

Carol Bishop and Janine Sourdif, our Guides in Potton

A group of followers

Our excursions are an important part of the activities of the APPHA, because they allow members to cultivate friendships while discovering the heritage sites of the Township. Carol Bishop first came to the Board in 2002, and immediately proposed Let's Walk Potton as a regular programme. Her idea took roots and has continued for nearly two decades. One of Carol's most dependable aides over many years has been Janine Sourdif, who joined the Board in 2013. Although Janine resigned in 2020, she continues to cheerfully partner with Carol as an 'official guide' of the APPHA.

Les excursions représentent un volet important des activités de l'APP, parce qu'elles permettent aux membres de tisser des liens tout en découvrant les sites patrimoniaux du canton. Carol Bishop siège au CA depuis 2002. C'est à elle que l'on doit principalement la mise en place de ces activités, avec l'aide de Janine Sourdif, qui a fait partie du CA de 2013 à 2020. Ces deux complices méritent le titre de « guides officielles » de l'APP.



Carol Bishop | R. Gagnon

Michael & Diane Darney

Carol's first house in Potton was on Sugar Loaf Pond, at Wilde Road, just across from our place. She had hopes, as Diane and I did, that we would have a long and happy familial relationship with all the Bishop women being in the Townships, sister Sandra Shelest on Mountain Road and sister Elizabeth Berube in Abercorn. Indeed, our first years in the community were often focused on family rather than community activities.

Even so, Carol was soon involved with the community, initially with the Sugar Loaf Pond Association, dragging it (not without some friction) into the fully committed ecologically aware membership it is today.

She also attended those early talks and outings run by Gérard Leduc, and soon joined the budding APPHA, as did many others in the eighties.

She got the idea to have a schedule of walks which would explore the landscape and history of Potton, a simple plan but given the need to satisfy historic as well as scenic requirements was to prove a major job. Her early years developing these outings was a real foot-slog, not just the walks, but the research that she had to do, pre-computer. Tracing routes, often doing them many times to get them right.

The door to door gathering of historic notes and gaining permission to walk people's land and trails. She never hesitated to drive up a new found driveway and press her agenda, or pump a new acquaintance about their histories.

These outings remain a major activity for the membership and have covered every corner of the area, and every subject, from birds to

beavers, covered bridges to monasteries, petroglyphs to poetry.

She has led us through Winter ice and snow, Spring mud, Summer heat and Fall rains, all with that indomitable, optimistic spirit we all came to know.

She did not always work alone, she is a master of coopting others to the cause, including family. We have all prepared maps, talks, lunches, sushi feasts, and trail planning.

Because of the vagaries of life and death, that early hope for a tight Bishop Clan stretching into the future is much faded, but we benefitted from the many other avenues to friendship and joy that this township offered, especially the Association du patrimoine de Potton, which is key to our lives here and a large part of our happy memories. In all those memories, Carol has played a huge part.

Propos de Janine Sourdif recueillis par Jacqueline Robitaille



Janine Sourdif
S. Normand

Trois qualificatifs décrivent Carol aux yeux de Janine : attachante, généreuse et persévérante. Janine lui voue une grande reconnaissance pour tout ce qu'elle lui a permis d'apprendre au cours des nombreuses années où elles ont collaboré à l'organisation des randonnées de l'Association, à pied ou en

raquette. En parcourant deux et même trois fois les sentiers destinés aux excursions, Carol lui a littéralement fait découvrir Potton, son vaste territoire, sa faune et sa flore. Elle lui a également fait aimer l'histoire du canton et les gens qui l'habitent. Bref, Carol donne toujours le meilleur d'elle-même avec amour et générosité. Pour Janine, la Terre a besoin d'une femme comme Carol pour prendre soin d'elle. Une femme qu'elle admire beaucoup!

Mais, en retour, l'Association doit beaucoup à Janine, qui n'a jamais ménagé ses efforts, entre autres, pour épauler Carol dans la recherche d'hôtes, puis de restos lorsque les hôtes se sont faits plus rares, afin de réunir les marcheurs ou les raquetteurs autour de repas chaleureux, après les excursions. De plus, n'oublions pas la très populaire épluchette de blé d'Inde à la plage de Vale Perkins, à la fête du Travail.

Trois fins de semaine durant, pendant plusieurs années, c'est dans la planification et l'exploitation de la cantine de l'Autumnfest, à Owl's Head, que Janine a déployé sans compter ses talents et ses efforts. Cela a permis à l'APP de renflouer ses coffres tout en partageant les revenus de la cantine avec le Centre Ken-Jones. Janine en garde d'excellents souvenirs et une grande fierté.