

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

## BROWNFIELDS SUCCESS IN NEW ENGLAND

### BOCELLI'S CAFE AND AUCTION HOUSE

BELLOWS FALLS, VERMONT



Property Details	
<b>Property Address:</b>	46 Canal Street, Bellows Falls, VT 03061
<b>Property Size:</b>	.13 acres
<b>Former Uses:</b>	Electric motor manufacturing, clothes manufacturing, truck garage, fuel storage, machine shop, storage
<b>Contaminants Found:</b>	Petroleum, Asbestos, Lead and other heavy metals, PAHs, PCE, TPHs, VOCs
<b>Current Uses:</b>	Café, Auction House
<b>Current Owner:</b>	S. Boccelli
Project Partners	
Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation	

Funding Details	
<b>EPA Brownfields Assessment Grant:</b>	Of a \$200,000 grant, \$33,806 was used on this site
<b>Private Owner:</b>	Spent \$370,000 on cleanup and redevelopment
Project Highlights	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Removed approximately nine tons of contaminated soil from the property</li> <li>• Removed and disposed of three 55-gallon drums</li> <li>• Created seven new jobs in the Village of Bellows Falls</li> <li>• Returned a contaminated, underutilized property to productive use</li> <li>• Continued the revitalization momentum begun by the Waypoint Visitors' Center project</li> </ul>	



**Drivers for Redevelopment:** This property is located directly across the historic Bellows Falls Canal from the area's most successful brownfield project—a former rail yard that, after

EPA Brownfields grant-funded assessments and a \$1.26 million redevelopment, became a Visitors' Center and home to the local Chamber of Commerce. This award-winning project has become a source of community pride and catalyzed other area brownfield projects, including the .13-acre site across the canal. The former industrial property was purchased by a businesswoman who planned to turn the underutilized site into a new café.

**Property History:** This property has had a variety of uses dating back at least as far as 1885. From that time until 1901, the site had a residence along with a small, commercial building that was used for clothes manufacturing, electric motor construction, a gasoline stove shop, and a harness/carriage shop. A fire in 1920 destroyed both structures. The building that stands there now, a single story, brick structure of approximately 3,200 square feet, was built in 1927 by the White Brothers Milk Company, and used as a garage and washing facility for milk trucks. The company also installed an underground storage tank (UST) on the site for truck fuel. From the 1940s through the 1970s, the property was used as a woodworking and machine shop. It was operated as a scrap metal

production and storage facility from 1980 through 1987, and after that was used to store nuts and bolts. These uses left contaminants including petroleum, total petroleum hydrocarbons, heavy metals, perchloroethylene, volatile organic compounds, lead, and polyaromatic hydrocarbons in the property's soil. The site was used to store nuts and bolts for nearly 15 years, until being purchased by Sharon Boccelli in 2004. That year, she enrolled the site into the Windham Regional Brownfields Reuse Initiative (WRBRI), which performed environmental testing on the property using EPA Brownfields grant funds, with guidance and support from both EPA and the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation.

**Project Results:** Cleanup involved the removal of contaminated soil, as well as the property's long-dormant UST, and the site's original building was restored and refurbished. In May 2006, the property's owner opened "Boccelli's on the Canal," which offers Italian specialty dining and gourmet foods on an eat-in or take-out basis. The store also sells antiques and collectables, and uses half of the building as an auction house that opened in October 2006. This \$370,000 cleanup and redevelopment project, funded by the property's owner, created seven jobs.

Project Timeline	
<b>1989</b>	Property last used for industrial activity
<b>2003</b>	Visitors' Center, built on a former brownfield, opens across the canal
<b>2004</b>	Property purchased and enrolled in the WRBRI
<b>2005</b>	Assessments completed; cleanup begins
<b>2006</b>	Boccelli's Café opens; auction house opens later that year