

WINDMILL ORDERED!

At a special event attended by about 60 supporters and members of the community, Little Chute Windmill, Inc. signed the contract for purchase of the Little Chute Windmill with Lukas Verbij of Verbij Windmill Design & Construction. Speakers at the event, which took place in the Little Chute Elementary School cafeteria, were Windmill President Donald De Groot, Village of Little Chute President Charles Fischer, fourth-generation Dutch millwright Lukas Verbij and Windmill Director Robin Dekker. After a few words were said on the history and significance of the Windmill Project, De Groot and Verbij signed the contract, marking the official beginning of the construction phase.

The ordering of the windmill is one major step towards realizing the goals of the Windmill Project: to celebrate the Dutch heritage of northeast Wisconsin, while having a positive economic impact on Little Chute and the region. "By building a windmill we are not just building a structure, but an educational tool and an icon that will enrich the area culturally as well as economically," said Dekker.

A number of special supporters were recognized at the event as being vital to the project, including donors, unofficial "Windmill Ambassadors", general contractor Boldt Construction and the Fox Cities Convention & Visitors Bureau. Additionally, President Donald De Groot thanked members of the Little Chute Windmill board of directors for their many years of commitment to the project, including regular attendance at monthly meetings for over 5 years.

Verbij spoke about other windmills he has built and what his plans are for the Little Chute Windmill. "I am very honored I can build this windmill for Little Chute," said Verbij. "My goal will be to make this windmill very beautiful and also to make this windmill unique, so when you see a picture in the future of this windmill, you immediately recognize it as the Little Chute Windmill."

Opening set for spring 2010

Verbij Windmill Design & Construction will be building the Little Chute Windmill over the course of 2009. During that time, the Van Asten Visitor Center and windmill base will be under construction at the site in downtown Little Chute. The windmill will be disassembled in Holland and shipped to Little Chute in several sea containers in time for reassembly early in the spring of 2010 by Verbij and his team. When the windmill is assembled, a large crane will lift it on to the base. Late in the spring of 2010, the Little Chute Windmill & Van Asten Visitor Center will be open to the public!