

**Association du
patrimoine de Potton**

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DEPUIS 1990



**Potton Heritage
Association**

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SINCE 1990

A LETTER FROM THE VICE-PRESIDENT

Hello everyone,

2017 is a memorable year for celebrations commemorating the past: the 150th anniversary of Canadian Confederation, the 375th anniversary of Montreal, the 50th anniversary of EXPO 1967 and locally, the 25th anniversary of Potton's Multicultural Festival. In the same vein, this summer Potton Heritage Association presents an exhibition of photographs themed on [Tourism in Potton at the turn of the 19th century](#). The historian Jean-Pierre Kesteman noted that: "From 1850 to 1920, during seventy years, the tourism life of the region began, strengthened and densified. It is essentially based on a system of mass travel, on the organization of routes, based on corresponding itineraries and combined tickets between railways, steamships or stagecoaches, to many different destinations." The exhibition shows you this great period of our history, in print and pictures: paintings and engravings, descriptions of stagecoaches, trains, boats and the islands of Lake Memphremagog, the legend of Memphré, the ascent of Owl's Head as well as fishing, summer camps and some of the larger villas.

This achievement is another example of the innumerable hours given so generously by many volunteers from the Association. I would especially like to thank Christian Smeesters who took charge of the organization of this exhibition; Jean-Louis Bertrand and Sandra Jewett who drafted the texts, all of which were revised by Jacqueline Robitaille. Throughout this project, Raymond Gagnon and I have sorely tested Christian's patience by asking him to master the intricacies of specialized software. He was a good student! I would also like to acknowledge the valuable assistance of Robert Joli, who built the easels necessary for the presentation of the photo boards.

The Municipality of the Township of Potton, through the Community Foundations of Canada program, has allocated \$3000 for this exhibition. This sum was spent primarily on printing costs and for the rental of space. This year, the exhibition takes place in the community hall of the Anglican Church on Saturdays from June 24th to September 2nd from 10 am to 3 pm.

You will have noticed that public access to the Round Barn has been suspended until the foundation repair work will have been completed. Karsten Baass, representing the Association to the Potton Municipal Volunteer Group, informs us that the Municipal Council recently filed a notice of motion with respect to a borrowing by-law to carry out the work required at the Round Barn. We will be following very closely the progress of this file by the Council.

For this exhibition, three titles were added to our list of publications: a [brochure](#) as well as the [Spring 2017](#) and Fall 2017 issues of our magazine *History Potton History* are devoted to the theme of the exhibition. The main editors Jean-Louis and Sandra, seconded by their reviser Jacqueline, have produced many texts, requiring several long sessions at the computer to insure our usual high standard.

Carol Bishop and Janine Sourdif have prepared the [summer program of activities for 2017](#). As I write this, places are still available for the 9:00 am departure on June 26th for the boat tour of the islands of Lake Memphremagog, with a stop in Georgeville. The summer is well begun and the season lends itself well to the theme of our photography contest [The Flowers of Potton](#). We expect many entries and will happily display proof of your talents at our booth at the Multicultural Festival on August 12th. Stop by and vote for your favourite!

Many of you attended the Annual General Meeting held on March 26th; however, we soon realized that the rooms available did not lend themselves well to this type of Assembly, since several of you could neither see nor hear our presentations. We apologize. We value your attendance at this formal meeting, and assure you that we will be very attentive to the choice of venue for future meetings. I remind you that the minutes and the slideshow of the AGM 2017 are online on [our website](#).

In closing, let me don my "treasurer's hat" to tell you that we are proud to have 208 members in the Association. Of course, this is also an ideal opportunity to note that, to date, 57% of the members have paid their dues for 2017. I will gently remind you that I am therefore ready to receive dues from ... latecomers ... who have simply forgotten!

Hope to see you soon... and Vive the Potton Heritage Association!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Serge Nourd". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Vice President and Treasurer

Summer 2017