
Statistics Concerning the Treasury

Jean-Louis Bertrand and Serge Normand

Primum nervos belli, pecuniam infinitam Endless money forms the sinews of war

This adage, pronounced by Marcus Tullius Cicero in 43 BC in his oration against Marc Antony, is pertinent. It is difficult to carry out projects with no financial resources. Witness the saga of renovations to the Round Barn. From its beginnings in 1990, the Association has endeavoured to secure funds in support of its mission.

Thanks go to those who accepted the task of being our Treasurer over the course of these last twenty-five years. One after another, Maureen Custy, Diane St-Pierre, Éline Gagnon, Andrée Gratton, Jean-Jacques Jauniaux, Pierrette Lépine, Pierre Nadeau, Yolande Lamontagne, Jacques Thouin, Bernard Sansoucy, and Serge Normand have administered the finances of the Association with aplomb.

We must stress, however, that the real engine driving our achievements is the volunteer work of our members. Over a span of twenty-five years, this unpaid effort has been worth its weight in gold. We calculate that, in 2014 alone, fifty volunteers worked for some 12,000 hours on 15 committees concerning 31 files. Based on an hourly wage of \$15, that contribution totals \$180,000. If we project these figures over 25 years, we estimate that volunteers have contributed more than three million dollars in their labours. This is eight times more than our annual cumulated revenues of \$342,739 for the same period. Little wonder then, that we would say *'mille mercis'* to our hardworking volunteers!

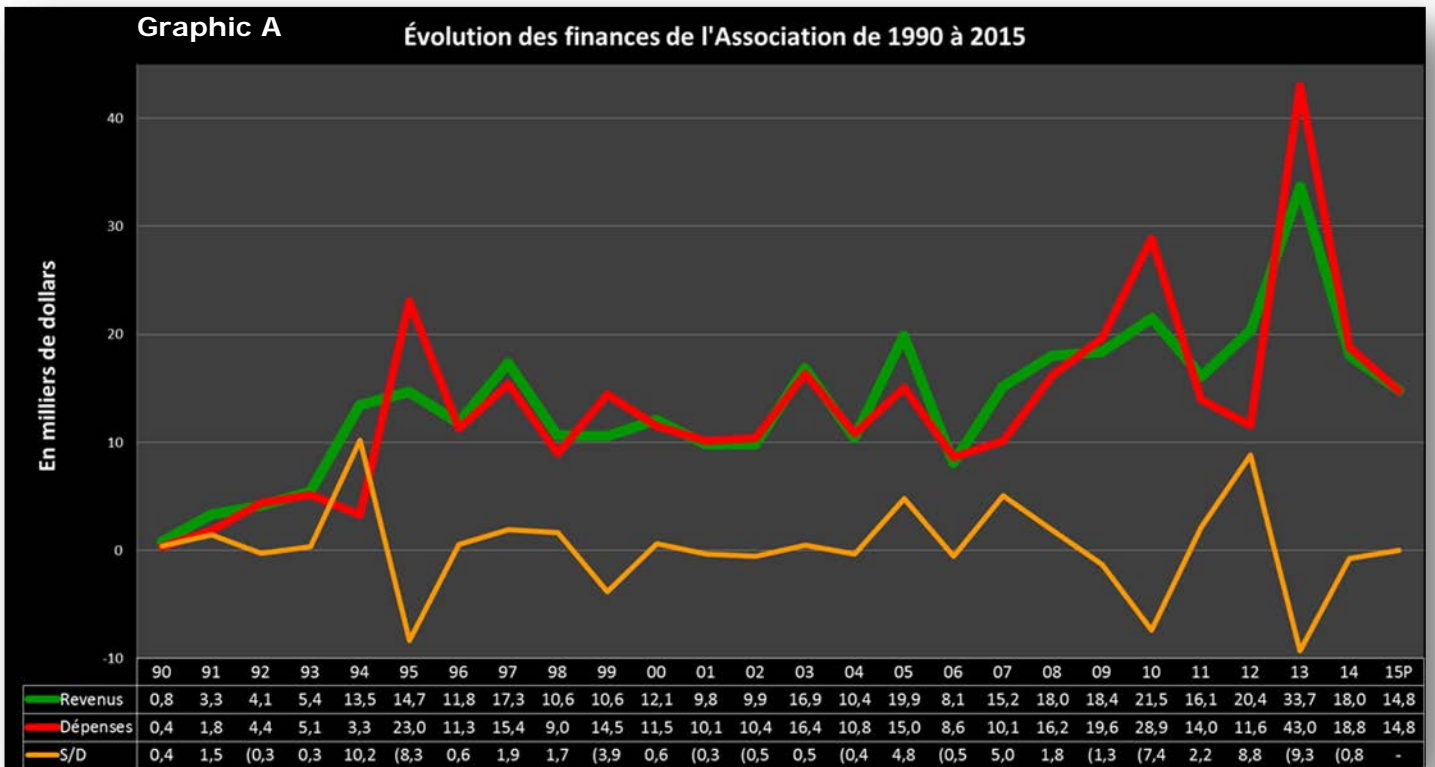
Our average annual revenues are \$13,672 while average expenses are \$13,384, which

