

**CCS
Community
Services**

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**Offering community
services since 1932
and
proud partner of Centraide**



CCS Heroes: Adrian & Natalie Bercovici

Adrian Bercovici is an anti-poverty advocate with broad practical experience. In addition to having served Canadian National Railways for 38 years (directing administrative and financial areas of the business), he is also a recognized leader in charitable campaign planning and management, with proven results for the Old Brewery Mission and presently with the Generations Foundation. Adrian's wife, Natalie, works full-time at the Generations Foundation and also writes for The Senior Times.

The Generations Foundation was founded in 1999 because he and his wife and other kindred spirits refused to ignore the problem of childhood hunger. The Generations Foundation therefore focuses on supporting underprivileged school children, teenagers and at-risk young adults – with the ultimate goal of ending the cycle of poverty and empowering youth to live to their full potential.

For his selfless contributions to the com-

munity, Adrian has been honoured at City Hall as Executive Director of the Generations Foundation. He has also received several awards over the years, including:

- The "Outstanding Canadian Citizenship Award" for unselfish service to the community
- The "Leavitt Award" from the Rotary Club
- The "Simon McDonough Humanitarian Award" from the United Irish Societies of Montreal (2010)
- The "CCS Award" for outstanding contribution to Trail's End Camp (2009)

When asked by his peers how they would describe Adrian and Natalie Bercovici, Margaret Healy replied: "They are the hardest working couple I know, who give everything of themselves, without ever expecting anything in return." Father John E. Walsh told us: "They care for others and give of themselves until they are exhausted – all to satisfy the needs of children." Bill Brooks of the Genera-

tions Board describes the couple as energetic. And Darlene Job of the Batshaw Youth and Family services laughed when she shared that Adrian is beloved as "everybody's grandpa."

The Bercovici's know that sending kids to Trail's End Camp changes lives. If it weren't for Adrian and Natalie, hundreds of children would face summer without a break from their oftentimes challenging lives. By sponsoring kids to go to camp, Adrian and Natalie give them an opportunity to grow and acquire new attitudes and values that will serve them in positive ways long after they leave the camp.

For their engagement, dedication and heart, CCS names Adrian and Natalie Bercovici CCS Heroes. **On behalf of the kids, we thank you!**



CCS Community Services offering community services to Montrealers since 1932.

In fact, it is one of the founding members of Centraide.



CCS is a non-for-profit organization that serves individuals in need - be it children, adolescents, parents, seniors, the homeless or mentally ill.

CCS develops and provides a continuum of support services (primarily in English) for families and individuals regardless of race, age, gender, religion or language.

Newsletter Editor: Jean-Paul Lalonde.

English Editor: Anita Nowak

Comments are welcome at jean-paul@ccs-montreal.org

Our next issue will hit the stands in September. Be sure to pick up your copy! Join our mailing list by sending us a message: info@ccs-montreal.org



CCS Community Services

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Staying in Touch

Volume 2, Issue 2

June 2010

Director General's Message



I am pleased to report that so many positive things are happening at CCS, making it impossible to highlight just one. Admittedly, not a bad predicament to be in!

One thing that brings a huge smile to my face is knowing this summer we will be sending our "TEC" kids to Camp Jean-Jeune – one of the finest camps in Quebec, with some of the best equipment and facilities. In fact, following a site visit, one of our Board Members described it to me as the Ritz Carlton of camps!

We succeeded in forging this fortuitous new partnership as a result of the incredible support Centraide has given us. And for that we are most appreciative.

As for new endeavours,

thanks to the generosity and foresight shown by the Community Health and Social Service Network, we will be working in the Airlie sector of LaSalle. Airlie has the highest level of poverty amongst English-speaking Quebecers. And given the leadership vacuum vis-à-vis helping Anglophones in the LaSalle community, CCS has joined forces with CHSSN to make a difference.

