

Notre-Dame-de-Grâce Community Council

Annual Report

1993 - 1994

Notre Dame de Grace Community Council Inc. 1993 - 1994

Board of directors

Executive committee

Steve Laudi, president
Mervyn Weekes, vice-president
Alison Macpherson, past president
Charles Draimin, treasurer
Lisa Crevier, secretary

Directors

Bonnie Burnett
Zelda Freitas
Jim Olwell
Robert Pearl
Michèle Perron
Gail Tedstone
Robert Trudel
Alena Valdystyn
Daphney Williams

Honorary members

Warren Allmand
Katie Hopkins
Anne Usher

Active committees in 1993-94

Food Needs committee
Housing committee
Lacolle committee (concerning the Council's orientations)
Membership committee
Forum committee

Staff

Permanent

Coordination : Lucia Kowaluk followed by Isabelle Cottenceau
Administration : Isabelle Cottenceau
Food depot coordination : Jason Hughes followed by Michael Kay
Housing project coordination : David Over
Community development : Jason Hughes

Temporary

Info-Depot : Daniel Ahmad
Entrepreneur Center : Gail Majeau
Reception : Edwidge Labrosse, Wesley Starczwska, Nathalie Armstrong
Administrative assistants : Gregorio Alcain, Carlos Saavedra
Food depot assistants : Robert Ansell, Charles Norville, Patricia West, Ramcharita Jagdeo Singh
Housing assistant : Violet Francis

Students (stages) :

Bart Whelton (Housing Project), Lora Di Mora and Marianne McGrath (Food Depot), Elena Medici (Info-Depot)

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Dear member,

It's certainly been a full and eventful year for the Community Council. One year ago, the organization embarked on a program of reevaluation, renewal and vision. The results are apparent from the many new activities, projects and overall orientation of the Council.

Beginning with a Board of directors and staff training session at Lacolle, this process has led to a stronger and more dynamic board, a united, dedicated staff and a much wider level of participation from other organizations, groups and individual volunteers. I believe we have made great gains in responding to important community needs, but more importantly, we have achieved this through a process of partnership, open participation and broad consensus in the community. This has spawned new services such as Info-Depot and the NDG Entrepreneur Centre, but also enabled operational support for NDG 2000 and its many important action groups.

The Council is becoming not just an umbrella group but a true networking hub for local community development. Volunteerism is way up; as are the unpaid extra work hours of the staff! This is good news but at the same time it is critical that we find new resources to support this growth because operations are stretched beyond the limit and have been for some time. The same old budgets are just too small to support further accomplishments.

The upcoming year promises many opportunities for change and many challenges as well. We invite you to join us in any way you can to improve the quality of our life in NDG and build a better tomorrow.



Steve Laudi
President

Report from the coordinator

1993-94 was an exciting and difficult year : at the same time that our board decided on new orientations for the NDG Community Council, the Council went on providing the accrued services, evaluating them and incorporating new ones ! It took the full commitment of past and present staff members and of the many volunteers and board members to achieve these results.

In particular I would like to underline the new projects which were set up in 93-94 : Info-dépot, a referral and information service now run by volunteers which contributes greatly to making an overall better service for the Food Depot users. An important addition too, to NDG community life, is the new Entrepreneur Centre, a long waited for project, which the Council is temporarily helping to get off the ground : a local place for emerging entrepreneurs and a central training place for NDG residents. Last, but not least, is an increasing concrete support to NDG 2000 action committees where many of NDG residents are currently working in improving, in various ways, the quality of life of our community.

Finally, I would like to thank all of you who, through your positive and active commitment to this community, are giving us the support to continue our work and believe that we make a difference !

Isabelle Cottenceau

The Food Needs Project

The Food depot

1993-94 was a record-setting year for us; during that year we witnessed a new high in people needing to use the food depot. In fact, we set year, month and single day records for service use. These trends were reflected from sea to shining sea. Food banks across the land are reporting more people using their services. Unemployment is rising all over Canada, as is the number of people on welfare. However, on the positive side our community -- and other communities -- responded in the traditional supportive fashion.

In the light of the continuation of policies that serve to hurt the most vulnerable members of society, the NDG Food Depot has evolved to a more pro-active stance in the fight against poverty. Of course, we will continue to provide free and nutritious food as well as supplying information and referrals on many topics to those people needing them. However, we will also pay more attention to projects such as collective kitchens, community gardens and food-buying clubs as well as maintaining pressure on the various levels of government.

Staff and volunteers

In 1993-94 we saw many changes to the staff at the NDG Food Depot. Michael Kay was hired as the food depot coordinator, while Jason Hughes moved to the Community Development position at the Community Council and worked part-time at the food depot. During this year we also benefitted from the fine work of two students from Dawson doing a stage in social work, Lora di Mora and Marianne McGrath.

Two participants on the EXTRA program also said good-bye to the food depot this year. Robert Pearl and Robert Ansell finished and we wish them the best in their future endeavours. Three new people were taken on to provide much needed help. Charles Norville will be the general handyperson. Patricia West will be looking for more varied and cheaper sources of food. Ramcharita Jagdeo Singh will provide general help around the depot on days that we are open.

