



**Notre-Dame-de-Grâce  
Community Council**

**Annual Report**

**1995 - 1996**



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# NDG Community Council 1995-96

## Board of Directors

### Executive Committee

Steve Laudi, *president*  
Charles Draimin, *vice-president*  
Michèle Perron, *vice-president*  
Mervyn Weekes, *treasurer*  
Lisa Crevier, *secretary*

### Directors

Philip Amsel  
Isabelle Cotteceau (*Coordinator*)  
Miriam Green  
Jim Olwell  
Allan Patrick  
Sheila Prupas  
Gail Tedstone  
Iris Unger  
Alena Valdstyn  
Daphney Williams

### Honorary members

Warren Allmand  
Katie Hopkins  
Anne Usher

### Active committees in 1995-96

Food Needs committee  
Housing committee  
Membership/Fundraising committee  
NDG 2000 Support committee  
Éco-quartier NDG

## Staff

### Permanent

Isabelle Cotteceau, *Coordinator and Administrator*  
Jason Hughes, *Community Development Coordinator*  
Michael Kay, *Food-Depot Coordinator*  
Consuelo Guy, *Info-Depot Coordinator*  
Alec Lee, *NDG Éco-quartier Coordinator*

### Temporary

*Administrative Assistants:* Fernando Tritini & Susan Jones  
*CIRC:* Luiza-Mihaela Avrigeanu, Allan Patrick & Sonya Biddle  
*Entrepreneur Centre:* Gordon Howell, Rodica Bunciuc & Kimberley Holmes  
*Food-Depot:* Julie Ouellet, Alex Montreuil, Patricia West, Ramcharitar Jagdeo Singh, Nicholas Hlibchuk, Caetano Antonio Lobo, Malberto Blas, Vanessa Gualdieri, Philip Amsel & Robert Condon  
*Éco-quartier NDG:* Lloyd Sévigny, Pascale Lemire, Claudette Parkin & Micheline Auclair  
*NDG 2000:* Cecilia Garcia & Claudette Parkin  
*Fundraising & Membership:* Allan Patrick & Rodica Bunciuc  
*Reception:* Marguerite Giroux & Mary-Jo Nichka

### Students (stagieres)

Tanya Di Raddo & Fay Tannahill (*Info-Depot*),  
Allison Apple (*Housing & Info-Depot*)

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## Letter from the President

*Dear Members,*

*I would like to begin by offering a big thanks to all NDG citizens, committees, organizations, ad hoc groups, sports associations, block associations and everyone else who's done a lot (or a little) to improve the quality of life in NDG. You are the reason NDG is such a vibrant, active community. You are the reason this community can be optimistic about the future. You are also the reason the NDG Community Council is able to adapt and improve its presence in your community.*

*In the following report you'll be learning much about the activities and accomplishments of the past year. These accomplishments have been considerable, and yet the Council has neither become top-heavy nor "too big". You'll find the same friendly staff, working hard all the time, and volunteers everywhere. These people deserve the highest recognition for their work.*

*And yet that's only the beginning of the story.*

*Each week we read or hear about new efforts coming from within the community: a people's consultation on the future of the Villa Maria sector, the Partners for Benny Library, bar and billiards hall protests, marches, conferences, Les Habitations communautaires NDG (a new non-profit housing corporation), festivals in the park and activities for all of us everywhere.*

*That's the kind of place we live in. The Community Council is here to support citizen actions, to help things work out, and to find new ways to work together. Naturally the challenges continue. This year the Council is planning new programs to support citizen initiatives and leadership.*

*I would also like to thank all of our Board Members for their wonderful support. This group of dedicated volunteers has worked hard to seek out the resources that exist in this community and to support the staff through some busy times. They deserve all of our thanks.*

*Against this backdrop, I am leaving as president of the N.D.G. Community Council. I have truly appreciated the opportunity and the personal growth that it has provided me. It has been a wonderful time of community action and hope. I believe that the Council is in a very strong position to continue its work and I look forward to maintaining my connection to the Council in the years to come.*



Stephen Laudi.

## **Coordinator's Report**

*The many activities and results described in this report reflect the collective effort and commitment of many people who have shown the necessary team spirit to accomplish our social mandate. As well they reflect our team's willingness to collaborate with different partners that make up the social fabric of this community.*

*I would like to thank the members of the Board of Directors of the NDG Community Council for their participation in meetings as well as in all the activities undertaken. From presiding over the forums and organizing events to setting up new activities, their support and availability have been constant. I would like to give particular thanks to our departing president, Mr. Steve Laudi. His kindness and generosity of time, his support and wise advice throughout his mandate have helped to make the past three years a great experience.*

*I want to also thank the members of our permanent staff: Jason Hughes, community development coordinator, an invaluable co-worker profoundly devoted to the community. Michael Kay, Food-Depot coordinator, for his tireless work on behalf of the Depot users. Consuelo Guy, coordinator of the Info-depot, who has the difficult task of dealing with our ever changing social system and adapting the information services accordingly. This year we welcomed Alec Lee as coordinator of the new Éco-quartier NDG program. This group has already organized a series of recycling workshops and activities to beautify the community.*

*Much has been accomplished in the course of the year and many people have been hired through employment programs, and as student stagieres, to help with this work. Continuity is key to our long term commitment to the community and for this we owe much to our volunteers who continued to give of their time and expertise this year.*

