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Association du patrimoine de Potton

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Potton Heritage Association

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25th Annual General Assembly – April 19 2015

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MEMBERS OF THE POTTON HERITAGE ASSOCIATION HELD APRIL 19th, 2015 IN THE TOWN HALL IN MANSONVILLE

1 - Opening of the Meeting

Secretary Jean-Louis Bertrand determined the presence of 40 members, and therefore a quorum, according to Article 43 of the General By-laws : 10 persons physically present) ; the meeting was declared open at 10 :20 by the Association president, Sandra Jewett. She noted the presence of Mayor Louis Veillon and thanked him, in the name of the Association for the continued moral and financial support from the Municipality

2 - Agenda

The adoption of the proposed agenda was moved by Claude Fortin seconded by Gérard Leduc, and unanimously approved.

3 - Adoption of the minutes of March 23, 2014

The adoption of the minutes for the previous General Assembly, held March 23rd, 2014 was moved by Jacques Huppertz seconded by Bernard Sansoucy, and unanimously approved as presented. [[Annexe 1](#)].

4 - President's Report - Sandra Jewett

The President noted that she had recently informed all members about the activity of the Association by letter. In view of the foregoing, she did not restate its contents and ceded the floor to the other members of the Board of Directors for individual reports.

5 - Secretary's report - Jean-Louis Bertrand

- **Members of 2014 Board of Directors** : Jean-Louis Bertrand, Secretary; Carol Bishop; Jacques Huppertz; Sandra Jewett, President; Serge Normand, Treasurer; Janine Sourdif, Hans Walser.
- **Number of meetings of the Board** : 11
- **Files and 15 committees** involving the 7 Board members, 40 members of the Association and 5 non members.
- **Number of volunteer hours** : Estimated at more than 12 000 hours, calculated at an hourly rate of \$15, thereby giving an estimated wage value equivalent to \$180 000.

Principle committees :

- **Publications** : Jean-Louis Bertrand, Jacques Huppertz, Sandra Jewett, Gérard Leduc, Serge Normand, Jacqueline Robitaille, Madeleine Soucy, Hans Walser.

- **Histoire Potton History production team:** Jean-Louis Bertrand, Sandra Jewett, Serge Normand, Jacqueline Robitaille.
- **Excursions and conferences :** Carol Bishop, Janine Sourdif and their approximately 20 volunteers.
- **The Landscapes of Potton, Exhibition in Round Barn :**
 - **Director** Hans Walser, participation from Jean-Louis Bertrand, Jean-Marc Bourgeois, Angèle Hébert, Jacques Huppertz, Ralph Milot and Bernard Sansoucy.
 - **Guides :** Christine Baudinet, Béatrice Bass, Jean-Louis Bertrand, Francine Brassard, Édouard Cloutier, Pierrette Drapeau, Lise Fontaine, Hélène Gaudreault, Angèle Hébert, André Lamer, Gérard Leduc, Jordan Nichols, Gisèle Milette, Bernard Sansoucy, Denise Sansoucy, Édith Smeesters, Hans Walser.
- **Canteen with Ken Jones and Festival plein Air d'automne at Owl's Head :**
 - **Joint Organising Committee APP-CKJC :** David Stirling, Chairman, Jacques Huppertz, Treasurer; Sandra Jewett, Secretary, Janine Sourdif, Hans Walser, Advisors;
 - **Participants** Beatrice Bass, Jean-Louis Bertrand, Carol Bishop, Norma Clifford, Tim Crocker, Micheal Darney, Rick Fergusson, Sandra Jewett, John Haberl, Hilary Head, Helga Knobl Heath, Angèle Hébert, Elaine Heitner, Perry Hicks, Julie Larsen, Jacques Marcoux, Denise McLafferty, Karen Muzerall, Jordan Nichols, Murielle Parkes, Frank Ruiz, Bernard Sansoucy, Denise Sansoucy, Christian Smeesters, Édith Smeesters, Monique Sourdif, Ken Taylor, Richard Tétreault, Jean Turner, Hans Walser.
 - **Revenues :** 10 232 \$. Total profit of the canteen : \$ 5 745 ; shared 50-50 with Centre Ken Jones : \$2 872 each.
- **Photo competition and exhibit :** Jacques Huppertz and Christian Smeesters.
- **Bell cell tower file :** responsible : Suzanne Beaudet Fortin and Hans Walser
- **Pont de la frontière, covered bridge :** responsible : Hans Walser
- **Finance committee for the Round Barn, joint with GBMP:** responsible Jean-Louis Bertrand
- **Toponymy :** Sandra Jewett and Jean-Louis Bertrand

