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## A Chronicle of 25 Years of the Association

### Extracts from the minutes drawn up by the Secretaries

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From our founding in 1990, five persons have held the office of Secretary, to note discussions and record decisions: Betty McAuslan, Diane St-Pierre (Lessard), Hélène Arcouette, J. Brian Timperley, and Jean-Louis Bertrand. Thanks to the minutes drawn up by each of these Secretaries, we can easily retrace the defining events of our Association.

#### **Special honour goes to J. Brian Timperley, our devoted Secretary for eleven years.**

**1990** : A first meeting with the aim of founding an association takes place at 10 :00 on Saturday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, in the Legion building, with Maureen Custy, Gérard Leduc, Stéphane Leblanc, Betty McAuslan, Joe Palmer, Pierre J. Ratio, Paul Rouillard, Diane St-Pierre, and Michael Waterman present.

**1991** : March 16<sup>th</sup> - a first General Meeting of members. A second General Meeting takes place on June 22<sup>nd</sup> with 25 persons in attendance, who support and sign a request for formal incorporation. A provisional Board of Gérard Leduc, Diane St-Pierre (Lessard) and Peggy Steele is elected. Archaeological studies of both the White and Jones sites were undertaken.

**1992** : On April 10<sup>th</sup>, 1992, the Inspector General for financial institutions for Quebec signs, seals and delivers letters patent incorporating Potton Heritage Association as a non profit organization. *Inventaire des sépultures de Potton* (Burial sites in Potton) prepared by Serge Gaudreau, aided by Pamela Guilbault and Andrée Gratton, was completed in December 1992.

**1993** : March 20<sup>th</sup> saw the adoption of general bylaws for the Association. *Potton Then and Now*, with texts by Peter Downman, Jacques Boisvert, Andrée Gratton, Gérard Leduc, Joe Palmer, is published.

**1995** : *Potton Then and Now* was launched as a video on July 27<sup>th</sup>. *Cyclo-route Potton, La route des cimetières*, and *A Village Tour*, authored by Karen Muzerall and Jean-Marc Tétrault, are published.

**1996** : Dunkin celebrates the bicentennial of its founding in 1796. To commemorate the event, *West Potton – Dunkin, 1796-1996* by Gérard Leduc is published; and the Association organizes an exhibition of old photographs.

**1997** : Celebrations marking the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Township of Potton kick off on February 8<sup>th</sup>. *Potton d'antan - Yesterdays of Potton*, authored by Gérard Leduc, Paul Rouillard et al., is published. An exhibition of vintage clothing and antique household items is displayed in the Reilly House. A time capsule, to be opened on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2055, is buried under the Bicentennial Memorial in Place Manson, on October 31<sup>st</sup>.

**1998** : Inauguration of the *Arkeo Potton* exhibition on May 15<sup>th</sup>.

**1999** : Demonstrations against clear-cutting by Domtar in the Sutton Mountains. June 18<sup>th</sup>, an exhibition begins: *The Railways of the Missisquoi Valley*.

**2000** : The Association organizes Potton's Multicultural Festival.

**2001** : June 22<sup>nd</sup>, an exhibition entitled *Lake Memphremagog, Crossroad of history and legends* opens.

**2002** : The Association publishes several folders : *Mansonville; Reilly House; Vale Perkins; Vorokhta; the Russian Monastery; Highwater; Dunkin; Potton*, authored by Gérard Leduc and Peter Downman. "Let's walk Potton" programme, organized by Carol Bishop, holds its first excursion. *Uncle John*, an exhibition of paintings by Madeleine Audet, is held.

**2003** : Folders entitled *Indian rock; Mills; Mountain House; Potton Springs; Railways; Schools; Cairns; and Churches*, authored by Gérard Leduc and Peter Downman, are published.

**2004** : **The protection of Potton landscapes is prioritized.** Gérard Leduc receives the Success Stories prize from the Townshippers. The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Ukrainian Village, in Vale Perkins. Inauguration of the Parc du Moulin. First edition of the Association's annual photography contest.

**2005** : Historical interpretive panels are installed near : the CIBC, St. Paul's Anglican Church, Église Saint-Cajetan, the United Church, the Baptist, the Reilly House, and Magasin Giroux. Folders pertaining to the Mills of Mansonville, authored by Gérard Leduc and Peter Downman, are published. October 8<sup>th</sup> saw the first celebration of Oktoberfest at Owl's Head.

**2006** : The Association designates June 24<sup>th</sup> as Heritage Day. On July 8<sup>th</sup>, open air concert featuring les Veneurs de la Meuse, a troupe performing with hunting horns.

**2007** : The heritage buildings of Mansonville are catalogued and categorized. *A walking tour of Mansonville* is prepared by Bernard Sansoucy, and published as our first brochure. The Association participates at Autumnfest. Christmas carolling on the streets of Mansonville is organized by Karen Muzerall. E-mail is introduced as the principle vehicle to communicate with Association members.

