

Maison **FAIRBAIRN** House  
Un centre patrimonial A heritage centre

## ***PRESS RELEASE***

**July 4, 2009**

### **LAUNCH FOR FAIRBAIRN HOUSE HERITAGE CENTRE**

Today marks the launch of a major endeavour to transform Wakefield's 150-year-old Fairbairn House into a Heritage Centre for the Outaouais region.

As a start, we are unveiling a large doorway sign surrounded by historic images and two colourful window art pieces created by local youth. These will make the house more attractive during the reconstruction period, which begins later this year with the installation of a well and septic system. The foundation has already been completed.

The cost for the reconstruction is estimated to be \$558,000. Approximately thirty per cent of this has already been raised. Under the project's funding guidelines, 10 per cent must be raised by the Fairbairn Board of Directors through memberships, donations and sponsorships – a process that starts in earnest today. The balance will come through approved applications for grants and loans from various government programs, the CLD des Collines-de-l'Outaouais, the Municipality of La Pêche and other organizations including the Caisse Desjardins de Masham-Luskville.

The House was built as a family home by William Fairbairn, a Scottish immigrant who also built the Wakefield Mill in 1838. The building, which now belongs to the Municipality of La Pêche, was first moved in 1993 to make way for new road construction and, again, in 2005 to its present location in Hendrick Park. At that time the Gatineau Valley Historical Society offered to start the development of the project. In June 2007, the Solidarity Cooperative of Musée Fairbairn Museum took over the project to manage the remaining development stages and run the resulting Heritage Centre.

Plans are in place for a Centre with exhibits, programs and events devoted to the human and natural heritage of the Gatineau Valley and its surrounding hills. It will be a

community resource where families, children, the young and the elderly can meet and share their stories.

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Community involvement is essential to the success of the project. Please keep up-to-date and plan to work with us. Only with community support can we present historical exhibits, educational programs, special events and outdoor activities in the parkland around the house and near the covered bridge. Visit us at the Centre's web site: [www.fairbairn.ca](http://www.fairbairn.ca) .

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