



Potton's Round Barn

This barn has a past, let's give it a future!

THE SCOOP
By Mable Hastings

On Thursday, April 18 at 10:30 a.m., the Round Barn Committee invited guests to the launching of a major fundraising campaign to complete the restoration of the Mansonville Round Barn located at 323 rue Principale in Mansonville. Noting a major grant from Canadian Heritage of \$386,500 and the results of various fundraising campaigns since 2013 and contributions from the MRC Memphremagog and the Township of Potton, the purpose of the event was to allow guests to witness the new solid foundation on which the barn now sits and the amazing transformation taking place as the barn is evolving, resuscitated and breathing once again in hope and promise of another chance at life.

The Mansonville Round Barn will become a Heritage Interpretation Centre in the Township of Potton and an important cultural and heritage hub for the Memphremagog region. Designed to appeal to all ages, varied educational, social and cultural exhibitions will celebrate the heritage of the architecture, natural landscapes, forestry and agriculture unique to the Eastern Townships. While the transformation is clear to see, there is still some essential work to complete including, among other things, the renovation of the roof and upgrading the building to make it accessible to the public again.

On April 18, consistent to the weather we seem to be experiencing, the day was a blustery one. As the wind blew and the rain followed sending a chill through the rafters, there was the unmistakable warmth of promise dancing through the wood and concrete and a resonance of the people who walked the space long ago. A keen ear and each determined heart seemed to hear the gentle whisper of the barn as she stood



PHOTO COURTESY OF RAYMOND GAGNON

Guests attend the launching of a major fundraising campaign to complete the restoration of the Mansonville Round Barn

firm once again saying, "Keep the vision, for in me lives the promise of a meeting place for sharing and celebrating."

In this spirit and with their determined vision, of the Round Barn becoming an important cultural and heritage hub, the committee strongly supports the restoration of the barn and sees with optimism and pride the benefits it will surely bring to Potton's people, businesses, tourism and heritage. The eyes of those who have long breathed life into the barn's rafters and walls look upon her with a prideful determination that assures all that they will continue to save her as she is the best representation of unique heritage to be protected, cherished and show-

cased by all as a tourist infrastructure for the future.

To date, more than \$600,000 has been raised, but to bring the building up to standard and make it accessible to the public an additional amount of approximately \$400,000 is needed to cover these renovations.

"The Municipality of the Township of Potton will not be able to complete this project alone," said Potton's Mayor, Jacques Marcoux. "That's why we are calling on businesses and sponsors in the region to help preserve and enhance this heritage jewel for visitors to discover in the Eastern Townships."

The Round Barn restoration project has corporate and institutional partners including: Desjardins Caisse du

Lac-Memphremagog, NexKemia Petrochemicals, Power Corporation Du Canada, and Owl's Head sur le Lac. Institutions and organizations supporting the project include: The Municipality of the Township of Potton, Potton Heritage Association, Missisquoi North Volunteer Centre, Potton Optimist Club, Potton Culture and Heritage Committee, Conseil d'administration de la MRC de Memphremagog, Comité culturel et patrimonial de la MRC de Memphremagog, Tourisme Cantons-de-l'Est, La Maison Merry, Magog and Colby-Curtis Museum, Stanstead. Contributions have also come from a variety of very generous individuals who have given in support

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