

# A Heritage Centre for the Gatineau Valley



This 150-year-old family home is being transformed into a meeting place and heritage centre where all of us -- both Gatineau Valley residents and visitors alike -- can feel at home.

Originally, it was the home of William Fairbairn, pioneer and builder of the Wakefield Mill in 1838. As such, it is a symbol of early settlement in the Gatineau, and an ideal place to gather together to learn about our history and celebrate its richness.

The House sits on the east shore of the beautiful Gatineau River, in Hendrick Park beside the Wakefield Covered Bridge -- in the Municipality of La Pêche.

It will be called the Fairbairn House Heritage Centre. And, it will become a place where families, children, young people and seniors, students, cultural groups, valley farmers, and visitors will be welcomed to take part in the planned activities. Events will be organized at the House and in the seven-acre park that surrounds it.

The Centre will offer historical exhibits and a small archives, as well as spaces for meetings, workshops, school outings,

seminars, classes, and other presentations. Also, it is a rest stop on the Trans-Canada Trail, and a start-off point for planned heritage tours of the area. A small gift shop in the House will offer local souvenirs, and heritage and organic products.

Local volunteers have led the way in setting up the project and establishing it as a cooperative in partnership with the Municipality of La Pêche. A board of directors from this cooperative is managing the creation of the Centre, and will run it once it opens.

To save the house and get started, the project received major financial and in-kind support from the Municipality of La Pêche. Also, the CLD des Collines-de-l'Ouataouais, and the Desjardins Caisse populaire de Masham-Luskville, have provided generous grants. As well, the Gatineau Valley Historical Society and other local groups and individuals have made important contributions to the project.

Much of the leg work, the business and infrastructure planning, has been done, and the architectural plans for renovating the house as a Heritage Centre have been completed. The board has hired a contractor and renovations on the outside of the building are nearing completion. Work on the inside rooms is planned for next year, and an opening of the Centre has been forecast for the year 2012.

The Fairbairn House project is looking for interested volunteers to serve on committees and help out with activities such as community outreach, special events, fund-raising, and administration. Workers to do landscaping, gardening, and other outdoor jobs are needed, as well.

As we progress, fund-raising remains vital to our success and must be continued. We hope you will help us by making a financial donation at this crucial stage of our work.

To make your donation please provide the following information, attach your cheque and send both to the address listed below.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Province \_\_\_\_\_

P. Code \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

In order to receive a municipal tax receipt for your donation, please make your cheque payable to the Municipality of La Pêche and write on the memo line: *For Maison Fairbairn House Cooperative*. Then send it along with this form to Maison Fairbairn House, Box 195, Wakefield QC, J0X 3G0. For more information on the project, or about your donation, or to become a lifetime member of our Coop (cost is \$25), please send an e-mail to Fabian Mugny at [fabian.mugny@fairbairn.ca](mailto:fabian.mugny@fairbairn.ca) - or call Michael Cooper at 819-459-2787.



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