



Potton Heritage Association

Letter from the President



December 19th, 2024

Dear members, friends,

Another year has just come to an end. The latter will have brought us good news about the covered bridge of de la Frontière. We are very happy to have succeeded in asserting the need to classify it as a historical monument by the Ministry of Culture and Communications.

Now you wonder what will happen. When will the work to save the bridge begin? We have the same questions. As you know, the Municipality of the Township of Potton continues to claim its non-responsibility for the bridge, claiming that it is not the owner of it, while the Ministry of Culture and Communications claims that the Municipality is the owner. The Municipality intends to settle this dispute in court, if necessary. This is not the only difficulty that arises in this case. There is also the fact that the bridge rests on two private lands; will these owners grant access to the bridge for future work?

At this time, we do not know what actions we can take as an Association to move things forward. As a Board, we are planning a meeting in early January 2025 with Hans Walser, initiator of the request for classification of the bridge, Michael Grayson, engineer who wrote an analysis of the architectural interest and the condition of the bridge for its survival, and a representative of the Ministry of Culture and Communications. Through this meeting, we want to determine the possible strategies and the means to be put in place to prevent the bridge from waiting too long for basic work to prevent it from collapsing before it can be restored. We intend to inform you as the developments in the case progress.

On other subjects, you also know that the departure of Thierry Roger has left the positions of secretary and treasurer on the Board vacant. As usual, we did not receive any response to our requests from candidates. I am therefore acting as secretary and Virgil Tremblay as treasurer. So, we are still only four directors on the Board. You will understand that we cannot offer the same services as a board of nine people as was the case before. Despite everything, we continue to do a good job and I am extremely grateful to my three colleagues for that.

The year 2025 will mark the 35th anniversary of the APPHA! What a long way we've come! We plan to celebrate this anniversary; details will be shared in the coming months.

We are continuing our work on Balado 2 for a launch in the summer of 2025. We also want to get closer to the other historical societies of the MRC Memphremagog in order to support each other and share certain projects.

In 2025, however, we will have to increase the membership fees in order to be able to meet our administrative needs: subscriptions to the French and English History federations, server fees for our website and the digital library, insurance, etc. The annual membership fees will therefore be \$30, starting in January 2025.

And that's it for the news. I leave you wishing you a Happy Christmas and New Year in the company of your loved ones.

Lorraine Rouillard, President