

A heritage treasure unique in North America opens its doors

The Walbridge Barn becomes a museum

Brome-Missisquoi, May 17, 2010 – A long awaited moment in the region has finally arrived this year. Finally, the Walbridge Barn, a heritage treasure admired by all, will open its doors on May 30 as a museum that will present the story of its designer, Mr. Walbridge, as well as the magnificent agricultural collection of the Missisquoi Museum. This will add to the impressive dynamism of the region's heritage tourism offering.



Benefiting both from the offer of the Walbridge Conservation Area Foundation and the Quebec government's aid program for renewing the permanent collections of museums, the Missisquoi Historical Society decided to move its agricultural collection into the barn, hereafter known as the Missisquoi Museum – Walbridge Barn Site.

The Alexander Salomon-Walbridge Barn, built in 1882, is the oldest polygonal bridge in Quebec and the only one with 12 sides in North America. The barn contains the remnants of a turntable and that of a clever mechanism attached to the roof rafters that was once connected to a source of hydraulic power. It is testimony to the creative genius and originality of its designer, Alexander Salomon-Walbridge, engineer, gentleman farmer and inventor. The barn was classified as a historic monument on May 27, 2004 by Quebec's Ministère de la culture, des communications et de la condition féminine (the ministry of culture, communications and the status of women).

For more information, visit the Internet site of the Missisquoi Museum at www.museemissisquoi.ca.

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