

The President then invited Mayor Jacques Marcoux to address the Assembly, if he so desired.

The Mayor immediately broached the subject of Bell Mobility communication towers, currently an issue in the Municipality. Due to public pressures brought to bear, both the Municipality and Bell Mobility are re-examining the subject. The Mayor noted that at the April meeting, the Council would adopt the protocol suggested by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities concerning the location and installation of communication towers. Several citizens have offered sites that might be less intrusive on the landscape and for the citizens. Possibly only one tower could suffice. At a future meeting, Bell will have new propositions for consideration. It is likely that a representative of the Association will be invited to participate at such a meeting.

Insofar as the Round Barn is concerned, the Mayor reiterated the municipal actions taken to date and noted that it is now time for citizens to do their part. He mentioned that many Pottonites oppose any further financial assistance of this project. Slowly this notion is changing and many are now seeing the potential of this building. We must be patient.

The foundation pillars of the pont de la Frontière will be repaired this year, at a cost of \$50 000, defrayed by municipal funds. Cosmetic repairs will be done in the summer of 2014. These include the repair of planking and painting.

The Mayor invites the Assembly to visit the Tourist Bureau of the MRC, which is located at Exit 115 of the Eastern Townships Autoroute 10. This new building won an architecture prize for its design. The Municipality of Potton occupies a privileged place in the layout. The Association brochures are the best quality and most popular, thanks to the Association. A touch screen allows visitors a virtual visit to Potton. Visitor traffic is estimated at 120 000 persons a year – thereby promising good results for Potton.

The President thanked the Mayor and the municipal Council for their support in many of the concerns voiced by the Association as well as for their sustained financial aid.

### **13 — Hommage à Yolande Lamontagne, administratrice et trésorière.**

In the name of the Association, Sandra Jewett, thanked Yolande Lamontagne, who resigned from the Board of Directors in June 2012 due to health reasons. In doing so, Sandra noted Yolande's considerable contribution to the Association as a member since 2002 : Director from 2003 to 2005, Treasurer, 2004 and 2006, responsible for finances from 2006 – 2008, again Board member from 2009 to June 2012. Discreet and efficient in her book-keeping, her dynamism and good humour were unparalleled in the organization and entertainment at a supper, or other Association event. Her skill at selling tickets for the Journées de la Culture was well appreciated! « Thank you Yolande. We know that we can still count upon you and your alter ego, Ralph Milot, to make our special events a success! »

The members rose in spontaneous applause while the President gave Yolande a token of the Association's appreciation : A day at the Spa de Bolton.

### **14— Adjournment.**

It was moved by Suzanne Gravel and seconded by Claude Fortin that the meeting be adjourned.

Respectfully submitted

Jean-Louis Bertrand, Secretary

March 2013

Annex 1 : Minutes of the Annual General Assembly held April 1, 2012

Annex 2 : Audited financial statements for 2012

Annex 3 : Budget for 2013

Translated by Sandra Jewett,

April 2013