Of course, none of the workings of the depot would have been possible without the help of the many volunteers who do the shopping for us, package the food, help with the cleaning and helping at special events. Over the past year, we had several volunteers leave us and several more join us. A big thank you to all our volunteers, past and present.

Statistics

In 1993-94, 17,352 people needed emergency food from the depot, an increase of more than 8 % over last year. Most of these were residents of NDG. This shocking figure illustrates the depth of poverty in NDG and Canada as a whole. Of that, 35% of those were children under the age of 19. 1033 new households needed food from the depot, each representing about two

and a half people. A typical month was between 80 and 90 new households a month. This rate has not declined over the past two or three years, clearly illustrating the declining situations of poor people in Canada. And, given the most recent federal budget -- the situation is not going to change or improve much in the future. Consequently, the work of the depot becomes more necessary and the following self-help projects become more essential.

Activities and projects

Of course, much of our energy was devoted to distributing emergency food baskets. These food baskets consisted of rice, meat, milk, beans, tuna, pasta, eggs, soup and bread. Almost always we were able to add fresh fruits and vegetables, salad dressing and (often) yogurt. We also attempted as much as possible to make these baskets fulfill the needs of the particular household, in terms of number of members, health and other considerations. Also, many people were given information or referrals on many topics.

In order to accomplish the distribution of such a large amount of food, we received support from many groups. Harvest Montreal and Share the Warmth are two Montreal-wide centralized food banks that give us several tons of fresh produce as well as plenty of packaged perishable food items. Another large portion of our food supply was obtained through donations of food and/or money from individuals in NDG, local Churches and some community groups. Several foundations also contributed funds to the maintenance of our service, including Mazon Canada, the Hylcan Foundation, the James Barriere Foundation, the Zellers Family Foundation & the EJLB Foundation.

Apart from the large task of handing out food, we also had several projects aimed at providing other services to our service users.

Information

- Info-Depot

Our biggest project this year was to get Info-Depot off the ground, our new information and referral service (see following report). We provided much of the logistical support, including publicity and the food needs committee. Info-Depot works out of the same building as the food depot, but is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1 pm to 4pm. Additionally, we have taken some steps to improve information transmission to service users on food depot days.

- Newsletter

A general resource list to give to service users was produced, *Commune* -the newsletter of the depot- will now appear regularly since we have found a translator. An extensive and detailed resource list for screeners is also in the process of being prepared.

Fundraising activities

- Spaghetti dinner in May 93. Around 250 people participated

in this fun event sponsored by local businesses. This event, repeated in June 94, earned us around 1,000 \$.

- 3 softball games were held in the summer of 93 where participants and spectators filled up the food barrels.

- The Christmas «Holiday for all» Food Drive, in December 93. Churches, schools, hockey leagues, local business and stores, organizations and individuals participated in the numerous activities organized for this Food Drive and helped us raise 24,000 \$ in cash plus tons of food.

A number of groups organized activities during the full year in order to help us raising money or gathering food, including, recently, the choir Anima Musica. We thank all of them.

Renovations

We tried to make the depot a more inviting place for those needing its services. In addition to painting the place we also made it more secure, efficient and accessible.

Recreation

There were several recreational events for volunteers and service users. The main aim was to provide social events at no charge and occasionally these were used to raise food for the depot. In the summer we went on an apple-picking excursion. So many apples were picked that the food depot was able to hand out fresh apples for two and a half weeks. Also, we had a softball team which played some of its games as a means to raise food.

Forum

A public forum on alternative economic strategies was organized by the Food Depot and held on December 6, 1993. This forum, with different speakers from the community, propelled the idea of a local collective kitchen which was set up by the Young Parents Program at Head & Hands.

Partnership projects

Much of the depot's work towards improving the quality of life in NDG happens in partnership with other community groups in NDG. We have found this to be an excellent way both to maximize the resources of each group and to create useful projects.

First Steps (CLSC NDG/Mtl-W)

This service is designed to provide pregnant women -- those at high-risk for low birth weight babies -- with adequate nutrition and counselling. We work together with the CLSC, which provides the support and information, while we provide much of the food.

Young Parents Program (Head and Hands)

We provide snacks and referrals for several of their projects, including the drug prevention program and a collective kitchen. We are now looking at ways of increasing our cooperation.

NDG Meals Services Community Committee

Together with other community groups concerned with seniors and/or food, we are working to inform seniors, especially those

who are isolated, of the meal services they can access regardless of their physical or cognitive capabilities. The mandate of this group is to ensure that no senior in NDG goes without food.

Christmas dinner

The Food depot helped the committee preparing the annual NDG Christmas dinner with providing space for storage, publicity, referrals, and food. Some of the Food Depot volunteers and service users also volunteered for this special dinner.

Other coalition work

We also engaged in the pursuits of the Ressources Populaires and NDG 2000. Additionally, we pressure various levels and branches of government through our work with the Coalition for the Rights of Welfare Recipients and the Housing Project of the NDG Community Council.

The Food Needs Committee

In 93-94, after a slow beginning, the Food Needs committee increased its membership and worked on setting objectives for the Food Depot. Two sub-committees were formed : one concerning fundraising and the other concerning a feasibility study on the possible autonomy of the Food Depot. Jim Olwell is the liaison person with the Council board.