**2008** : **The preservation of the Round Barn, in Mansonville, and that of the Covered Bridge become priorities for the Association.** Construction of a walking trail to the covered bridge begins. Publication of the brochure: *Potton - yours to discover*, designed by Bernard Sansoucy. October 6<sup>th</sup>, the Municipal Council formally cites *Pont de la Frontière* as a historic site, following extensive lobbying by the Association. The Cultural and Heritage Committee for Potton is created by resolution of the Municipal Council on November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**2009** : The Association organizes Potton's Multicultural Festival. June 27<sup>th</sup> – Heritage Day is marked by unveiling historical panels placed on permanent display in the Town Hall, authored by Hans Walser. The *Répertoire toponymique de Potton*, authored by Jean-Louis Bertrand, and the leaflet *The Mansonville Round Barn*, authored by Jean-Louis Bertrand and Gérard Leduc, are published. On July 6<sup>th</sup>, the Municipal Council formally cites the Round Barn in Mansonville as a historic monument. *Pont de la Frontière*, a folder authored by Jean-Louis Bertrand and Sandra Jewett, is published on

December 21<sup>st</sup>. Interpretive panels for the Manson House and the Round Barn are prepared by Jean-Louis Bertrand and Gérard Leduc.

**2010** : **Celebration of our 20<sup>th</sup> year!** *Chroniques des vingt ans de l'Association*, authored by Jean-Louis Bertrand, is published. *Owl's Head*, authored by Jean-Louis Bertrand and Sandra Jewett, is published in folder format. The Municipality of the Township of Pottton becomes the owner of the Round Barn. *Imagine*, written by Sandra Jewett, is published to accompany an exhibition in the Reilly House. **Our website, created and managed by Serge Normand, is officially launched on September 24<sup>th</sup>**, at an anniversary dinner attended by 81 persons and held at Owl's Head Golf clubhouse. A limited edition of *Portraits of our Twenty Years*, prepared by Jean-Louis Bertrand, Sandra Jewett and Jacqueline Robitaille, commemorates the occasion. Works to stabilize the Round Barn begin, under the direction of Michel Bastien. In December, the Association forwards \$10,000 to the Municipality for the restoration of the Round Barn.

**2011** : Folders entitled *Dunkin, Highwater, Vale Perkins* and *Our Religious Heritage*, all authored by our production team, are published. A short story by Sandra Jewett, *Of raspberries and cream... A morning with Claire*, is published to accompany an exhibition of antique farm equipment organized by Hilary Head in the Reilly House; Jacqueline Robitaille kindly translated the story into French. The preliminary phase of restoration of the Round Barn is completed at a cost of \$ 190,000. The Association deposits before the Municipal Council a draft *Policy on the built and landscape heritage of Pottton*.

**2012** : The Annual General Meeting adopts new general by-laws and votes to increase fees for a family membership to \$35. Serge Normand, our webmaster, posts *Pottton d'Antan - Yesterdays of Pottton* to our website. September 29<sup>th</sup> marks the celebration of the centenary of the Round Barn.

**2013** : July 6<sup>th</sup> - October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2013, exhibition of *Archaeology in Pottton*, led by Gérard Leduc in collaboration with Ralph Milot and Bernard Sansoucy, takes place. *Place Names of Pottton and More*, researched by Sandra Jewett, and produced by our team, is published. The first edition of our magazine ***Histoire Pottton History*** - Volume 1, N° 1 – is launched in June; followed by Volume 1, N° 2, in November. Production team is Jean-Louis Bertrand, Serge Normand, Jacqueline Robitaille and Sandra Jewett. July 25<sup>th</sup>, the inauguration of *Incomparable Pottton*, a tourist route in Pottton, with accompanying brochure is published. Both are authored by the team of Jacques Huppertz, Bernard Sansoucy and Jean-Louis Bertrand. A first brochure on *The Heritage of our Buildings – Pottton's Homes: A Little Known Asset* is produced by the team. Interpretive panels mirroring those in the Town Hall are installed in the Public Market. September 27<sup>th</sup> saw a benefit dinner with silent auction to raise funds for the Round Barn. With 125 attendees, and \$39,000 collected in donations, the occasion was a resounding success!

**2014** : Our webmaster, Serge Normand, begins to post our considerable collection of archived photos to our website ([www.heritagepottton.org](http://www.heritagepottton.org)). June 1<sup>st</sup>, a conference is given by Jim Manson and well attended. June 20<sup>th</sup>, an exhibition in the Round Barn, entitled *The Landscapes of Pottton*, directed by Hans Walser, assisted by Angèle Hébert and Ralph Milot, among others, is officially opened. Accompanying brochure is authored by Hans Walser, in close collaboration with our production team. A resolution concerning the restoration of the Pont de la Frontière covered bridge is adopted jointly with the Groupe bénévole municipal de Pottton (GBMP) and forwarded to the

Municipal Council. The Association notes with regret, the passing of Peter Downman. An invitation from Mansonville Elementary School in 2013 to speak to the youngsters about the history of Potton, prompts Sandra Jewett to visit École du Baluchon to introduce genealogy to the Level 3 students.

**2015 : We are 25!** *Let's Walk Potton* excursions are ever popular with our members, thanks to the dedication of Carol Bishop and those who have helped over the years, notably Édith Smeesters and Janine Sourdif. Our eleventh photo contest is scheduled under the direction of Jacques Huppertz, who suggested the theme of "Pottonites in their daily routine". *Histoire Potton History*, Volume 3, N<sup>os</sup> 1 and 2 will appear as scheduled. In 2015, we intend to publish a brochure about the built heritage of Potton's commercial buildings. An exhibition in the Round Barn is planned; however that is entirely dependent on factors beyond our control – that is to say, if repairs begin. Updates will be posted to our website.

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