Finally, I wish to acknowledge two of our board members who will be completing their mandates this June. First, is our former Board President, Father John E. Walsh. Second, is current Almage Board Chair, John Henry.

Father John will attend his final Board meeting after devoting nine years on the CCS Board of Directors. His

passion to eradicate poverty and his enthusiasm to help others has been unwavering. He shall be greatly missed.

As for John Henry, he was elected as the very first Chair of the newly created Seniors Committee while also serving as President of the Almage Center Board. His commitment to seniors and to Almage has been nothing short of outstanding.

On behalf of all CCS beneficiaries, employees and volunteers, I thank you both for all that you have done. I also wish everyone a wonderful summer!

Bruno J. Mital

Director General
brunom@ccs-montreal.org

The President's Salute, by David Dussault

This is my last "President's Salute" as my term comes to an end very shortly. I won't bore you with what I believe we have accomplished over the past three years. Instead, I'd like to say a special thanks to a remarkable gentleman.

After our AGM this June, Father John Walsh will be stepping down as a member of the Board of Direc-

tors of CCS. I have not been allotted enough space to enumerate all of Fr. John's accomplishments over the past nine years. Yes, he has been a Leader, a mentor and a man of great vision. But more importantly, he was there to hold our organization together at a time when internal strife and discord threatened its very survival. The new, vibrant CCS

that you see today would not have been possible without him.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of CCS, its Management and Staff, I extend our thanks to Father John. It really is too bad we can't clone him; just think what could be accomplished with a few FJPs (that's Father John Prototypes)!

News & Updates

March 2010

Andre Huot assumed the role of Camp Positive and NPI Project Coordinator as of March, 22.

April 2010

Jacqueline Gutierrez assumed the role of Assistant Volunteer Coordinator for Anna Malorni as of April, 12.

Giovanna Colasurdo assumed the role of Almage Centre Manager as of April, 20.

On April 24, thanks to the efforts of 84 bowlers, the Almage Centre raised \$5,200 at its inaugural Bowl-o-Thon. Thank you!

May 2010

Sarah Cartier and Penny Arns resumed their roles as On-Site Directors at Trail's End Camp and Camp Kinkora's, respectively. Both will report to Brent Platt.

Nazareth House undertook reorganization: Wendy de Souza was elected President of the Board on May 13,

replacing Dick Shea who faithfully served the Board for more than 20 years. Board member Bob Bechard will manage the operations of the House and wellbeing of its residents. He also intends to submit recommendations to the Board. Bob can be reached at (514) 933-6916 or on his mobile phone at (514) 702-2157.

We thank Marion Rouault and Cannelle Meunier for their contribution as interns as part as an exchange program between Dawson College and Nice University, France.

Finally, we welcomed Concordia University MBA student Nathalie Estime into our fold. She will be working with Jean-Paul Lalonde as a co-op intern from May 31 to August 20. Good luck, Nathalie!

On May 27, the art student's of Richard Dorais art classes did an art exhibition showing more than 150 paintings. It was a wonderful success!

Rosanna Padula assumed the role of Almage Home Support Coordinator as of May, 31.

June 2010

The Teapot Community Centre held its AGM on June 1 and officially welcomed Kevin O'Halloran as its 2010-2011 Board President.

Coming Soon...

Upcoming Annual General Meetings (AGM) are welcome to all members.

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| Almage | June 15 at 10:30AM at 8680, Hochelaga St. East |
| St-Antoine | June 21 at 1:30PM at 850, Dominion St. Open house at 10AM |
| CCS | June 22 at 5:30PM at 1857, de Maisonneuve West |

Don't miss The Teapot Variety Show on June 16th 1pm. For more information, please contact Amanda at (514) 637-5627.

Join us for the Prostate Cancer Fundraiser dinner at Almage Center on June 22 at 12pm.

The Almage Centre will host its 28th Anniversary Celebration at Buffet Antique on June 29 at 11:30am.

