

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



CCS Community Services offering community services to Montrealers since 1932.

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



CCS is a not-for-profit organization that serves individuals in need - be it children, adolescents, parents, seniors, the homeless or mentally ill.

New CCS Mission statement:

**CCS designs and delivers reliable, highly effective programs and services, to the marginalized and economically disadvantaged, primarily within the Anglophone community of Greater Montreal.**

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Be sure to pick up your copy! Join our mailing list by sending us a message: [info@ccs-montreal.org](mailto:info@ccs-montreal.org)



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**Staying in Touch**

Volume 2, Issue 3

October 2010

**Director General's Message**



Last June, the mandate of our Board President, David Dussault, ended after three years. I wish to thank David for agreeing to stay on as President thereby ensuring an easy and effective transition with my hiring as the new DG. June 2010 brought the election of Ron DeLeskie as President. CCS is lucky to have Ron as Board President as he brings wisdom and experience, especially as a former Superintendent of Education. Ron has the

uncanny ability to inspire Board members to be the very best they can be, which ensures better governance. Summers are usually quiet for Boards but not with Ron at its helm. In the past three months much has been accomplished, everything from updating our By-Laws and Mission Statement, so that they better reflect the actual work we do in our community, to recruiting new Board Members Kelly Trihey and

Gary White. I believe this year will be another one of great change as we ride the momentum of recent accomplishments, be it the creation of our new CCS Website ([www.ccs-montreal.org](http://www.ccs-montreal.org)) or the creation of a partnership with Base de Plein Air Jean-Jeune for our TEC children.

**Bruno J. Mital**  
Director General  
[brunom@ccs-montreal.org](mailto:brunom@ccs-montreal.org)

**Father Francis McKee: Connecting People to God, (One hoop at a time) by Muhammad Asad**

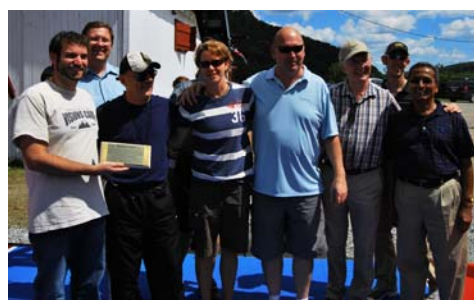
His companions refer to him as an "energy-personified person". Others say "he uses all his talents to bring joy to people". But Father Francis McKee insists modestly "I am just a simple person who has come to know God".

Father McKee put in a great deal of effort to procure \$15,000 to establish a basketball court for the youth of Kinkora, a camp he has been attending for over twenty years.

Father McKee invested the capital to build-on the kids' future. The idea was generated when he repeatedly noticed a number of dedicated youngsters playing on a rocky ground, shooting at a broken rim. He greatly admired the passion they had for the sport. The Father states, "Camps are a great place to help kids grow, and basketball brings them all together". Therefore, he decided to reward them with a modern court. The funds were raised by his unmatched efforts to collect donations from anonymous individuals.

The children deeply appreciate Father McKee's efforts to offer them an opportu-

nity to live their passion. The young sport enthusiasts cheerfully shot the ball with Father McKee at the unveiling ceremony and continue to enjoy the court on a daily basis.



From left to right, Pierre Barakat, Bernard Betts, Father Francis McKee, Penny Arns, Michael Palmer, Ron DeLeskie, Brent Platt, Francis D'Souza.

Moreover, ex-engineer Father McKee is a multi-talented individual. He has been a priest for over 23 years. For the past six years, he has been serving at the Jesus Light of the World Parish in Pierrefonds. A friend of his, Jacky Cere, describes him as a person who

has had experience as "a wrestler, skipper, skydiver, cross-country skier and singer who uses all his talents for God and to bring joy to people".



Father McKee humbly considers this deed an act of connecting people to God. "I just try to get people to discover the beauty of life that God has created for us". To date, he has had success with his mission. Linda Diez, executive assistant at the Newman Center of McGill says, "If there is a person that taught me the love and openness to faith, it is Father McKee".

CCS is grateful to Fr. Francis McKee for all his past, present and future endeavors.

**The President's Salute, by Ron DeLeskie**

Over the past year we have been engaged in an intense period of reflection and action as we have struggled to re-define and re-imagine our role as a major service provider to the English-speaking community of greater Montreal. Several factors have prompted this. The appointment of a new and dynamic Director General in February 2009 has revitalized our organization. We have had to re-think and renew our commitment to our summer camping programs after a change of venue for Trail's End Camp. We have been engaged since the fall of 2009 in a cooperative review with Centraide of all

dimensions of our activities. Over the coming year we have defined several clear tasks and directions for CCS. We will complete a newly defined Vision and Mission for CCS that confirms our commitment to be of service to those who are poor and isolated. We will develop and implement an Action Plan for CCS and all of its component programs that is congruent with CCS's vision and mission and is capable of being evaluated. We will empower and mandate CCS Board committees so that they are

better able to support the vision and mission of CCS. We will focus new energy on making a direct impact on individuals who may benefit from CCS' services through community development initiatives. We will renew our commitment to develop and implement an entrepreneurial business model for CCS so that we have financial stability as we continue our mission both for the forthcoming year and into the future. We have set a formidable agenda for ourselves but with the cooperation of a professional caring staff and an energetic Board of Directors, CCS will have a great year ahead.

