
Our Public Appeals

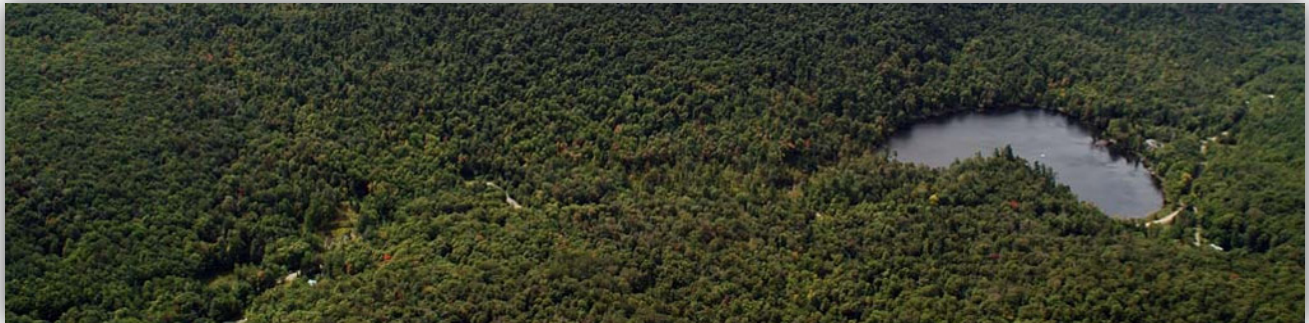
Within the framework of its mandate, the Association has adopted a firm stance in denouncing projects or actions that threaten the heritage of Potton, in addition to actively promoting more comprehensive management of that heritage.

In an open letter to *Le Devoir* newspaper in 1999, the Association soundly denounced the clear-cutting of the Sutton Mountains:

“The clear-cutting by Domtar in the Township of Potton must cease immediately. Moreover, it is imperative that the Municipality of Potton revisits its policy concerning forestry management, particularly in regard to the revocation of the exemption permitting the clear-cutting of dead and damaged trees.”

Our protest fell on deaf ears. The Quebec government supported the Domtar position to clear-cut those trees damaged by the ice storm of 1998.

However, due to a reversal of company fortune in 2004, Domtar ceded its properties in the Sutton Mountains to the Nature Conservancy of Canada, resulting in the creation of the Green Mountains Nature Reserve.



Fullerton Pond — Green Mountains Nature Reserve – Photograph by Claude Duchaine

In 2005, President Hans Walser publicly appealed to the Municipal Council to adopt initiatives to protect and promote our heritage.

THE NATURAL AND BUILT HERITAGE OF THE TOWNSHIP AND ITS CONSERVATION

The Heritage Association believes that the time has come for concrete action in the heritage file and hereby submits two recommendations for the conservation of certain components of our natural and built heritage.

In 2004, the Association began a campaign within our community to increase awareness about our natural heritage; the result of which was a workshop held on May 14th, 2005, sponsored by the Association, at which the Municipality was an active participant. A subsequent summary of workshop presentations provided the opportunity for follow-up action to the awareness campaign, without result.

The negative effects of arbitrary reforestation with coniferous species by the owners of old fields and meadows are now very apparent on the natural landscapes in several sectors of Potton.

*We think the time has come to establish a control of reforestation of coniferous trees, and that any measures to control, in this sense, would be well accepted by the population; therefore, **the Heritage Association recommends that Municipality establishes a by-law having as its aim the preservation of the quality of our natural landscapes, through the regulation of reforestation with coniferous trees.***

The Heritage Association is unqualified to propose the detail of such a bylaw, but we think that procedures should require the obtention of a permit from the Municipality, before undertaking reforestation of scale with conifers. The permitting process should oblige a proprietor to provide a description of how the intended project would impact the quality of the overall landscape, and have, as a criteria, the integration of the newly planted trees into the immediate environment and its effect on views, if applicable. A review by the CCU of such a request would be desirable.

Built Heritage :

For several years, the Heritage Association has endeavoured to raise awareness about our built heritage within our community. At the Multicultural Festival (2005), a photo exhibition illustrated very clearly the loss and deterioration of our built heritage. We think that the time has come to stop this deterioration.

The Heritage Association therefore recommends that the Municipality adopts the following measures:

- 1. On the short term, adopt a bylaw having as its aim the prevention of the demolition of, or modification to, any building within the village core, without a permit.***
- 2. To undertake a planning process for the maintenance and improvement of heritage structures situated in the village core and elsewhere within the Township, in accordance with criteria set out in the Law on Cultural Assets of Quebec; while paying particular attention to the Gillanders House (Library), the Reilly House, and the old school presently housing the CLSC.***

The Association would be pleased to work with the Municipality for the planning and financing of the project as well as for its communication with the public.

The Association is ready to meet with Municipal representatives to provide further information.

This message was repeated year after year to no avail. In 2014, a small step was made concerning landscapes and the need for better control of brush along municipal roads.

Insofar as our built heritage is concerned, the heritage buildings in Mansonville were catalogued in 2007; and the Plan for implantation and architectural integration (PIIA) was revised; however the Gillanders house was demolished in July 2008 to make room for a parking lot, and the old school

house, built in 1922, was demolished in 2008 and in its place - a new building to house the CLSC point of service. The new building at least respects the architectural style of the old.

The Association initiated Heritage Day on June 24th, 2006 and again Hans Walser, our President, reiterated our message:

We are publishing this document on the occasion of Heritage Day 2006 to inform the public about the objectives of the Potton Heritage Association and to solicit support for achievement of these goals.

MISSION

Our mission is to make known, to promote and enhance the value of the archaeological, built, and natural heritage of Potton, as well as its history, for the benefit of all citizens.

WHY BE CONCERNED WITH OUR HERITAGE?

The urban landscape of the village and the natural landscape beyond it, reflects our identity and our uniqueness. The preservation and enhancement of our built heritage has the potential to create a village core that is uniquely attractive and to improve the quality of life for all. The uniqueness of our heritage may provide a competitive advantage for the development of our Township for tourism and recreation.

WHAT CAN CITIZENS DO?

Support the Potton Heritage Association and its mission. Talk to your friends, neighbours and Municipal councillors! Express your support for taking collective responsibility for our heritage.

AN APPEAL TO THE MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION

In September 2005, we submitted the following recommendations to the Municipality:

- 1. to adopt a bylaw requiring a permit for the planting of coniferous trees;*
- 2. to adopt a bylaw requiring the obtention of permit before demolishing any building within the core perimeter of the village;*
- 3. to initiate a planning process for the preservation and improvement of our built heritage, as well as for its protection by a bylaw.*

We are appealing to the Municipality to make known its position on these recommendations, and to commit to a process of consultation with the public for the preservation and enhancement of our collective heritage.

For each year since, the Association has repeated the same call, hoping one day to make the Municipal authorities aware of the importance of heritage to our region.

These recommendations were embodied in draft *Policy on Heritage* submitted to the Municipal Council on October 27th, 2011. The document summarized the preoccupations of our Association, but was never adopted.