

# New Horizons funding brings new windows and doors to senior centre in Potton

THE SCOOP  
BY MABLE HASTINGS

Two weeks ago, new doors and windows were installed in the Missisquoi North Volunteer Centre (CABMN) Feather in the Wind Senior Centre in Potton located at 309 Principale. The former St. Paul's Anglican Church building and adjacent hall were purchased by the non-profit organization last February. The priority being upgrading the "hall" portion of the building to create a warm, welcoming and useful space for Potton and area seniors to call their own. A space where seniors take priority and where activities for them are at the forefront



New windows at Senior Centre

of efforts made in using the hall space.

An application was made to the New Horizons for Seniors Program requesting funding for new windows and doors in the hall space. The New Horizons for Seniors Program (NHSP) is a federal grants and contributions program. It provides funding for projects that make a difference in the lives of seniors and in their communities. With the support of local federal Member of Parliament, Pascale St-Onge and her staff team, the CABMN was able to submit a grant request that was accepted and that has now been completed in starting the improvements to the building.

In addition to the new windows and doors, the funds also covered partial costs of a thermo-pump system to improve the heating costs in the space. Through other private donations, the ceilings in the building have been insulated. Cost to insulate the floors is quite high but this step in on the priority list as well. The CABMN hopes to use private donations to accomplish this as well as painting the walls, ceiling and refinishing the beautiful wood floors.

Recently a funding request has been made to the Enabling Accessibility

Fund as well as another to the New Horizons for funding to install two washrooms in the hall making both accessible to seniors and others who are mobile and those who are in a wheelchair or who use a walker or cane. The present washroom is not up to par and cannot meet those needs effectively.

The future plans are to replace the two porches and the handicap accessible ramp and to do some repairs to the roof.

"It's an old building and we know that it is going to require repairs to make it comfortable and useful," said Mable Hastings Director of the CABMN. "It's such a beautiful church and hall in a great location and the fact that we are able to use it for a clientele group that is so precious to our community is our motivation and focus," she said.

Hastings emphasizes that the CABMN did not go into this blindly and without thought and all are ready to put in the work required in making the space functional.

"The other day someone referred to it as a money pit," shared Hastings. "This is true but, if it brings our seniors joy and provides them with



PHOTOS COURTESY

New doors at Senior Centre

a place where they are welcomed, prioritized and cherished then as far as I'm concerned it's worth our best efforts to try."

The CABMN is grateful to the Federal Government for their support and to all of those who have donated privately.

"Dreamers are going to dream," Hastings said. "I am proud of the CABMN for embracing this challenge and nothing worth doing is ever easy or perfect and with each improvement and with every contribution of time, talent or funds, we take one step closer to realizing the dream."

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