Objectives 1994-95

In addition to our ongoing commitment to providing nutritious supplies of food and providing NDGers with the information they may need, we plan to do the following:

Improve our sourcing for food

We are going to look at getting cheaper supplies of food by buying in bulk together with other community groups and also by looking at cheaper wholesalers. We are also going to increase our collection barrels in local stores as well as trying to get more food drives in local schools.

Involve ourselves in more pro-active projects

We are already involved in supplying one collective kitchen and we have asked them to, in the normal course of their operation, set the groundwork for other groups wanting to start up collective kitchens. Plans are also being made to use the garden at the NDG YMCA for service users to grow food for themselves and the depot.

Network with other community groups

We have started to network more through the Coalition for the Rights of Welfare Recipients and other coalitions. Other possibilities include city-wide food bank coalitions and general anti-poverty organizations.

Prepare a feasibility study on the possible autonomy of the Food Depot

As decided at Lacolle meeting in Autumn 1993, a sub-committee of the Food Needs Committee will study the possibility of the Food Depot becoming independent and present its findings to the Council in the year 94-95.

Info-Depot

In the spring of last year the Food Depot, in conjunction with the CLSC NDG / Montreal West, began working on the development of a new information, referral and advocacy project; the NDG Info-Depot. The project was to be run out of the Food Depot and would allow the depot to begin to play the kind of information and advocacy role that, while part of its mandate, had not been done in a continuing concerted way. There was a realization that something more formal had to be set up if the depot was to adequately respond to the need for information and advocacy from its service users.

The initial motivation for the project came out of a meeting between staff at the depot and the CLSC that looked at ways to work together. Over the course of the summer months the blueprints for the service were drafted and timelines were set-up. Targeted areas were derived from an analysis of the kinds of questions most often asked at the depot, the kinds of areas that were not being covered in the local community and discussions with some of the staff at Project Genesis in Cote-des-Neiges. In August the council received word that its PDE (programme de développement de l'emploi) had been accepted and we knew that we had a staff person, Daniel Ahmad, to work on the finishing touches necessary before we could be ready to open. In November we were ready to open after a series of intensive training sessions. Information sessions were provided by many community organizations including Project Genesis, Pointe St. Charles Welfare Rights committee, CLSC NDG/Montreal-West, the NDG Community Council Housing Project and La Commission des droits de la personne du Québec). After fixing up the depot space to accommodate the new project (furniture etc.) and doing the publicity, Info-Depot was ready to open.

Activities

Info-Depot is open every Tuesday and Thursday from 1 to 4PM. The number of service users that request information average about 3 per hour (based on our hours open). The questions are primarily dealing with welfare and housing. Other questions deal with job training opportunities, other community services and food banks. The promotion has primarily been very much at the grassroots level - door to door leafleting in the areas of NDG that have a higher concentration of lower income people. In the spring 94, over 4000 flyers have been distributed in our neighborhood. In February, the Info-Depot and Food Depot held an open house to inform NDG'ers about the two services. Info-Depot is working with other coalitions including the Coalition for the Rights of Welfare Recipients In April 94, Info-Depot offered a one day tax clinic to more than 40 people, a success which will be renewed next year.

Volunteers

Volunteer participation has been strong since the beginning. When a press release requesting volunteers was sent out in the

fall of 93, over 30 individuals responded. To ensure an appropriate volunteer base, they were recruited from 3 sectors of the population: NDG citizens, Food Depot service users and students. The Urban Studies Department at Concordia provided one student on a "stage". 12 people were trained to start and an additional 5 new volunteers were added in March 94. Ongoing training takes place once or twice a month. These workshops deal mainly with welfare and housing.

Objectives for 1994-95

- To obtain funding from various sources that will ensure the long term continuity of the service.
- To work in concertation with the Food Depot and Housing Project in a way that maximizes use of resources.
- To promote the service to the NDG population and improve upon it in various ways (coalition work, information sessions on different topics, ongoing training, strategic planning, etc.).

The Housing Project

The Housing Project has two main purposes: to inform tenants of their rights and recourses in tenant-landlord disputes and to preserve and promote the affordable housing stock in NDG.

Activities in 1994-95

The activities of the Housing Project include the operation of an information phone line, presentation of workshops to the public and to housing workers, providing technical support to the Housing Committee, participation with other housing and community groups interested in social development linked directly and indirectly to housing issues as well as working with two provincial coalitions to further the two main purposes of the Housing Project.

The Phone Line

The Phone Line offers the most direct contact the public has in terms of getting information to improve their situation. This year, 640 people called throughout the year with a ratio of two females to every male caller. The vast majority of callers were English-speaking.

The number of calls is up from last year. This may be attributed to the fact that the hours that the Phone Line which used to be open from 9:30am to 2:30pm and is now open from 9:00am to 5:00pm. As well, the Coordinator had more interviews on the radio this year than last giving the Housing Project some publicity.

Rent increase information

Unfortunately, only 4000 rent increase pamphlets were circulated as opposed to 14,000 last year. However, since no direct mailing was possible, the Housing Project had to rely on a more innovative approach to distribution such as visiting most community groups in NDG and distributing the pamphlets by hand in focused areas of NDG.

