
CHURCH OF SAINT-GEORGES-DE-WINDSOR



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Church of Saint-Georges-de-Windsor

PROMOTER

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Presentation of the issue:

The church of Saint-Georges-de-Windsor opened in 1868 and has been classified as "excellent" by the Heritage Council of Quebec. In all of Quebec, this is the only church containing a representation of the 12 apostles, and where we also find seven statues carved out of solid wood, by Louis Jobin. The challenge is to ensure its continuing state of good repair. But how can we raise funding for renovations that spread over ten years, and which amount to more than one million dollars? The work being funded only at 70%, this means the parish, of barely 1,000 inhabitants, must provide \$300,000.

Project description:

After the death of the last resident priest in 2002, the rectory was converted into a thrift store and flea market, which generate approximately \$25,000 annually. It was first necessary to raise awareness and mobilize the population, since this project required the participation of about forty volunteers, in order to sort the merchandise and to provide three volunteer "sales clerks" every Sunday.

The major challenge is to maintain the number of volunteers required for a project of this magnitude. Most of these volunteers are seniors; we have lost a dozen over the years, while new recruits amount to four or five, which increases the workload.

In terms of financing, the committee conducted several fundraising activities, including violin concerts, an auction in the church to sell equipment, which remains on site, collections from the population, and participation in the "Le Banquier" television show.

The key elements according to the promoter:

- be multifunctional;
- give up some of the fund-raising activities to avoid exhausting the volunteers;
- financial participation from the Knights of Columbus and the municipality to make up for the shortfall;
- the participation from the volunteers helps to create a network, has a unifying effect, and fosters a healthy sales competition;
- to be classified by an important architectural authority allowed us to apply for (and obtain) grants, one of the largest sources of revenue to complete major repairs, such as roofing, brickwork, and windows.

QUESTION PERIOD

Q.: Who owns the church?

A.: Since the church was consecrated in 1986, year of the 125th anniversary of its founding (1861), it is debt-free and thus belongs to the Church Council.

Q.: How do you manage to pay for maintenance?

A.: Our biggest costs are for heating, which amounts to more than \$20,000 annually. Our main source of revenue is the annual voluntary contribution, that varies between \$25,000 and \$30,000 yearly; unfortunately, this amount decreases every year. The church basement was converted into a parish hall with kitchen; almost all community activities are held there, thus generating rental income, plus the revenue from the rental of spaces for the Knights of Columbus and the Seniors' Club. In addition, various ceremony services are provided for a fee (funerals, weddings, etc.). The sacristy has been equipped as a weaving room (five looms), and all the pieces produced within are sold for the benefit of the church.

RESEARCH

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