



The Department of Natural Resources office in Bathurst, N.B. was completed in 2005 and is rated LEED Silver. It's a 585 square metre ICF building, built substantially in winter, with some exterior walls over seven metres high. The architect was Pam Barteaux of the N.B. Department of Supply and Services; the structural engineer was Larry MacLaggan of Miramichi Engineering Ltd.; the general contractor was Stephane McGraw of Gloucester Construction Ltd.; the Eco-Block ICF system supplier was John Landry of Arrow Construction Products Limited; and the ready mixed concrete supplier was Blanchard Ready Mix Ltd. of Dunlop, N.B.

Blanchard Ready Mix was pleased to have supplied the concrete for the expansion of the regional office of the Dept. of Natural Resources in Bathurst.

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ICF WORTH THE INVESTMENT

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Cook also believes that ICFs are growing in popularity within the industry. "It's a fantastic system, especially because of the minimal, if any, air leaks, which result in greater comfort and less heat loss for individuals and families. That superior energy performance is going to reduce heating costs, and with the price of oil fluctuating and most likely to go up, it is becoming an attractive alternative for those looking to save a few bucks."

Ken Allen, an experienced trade installer with Braemar Management in Salisbury, NB says that those savings far outweigh the minimal added expense involved with using ICFs.

"The cost of using ICF rather than conventional construction techniques is sensitive to the price of wood and concrete, and a brick-clad ICF home costs around 5% more than a conventional brick-clad timber-frame home. Still, when you offset that cost against long-term savings, including time-tested structural integrity and the low-maintenance/high durability factor, it's worth the

investment."

Marc Gallant is the manager of family-owned Fern-Co Building Concept Inc., headquartered in Rogersville, NB. His firm is completing a 60-unit, 3-story residential senior's complex in Saint John. They are using the AMVIC Building system. Fern-Co installed the system using their forces.

"This was our first project using ICF's", Gallant says. "We had been thinking about it for quite awhile and decided, given the nature of the complex, that ICF's would provide better sound resistance and greater energy efficiency. We began pouring the concrete in early May. The process took a little longer than usual because of the initial steep learning curve, but we are scheduled to open in January, 2007. It was a big undertaking, and it's a little more expensive than working with conventional materials, but we are definitely going to use it again with upcoming projects because the investment costs are offset by the benefits."

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