Workshops

In total, 8 workshops were given varying from one and a half hours to two and a half hours. The new year saw the introduction of the new Civil Code of Quebec which meant all workshops given in the past had to be reworked or started from scratch in order to remain current.

All workshops except those given to the Info-Depot volunteers aspired to provide enough information in order to give a general overview of the rights and obligations of tenants in order to properly manoeuvre through most problems encountered by the average renter.

Four major workshops were given to the volunteers of Info-Depot in order that they be able to answer most housing questions. Four other workshops were given to TRACOM, Dawson and twice to the South Asian Women's Community Centre. These workshops varied slightly in terms of depth on the subject matter depending on the group's ability to understand English and their need.

Coalition work

FRAPRU : Le Front d'action populaire en réaménagement urbain (FRAPRU) is a province-wide coalition which is active in the development and protection of social housing in Quebec with which the Housing Project works. The Housing Project maintained its participatory membership with FRAPRU and worked hard at fulfilling the demands of its membership.

RCLALQ : Le Regroupement des Comités logements et Associations des locataires du Québec (RCLALQ) is a province-wide coalition whose main purpose is to promote justice for tenants' rights within the parameters of the Civil Code of Quebec. One way the RCLALQ promotes the rights of tenants is by training housing workers to answer specific questions regarding tenant issues. The Housing Coordinator attended four of the five workshops offered because with the new Civil Code in place, new procedures had to be learned.

The Housing Committee

The Housing Committee is a table of organizations and individuals who are interested in the promotion of tenants' rights and the improvement of the quality of housing through the preservation and promotion of the affordable housing stock in NDG.

This year, the Housing Committee established guidelines within which it could function. These guidelines are outlined in the document, "The Housing Committee Policy, Purpose and Tasks". The purpose of the document was to clarify membership and priorities. The result of the document is that the link between the Housing Committee and the Board of Directors of the Council has been strengthened and that the Committee has reaffirmed its support of the Housing Project.

The Housing Committee has been very active with the Benny Farm dossier and a sub-committee was formed in September 1993 in order to work on the Community Council's public

campaign regarding Benny Farm (see the Benny Farm part below).

Other issues were worked on during the year supporting the work of the Housing Project. What was discussed among other things was trying to make the Standard Quebec Lease as published by the Rental Board obligatory in the Province of Quebec. It has also been agreed to prepare questions to ask politicians during the upcoming elections.

The Housing Committee has become more active in other areas including coalition work.

Benny Farm

The Community Council and its Housing Committee continued its active involvement in the fight for affordable housing on Benny Farm this past year. While the summer of 1993 was a relatively quiet time for the controversial redevelopment project, September saw many changes and renewed action.

Public campaign

September saw the Community Council take a leadership role in a public campaign to :

- secure safe (barrier-free) housing for the veterans NOW
- secure affordable housing for the NDG community NOW
- transfer Benny Farm to a community land trust

This campaign was launched after months of waiting for a new Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) proposal and after a year of waiting for the CMHC to negotiate and consult with the groups involved in the issue as recommended by the local District Advisory Committee (DAC).

The campaign was very successful with letters of support coming from some 15 community organizations from in and around NDG. We feel that these letters reflect the recognition of the need for affordable housing for low and middle income earners as well as the desire to maintain this valuable community resource in the public domain.

Consensus building

In concert with the letter campaign the Community Council began a process of consensus building with all of the groups most closely involved in the redevelopment scheme. While meeting with all of these concerned groups, Council representatives found a willingness to create a community based alternative for the CMHC's proposal for the redevelopment of a part of Benny Farm. In our meetings we found support for the new veterans housing, keeping the land in the public domain and in addition seeing the local CLSC moved to the site.

In early December the CMHC announced that it had come to an agreement with the city of Montreal's urban planning department (SHDU) and would finally be depositing a new plan with the Executive committee of the City of Montreal. At this time the CMHC graciously invited the Council to its offices to look at the plan and to ask questions about it. This was the full extent of the Council's participation in the new plan.

Presentation of a brief

In January the Executive committee of the City of Montreal announced that the consultation process would be taking a different route this time around. Instead of going before our local elected representatives, it would go before the Bureau de Consultation de Montreal (BCM). The BCM is a municipal body that has held public consultations on many large developments in the city such as the relocation of the Hotel Dieu hospital and the redevelopment of the Paul Sauvé Arena. The public hearings were very well attended. Briefs were submitted representing many different points of view. The Council presented its brief to the BCM On March 2, 1994. The point of departure for the brief was a look at the recommendations of the District Advisory Committee (DAC) that specifically asked the CMHC to negotiate and consult with the groups involved in the community. The crown corporation has consistently refused to respond to these requests by saying that such consultation was not within their mandate. Although we recognize that there was no legal mechanism to ensure that the CMHC complied with these recommendations we felt that they had a moral obligation to respond to the recommendations of that first public consultation process.

If nothing else was gained from the BCM hearings it was hoped that their recommendations would reflect the wide range of community opinion that was demonstrated at the hearings. In the final analysis it must be recognized that this was not done. Recently the BCM released its final report on the proposed redevelopment. The CMHC proposal was recommended with the understandable aim of providing barrier-free housing to current residents as soon as possible. The council was surprised to learn that not only was the project recommended but that the BCM also recommended that the CMHC be relieved of their obligation to preserve some of the existing buildings.