Principle files

- **Photo archives :** Serge Normand
- **Communication :** Serge Normand
- **Photography contest :** Christian Smeesters : Prize winner Marie-Claude Pelletier; second, Daniel Fontaine; third, a tie, Édith Smeesters and Angèle Hébert
- **Grant requests :** Jean-Louis Bertrand
- **Cinema :** Jean-Louis Bertrand, in collaboration the CAB and Cinéma Potton, Doomsday Gun, documentary on Dr. Gerald Bull
- **Conferences :** Jim Manson, *The Ruiter Brothers Role in Burgoyne's Assault on Saratoga*; Sandra Jewett, *Genealogy*, students of École du Baluchon, Louise Gratton, *How Nature changes the face of Nature*
- **Fédération Histoire Québec :** Jean-Louis Bertrand.
- **Finances :** Serge Normand.
- **Townshippers' Day :** Sandra Jewett
- **Liaison with the Municipality :** Sandra Jewett and Hans Walser
- **Culture and Heritage Prizes :** responsible Jean-Louis Bertrand, jury : Directors of the APP and the CCPP
Recipients : Hans Walser, Heritage and Karen Muzerall, Culture
- **Reponses for information on the heritage of Potton :** Jean-Louis Bertrand, Sandra Jewett, Serge Normand, Hans Walser
- **Secretarial and custodian of archives :** Jean-Louis Bertrand
- **Web Sites and photo archives:** Serge Normand
- **Corn Roast at Perkins Landing :** Carol Bishop

- **Membership records** : Serge Normand
- **Typiquement Memphrémagog** : Jean-Louis Bertrand, Hans Walser.

Publications :

- *Histoire Potton History* – Volume 2, no 1 and 2 — Sandra Jewett, Jean-Louis Bertrand, Serge Normand, Jacqueline Robitaille
- *Landscapes of Potton* – Hans Walser, Jean-Louis Bertrand, Sandra Jewett, Jacqueline Robitaille, Serge Normand.
- Reissue of *Folder about the Round Barn* –Jean Louis Bertrand, Sandra Jewett, Gérard Leduc, Madeleine Soucy.

6 - Report from Webmaster - Serge Normand

- **Members** :. The Association had 200 members in good standing on December 31, 2014 of which 108 or 54% were French speaking and 92, or (46%) were English speaking. 48 new members joined the Association while 34 departed.
- **Web Sites** : The posting on our Websites, French and English, are in constant progression : texts, photos, information. Since November 2014, English and French documents posted on our sites have been downloaded more than 3,000 times. The most popular 'Owl's Head' downloaded 305 times, followed closely by 'Vale Perkins' at 283 downloads. Thanks to these sites, and to the Association, Potton's heritage is finding a wider audience.

7- Activities report from Carol Bishop and Janine Sourdif

Excursions and tours

- **Hiver** : Owl's Head, with Wendy Gardner and André Gagné ; Ruiter Valley, with Angèle Hébert and Hans Walser; Sugar Loaf, with Diane Bishop and Michael Darney; Province Hill, with Sylvie Thérberge and Martin Bradwell; chemin Fontaine, with Janine Sourdif and Richard Tétreault; Golf Owl's Head, with Édith and Christian Smeesters ; Ruiter Valley, with Hilary and Micheal Head ; Mount Pevee, with Yolande Lamontagne and Ralph Milot, Lucie Guimond and Michel Gagnon; Chemin Maurice Côté with Fiona Campbell et David Stirling; Chemin du Lac, with Hélène Gaudreau and Gilles Provost.
- **Summer** : Vi Bielski's gardens, Fullerton Pond, with Gérard Leduc ; Forest excursion with Louise Gratton and BBQ at Carol Bishop's; Potton Springs, with Gérard Leduc; Corn Roast with Carol Bishop and Janine Sourdif

