



Press Release for Immediate Distribution

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HISTORIC BELLS OF ST. LOUIS CHURCH PUBLIC EXHIBITION & FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN CEREMONY SCHEDULED

AUBURN, ME. – You’ve heard about the amazing & historic Bells of St. Louis Church; now let’s join together and see them!!!

Join Mayor Jonathan LaBonte, members of the City Council, members of the original 1915 Bell-donor families, L/A families, friends and neighbors for the Public “Exhibition of the Bells” & Community Fundraising Campaign Ceremony scheduled for **Saturday, September 20, 2014 from 11:00AM to 12:00PM at Cote Crane Company, 2980 Hotel Road, Auburn, Maine.**

Mayor Jonathan LaBonte enthusiastically states, "*The raising of these bells nearly 100 years ago was a major milestone in the development of the New Auburn neighborhood. It brought together our Catholic community, local business leaders, and families. While these bells will no longer call people to worship, they can still play a role of drawing the neighborhood, its families and businesses, closer together. Having been born and raised in this neighborhood, I'm excited about the effort to give the bells a new home in New Auburn*".

To mark the special occasion, a number of inspiring French-Canadian



Heritage music selections, including “Les Cloches du Hameau”, (“The Bells of the Village”), will be performed by “Les Troubadours”, a vocal group of wonderful local ladies.

In October of 1916, four bells cast in the world-famous Paccard Bell Foundry of Annecy, France, were blessed and raised skyward into the grand gothic tower of St. Louis Church of Auburn, Maine.

The two largest bells were donated by the Provost family, the third by the Dupont family, and the fourth by Rev. Henri Gory, all of the New Auburn neighborhood.

Here in the beautiful bell tower they touched the lives of thousands of individuals and families for almost 100 years. As Rev. A Rabel stated in his October 1916 sermon and dedication of the bells, “The bell...rejoices in our joys and sorrows in our sorrows.”

For a century, the Bells of St. Louis Church gloriously served our community from the bell tower; the Bells have been removed from the bell tower, and are envisioned to serve generations of the 21st century and beyond as living cultural monuments & world-class heritage-based treasures for the people of Auburn and Lewiston.

Let’s join together as a community with the **civic goal of raising \$12,000** to purchase the Bells, to reunite them with the historic New Auburn neighborhood, and to work together to design one of New England’s greatest local heritage monuments!

Bring the Bells home, and let them ring out from Auburn, Maine for 1,000 years!

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