

## The Olivet Church welcomes the CAB Sutton's *Maison des générations*—Olivet House

**Sutton, May 17, 2021** – On May 16<sup>th</sup>, International Day of Living Together in Peace, a positive agreement was reached between Sutton Volunteer Centre (CAB Sutton) and the congregation of Olivet Baptist Church. The Olivet church will be generously donated to the CAB Sutton for its innovative community project, the *Maison des générations*—Olivet House. The choice of May 16 is not a coincidence, rather it reflects the spirit of the project, which echoes the values conveyed by the International Day of Living Together: peace, tolerance, inclusion, understanding, and solidarity.

The collaboration was born out of a fruitful first meeting between the CAB and representatives of Olivet Church in October 2019. At that time, CAB Sutton was beginning its search for a new home. For its part, the Olivet congregation was reflecting on its future, like many churches across Quebec. The congregation, which now counts only a few members, nevertheless wanted to keep this space alive and ensure that the building would continue to serve the communities of Sutton and Abercorn.

The CAB Sutton, a nonprofit organization rooted in Brome-Missisquoi for nearly 40 years, works to foster connections within the community and offers valuable services to young families, seniors, and marginalized people, a mission that aligns with the values of the congregation. It is with great enthusiasm that the two organizations have reached an agreement that will allow the CAB to have a new home at the heart of the village, in a welcoming space that has brought people together since 1845.

The need to relocate the CAB turned into an opportunity for the organization to realize its vision of founding the *Maison des générations*—Olivet House. This innovative project will centralize essential community services for people of all ages around the unifying theme of food. The objective is to create a vibrant community hub that nourishes the body, heart, and mind of people in Sutton and Abercorn. Olivet House will strengthen the social fabric of Sutton and Abercorn by bringing people together and fostering community partnerships. "The project will make it possible to improve the activities and services offered to seniors and families at the CAB, including meals on wheels, the food bank, community cafés, the collective kitchen, intergenerational activities, and outreach work. It will help us to better meet the growing and diverse needs of the population," says Janna Hubacek, director of the CAB.

The CAB and the Olivet congregation are dedicated to preserving the beauty and heritage value of the charming fieldstone church on Maple street. The building can be renovated and adapted to the needs of the organization's clientele while respecting its architectural heritage. To this end, last April the CAB obtained funding of nearly \$17,000 from the *Conseil du patrimoine religieux du Québec* to facilitate the transition of the place of worship into the new Olivet House, while ensuring the conservation and enhancement of the building's heritage features. The Town of Sutton also shares this concern and is committed to recognizing the building as a heritage site to protect it for future generations.

It is with gratitude that the CAB shares this exciting news and thanks the Olivet congregation. The parishioners will of course always be welcome at the Maison des générations. To stay informed about the progress of the project, volunteer opportunities, and future fundraising events, you can email the CAB at [soutien.cabsutton@gmail.com](mailto:soutien.cabsutton@gmail.com) and subscribe to the CAB's Facebook page @RessourcefamilleSutton.

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