Projects foreseen – summer 2015

Exhibition of the Round Barn – the Barn on Display ; lecture by Sandra Jewett, *The Mansonville Typhoid Epidemic of 1921*; visits to the Skinner, Elkins and Miltimore cemeteries with speakers; hiking over the Sugar Loaf ; trails at Owl's Head; expedition to Singer Mountain, visit to property of Richard and Barbara Beach; corn roast.

8- Treasurer's report - Serge Normand

- Treasurer Serge Normand deposited the financial statements for 2014, for the Association, as prepared by Ralf Bushenbaum, Services financiers; attesting to revenues totalling \$18 049 ; expense of \$18 812, a deficit of \$763 and an accumulated surplus of \$5 529 as of December 31 2014. [Annex 2] Yolande Lamontagne moved, seconded by Jacqueline Robitaille and unanimously resolved to accept the financial statements for 2014 as presented.
- The Treasurer continued his report by presenting the budget forecast for 2015; wherein a balanced budget is proposed : revenues of \$14 500 ; expenses of \$4 500. If these figures hold, the Association will end the year 2015 with an accumulated surplus reserve of \$5 514. [Annex 3] Angèle Hébert moved, seconded by André Gagné and unanimously resolved to adopt the budget forecast for 2015 as presented.

Grants received in 2014

- Potton : Municipality of the Township of 5 000 \$.
- MRC Memphrémagog, Programme d'aide à la consolidation culturelle, 2 000 \$.

9 - Remarks by Sandra Jewett

Our community, between belonging and isolation

Each year, tradition gives an opportunity to the President to address the general assembly about issues or projects of concern to the mission of the Association. I recognize that I stray somewhat from what duty obliges. I ask your indulgence, and I will be brief.

This winter, my thoughts have been very much taken by the negativity surrounding what I perceive as a widening gulf within our community: the deliberate actions of some, and inaction by others that seems to have allowed positions to harden among us. Dissension and division, while normal in this, or in any other community, seem to have found greater volume, while voices of reason and conciliation seem muted.

Although I cannot speak for you, I must say that I am weary of the politics of resentment and the cacophony of protest in this place I call home. I confess that I tire of the pleas of one faction over the other, while the trees we so love stand as silent sentinels to our woes. Do they see, as I do, that the vast majority among us, those in the middle, are oblivious to the views of the extremities? There is no need for me to detail the debates of the 2014-2015 season. They are etched in our minds and memory.

As an individual, I have virtually driven myself to distraction wondering how I, personally, with whatever influence I may have, could work to reverse what I see as deeply troublesome. For me to separate my duties as President of this Association from the responsibility, duty and sentiments I feel so strongly as a native citizen of Potton is very difficult. To some degree, I have been obsessed, and it has been to the detriment of my obligations as President, and for that I apologize. The Association deserves better.

Thankfully, the noise will soon subside as we proceed into the spring and summer seasons of Potton's rustic loveliness! Each of us whether barbarian or sophisticate may then enjoy the brief respite that warmer temperatures and sunshine will bring us. Problems will be out of sight but very much unforgotten. Some say the universe unfolds as it should. But I wonder?

Our views of community, rural life, and its management may differ. To be successful, the management must be sensitive to our multiple identities, values and perceptions. Someday we will learn that.

Actually, one day it might be interesting for our Association to sponsor a forum to discuss the whole philosophical spectrum of what a community is – and how to encourage positive growth within ours. Be grateful that I will not embark on that subject now.