results in an average surplus of \$288. Our revenues are comprised of membership fees and member donations, the sale of our books, subsidies received from the Municipality and from the MRC de Memphrémagog, as well as from other public organizations. Our expenses are those related to administration fees, printing costs for our books, brochures and leaflets, as well as exhibition costs and lecture fees.

Graphic C presents the evolution of our revenues and expenses as well as demonstrating our surplus and deficit positions.

Our revenues, shown by a green line, have constantly progressed, moving from \$800 in 1990 to \$18,409 in 2014, our last complete fiscal year. Our expenses, represented by a red line, have followed this movement, going from \$373 in 1990 to \$18,812 in 2014. The orange line – our surplus and deficits – shows that we have used our accumulated surplus to compensate for any deficit, thereby consistently maintaining a budgetary balance.

In some years, our disbursements have been exceptional, which is well depicted on the graphic. For example, expenses of \$23,030 in 1995; \$28,877 in 2010; and \$43,007 in 2013. In 1995, it was the salary and related costs for two persons to produce the *Cyclo-route* and the *Route des cimetières* leaflets that explain the high disbursements; though these were partly offset by a grant from Employment Canada. In 2010, it was primarily the printing costs of three leaflets, *Knowlton Landing*, *Owl's Head*, and *Vorokhta*, as well as one brochure *Potton, a Township to discover*, that account for the high expenses.



Our revenues have also known some spikes. In 1997, our revenues were \$17,318; in 2005, \$19,862; and in 2013, a record of \$33,714 was attained. Sales of *Potton d'antan – Yesterdays of Potton* brought in \$12,838 in 1997, which accounts for the sudden jump in revenues that year. The same phenomenon in 2010 is explained by grants received for \$9,200 and donations of \$5,613. In 2013, we received \$17,575 in grants and via fund raising.

Again in 2013, production costs accounted for elevated disbursements: our book *Place Names of Potton and More*, our brochures *Incomparable Potton* and *The Heritage of our Buildings*, as well as reprinting the leaflet *The Mansonville Round Barn* were expensive propositions. These spikes in the expense column resulted in substantial deficits: \$8,326 in 1995; \$7,391 in 2010; and \$9,293 in 2013. These deficits on operations were compensated by our accumulated surplus, a reserve sufficient to address unexpected eventualities.

Currently, we are able to budget for recurring annual revenues of \$11,000. Membership fees and donations are stable, at \$3,000. In 2009, the Municipal Council increased their financial assistance to \$5,000 to support the activities of the Association; and have since sustained this level of funding, thus allowing us to better plan our publications. Our canteen, operated jointly with the Ken-Jones Centre during the three consecutive weekends of the Owl's Head Outdoor Festival (formerly Autumnfest), is a very important source of funds for us, and has averaged \$3,000 annually. It bears repeating that this initiative was the brainchild of Hans Walser and the late Denis Heath. Efficient teams of generous volunteers work each year to earn profits, that are divided in equal share between our Association and the Ken-Jones Center.

Our Association is in good shape financially. The generosity of our members and of our sponsors, coupled with the prudent fiscal management of our Treasurers, has allowed successive Boards of Directors to move ahead with boldness and innovation.

The cornerstone of our many achievements is unquestionably that of volunteer effort and, of course, money!