*The Community Council has extended its activities this year with the Éco-quartier program (in partnership with the City of Montreal) and NDG residents. Likewise some other new activities started at the NDG Food-depot: Cafe-Depot and Cornucopia. Info-Depot*

*has also adapted its service hours to better serve its users.*

*Regarding community development the Council has concentrated its energy in three main fields of action: housing, economic development and support to the citizen's committees of the neighbourhood. In housing we should highlight the work done by the Housing Committee's new project: Les Habitations Communautaires NDG. Regarding economic development the Council is collaborating with the NDG Entrepreneur Centre and is working to put in place a Carrefour Jeunesse Emploi in NDG. Finally the Council continues to support NDG 2000 and other resident's action committees.*

*In recent years, a significant amount of my work has been the search of adequate financing for the whole of our activities. This year was no exception, but thanks to two workers on an employment program we have been able to straighten up our finances and to accumulate in advance enough funds to allow the Food-Depot to run smoothly between annual fundraising campaigns.*

*The current social and economic context, with the devolution of government services and the inevitable difficulties and changes these bring, mean the Community Council is being solicited from everywhere for support in dealing with these changes. We believe that the best way for a community to cope with these changes is by recognizing the resources that exist and using them to improve the quality of life. In this context I believe the Council has a major role to play working with individuals and organizations in the community. By being aware of the challenges ahead, we can fulfil our mandate and help people come together to face these challenges. This is our commitment for the years to come.*

Isabelle Cottenceau  
Coordinator.

# FOOD NEEDS PROJECT

## The Food Depot

The NDG Food Depot has experienced another rough year, but a very interesting and rewarding year, nonetheless. It has been a year of both change and retrenchment. We have improved our financial position, refined our fundraising strategies and begun new projects. We also reworked our physical space, solidified existing projects and expanded others. We look forward to a new year that will see other changes resulting in a more vibrant organization and an improved range of services at the food depot.

## Finances

In 1995, we expended most of our energies on fundraising and attained some success. In fact, we established record-breaking fundraising levels for both the Christmas period and the rest of the year. For the first time we had a spring food drive that involved putting grocery bags for people to fill with food in the West End Gazette. We also set up tables at grocery stores as a means of raising money and increasing our exposure. We received support from several foundations including The Hylcan Foundation, The Zellers Family Foundation, The JF Barriere Foundation and Mazon Canada. This year we are trying a direct mailing and a benefit concert, while maintaining our other traditionally successful fundraising methods: spaghetti dinner, collection barrels in stores and so on.

## Staff

The basic staff remained the same at the food depot and was supplemented by people on different government programs. Julie Ouellet did excellent work on research for several information booklets, now in the process of being published by the food depot. Allan Patrick gave us a lot of help over Christmas. Other help year-round was provided by Philip Amsel, Robert Condon, Vanessa Gualdieri, and Gaetano Antonio Lobo. Of course, a lot of the work was performed by between 30 to 40 volunteers.

## Statistics

We experienced an increase over last year of about 10%, or a total of 22,000 users, the vast majority of whom were welfare recipients. The age and cultural communities breakdown was the same, more or less, as last year.

## Re-evaluation

As FRAME has moved out of the building on Oxford, we have taken the opportunity to re-evaluate the food depot and its services from top to bottom. We have already started taking some steps in re-evaluating or re-shaping some elements of our services. We have moved into the former Frame area and transformed it into the Info-Depot office and the screening area for the food depot. This has allowed us to provide more privacy for the service users to speak their minds. Together with having Info-Depot open when the food depot is open, we are now able to deal with people's problems on the spot without having them come back the next day. We have also taken the opportunity to repaint and re-organize the other areas of the food depot. With an area that is entirely our own, we are able to set up a series of tables with information and literature from other groups, nutrition information and we were able to re-establish our book and clothing swap tables. All of these allow service users to access stuff at their own speed.

We have re-affirmed and slightly refined our previous policy of how many times in a month a person could use the food depot. Over time the policy eroded so that some people would come very often while others would respect the stated policy and come only once or twice a month. This was not a fair way of distributing the food and we felt that some people were relying too heavily, and unnecessarily, on the food depot. The policy is now once a month, twice in the case of an emergency, but no more. There is Info-Depot on the spot to help people with serious problems. We are also looking at other methods of helping people meet their food needs; such as publishing guides on collective kitchens and other food strategies. A joint grant proposal with the CLSC to establish a "popular store" where people could buy food cheaply and receive training on how to cook more effectively and how to organize collective gardens was submitted to the Régie Régionale and we are awaiting a decision.

We have prepared a survey for service users which will provide the basis for decisions on possible changes to the food depot and Info-Depot: hours, food offered, system of distribution, activities undertaken, etc.

## New Projects

In the course of the last year, we have started several exciting new projects. As alluded to earlier, the food depot has evolved into a place where books, information and some clothing can be obtained in

addition to food. Many of the new projects are designed with the idea that dealing with other issues (i.e. isolation, more effective food buying, artistic expression) will provide a groundwork that will make the provisioning of food easier. The main motivation is to move away from giving out food towards helping to establish a community -- that includes, recognizes and is led by low-income people -- that talks about its problems and acts together to deal with them.

