

1st Archdiocesan Gala: A Real Success



On Thursday, June 13th, three hundred sixty (360) guests gathered in a spirit of camaraderie at the Victoria Inn for the Saint-Boniface Archdiocesan Gala Dinner and Dance. Parishioners from the Cathedral, the Archdiocese, and people from the business community had the opportunity to mingle, talk, eat well and dance in a relaxed and festive ambiance.

\$ 105,000 was raised for the St. Boniface Cathedral Renewal Project thanks to the

generous sponsors and to the splendid community involvement. A big thank you goes out to the volunteers and the Knights of Columbus Assembly Mgr.

Taché 0369 for all their efforts in organizing this event.



In addition, it was a great opportunity for **Premier Greg Selinger** to announce on behalf of the Province of

Manitoba, a contribution of **\$ 350,000** towards the renovation project. **Dan Vandal** reiterated the City of Winnipeg's commitment of the same amount, and **Shelly Glover**, MP for St. Boniface, is working closely with the Renewal Project team to try to obtain a contribution equal to the other two levels government.



The wonderful relationship between Bockstael and the St. Boniface Cathedral

100 years of collaboration

The good progress on the work done to date on the St. Boniface Cathedral is thanks to Bockstael and its project team. "The partnership between the parish and the Bockstael family began in the early 1900s," said Richard Fr chet te. "Several projects have been carried out by the company over a 100 year period. And today it is Nick Bockstael, the great grand-son of Theodore Bockstael, who had been the first member of the family to arrive in Manitoba, that is now the heading the renovation project and project supervisor."

A well established loyalty

John Bockstael, Nick's father, is familiar with his ancestor's history and the relationship they had with the St. Boniface Cathedral. "My grandfather, Theodore Bockstael, came to Winnipeg by train," he said. "Manitoba was his first and final destination in Canada after leaving Belgium. He found his first job in the Parish. He was hired as a carpenter to finish the roof of the old Cathedral." After the terrible fire of 1968 that destroyed the majority of the St. Boniface Cathedral, Robert Bockstael, the son of Theodore, was called to the rescue. "My father was hired to clean up the site and to secure the foundations," continues the contractor.



Community involvement

Since the spring of 2012, Bockstael has been working on the Cathedral Renewal project. "We started developing the project two years ago," said John Bockstael. "The Cathedral has retained our services and together we have negotiated the terms of the contract. We are very pleased to have been chosen for this mission because we want to support our provincial community. The St. Boniface Church is part of our roots, and we are proud to help it accomplish its goals." And that's indeed why, at the St. Boniface Archdiocesan Gala, Bockstael announced a pledge towards the Renewal Project.

Bockstael announced a \$100,000 commitment towards the St. Boniface Cathedral Renewal Project.

The work is in good hands

"During the first phase of construction, engineers and all trades people were very effective," expresses happily the Diocesan Treasurer and coordinator of the Parish construction project. "We also solved the problems of thermal insulation and drainage, and were able to finish Phase 1 slightly under budget," said Richard Fr chet te. With the 1st phase complete and the positive feedback received from the conceptual drawings for phase 2, which were presented at a community session, after the masses on June 8th and 9th, at the Diocesan Conference, and during the St. Boniface Archdiocesan Gala, the building committee gave approval to the engineers to begin the preliminary drawings for the 2nd phase of the project. We encourage you to attend other consultation sessions that will be held in September, 2013.