At the time of this writing we are waiting for the city of Montreal's executive committee to bring the proposal before the City Council. It is probable that the proposal will be accepted by the City and that construction will begin on the veterans housing as early as this summer. As for the needs of the rest of the community; the thousands who could benefit from geared to income housing, the veterans currently on the waiting list, the many of young working adults who cannot afford to buy and stay in NDG, the growing number of low-income seniors who have no assured place in the new development, they have been ignored by the CMHC, the BCM and the City of Montreal - for now.

Objectives 1994-95

The Housing Project is currently planning an important study of the Housing situation in NDG. A report of this study should be released at the end of 1994 or the beginning of 1995.

Actual mandate, objectives and activities of the Housing Project will be reviewed in the coming months in the light of the current evaluation.

NDG Entrepreneur Centre

Initiatives to support local economic development and entrepreneurship have been a priority of the NDG Community Council and the community that the Council represents for many years.

Since the 1970's the Community Council has been hosting periodic conferences on the quality of life in NDG. A workshop dealing with local economic issues at the 1987 Quality of Life conference led to the creation of the NDG Economic Network. A main purpose of the network was to support independent as well as community based entrepreneurial efforts. The membership of the network consisted of many NDG organizations and individuals concerned with community economic development. This network developed a clear mandate to create an Entrepreneur Centre in NDG to facilitate the achievement of the community's goal of establishing strong, local community development. In December 93, the Community Council agreed to act as legal "agent promoteur" for the Entrepreneur Centre for a temporary period, and provided one staff person on a employment program.

Provisional board

Since December 93, the Council has overseen the opening of the centre at 2110 Décarie, and the creation of an Entrepreneur Centre Advisory Board. This board is composed of interested individuals and representatives of local community organizations working on issues of community development and is responsible for the day to day operation of the centre.

Activities

In January of 1994 the NDG entrepreneur centre opened its doors. NDG was finally home to a multi-business office centre with clear objectives to promote community job training programs, entrepreneurial training, and entrepreneurship.

The Centre is working towards a goal of complete self-financing. Volunteers were very active in getting fundraising (Valentine gala, furniture donations) and in ensuring that the Centre operated smoothly in its first few months.

There are currently five businesses renting space at the centre. The centre is also providing inexpensive office space for community job training programs. Currently the Centre is looking at the possibility of moving to new location in the same building that would open up more possibilities in terms of service. Floor plans have been drawn up and a promotional package is being put together to sell the idea of this multi-business office to the NDG community. Grant proposals will soon be sent and financial projections done to see if the Centre would be able to operate in the larger space. We are very excited about the future of this project with all its potential as a place for job training and entrepreneurial training and entrepreneurship.

Community Development

Forums

The NDG Community Council held 6 public Forums and information sessions in 1993-94 :

- Meet the candidates Forum on Federal elections on October, 14, 1993.
- Entrepreneur Centre Information meeting on November 17, 1993.
- Alternative Economic Strategies on December 6, 1993.
- Information session on multicultural programs and activities on December 13, 1993.
- Discussion session on Community Development : at the heart of Montréal's Social Development Policy statement on January 10, 1994.
- Meet your MP : Warren Allmand, on April 11, 1994.

Attendance and media coverage varied for each of these meetings. Overall, around 500 persons were directly involved in these activities.

The NDG babysitting cooperative

Although the NDG babysitting cooperative is now an independent organization, the NDG Community Council continued to play a role of promotion and referrals of this important service for the community. The Council agreed to participate on a sub-committee in order to have this service known by all NDG socio-economic groups in the community.

Sherbrooke Forest

In 1993, the NDG Community Council applied for a grant to Health and Welfare Canada to help set up a Family Center to serve the needs of the tenants of Sherbrooke Forest Housing with a mom & tot program, a youth recreation program, a collective kitchen and neighbourhood social event. Once the grant was accepted in the summer of 1993, the management of this project was handed over to the newly incorporated Les Habitations Sherbrooke Forest.

Community Development : Montréal's Social Development Policy

The NDG Community Council organized a discussion meeting concerning the Montréal's Social Development Policy Statement on January 10, 1994 in order to give participants the opportunity to react to this statement and also to prepare a brief during the public consultation. A brief was presented on February 17, 1994 which underlined our concerns with the new orientations of the City of Montreal. The report on the public consultation will be released in May 94.

Map of NDG

Staff members and a volunteer, Giovanna Longhi, have begun to gather information on NDG organizations and other services in order to publish a new map of NDG. Thanks to a summer employment grant, this map will be published in the summer of 94.

Newsletters

Five newsletters were published this year summarizing the Council's activities and inviting the Council's members to participate.

Coalition work

Ressources Populaires

Both the council and the food depot continue to be involved in this coalition of community groups dealing with issues of poverty. The group has been active in supporting local community economic development initiatives such as Charade des Modes the used clothing boutique of the NDG Anti-Poverty Group. The group has also been ready to help the Food Depot in its time of need for various extra costs / projects.

This year work was done to clarify the mandate of the coalition. While a primary goal of the organization is still the purchase of a building to be occupied by the member groups, the focus is now twofold as the group has come to recognize its role in offering financial support to new or struggling projects.