Our biggest new project, initiated by Philip Amsel, could be called "Culture Depot" and is composed of several components: a more or less monthly Friday evening cabaret at the food depot called Café-Depot highlighting local talent from the food depot with an "open stage" feature; a monthly food depot newsletter *Cornucopia* featuring information, poems, recipes and plays with contributions from depot users; a publishing firm that publishes information booklets (housing issues and a soon-to-be-released cookbook) and collections of written works by service users. Courses have been offered, including household budgeting, and journal writing and we are looking for others. The idea behind this project is that breaking isolation, allowing self-expression, facilitating public exchanges concerning poverty issues and coping strategies will improve personal self-confidence and the community's ability to deal with problems.

We have joined a community committee that has as a mandate to twin NDG with a village in Chiapas, Mexico. This is a means of creating international solidarity and exchanging ideas and information with a far-away community that is facing many of the same issues that we are (i.e.: NAFTA, erosion of the traditional social safety net and so on). We are almost at the point of sending our first letter to establish the link.

We have also started an anti-poverty billboard by hanging a large banner on the outside of our building on Oxford where the heavy traffic on de Maisonneuve sees it. The rationale for this is to publicize some of the issues related to poverty that we feel are ignored in the mainstream media. Our first banner says: "Justice=fair-paying jobs, education and health care for all".

We also did outreach to schools through presentations or by having them visit the food depot. This was a way to educate young people about poverty and was often in conjunction with their fundraising for the food

depot. Several students also worked as volunteers as part of their courses.

### **On-going collaboration**

We are very active in the NDG Montreal/W. Senior Meal Services Community Committee, mandated to ensure that no senior in the area goes without food for whatever reason. It is planning a half-day forum on the issue in June 96, which - along with the on-going publicizing of a central phone number where seniors can get food information - has been most of the work this year.

We are still involved with our other partnerships, mostly on the referral level as these have found many of their own resources; these include CLSC's First Steps Program for low-income pregnant women; Head and Hands' Young Parents Program, a support group for young parents; and a program designed to break isolation in a building in Snowdon with the CLSC René Cassin (Côte St-Luc).

The food bank coalition in which we are involved has taken some time off to see where it fits into in the city-wide food bank picture.

We have also been active in Ressources Populaires (see below) in which the food depot coordinator is President as well as in NDG 2000 (see below).

### **Objectives 1996-97**

We have two objectives this year. Our first objective for this year will be to complete the re-evaluation of our services from top to bottom and follow up on the findings. Our other objective is to promote self-sufficient programs to further improve our users' quality of life through their involvement and partnership. These projects would not be limited to fulfilling food needs.

## **INFO-DEPOT**

The NDG Info-Depot is an information, advocacy and referral service operating out at the same location as the Food Depot. It provides Food Depot service users and others in the local population support in accessing information on welfare, unemployment insurance, job training programs, community resources, housing and much more. Recently the need for information on the new welfare laws became one of the priorities of the Info-Depot because it has had a great effect on the



service users at the Food Depot as well as others who are receiving social aid.

The NDG Info-Depot has gone through a year of growth and change. It was decided in 1995 that the Info-Depot needed more space in the Food Depot to be able to better serve its service users in a comfortable and confidential setting, therefore half of the space in the area where Project Frame resided was given over for this purpose. The Info-Depot renovated the area and it is now a pleasant and inviting place to be. It then became apparent that the hours needed to be extended and changed to coincide with the schedule of the Food Depot. These changes have enabled the Info-Depot staff, volunteers and students to assist in the operations of the Food Depot as well as providing on the spot referrals and information. In light of the new space and hours the Info-Depot expects to see the service used more frequently and the rate of service users grow in the next year.

The Info-Depot is currently open from Tuesday to Friday from 12:00 to 3:00 PM.

### **Staff**

Consuelo Guy has been the coordinator throughout the year and was assisted by three students from Dawson College. Allison Apple, Tanya Di Raddo and Fay Tannahill successfully completed their second year social service stages with the Info-Depot and the Food Depot.

### **Volunteers**

Connie Blair, Wanda Dutkiewicz, Mireille Lagacé, and Felice Heller have worked very hard in the last year by providing the Info-Depot with their time and energy and have been very appreciated by both staff and service users.

### **Activities**

The Info-Depot held its first moving clinic in the spring of 1995, it consisted of information packages on how people can move with the least expense to them. This included how to change your address at no expense, where to get free boxes, etc. Over fifty of these packages were distributed and there was a good deal of media coverage.

The annual tax clinic was given in April and was a great success once again. About sixty welfare recipients had their Federal and Provincial taxes completed for free.

The Info-Depot held two workshops in the Food Depot concerning the changes to the welfare system and they were both well attended. One workshop was given by staff from Project Genesis and one was given by the Info-Depot coordinator.

The Info-Depot in conjunction with the Housing committee of the NDG Community Council and the Senior Citizens Council distributed over four thousand pamphlets that were designed to encourage people to apply for low cost housing (HLM). The Info-Depot provided assistance in filling out the application forms for these units.

The Info-Depot was represented in Quebec city at the Bread and Roses march on June 4th, 1995. Many of the demands that were made at the rally had profound affect on many policies that have now been enacted such as a proactive law on pay equity and an increase in minimum wage from \$6 to \$6.45.

In December 1995, the Info-Depot also held a free Christmas decoration workshop in collaboration with Éco-quartier NDG.