Bring your appetite for the 3 Centers BBQ at St. Antoine on August 13 at 11:30am.



nual donation, The Generations Foundation makes it possible for 120 children to attend Trail's End Camp during the summer. We are wholly cognizant of their generosity and commitment to youth engagement, and on behalf of the participants, we thank them profusely for their support.

Several spots are still open for this summer!

Please call Aishah for more information: (514) 937-5351, ext 248 or e-mail at trailsend@ccs-montreal.org

neously offering their parents or guardians a chance to re-charge their batteries.

This summer, the Camp will take place at a new and improved site located at Vendée, 30 minutes from Tremblant. Camp Coordinator, Brent Platt enthusiastically explains: "At La Base de Plein Air Jean-Jeune, our campers will have the opportunity to experience canoeing, rock climbing, archery and so many more interactive activities. It's going to be fantastic!" Trail's End Camp gives them an opportunity to get away from it all in a safe and secure environment.

Regrettably, the current economic situation has led to the closing of several social welfare camps. As a result, Trail's End Camp is becoming increasingly vital in a world where more and more families on the island of Montreal live in poverty.

Gratefully, through a significant an-



Camp Kinkora, a camp for all seasons by Marion Rouault

Sunny days are here to stay – at least until September! – and that is why our camps are in the spotlight.

Nestled in a secluded valley, located between the charming villages of St-Adolphe d'Howard and Ste-Agathe, Camp Kinkora is a very special place. In fact, the peaceful and tranquil setting engenders quiet contemplation and a healthy break from stressful city living. With a private lake, comfortable accommodations and wide open spaces, the camp welcomes more than 800 families per year. Kinkora is a year-long camp open to groups and families, including schools, scout groups, CEGEPs, University groups and several other organizations looking for a restorative retreat.

Kinkora offers various programs such as Youth in Action, Liturgy Camp (for kids aged 7 to 14), Vision Camp (for



youth aged 14 to 19), Family Camp and Camp Positive. And it also serves many special communities such as adults living with HIV and children and adults from the West Island Association for the intellectually Handicapped (WIAIH).

As such, Kinkora places special attention on integration, whereby each participant is encouraged to interact with others and enjoy the simple pleasures of singing together, dancing or sunny afternoon walks along the beach. This lends a unique community spirit to the camp. Bernard Betts, a camp alumnus, describes it as a place where everyone takes off their social masks and is accepted for who they genuinely are. On-site director, Penny Arns, completely agrees: "Camp Kinkora is a little piece of heaven where people can just be themselves."

Camp Kinkora also hosts Camp Positive, which is a unique concept in Quebec. Each summer, for the last 18 years, Camp Positive has welcomed more than 100 individuals living with HIV for a week of activities and programming. Participants claim the camp replenishes their spirit and breaks their sense of isolation.



All said, Kinkora represent more than a camp; it is a place of mutual respect, happiness, friendship, family, laughter and love.

Interested? Please call Aishah for more information: (514) 937-5351, ext 248 or e-mail at kinkora@ccs-montreal.org



List of CCS Board of Directors: as of June 1st, 2010

David Dussault, President,

Margaret Healy, Secretary;

Tom Boushel, Treasurer;

Bernard Betts, Vice-President;

Ron DeLeskie, Vice-President;

Debra Del Vecchio, Vice-President;

Emily Dubé, Vice-President and Representative of the Teapot Senior Center;

Father John E. Walsh, Past President;

Marlene Demers, Director;

John Henry, Director and Representative of Almage Senior Center;

Michael Palmer, Director and Representative of F.C.C.S.;

Elizabeth Quinn, Director and Representative of St Antoine Senior Center;

Scott Simons, Director;

Geraldine Zemanovich, Director;

Bruno Mital, CCS Director General, e-mail: brunom@ccs-montreal.org ;

Priscilla Gilmore, Recording Secretary, CCS.