

# Round Barn Rehabilitation Project Receives \$210,000 grant from Department of Canadian Heritage



**THE SCOOP**  
**MABLE HASTINGS**

It is with great enthusiasm and joy that the Municipality of the Township of Potton and the Potton Municipal Volunteer Group (GBMP) learned last Thursday that the grant jointly requested by the group to the Department of Canadian Heritage was approved and they will receive \$ 210,000, which corresponds to the amount requested for the restoration of the Round Barn in Mansonville.

This \$ 210,000 will be added to the funds collected by the GBMP since 2013, to reach a total of \$ 383,000: - \$ 93,000: donations from the public and businesses including a \$7500 contribution from NexKemia Petrochemicals, during the 2013 and 2017 fundraising campaigns, - \$ 10,000 donation from Desti-

nation Owl's Head, new owners of the resort, - \$ 40,000: conditional grant from the Memphrémagog RCM in 2017 (Territorial Development Fund, FDT) and - \$ 30,000: conditional commitment from the Municipality of the Township of Potton. The allocation of the last two sums was conditional on obtaining another grant, which is now done.

The Village's Round Barn Rehabilitation Project is transforming the Village Barn into a Potton Township Historical and Heritage Center. The project includes the following: a new foundation, floor reinforcement, window and door repair and replacement and roof repairs, and the cost was estimated at \$ 427,000. Thanks to the grant from Canadian Heritage, the project funding is almost complete.

The GBMP hopes that restoration work can begin in the fall of 2018, but will most likely occur in the spring and summer of 2019, as the Township of Potton, owner of the round barn, will be required to request offers and bids for the work to be completed. The Center will be able to open its doors in the summer of 2020 to present a permanent exhibition, including a visit to the round barn and a description of the operation of this type of barn; allowing the Heritage Association to once again present its annual thematic exhibitions, as it did from



COURTESY

2012 to 2016.

The GBMP shares that this is great news in addition to the recent sale of Owl's Head Resort believing that these two projects will stimulate the economic, social and cultural life of the township.

The Canadian Heritage states in its

letter that it is proud to promote the rich linguistic and cultural diversity as well as artistic and heritage sectors of the country. Thanking all involved in this initiative for contributing in sharing our stories and to build a strong and inclusive Canada.

## Another successful year at Brome Fair

By Claudia Villemaire

In spite of threatening skies, dire warnings of heavy rain and thunder storms, once again Brome Fair organizers, together with generous sponsors and dedicated volunteers can chalk up another successful run, the 162nd Brome Fair.

With increased entries in dairy and beef cattle sections, folks turning out for the grand parade weren't disappointed. Light horses caught the attention of the hobby farmers in the crowd admiring and dreaming of the day when they too could have a saddle horse or two or perhaps a roadster that would make light work of a buggy filled with a family.

This year's new approach to crowd

management with additional activities for children in the centerfield together with the introduction of the mini acoustic stage near the horse stables attracted more folks away from the traditionally congested areas near the grandstand. More diversified food concessions, re-located around the grounds, more shade trees, benches and picnic tables all contributed to making the trek around a large fairground less tiresome and actually, more welcoming.

Attendance figures are not yet finalized but estimates reach 40,000 more or less, with rain on Friday and Monday affecting final numbers.

But Brome County Agriculture Society President Jean Royea's enthusiasm for her favorite county fair couldn't be

extinguished by a little rain. "I am so grateful for the work the team of directors, and volunteers have done this year. And the generosity and encouragement of sponsors and supporters is outstanding. But a very special thank you goes to all the volunteers who have been showing up here all summer, ready to help get everything ready for the fair. And certainly we couldn't miss thanking the exhibitors, some of whom are third generations of families who have a long history of exhibiting and helping as well with this event. Finally, all of this would be worth nothing without the support of the public - many thanks to one and all."

PHOTOS BY CLAUDIA VILLEMAIRE