### **Statistics**

The following is a breakdown of the questions asked at the Info-Depot over the last year.

Welfare	18 %
Housing	26 %
Information & referral	28 %
Taxes	28 %

### **Objectives for 1996-1997**

- To continue working with the Food Depot and Housing Committee in a way that maximizes use of resources.
- To work with other organizations in fighting cuts in social service spending on both the Provincial and Federal levels.
- To continue to give workshops at the Food Depot and for other organizations. The Info-Depot is currently doing welfare rights workshops as well as community resource and information workshops for volunteer groups at the NDG CLSC.
- To continue to improve the services of the Info-Depot through ongoing volunteer training and updating of all information as well as networking with other organizations.

## **ÉCO-QUARTIER NOTRE-DAME-DE-GRÂCE**

Éco-quartier NDG is a new environmental program from the City of Montréal. The NDG Community Council helped set up the program in July 1995 for the NDG district. Éco-quartier is overseen by an advisory committee consisting of concerned members of the NDG community. They guide and nurture the progress of this initiative for the betterment of the quality of life in the NDG community. Both the committee and citizens believe that a cleaner, greener and safer environment is fundamental in promoting a healthy atmosphere at home, in our daily lives and for the well being of our delicate eco-system.

Éco-quartier is a program which invests in the efforts of the residents, allowing them to act effectively as concerns are addressed, solutions are found and results are attained. It is an approach that centers on information, public awareness, education and mobilization in the following fields of activity;

- . "3 R's Reduce, Re-use & Recycle
- . Cleanliness
- . Beautification and the promotion of greening

### **Eco Issues**

In its first few months of activities, Éco-quartier NDG has become a resource base for citizens concerned about local environmental issues by providing relevant information relating to City services, environmental activities and of course local Éco-quartier events. Presently, it is striving to achieve a greater audience by offering its services to individuals, groups or institutions wishing to help Éco-quartier achieve its objectives. A newsletter, Quartier Vert, also acts as an informative way to answer any questions citizens asked Éco-quartier staff during community events.

### **Community Stewardship**

The past year has seen major changes in the role of citizens' involvement. Participation has increased in door-to-door recycling, planting projects and streets and lane ways clean-ups. With more community-based projects, citizens are taking charge of their immediate surroundings. As well, with direct input and contribution from other community base groups and local merchants, citizens are exploring various ways to be active in sustaining on-going efforts in their community.

### **Staff**

Alec Lee was hired as the coordinator for the program in NDG. His work was supplemented by part-time workers on employment programs. Pascale Lemire, Claudette Parkin Manhertz and Micheline Auclair helped setting up the program in the neighbourhood, implementing more door-to-door recycling programs and participating in fundraising activities as well as numerous beautification activities.

### **Volunteers**

Éco-quartier relies heavily on the contribution of volunteers. They help in all areas ranging from administrative tasks to activity co-ordination. Éco-quartier believes in nurturing the efforts, talents and knowledge of all volunteers and greatly appreciates all of them.

### **Finances**

Although Éco-quartier is financed by the City of Montréal, the grant does not cover all events and activities costs. In 1995, we received most of our equipment and supplies from the generosity of local businesses. Over the last year Éco-quartier received over \$6000,00 worth of sponsorship for the 1995 season. In 1996, Éco-quartier has received over \$3000,00 thus far. Thank you NDG!

### **Future Plans**

Éco-quartier NDG will extend to the Décarie district in 1996. That means more activities, events and workshops. The long term goal is to renew and to stimulate citizens' involvement so that the residents will have a direct input in how they can improve their quality of life here in NDG.

## **THE HOUSING COMMITTEE PROJECTS**

### **Les Habitations Communautaires NDG (HCNDG)**

1995-96 was the first full year of operations of HCNDG, a non-profit housing corporation established with the help of the Housing committee to provide decent, affordable housing for low and middle income earners in NDG.

Last year the group bought two apartment buildings at 4850 and 4870 Walkley ave. under the government of Quebec's Achat-Renovation Program. Extensive renovations were carried out on the buildings over the summer and the apartments were ready for occupancy

in October 95. The apartments are now nearly fully occupied and three of the tenants hold seats on the Board of Directors of this new organization. In addition a tenants committee has been formed and is actively organizing events and activities.

This work was done with the support of ROMEL (Regroupement des organismes du Montréal ethnique pour le logement), some staff support provided by the Council and the tremendous group of volunteers who make up the board.

### **Non profit housing in NDG**

The Housing committee is currently working with HCNDG and another non-profit organization, Les Habitations Sherbrooke Forest, to examine ways to more effectively manage and acquire housing in the community. One possibility still being examined is the Community Land Trust (see below).

### **Community Land Trust Conference**

This year members of the Housing Committee attended a conference on Community Land Trusts (CLT's) in Washington D.C. A Community Land Trust is a non-profit corporation set up to separate the ownership of land from that of the buildings on that land. This works to maintain the affordability of the communities housing stock for the use and benefit of local and future residents and to stop speculation on property. By developing a participatory structure, (a common membership model is 1/3 leaseholders, 1/3 community organizations, 1/3 non-residents) the community establishes control over local resources.

The representatives of the committee attended a wide variety of workshops and made connections with community housing activists from all over North America.

The committee is working on a briefing document that should be available at the Council offices very soon.

