



The Macdonald Farm
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CENTRE
Faculty of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences



McGill
MACDONALD CAMPUS



The Macdonald Farm today - during the UPA Portes ouvertes/Open House (Photo: Tom diSandolo)

HONOURING THE PAST, CREATING THE FUTURE

Since its opening as Macdonald College in 1907, McGill's Faculty of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences has been at the forefront of education and research in agricultural and life sciences as well as engineering and environmental disciplines.

The old stone dairy barn situated on the Macdonald Campus Farm is a symbol of this history of inspired teaching and world-changing research - it is an integral part of what is today the only operating dairy farm remaining on the island of Montreal. As home to the new Macdonald Farm Community Engagement Centre, it will introduce new generations to the past, the present and the future of sustainable food production and environmental stewardship.



OUR MISSION

The Faculty of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences is committed to excellence in education, research and outreach.

Our students are tomorrow's leaders. Their teachers – our faculty members – are researchers whose discoveries and innovations, in fields from molecular science to resource management to applied research, are pushing the boundaries of knowledge and leading ideas and applications that transform agricultural, industrial and health sectors.

Our mission also takes us beyond the university: our outreach programs have been engaging local communities since our founding over 100 years ago. Thanks to the new Macdonald Farm Community Engagement Centre, we can enhance and extend these programs to share our knowledge with a much larger and broader community, from school kids to industry professionals to the general public.

Macdonald joined the Governments of Quebec and New Brunswick and CP Rail to equip the "Better Farming Train" (1912) which traveled to rural areas in Quebec and NB. It consisted of three baggage coaches complete with livestock, a steer, cows, pigs, poultry, horticultural, milk, farm crop, drainage and biological exhibits. (Photo Macdonald College Archives)

Today, the Macdonald Campus Farm welcomes more than 6,000 visitors annually who come to learn more about agriculture, food and the environment. (Photo: Tom diSandolo)



Photo: Tom diSandolo

WHERE DOES OUR FOOD COME FROM?

We have a responsibility to educate people on how their food is produced, and over the last decade our campus outreach programs have engaged approximately 6000 elementary and secondary school students annually. Due to ever-increasing demand, we require a dedicated space in order to host more visitors and develop our programs further. The new \$3.5 million dollar Macdonald Farm Community Engagement Centre will multiply the farm's capacity to receive visitors by providing a suitable venue for flexible use, available all year round, and will offer hands-on educational activities and programs to inspire young minds.

The Community Engagement Centre, with the 3000 square foot Lorna K. and J. William Ritchie Educational Hall and the Alton and Murray McEwen Visitor Hub, will serve as home base for educational tours of the farm, including the dairy barn, the new calf barn, and the mini-farm, offering visitors an experience that is both fun and informative.

The Centre will host 4-H groups and summer camps for youngsters, and is a unique and engaging venue for speaker series and events, special weekend events for the general public, continuing education workshops and seminars, and industry meetings, conferences and receptions, and will serve as a resource for students across McGill as well as other universities and CEGEPS.

HELP US BUILD A HEALTHY AND SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEM

Working with educational consultants and on-campus partners such as McGill's Faculty of Education, the Morgan Arboretum and the Lyman Entomological Museum, the Community Engagement Centre team is developing a suite of workshops and labs which connect to the elementary and secondary school curriculum and align with Ministry of Education criteria for science education. These will introduce students to some of today's complex global issues and challenges, encouraging them to develop an interest in agricultural and environmental sciences.

The Centre will combine tangible, hands-on learning activities with interactive digital tools to offer a comprehensive learning environment. It will also feature exhibits, designed in collaboration with our colleagues at McGill and with industry partners, on everything from animal welfare to water resource management to contemporary cheese production.



Conceptual renditions of the Community Engagement Centre (TK-Visual)
Above: Exterior view; Interior perspective of The Alton and Murray McEwen Visitor Hub

Below: Interior perspective of The Lorna K. and J. William Ritchie Educational Hall



OUR MAJOR DONORS

The Macdonald Farm Community Engagement Centre forms a unique resource for sharing knowledge about agricultural and environmental sciences with a broader public, and promises to play an important role in attracting the next generation of students and potential researchers in this domain.

The Centre has been supported with major gifts from J. William Ritchie and Alton and Murray McEwen, whose commitment has had an immense impact on our ability to move this project from concept to near reality.



"As a graduate of Macdonald College, I have come to appreciate the Faculty's role and its proud tradition when it comes to agriculture, food, nutrition and the environment. Supporting the Macdonald Farm Community Engagement Centre is an opportunity to open the campus, and its many activities, to even more students and more people in the community."

J. William Ritchie, BSc(Agr)'51

Photo: Owen Egan

"Murray and I grew up on a dairy farm in the Chateaugay valley, and we have spent our careers and lives in the food industry. The Community Engagement Centre helps school children and community members to learn more about what happens on campus. Many people have never seen a farm, and don't know how food is produced. But it is becoming increasingly important for children and adults alike to know where their food comes from, how it is produced, and how the safety of food, farm animals and the environment can be ensured."

Alton McEwen, BSc(Agr)'66,
Murray McEwen, BSc(Agr)'53, DSc'93

(L-R) Alton, Murray and Ross McEwen with Dean Anja Geitmann



BE PART OF THIS EXCITING VENTURE AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR GENERATIONS TO COME

With your support, we can help thousands of students and community members discover the importance of education and research in agricultural and environmental sciences.

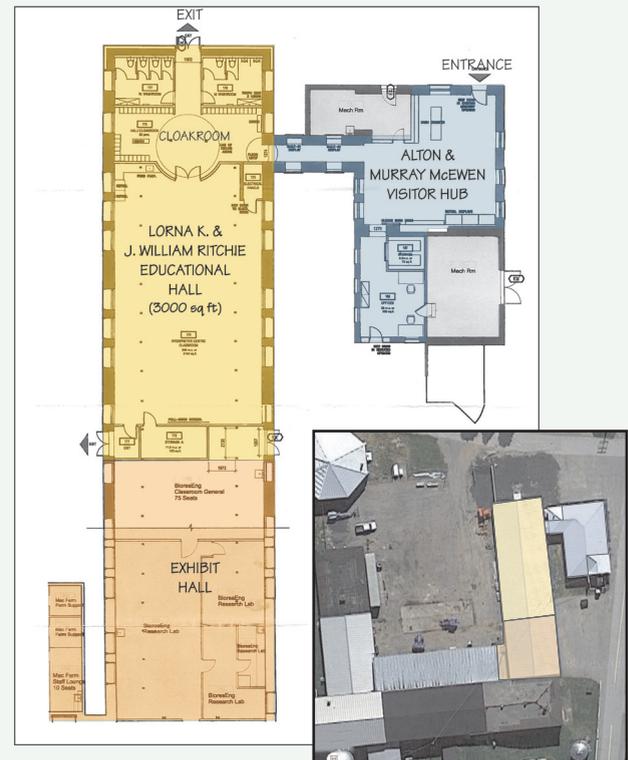
We are inviting friends and alumni to support the project and give generously to build on the legacy of the Farm for generations to come.

For more information on how you can get involved, please contact the Macdonald Campus University Advancement Office.



Above: Conceptual rendition of the Centre (TK-Visual); current construction at the building (photo: Paul Meldrum).

Right: Floor plan of Community Engagement Centre; inset of aerial view of Centre from Google maps



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