



Village of Saint-Quentin, New Brunswick

## Léopold-Roy House - at the heart of the community

- A municipal referendum signaled the community's commitment to heritage conservation.
- Restoration of a community treasure has helped develop community pride.



1930s, Before, and After Renovation

### Political action motivates restoration of community treasure

*"The project opened the eyes of the community to the possibility of preserving historic places. Before this, people saw no value in historic places and in fact worked towards the destruction of Léopold-Roy House."* Lionel Castonguay, Président, Société du Patrimoine de Saint-Quentin.

In the small rural village of Saint-Quentin with a population of about 2,200, the Léopold-Roy House is considered a community treasure because of its history as the site of important commercial, judicial and government functions as well as the Léopold Roy family home.

Since 1939, the house served many functions including as a general store, bank, photography lab, nuclear shelter, provincial tax collection office, driver examination centre, Provincial Court, manpower centre, military equipment storehouse, and ceramics manufacture and sales centre.

In 2003, the municipal council held a referendum around demolishing the house in order to enlarge the adjacent street. The referendum was defeated, with more than 52%

voting for the municipality to purchase and restore the house. The local historical society took over the restoration project which became a community success story. Many citizens who had voted for its destruction took part in its restoration.

The restored Léopold-Roy House, now a focal point in the community, is a general store and museum.

### **Tools Used for this Project**

- Start-up funds from New Brunswick's Department of Wellness, Culture and Sport through the Historic Places Initiative (HPI) to establish a municipal register of local historic places
- Funding by the Province of New Brunswick's Built Heritage Program and technical support by staff of Heritage Branch, Wellness, Culture and Sport
- *Standards and Guidelines for Conservation of Historic Places in Canada*

### **The Project by the Numbers**

- More than \$10,000 in in-kind support (materials, equipment) by the community
- Financial support of \$30,000 by the Province of New Brunswick's Built Heritage Program
- More than 2000 hours of volunteer work in restoring the building
- Department of Wellness, Culture and Sport provided \$11,750 through the Historic Places Initiative (HPI) to establish a municipal register of local historic places

### **“The little community that could”**

- Establishment of a municipal register of local historic places
- Development of community pride in local historic places
- Community capacity-building by the *Société du Patrimoine de Saint-Quentin* which took on responsibility for managing the project using local expertise in restoration of the pre-1950 building and fund-raising. Since the project, sales of the Society's newsletter have grown from 100 to 250 issues.
- The restored Léopold-Roy House, now a focal point in the community, is a general store and museum.

### **Web Links**

<http://www.gnb.ca/0131/historicplaces/NBHP/index-E.asp>

<http://www.historicplaces.ca/>