### **HLM campaign**

This year the committee continued its campaign to encourage local residents who are eligible for subsidized housing to get their names on the Office municipal d'Habitation (OMH) waiting lists for HLM (Habitation Loyer Modique) units.

The original campaign, launched last year in cooperation with the Senior Citizens Council and the Info-Depot, was in response to efforts by the OMH to change the vocation of the St. Raymonds residence on Upper Lachine rd. from a residence for seniors to one

for non-seniors. The campaign was a qualified success with the OMH granting a one year moratorium on any change in the vocation of the building.

The pamphlet and poster designed for this campaign were reprinted this year and distributed across NDG. These campaigns have meant a significant increase in the numbers of seniors on the OMH waiting lists. The increase is such that the OMH has begun to look at maintaining the St. Raymonds as a seniors residence. The committee will continue to monitor this situation.

### **Benny Farm**

The Housing committee continues to watch the redevelopment of Benny Farm with great interest. In the fall of last year work finally began on the construction of units for the current residents of the site. The construction of the first building is scheduled to be completed by late 1996.

The committee continues to monitor the progress of the redevelopment. The committee remains particularly interested in questions regarding the financing as well as the plans for the rest of the site. The committee recognizes the concern in the community over the prospect of derelict buildings that may remain. Although the CMHC has said that they have no interest in maintaining empty buildings it is not clear how long they will be willing to wait until they sell the other buildings on the site.

The committee still believes that there is a willingness to create a community based alternative to the proposals of the CMHC. Affordable housing on Benny farm is an investment that has more than paid for itself over the years. It is time to re-invest in the development at Benny Farm so that people can continue to benefit from this community resource as they have for almost 50 years.

### **Coalition Villa Marla**

Last summer saw the beginning of yet another large controversial development in NDG. The Monastère du Précieux Sang, one of four institutional properties on the east of the Villa Maria metro, was to be sold to make way for condominiums. The development would mean the loss of some of the last green space in eastern NDG (an area already lacking in green space).

On June 14th the City of Montreal held an information session to explain the development to local residents. At that meeting over 100 residents expressed near unanimous opposition to the project. Some 15 briefs and 3 petitions in opposition to the development were

submitted. Soon after the Service de l'urbanisme, in an internal report dealing with these submissions, recognized the necessity of preserving this green space and making it accessible to the public.

In mid-August the Executive Committee of the City mandated the creation of a plan for the four properties while at the same time giving 'approval in principle' to the Précieux Sang proposals. The housing committee felt that this was a backwards step. The Committee had been asking for a public consultation and for a plan d'ensemble for the four institutional properties in the area, a plan that would respect the city's own urban plan.

In November, at the first meeting of the City's new Urban Development Commission, local residents voiced strong opposition to the proposal and demanded a public consultation on the development. In a meeting that lasted more than four hours the Commission refused to recommend that the project be sent to public consultation.

After this local residents, community organizations and heritage organizations formed the Coalition Villa Maria. This Coalition's main purpose was to organize a public consultation. Recently the Commission Consultative sur l'avenir du secteur Villa Maria (set up by the Coalition Villa Maria) held public hearings. Over forty briefs were presented by residents and organizations on a wide variety of topics.

The Housing Committee presented a brief asking for a plan d'ensemble for the four institutional properties and that every effort be made to maintain the green space and to make it accessible.

The Commission will be presenting its report in June of this year. The Housing committee will continue to work on this dossier.

### **Coalition work**

The Committee continues to be involved in two provincial coalitions actively working to improve social housing and tenants rights in Quebec.

FRAPRU: Le Front d'action populaire en réaménagement urbain is a province wide coalition active in the promotion and the protection of social housing in Quebec.

RCLALQ: Le Regroupement des Comités Logements et Associations des Locataires du Québec is a province

wide coalition whose main purpose is to promote justice for tenant's rights.

The Housing Committee support of these organizations was diminished this year although participatory membership was maintained. The increase in work around local housing and urban planning issues as well as the absence of paid staff to represent the committee has meant very little coalition work. The committee did participate in various letter writing campaigns to promote social housing. The committee will try to address this situation in the months to come.

## **NDG 2000**

### **The general assemblies**

During 1995-1996, the support committee NDG 2000 (made from representatives of the organizers of the 1992 Conference) continued working on the organization of the general assemblies for NDG 2000. During this period, NDG 2000 held several general assemblies:

- . a special meeting was held May 31, 1995 to look at work being done by local schools. Representatives from neighbourhood schools and the school commissions were invited to participate, exchange their views and discuss possible actions that could be taken with local groups and action committees.

- . Assemblies were held October 10, 1995 and January 17, 1996. These assemblies served as a meeting place for members from different action committees and other organizations to discuss and exchange info about activities and projects of the different committees and local community organizations.

At the October 1995 meeting of NDG 2000, the support committee proposed some possible strategies to consolidate its role of promoting intersectorial actions. Some important conclusions were drawn on this subject:

- the importance of NDG 2000 for the exchange of information and as a meeting place for residents involved in various community actions.

- the potential of NDG 2000 to involve more citizens by inviting them to participate as volunteers in action committees.

- the potential of NDG 2000 to favor and promote intersectorial work by collectively identifying problems and needs.
- the importance of opening up NDG 2000 to any neighbourhood action committees in order to maximize the impact of the work and the concerted actions.