In the interim, I intend to continue to do whatever I can to encourage the harmonious progress of our Township. I am grateful for my great good fortune to make my home here, when others, in the larger and weary world of competing sorrows, of unimaginable deprivation and displacement are so much less fortunate – where people who live in places of ancient cultures endure interminable battles over whose God is more important - whose people the most brutal – whose voice the loudest. Mothers yearn for some small modicum of peace, some crumb of hope for

their children, the majority of whom will never know the tiniest fraction of what we have and take so lightly. Food...shelter...the quiet of a starry night ... Peace!

From its founding, 25 years ago, our Association has contributed in a very positive manner to the growth of our community. I daresay even essential. We have proven by our commitment to participate in the building of a community that is more mindful of the richness of our heritage and our history. The talents and savoir-faire of our members is incredible and is such a valuable asset. Our work to promote and protect our heritage and history must continue. And we will. But, we must also continue to promote optimism and the social networking that essentially knits a community together – our community. We should each do our part, each of us in our own way.

10 – Perspectives 2015

The president continued by presenting the main elements of our programming for 2015:

- Exhibition of the Round Barn and guided visits, directed by Hans Walser with collaboration of the GBMP.
- Publication of HPH and of a brochure on the built heritage of commercial buildings in Potton, prepared by Jean-Louis Bertrand.
- Excursions and lectures, prepared by Carol Bishop and Janine Sourdif.
- Photography contest with themed on *Pottonites in their daily lives*.
- Participation in Potton's Multicultural Festival and operation of canteen jointly with the CKJC at the Fall Festival at Owl's Head.
- Fundraising campaign for the Round Barn in collaboration with the GBMP.

11 - Nomination of an Accounting firm

Treasurer Serge Normand requested the Assembly to designate Ralf Bushenbaum, services financiers, of the Township of Potton, to prepare the financial statements for 2015. Michelyne Fortin moved, seconded by Denis Lamontagne, proposed the designation of the accounting firm of Ralf Bushenbaum, services financiers, of the Township of Potton, to prepare the financial statements for the 2015 exercise. Unanimously adopted.

12 - Election to the Board of Directors

The Secretary of the Association, Jean-Louis Bertrand presented the slate of candidates who have agreed to their nomination. They were Jean-Louis Bertrand, Carol Bishop, Jacques Huppertz, Sandra Jewett, Serge Normand, Janine Sourdif, and Hans Walser. The Secretary confirmed that no other nominations had been received by the Association by the deadline of April 9 2015. It was moved by Sheila Kerr, seconded by Wendy Gardner, to elect those nominated to the the Board of Directors. Adopted unanimously.

13 – Question period

The Secretary of the assembly invited comments from the floor

- **Jacqueline Robitaille** suggested that the assembled congratulate the Board of Directors for their excellent work. Hearty applause ensued in obvious support of the suggestion.
- **Mayor Louis Veillon** noted his pride in being a member, with his wife Cheryl, of the Association. In salutation to his predecessor, former Mayor Jacques Marcoux, he reminded us that the Municipal Council has always encouraged the initiatives of the Association and will continue to do so. He noted that in order for our community to reflect that we are good neighbours, we need to get to know each other. He suggested that by introducing ourselves and fraternizing with our neighbours we could each thus enlarge our circle of friends. Our community will reflect that we are each good neighbours. He suggested that talking to each other was beneficial. He continued with the announcement that the Tourist Information Office was moving from Parc André-Gagnon to a more central location opposite Place Manson.

- **Laurie Neale** invites the Association to become a member of Heritage Canada. In addition to national recognition to the Association, membership offers many advantages. The President indicated that she would submit the proposal to the next regular Board meeting for discussion.
- **G rard Leduc** inquired what had happened to the kiosk and the two interpretation panels that were installed at Place du Moulin, at the foot of Mill Street. Had the Municipality received any indemnity for the damages resulting from the accident ? If yes, what had been done with the sums received. Secretary Jean-Louis Bertrand noted that he will inquire from the Director general of the Municipality in order to obtain appropriate answers.

14- Adjournment of the Assembly

Claude Fortin moved, Andr  Gagn  seconded and it was unanimously resolved to adjourn the meeting.