In February the Ressources Populaires began work on a study to thoroughly examine the feasibility of the coalition purchasing a building for its member groups. A questionnaire was distributed to member groups to determine the specific needs in terms of space. The preliminary results are encouraging but it is still too early to come to any conclusions.

Currently the group meets on a bi-monthly basis and provides an excellent opportunity for local groups dealing with issues of poverty in NDG to exchange information.

CEDC

The NDG Community Council continues to be active in the local CEDC. In its first full year of operation, the CEDC established itself in a new location, worked at setting up a plan of action with clear priorities and began helping local residents, businesses and community organizations at different levels through information on employability programs, stages, information sessions on governmental programs, training programs, references, etc.

As a member of the board, the Council participated in a sub-committee for the FAMO training programs, and participated in the local Table d'employabilité.

The Table de Concertation de NDG

This quarterly Table, sponsored by the Centre Multi-ethnique de NDG includes members of NDG community organizations as well as governmental institutions. It is an information and discussion forum around issues of concern to the different cultural communities, immigration and services for immigrants.

NDG 2000

On September 26, 1992, the NDG community was invited to attend the NDG 2000 conference. Sponsored by the NDG Community Council, the Ville de Montréal, the CLSC NDG / Montreal-West, the NDG YMCA and the Département Santé Communautaire of the Montreal General Hospital, this quality of life conference focused on many issues of concern to the local population. These issues included: local youth, multiculturalism, community economic development, job training, urban environment and public security. Workshops were held to discuss these issues and action oriented problem-solving methods were discussed. After the conference, people were invited to join action committees in an effort to make changes for the future, towards the year 2000.

Support Committee

In the past year the Support committee for NDG 2000 (made up of representatives from the original organizations that sponsored the conference) worked to develop a structure under which NDG 2000 would become a part of the Community Council. After being accepted by the board of the Council the proposed structure was accepted at the most recent general assembly of NDG 2000. We feel confident that the structure allows for maximum support of the Action committees while maintaining high levels of committee autonomy.

Action committees

Besides the support committee, there are currently four action committees actively working on four different issues. The Public Security Action Committee, The Youth Action Committee, The CIRC (Coalition interraciale et interculturelle) and the newly formed Action Committee for Accessibility (formerly the Urban Environment Action Committee). The issues of community economic development and job training were dealt within the newly formed local CDEC on which board the NDG Community Council has a seat. Most of the committees have been very active in NDG over the course of the year with the exception of the Accessibility committee which has just recently begun work. Here is a round-up of the activities of these very active groups for the year. We look forward to hearing more from them in the year to come.

CIRC (Coalition Interraciale et Interculturelle de NDG)

The Interracial-Intercultural Coalition of N.D.G. (CIRC) was formed in the fall of 1992, as a result of the NDG 2000 Conference on the Quality of Life. Today, CIRC consists of approximately 30 members of many different cultural origins, as well as several local community groups.

Its first initiative was to collaborate on activities for the Intercultural Week in March 1993, and in the months that followed, members discussed a series of social, cultural and educational events and programs for the upcoming year. In the summer of 93, an inter-ethnic potluck picnic took place on Sunday, August 29th, at NDG Park. It was a multicultural family event which offered games and activities for all ages.

Since that time, the volunteers involved met regularly, first to redefine their objectives and then to plan their actions. Two sub-committees were formed in the Autumn of 93 :

- A sub-committee on education, whose main objective is to sensitize NDG residents to the racist attitudes that exist in their community. This committee is researching the perceptions of racism as experienced by people of different cultural communities. The results of this research will be reported later this year. This sub-committee is also working on a drawing contest (for local students) and a photo contest (for adults) in order to promote awareness of NDG's cultural diversity. These contests will be used to promote the Intercultural Festival.

- A sub-committee on events whose objective is to promote positive attitudes through activities that give NDG residents an opportunity to further their knowledge and appreciation of other cultures (dance, music, food, etc.). This sub-committee is planning an important Intercultural Festival for 1994. The Festival, first planned for May 94 was rescheduled for October 1-10, 94; it is hoped it will foster community-based participation of residents as well as the ethnic, religious and cultural organizations of NDG in many activities : soccer tournament, music and dance shows, choir Festival, etc.

The NDG Community Council provided important support to this sub-committee with much staff time to help with the activities mentioned above.

Youth committee

The NDG 2000 Youth Committee meets on a regular basis, usually every 3 or 4 weeks. Its first project was the development of a youth guide for NDG youth between the ages of 12-18, listing the services and activities available to youth in NDG. Many young people helped in the development of the booklet by creating the graphics and helping out in the design of the booklet to make it «youth friendly».

The committee was very active in fundraising for putting together the booklet : 6140 \$ were raised through various agencies. With this money, 4 youths were hired to coordinate the project and distribute the guide at youth centers, metro stations and hangouts, local schools, etc. The response has been positive on all accounts. Later a survey was handed out at these same locations to see if the booklet was being used and, again, the results were positive.

The second project which is currently being worked on is the creation of a youth job bank for NDG. A grant application was made to hire a coordinator who will take charge of the bank. The job will consist of finding odd jobs within the community and then finding the appropriate youth to do the work. The goal of this job bank is to give NDG youth the ability to earn pocket

money while learning basic job skills and the reality of the labour market.