The general assemblies of NDG 2000 have been extended to active committees in our community. These committees now have the opportunity to exchange info and discuss solutions to common problems. The new mini-forum formula focusses on a specific issue and is organized by an action committee with the help of the Support Committee. It is followed by a period of exchange of reports and varied information. Two general assemblies have been organized accordingly at the beginning of 1996:

. on March 13, 1996: *Exploring the needs of and services for new arrivals in our community.*

. on May 7, 1996: *Violence and Vandalism in the Public Transit System: A Community Response.*

Other subjects will be explored at the 6 annual meetings scheduled. With this formula the support committee wants to explore problems that often outstrip the mandate of a single committee and at the same time empowering these committees with the contribution of new members and new ideas.

### **Action committees**

Thanks to the grant from Vivre Montréal en Santé, the committee hired one person part-time (Cecilia Garcia and then Claudette Parkin-Manhertz) to help coordinate the general assemblies and to technically support the different committees.

In 1995, the committees did their best to involve as many people as possible to work as volunteers and to self-finance part of their activities by seeking additional funding sources.

Most of the activities were organized in collaboration with other action committees and/or the different public institutions of the neighbourhood. Most local organizations are involved in one way or another in one of the NDG 2000 actions.

### **Youth committee**

The Youth Committee continued managing the Youth Job Bank. The bank is now located at the NDG YMCA and is open all year long. During the summer of 95, 90

youths registered at the job bank and 38 landed jobs. One of the main difficulties was finding enough potential employers to satisfy the demand. Some efforts were made in this direction during 1995. A bi-weekly workshop on job searching techniques was also organized during the summer of 95.

At the beginning of 1996, the committee started planning workshops for an inter-generational program. This project called "Opération générations" will be organized in collaboration with the NDG Community Committee Against Elder Abuse.

### **Public Security Committee**

This committee works closely with neighbourhood residents and relies on the Tandem NDG's support. Security audits have been completed leading to recommendations whose application is monitored by the committee during the course of the year. For this work the committee was awarded the Prix CAFSU (Comité d'action femmes et sécurité urbaine) in the category Safe Environment in Public Areas.

This committee also undertook new activities for 1995-1996 in collaboration with local groups and organizations :

. 2-day course on self-defense for neighbourhood women.

. Conference on the safety of "latch key" kids.

. Conference on alcohol and drug abuse among adolescents.

. Help to Friendly Home (shelter for women victim of violence) : yard cleaning and planting of trees.

. Beginning a research project on the perception of safety in parks and public places. This project will continue during the summer 1996.

### **Coalition Interraciale et Interculturelle (CIRC)**

With the support of the Community Council and the collaboration of a number of local groups this coalition organized several events of cultural exchange and unity during 1995:

. Benefit concert on May 6, 1995 at the Wesley United Church.

. Intercultural Festival (September 23 to October 1, 1995).

The Inter cultural Festival "Friends and Neighbours" included 10 activities over two weekends. All the

neighbourhood cultural communities were invited and 25 of them responded.

Most of the Festival Activities this year were open-air activities and took place in two neighbourhood parks (a Music Festival, family sport activities, inter-cultural parade, multi-ethnic picnic, closing ceremony with the plantation of a community tree). Other activities (Forum-Conference on immigrant domestic workers, Theatre "My Grandmother and I", Choir Concerts, Volunteer's evening) took place at Trinity Memorial Church, Wesley United Church and at Concordia's FC Smith Auditorium.

Public participation, based on our estimates as well as the media's, was very high with approximately 4000 people in one or other of the events.

### **NDG Caucus on Economic Development**

The Caucus continued to act as a networking table for local community economic development projects. Representatives from FRAME, Charade des Modes, the NDG Entrepreneur Centre, the YMCA Loan Circle Program, Nomad scientists, the Council as well as the NDG representatives on the CDEC met 5 times over the year. In the fall the Caucus was ready to help organize a one day conference that would have examined the role of youth, employment and economic development. This conference would have been in support of establishing a Carrefour Jeunesse Emploi in NDG. The Caucus also supported a budget planning course at the NDG Food Depot as well as supporting the work of the Entrepreneur Centre.

## **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

### **Ressources Populaires**

The Ressources Populaires is a local coalition of community groups dealing with issues of poverty and community development. The coalition has a fund of some \$70,000 to put towards the purchase of a building for member groups. This year Michael Kay and Jason Hughes continued to play active roles (as President and Treasurer respectively) representing the Food Depot and the Council on this coalition.

This year the coalition re-evaluated its mandate to purchase a building for member groups. It was decided that due to the absence of an affordable building for all member groups the group would concentrate their efforts on looking for space for one or two groups. If

the group is unable to find a suitable building before March 1997 it will contact the original donors of the money to discuss other uses for the money.

The group provided some financial grants to the NDG Food Depot, the NDG Anti-Poverty Group, Charade des Modes, and FRAME. Ressources Populaires meets on a bi-monthly basis and provides an excellent opportunity for local groups dealing with issues of poverty in NDG to exchange information.

### **NDG Entrepreneur Centre**

The NDG Entrepreneur Centre celebrated its first anniversary as an independent organization by continuing its work of supporting local businesses through the operation of a multi-business office centre. The Centre acts as a hub for many small and medium size businesses as well as providing an excellent networking base for local businesses. With clear objectives to promote community job training programs, entrepreneurship training and to provide affordable office space the Centre plays an increasingly important role in community economic development.

