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## CHURCH OF ASBESTOS

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ISSUE: Focus on culture and heritage

### ITINERARY 7B

Date: Wednesday, September 11, 2013

Location: Asbestos Library

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## PROMOTERS

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### **Presentation of the issue:**

The church of Asbestos opened in 1965. In 1999, the municipality bought the church from the Archdiocese for \$1, to compensate for the lack of funds and keep this important building in good condition. The Department of Cultural Affairs, which was involved in the project, later declared a moratorium on subsidies for libraries.

### **Project description:**

Transform the church into a library while retaining as much as possible of its religious architecture and making it accessible by all, thus justifying the construction of a man-lift. A \$10 bench sale was organized; some were given to another church.

Many activities are held: shows, concerts, choirs, theater, exhibitions, etc. Space is also allocated for the mineralogical museum.

The religious symbols (Stations of the Cross, apostle sculptures, etc.) remained, as they are a symbol of belonging and an essential element for the citizens' committee. The organ was also preserved.

The conversion process into a library allowed the citizens to take ownership of the place. In addition, the presbytery is now the town hall, which allowed the municipality to get closer to the population.

### **The key elements to remember according to the promoters:**

- communicate regularly with the Department;
- closely monitor the costs;
- citizen ownership process, keep them well-informed.

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## RESEARCHER

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The summary of the presentation by Luc Noppen, UQAM, is presented in a separate document. [Click here to view.](#)