Public Security Action Committee

The public security action committee began meeting in the early spring of 1993. The committee saw that having a safe and secure community was a priority for most people. Therefore it was resolved to hold special activities for the general public that will not only educate the community on issues of public security but also to work to bring the neighbourhood together to deal with various safety topics.

In May 1993, the first activity was held : the " Tour de NDG " attempted to focus on bicycle security issues for cyclists, motorists and pedestrians alike. Residents of all ages as well as families could participate in this free activity. Over 400 people and 50 volunteers participated in the event making it an unqualified success story of real community involvement that we hope to match this year. In addition, donations were received from numerous local merchants.

In November 1993, the committee came together to " adopt " a room at The Friendly Home, a local shelter for victims of conjugal violence. The Home was undergoing renovations and asked local groups to refurbish rooms. We took up the cause and with the help of some generous donations, were able to adopt a room for a woman and child.

In the summer of 1993, the committee agreed that the issues of personal safety and security are of the utmost importance when discussing public security. The result was the setting up of the Safety Rounds project. The goal of the Safety Rounds project was to participate in neighbourhood-wide rounds of both indoor and outdoor public areas in NDG. Each participant went through a checklist of questions associated with safety and security and noted findings based on his/her general impressions of the surroundings and on various problems which may have a positive or negative influence on feelings of personal security (e.g. physical isolation, lighting, sightlines etc.). The results of these audits are purely subjective with no scientific or methodological basis. By February 1994, 136 completed guides of the Safety Rounds project had been returned. The first results of the audits focusing on parks were released on March 22. Over seventy residents joined the committee that evening for discussion of the audit. At a follow-up meeting four sub-committees were formed to ease the tasks. The sub-committees were Lighting/shrubbery trimming, Disposal of dangerous objects, Playground Equipment and Security presence in Parks. A final public consultation will be held on May 18 of this year. Another audit on public transit was launched on April 14th. Follow-up will be held in early June, as well as results from the " Streets and Alleys " audits.

Action Committee for Accessibility

Recently the Urban Environment Action Committee regrouped after over a one year lay-off. At its first meeting discussion centred around issues of mobility and wheelchair accessibility. The second meeting saw a decision taken to begin work on a study of the accessibility of public buildings in NDG. It is hoped that the results of the survey can be integrated into a map of NDG that is being put together by the NDG Community Council. The group has shown a lot of enthusiasm in the first few weeks and promises to be very active in the weeks and months to come.

AUDITORS' REPORT

To the members of
NOTRE-DAME DE GRACE COMMUNITY COUNCIL INC.

We have audited the balance sheet of NOTRE-DAME DE GRACE COMMUNITY COUNCIL INC. as at 31 March 1994, and the statements of accumulated surplus, fixed assets surplus, and revenue and expenses for the year ended. These Financial Statements are the responsibility of the COUNCIL'S management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In common with many non-profit organizations, the COUNCIL derives revenue from the public in fundraising activities the completeness of which is not susceptible to satisfactory audit verification. Accordingly, our verification of these revenue was limited to the amounts recorded in the records of the COUNCIL and we were not able to determine whether any adjustments might be necessary to donation revenue, excess of revenue over expenses, assets and surplus.

In our opinion, except for the effect of adjustments, if any, which we might have determined to be necessary had we been able to satisfy ourselves concerning the completeness of the donations referred to in the preceding paragraph, these financial statements present fairly the financial position of the COUNCIL as at 31 March 1994 as well as the results of operations for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles set out in note 2, applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.

Johanne Du Temple
Chartered Accountants

Montreal, 13 May 1994

Notre Dame de Grace Community Council Inc.

Balance Sheet

as at 31 March 1994

ASSETS

	<u>1994</u>	<u>1993</u>
CURRENT		
Cash	\$ 24,946	\$ 18,863
Short term investment	-	20,000
Accounts receivable	9,361	3,327
Prepaid expenses	543	124
	<u>\$ 34,850</u>	<u>\$ 42,314</u>
FIXED ASSETS		
Computer equipment - at cost	10,630	9,397
Office equipment - at cost	715	715
Accumulated depreciation	(8,977)	(8,053)
	<u>2,368</u>	<u>2,059</u>
	<u>\$ 37,218</u>	<u>\$ 44,373</u>

LIABILITIES

CURRENT		
Account payable - note 3	\$ 9,566	\$ 10,546
Deferred contributions - note 4	16,329	21,147
	<u>25,895</u>	<u>31,693</u>

EQUITY

Accumulated surplus	8,955	10,621
Fixed assets surplus	2,368	2,059
	<u>11,323</u>	<u>12,680</u>
	<u>\$ 37,218</u>	<u>\$ 44,373</u>

Statement of accumulated surplus

for the year ended 31 March 1994

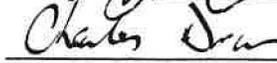
	<u>1994</u>	<u>1993</u>
BALANCE, BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$ 10,621	\$ 14,344
Deficit for the year	(1,666)	(3,723)
BALANCE, END OF YEAR	<u>\$ 8,955</u>	<u>\$ 10,621</u>