The Council provided some program development support for the Centre this past year. That support will continue in the next year and concentrate on consolidating the organizational structure of the Centre and the development of training so it may offer innovative and relevant programs to the NDG community.

### **CDEC Côte-des-Neiges/NDG**

The Council continued its involvement in the local CDEC this year (Corporation du Développement Économique Communautaire). Arnold Bennett represented the Council on the Board of the CDEC.

This year the CDEC agreed to provide staff support to local community economic development projects such as the NDG Entrepreneur Centre, the YMCA Loan Circles, FRAME and Charade de Mode. This would have given these local economic development projects a much needed boost. Changing directions in the orientation committee meant that this support will probably not continue. This was disappointing news after 1 1/2 years of trying to get CDEC staff support for these projects.

### **Carrefour Jeunesse Emploi**

The Carrefour Jeunesse Emploi program was established by the provincial government to create, through a partnership with community groups and representatives from various sectors of the

community, a «single door» where young people can get information and services related to employability, entrepreneurship and local economic development. In the spring of 1995 Russel Copeman (NDG-MNA) called together representatives from groups working with youth and economic development issues to begin discussions aimed at establishing such a program in NDG. After great initial interest in the program, participation dropped off and the project was put on the back burner.

Recently representatives of the Council, the YMCA-NDG and the CDEC Côte-des-Neiges/NDG have begun work to evaluate if local groups and individuals are interested in re-establishing efforts to create a Carrefour Jeunesse Emploi. The group is planning to distribute an information sheet with a questionnaire that will help determine the interest in such a program.

### **Support to Les Partenaires pour la bibliothèque Benny**

Early this year the City of Montréal announced that it planned to close the Benny Library. Local residents came together to fight the closure and after putting much pressure on the city won a minor victory when the city said that it would put the closure of Benny on hold for a year so that a "partnership" could be worked with citizens groups and other organizations.

Soon after this, a group of local citizens formed Les Partenaires pour la Bibliothèque Benny. This group was organized to fight the closure. They recognized the need to maintain French library service in western NDG, recognized the rising numbers of single parent families as well as a large population of seniors in the area and recognized that many immigrant families used the service.

This group recently made a proposal for partnership with the City. The Community Council has agreed to provide support to this group and to accept it as a standing committee of the Council. The group has clearly stated that they do not want any part of a partnership that would have people at the library losing their jobs. They have organized to provide support and to develop programs and activities to supplement the library's current services.

The Council will work to provide support for this group in the coming year.

### **Proposed Closure of the Queen Elizabeth and Catherine Booth Hospitals**

Last summer saw the Council involved in one of the largest expressions of community activism NDG has ever seen. When the Régie Régionale announced that it would be closing the Queen Elizabeth and the Catherine Booth Hospitals our community responded with overwhelming opposition to the closures.

Soon after the closures were announced the Council organized a public meeting to give residents a chance to voice their opinions. Over 300 local residents came to demonstrate their opposition to the closures. This meeting provided the Council with a clear mandate to work to save the Hospitals. This mandate led to the creation of the Community Coalition on Health Care.

### **Community Coalition on Health Care**

The Community Coalition on Health Care was formed in September of 1995 as a result of community meetings and information sessions concerned with the hospital closures and cut-backs resulting from the provincial health care reforms. Initially responding to an overwhelming community concern about the impending loss of the Queen Elizabeth and Catherine Booth hospitals, the Coalition soon developed its mission to encompass assessing the health care needs of the community and to make recommendations to government and health care providers based on its action plan to: 1) prevent the closure of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and 2) hold a community consultation and conference.

Involving over 40 community groups and organizations as well as developing communication with local health care providers, the Coalition has organized several information meetings, press conferences and community actions. Last September 13, 1995 the Coalition was instrumental in rallying 12,000 citizens to march in support of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. The largest demonstration of community activism in memory.

Most recently the Coalition sponsored the Community Health Care Conference aimed at residents and health care users. The conference took place at Concordia University-Loyola Campus on April 20, 1996. It effectively brought out health care providers and government officials together with a wide variety of sectorial user groups. Although final results are not yet apparent, there is much indication that the Régie Régionale is beginning to consider meeting the needs of the community. Many concerned residents of the

West End are beginning to feel that their efforts can truly make a difference.

Post Script : At the time of this writing the Régie Régionale has announced the creation of a new non-profit community health complex. The Centre West Community Health Centre will occupy the building formerly occupied by the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. The new complex will include a chronic care hospital, youth social services, a walk-in clinic, family medicine clinic (with a full range of laboratory and diagnostic services and equipment) and a range of other health and social services to be determined.

The Coalition will participate in these changes and in the development of the community non-profit corporation.

### **Monkland Centre**

The Council continued its involvement in the Monkland Centre with Jason Hughes representing the Council on the Board of the Monkland Centre.

### **Forums**

The Community Council organized two other public forums during 1995-96.

. Public Forum on multiculturalism on April 4, 1995.

. Public Forum on the closing of Queen Elizabeth and Catherine Booth Hospitals on May 25, 1995. -

### **Participation in different events**

During 1995-1996, the Community Council was involved in different community events organized by local groups and committees:

. Sunday in the Park, organized by Head and Hands, in the summer 1995.