Annex 1 : [Minutes, General Assembly meeting of March 23, 2014](#)

Annex 2 : Audited financial statements for 2014

Annex 3 : Budget proposed for 2015

25th anniversary 1990-2015

After the general meeting the President Sandra Jewett asked that we raise our glasses in salute to 25th anniversary of the Association. Long live the APPHA. Mayor Veillon emphasized the importance of the APP to community life in Potton. In the name of the Municipal Council and of all the citizens of the Township of Potton, he wished a long life to the Association, in the hope that it would continue its work for the protection and promotion of Potton's heritage for many years to come.

Serge Normand presented the [special edition of HPH as a souvenir of the 25th anniversary](#) of the founding of the Association. A free copy was distributed to the members present.

All of which was followed by a meal, catered by Boulangerie Owl's Bread.

HPH volume 3, no 1

- For dessert – the introduction of [Histoire Potton History, Volume 3, no. 1](#) featuring an article by Andr  Lamer, resulting from his interviews with Rita Boucher-Marcou, long time resident of Potton.
- As a special surprise Serge Normand had arranged for Andr  to speak to the Assembly via SKYPE from a pub in Ireland, to thank Rita for her cooperation and to present his article to the Assembly.
- Andr  noted that the article was the result of numerous interviews with Rita. He noted the cooperation of others which allowed the completion of the project : Francine Brassard, Jacqueline Robitaille, Serge Normand, Jean-Louis Bertrand and Sandra Jewett.
- The occasion was memorable.

Minutes prepared by Secretary Jean-Lous Bertrand on April 21st, 2015

Translated to English by Sandra Jewett, April 21st, 2015.

État des résultats 2014 Financial Statements R.B. FINANCIAL SERVICES

Revenus	2014	2013
Cotisation des membres	2 968	3 275
Dons	1 293	1 882
Collecte de fonds (Activités)	220	17 575
Revenu de ventes et divers	6 568	1 982
Commandite	7 000	9 000
	18 049	33 714
Frais d'administration		
Assemblée	1 792	1 288
Association	178	185
Conférences-Congrès	670	647
Fournitures de bureau	568	1 771
Frais banque	245	63
Frais de déplacement		408
Honoraire	546	460
Loyer	1 289	900
Taxes et permis	77	33
	5 365	5 755
Frais reliés aux activités de financement		
Frais reliés à la promotion de Potton	12 523	21 485
Frais reliés aux activités	924	15 767
	13 447	37 252
	18 812	
Déficit de la période	-763	-9 293
Surplus au début de la période	6 292	15 585
Surplus à la fin de la période	5 529	6 292

[Original document](#)

Prévisions budgétaires 2015 Budget Estimates

Revenus		2015	
Membership	APP Adhésions	2 500	
	APP Dons	200	2 700
Subventions	S_Municipalité de Potton	5 000	5 000
Ventes	Revue HPH	2 500	
	Place Names	100	
	Répertoire toponymique	10	2 610
Activités	R_Festival Owl's Head	2 500	
	R_Excursions	200	
	R_Location	200	
	R_Divers-Repas-Int	1 290	4 190
Total revenus		14 500	

Consolidation	2015
Encaisse au début	5 524
Total Revenus	14 500
Total Dépenses	14 500
Surplus (Déficit)	0
Solde en fin d'exercice	5 524

Dépenses		2015	
Gestion	Loyer A	600	
	Loyer B	690	
	Casier postal	175	
	Frais bancaires	100	
	Frais comptables	550	
	Poste	100	
	Site web	17	
	Fournitures de bureau	100	2 332
Cotisations	FHQ	138	
	QAHN	70	208
Permis	REQ	35	35
Congrès	Inscription	200	200
AGA	Cadeaux offerts	100	
	Repas	1 850	1 950
Publications	HPH 3 Numéros	3 600	
	Brochure	4 000	7 600
Activités	Concours Photos	75	
	Conférenciers	600	
	Sorties -Excursions	400	
	Expositions	1 000	
	Location salle	100	2 175
Total dépenses		14 500	