Statement of fixed assets surplus

for the year ended 31 March 1994

	<u>1994</u>	<u>1993</u>
BALANCE, BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$ 2,059	\$ 2,548

On behalf of the board of directors

 , Director
 , Director

Statement of revenue and expense
for the year ended 31 March 1994

	<u>1994</u>	<u>1993</u>
REVENUE		
Self-financing general		
Sub-renting	\$ -	\$ 2,397
Membership fees	1,744	1,593
Donations	552	2,098
Miscellaneous	-	539
Interest	120	633
GST and PST refund previous years	3,045	-
	<u>5,461</u>	<u>7,260</u>
Self-financing Food Needs committee		
Sublease	5,157	-
Donations	53,311	58,836
Subscription campaign	1,751	-
Ministère des loisirs, de la chasse et de la pêche	3,000	3,000
GST and PST refund previous years	1,064	-
Interest	157	337
	<u>64,440</u>	<u>62,173</u>
Grants and projects		
Centraide Montreal - General activities and research	112,350	112,350
Ministère des communautés culturelles et de l'immigration	4,500	5,500
Société d'habitation et de développement de Montréal	-	3,000
Direction générale de l'éducation des adultes	3,980	5,887
Ministère des loisirs, de la chasse et de la pêche	1,000	-
Employment and Immigration Canada		
Job development Program	1,714	3,636
Challenge Program - Summer employment	-	4,043
Programme Aide Intégration Emploi	5,475	3,777
CSSSRMM - Program EXTRA	6,400	5,700
Inter-Week project	564	2,746
Entrepreneur centre project	6,868	-
	<u>142,851</u>	<u>146,639</u>
TOTAL REVENUE	<u>212,752</u>	<u>216,072</u>
EXPENSES		
Operations - schedule	96,203	107,853
Food Needs committee - note 5	64,440	62,173
Housing Project	20,330	17,564
Ministère des communautés culturelles et de l'immigration	3,650	3,630
Direction générale de l'éducation des adultes	228	634
Programme EXTRA	5,520	9,460
Job Development Program	1,714	1,734
Programme Aide Intégration Emploi	5,828	5,110
Challenge Program - Summer employment	-	4,043
Inter-week Project	-	2,746
Entrepreneur Centre Project	9,727	-
Administration - schedule	8,928	4,848
Current GST and PST refund	(2,150)	-
	<u>214,418</u>	<u>219,795</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>214,418</u>	<u>219,795</u>
DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR	<u>\$ (1,666)</u>	<u>\$ (3,723)</u>

Notes to the financial statements

31 March 1994

Schedule

Operation and administration fees

for the year ended 31 March 1994

Note 1 Statute and nature of activities

The Council is incorporated under Part III of the Quebec companies Act and is a non-profit organization. The Council is registered as a charitable organization. The purpose of the Council is to act as a clearing-house for the promotion of special welfare in the community, to organize, operate and support community projects.

Note 2 Significant accounting policies

Grants

Grant revenues are recorded on the basis of the expenses incurred and the estimates approved by granting agencies.

Fixed assets and depreciation

Fixed assets are expensed in the period of acquisition. They are presented on the balance sheet at cost less depreciation, calculated using the declining balance method, at 30% per year.

Fixed assets surplus

Fixed assets surplus represents the net value of fixed assets. Acquisition of fixed assets increases the fixed assets surplus and depreciation reduces it.

Note 3 Accounts payable

	<u>1994</u>	<u>1993</u>
Salaries and benefits	\$ 4,486	\$ 6,699
Accruals	4,880	3,847
	<u>\$ 9,366</u>	<u>\$ 10,546</u>

Note 4 Deferred contributions

Direction générale de l'éducation des adultes	\$ -	\$ 816
Fundraising proceeds not used - Food Needs Com.	13,829	20,077
Inter-Week Project	-	254
MCCI	2,500	-
	<u>\$ 16,329</u>	<u>\$ 21,147</u>

Note 5 Food Needs committee expenses

The utilization of fund was not audited; the committee has a separate bank account and bookkeeping. In the statement of revenue and expense, the amounts presented are as registered in the books of the committee during the year.

Note 6 Statement of changes in financial position

The statement of changes in financial position has not been prepared since it would add no relevant information for the financial statement readers.

	<u>1994</u>	<u>1993</u>
OPERATION FEES		
Salaries and benefits	\$ 67,892	\$ 72,096
Office expenses, printing and photocopies	2,587	2,857
Rent and maintenance	12,499	10,805
Telephone and heating	3,688	4,701
Moving	-	3,892
Transportation	1,967	449
Memberships	418	636
Acquisition of fixed assets	1,395	2,544
Miscellaneous	713	1,098
Equipment rental	2,699	6,540
Programs	186	1,445
NDG 2000	-	715
Staff training	192	75
Training and work expenses	378	-
Sublease refund	1750	-
Miscellaneous and variance	165	-
	<u>\$ 96,529</u>	<u>\$ 107,853</u>

ADMINISTRATION FEES

Insurance and taxes	\$ 3,061	\$ 937
Professional fees	5,604	3,625
Bank charges	262	286
	<u>\$8,927</u>	<u>\$ 4,848</u>