. the Fraser Hickson Library's day, in August 1995.

Again this year, the Council participated actively in the efforts of Centraide to mobilize volunteers and sensitize new people in the West End of Montréal. An event was organized at the St. Joseph Oratory in the fall 1995.

The Council also actively participated in the Christmas Community Dinner. Thanks to Alec Lee, coordinator for the 1995 dinner, this event was a major success with more than 500 dinners served.

### **Newsletters to the members**

Three newsletters for Council members were published this year. These newsletters kept members

informed of the activities of the Council and invited them to attend.

### **NDG Community Council Recognition Programs**

Following the recommendations of the selection jury in 1995, the committee decided to extend its recognition program into two categories for 1996: *Citizen of the Year* and *Initiative of the Year*.

In these two categories, the Council wants to encourage and acknowledge the person(s) who by their initiative and commitment have contributed significantly to the betterment of the life in our community.

Individuals and groups have been asked to submit their candidacies for 1995. The jury, composed by Michèle Perron, NDG resident and vice-president of the NDG Community Council, Morrie Baker, owner of Ben & Jerry, Frances Ackerman, director of the Fraser Hickson Institute, Clarence Bayne, Director of Institution Management Diploma at Concordia University and Anna Cockerton, winner of the 1994 Citizen of the Year's award. This year, Mr. Pierre Brunet has been selected in the category *Citizen of the Year* and the NDG Entrepreneur Centre in the category *Initiative of the Year*.

The winners will be honored at a reception organized at the General Assembly of the NDG Community Council on June 10, 1996.



**NDG Community Council Inc.**

**SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS \***

**Balance Sheet  
as at 31 March**

<b>ASSETS</b>			<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
	<b>1996</b>	<b>1995</b>		<b>1996</b>	<b>1995</b>
<b>Current</b>			<b>Current</b>		
Cash	\$ 28,634	\$ 11,011	Creditors	\$ 11,206	\$ 9,533
Short term investment	20,000	-	Deferred contributions	27,097	3,774
Debtors	9,878	11,240	Current portion of long term debt	-	1,916
Prepaid expenses	518	354		<u>\$ 38,303</u>	<u>\$ 15,223</u>
	<u>\$ 59,030</u>	<u>\$ 22,605</u>			
			Long term debt	-	\$ 631
				<u>\$ 38,303</u>	<u>\$ 15,854</u>
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Computer equipment - at cost	\$ 19,433	\$ 12,884	<b>EQUITY</b>		
Office equipment - at cost	1,265	715	Fixed assets surplus	\$ 7,741	\$ 3,975
Accumulated depreciation	(12,957)	(9,624)	Accumulated surplus <sup>1</sup>	20,727	6,751
	<u>\$ 7,741</u>	<u>\$ 3,975</u>		<u>\$ 28,468</u>	<u>\$ 10,726</u>
	<u><b>\$ 66,771</b></u>	<u><b>\$ 26,580</b></u>		<u><b>\$ 66,771</b></u>	<u><b>\$ 26,580</b></u>

\* Detailed audited financial statements are available upon request.

1- During the year, the Entrepreneur Centre became an autonomous non profit organization. Their assets, liabilities and cumulative deficit were transferred. Therefore, the cumulative surplus of the NDG Community Council Inc. was increased by the deficit transfer (\$ 4,992) to the Entrepreneur Centre.

**NDG Community Council Inc.**

**SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS \***

**Statement of revenue and expenses  
for the year ending 31 March 1996**

	<b>Council NDG 2000</b>	<b>Food Depot Info Depot</b>	<b>Eco Quartier</b>	<b>PDE</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>REVENUE</b>					
Centraide	\$ 73,850	\$ 38,500	-	-	\$ 112,350
Other foundations	-	15,545	-	-	15,545
Self-financing income	13,016	10,200	\$ 8,975	\$ 26	32,217
Donations	5,095	27,058 *	-	-	32,153
Federal grants	-	2,210	-	48,401	50,611
Provincial grants	23,448	8,674	12,942	-	45,064
Municipal grants	16,371	-	57,506	-	73,877
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 131,780</b>	<b>\$ 102,187</b>	<b>\$ 79,423</b>	<b>\$ 48,427</b>	<b>\$ 361,817</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>					
Payroll & employment salaries	\$ 71,409	\$ 45,720	\$ 52,739	\$ 40,969	\$ 210,837
Related expenses	5,952	406	510	7,599	14,467
Rent & Maintenance	14,862	17,222	3,718	-	35,802
Equipment & supplies	17,713	2,732	2,196	-	22,641
Activity expenses	15,467	35,171	8,132	253	59,023
Administration expenses	4,286	74	1,138	60	5,558
Sales tax	3,083	862	560	-	4,505
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 132,772</b>	<b>\$ 102,187</b>	<b>\$ 68,993</b>	<b>\$ 48,881</b>	<b>\$ 352,833</b>
<b>SURPLUS (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR</b>	<b>\$ (992)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$ 10,430</b>	<b>\$ (454)</b>	<b>\$ 8,984</b>

* Deferred donations from 1994-95	\$ 3,403
Donations during the year	43,252
Deferred donations year end	<u>(19,597)</u>
Donations 95-96	\$ 27,058