## News & Updates

### Pierrefonds Satellite Centre

Situated in the heart of the West Island, Pierrefonds Satellite Centre has become an important focal point for the community's seniors. Activities and services for members such as line dancing, painting classes, birthday outings and more, are offered at this modern facility every Thursday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The most popular activity is a computer literacy class that keeps participants in touch with the technology. The number of members has increased threefold, from 15 to 45 in just 9 months. The centre continues to attract members thanks to its structure and lists of planned activities.

To be part of the experience, contact Diane Doonan at 514-937-5351 ext. 237 or at [dianed@ccs-montreal.org](mailto:dianed@ccs-montreal.org)

### Farha, Ça Marche Walk:

September 19th was the 18<sup>th</sup> edition of the ANNUAL AIDS WALK. It raised nearly \$270,000 and it's not over.... Camp Positive was represented by Jean-Paul Lalonde, Penny Arns

and more than 12 Kinkora camp counsellors. Thanks to all involved.

### Teapot's Freedom Writers

Two generations were able to better understand each other through writing; such is the beauty of the Freedom Writers program. This activity brought together members of the Teapot Centre with English students from Lakeside Academy.

Students and seniors were placed into 18 pairs and together discussed heart touching topics such as "My sense of safety in this world, my fears", and "My dreams and personal goals in life". The groups communicated for five months through literature before meeting face-to-face in June 2010.

The project was a vision turned into reality by Montreal Police Constable Carlota Santos. This experience was really beneficial for both the students and seniors.

### Grant applications:

September brought good news:

Œuvre Leger awarded the St. Antoine



Centre an \$8,000 grant for a nutrition and collective kitchen program; a \$3,000 donation was given by the Sybilla Hesse Foundation and \$1,000 was granted for the Y'APP program.



Welcome to new Concordia Intern, Muhammad Asad.

### Pat Ditre, Heart and Soul of St. Antoine

Words alone cannot describe Pat's contribution to the St. Antoine Community Centre. Even after 20 years, she continues to be a daily reassuring presence. Over the years, Pat has mastered various roles at the centre such as being on the St. Antoine Board, receptionist, fundraising organizer and more. Pat is one of many volunteers who ensure that the mission of the St. Antoine Centre will be upheld in its totality. On October 1<sup>st</sup>, the National Assembly of Quebec honoured her for her devoted service.

Rose Mary Silletta, Manager of St. Antoine, said, "To put it simply, she is the heart and soul of our centre and a source of inspiration for others."

### Almage Tree, Uniting members

On September 14<sup>th</sup>, the Almage Tree was inaugurated in front of 96 guests.

This piece of art required more than 600 hours of dedication and was designed to show gratitude towards the Almage centre, which has provided the artist, Mr. Stopkewich, with unforgettable memories. He joined Almage five years ago and regularly attends and enjoys all the activities there, especially bowling and line dancing.

His masterpiece can hold up to 435 engraved plastics on its 8 branches which span three different levels.

His work of art is entitled the "Almage Tree" because it is his gift to the centre. "My goal was to bring all the members together" explained the artist.

The Almage Tree serves as a symbol of unity as it will hold the engravings showing appreciation towards donors, sponsors, companies and loved-ones that have passed away.



Maurice Koshelowsky, Mrs. Emily Stopkewich and Walter Stopkewich with the Almage Tree

To honour the unveiling, many devoted supporters were also present. These included ex-President of Montreal's St. Patrick Society, Andrew Fogarty; Maka Kotto, Provincial MP of the Bourget District and CCS Board of Directors, Tom Boushel and Margaret Healy.

The tree was made possible with the collaboration of Mr. Stopkewich's spouse Mrs. Emily Stopkewich and his childhood friend, Maurice Koshelowsky. Maurice generously donated the required materials for the artwork.



When asked about his accomplishment, Mr. Stopkewich naturally responded "Smiles on their faces, this is my reward."

## St Antoine's Paulette Lambert, Community worker to the HLM's by Emmanuela Tedone

When it comes to making people smile, Paulette Lambert is an expert.

"If we could clone Paulette, it would all be perfect," enthuses Patrick Benjamin, a Community Organizer for the Office Municipal d'Habitation de Montreal. Lambert is a Community Worker at Saint-Antoine Community Centre for seniors, whose aim is to promote harmonious living and improved quality of life among multi-ethnic individuals. She spends the majority of her time with the 100 residents who mostly come from four low-cost housing divisions (HLM): Richmond, Albert, des Fleurs and L'Érablière.

Lambert articulately states, "The most important thing is to welcome everyone without judgment into the community." Some of her main goals are to develop mutual respect within the four HLMs, to bring a sense of belonging and to create a family atmosphere. She achieves these by offering numerous activities, such as communal soups or painting days that boost self-confidence as residents discover talents.

Lambert initially began as a volunteer, only transitioning to Community Worker at the Centre three years ago. Lambert is faced with many obstacles in trying to fulfill her mission, such as negativity and the presence of social differences. Nevertheless, she recognizes that steps can be taken to overcome these barriers. For instance, she organizes the weekly "Wednesday Soup" as a way to create relationships and unity.

If so desired by members, Lambert would also like to offer French language courses that would be taught by volunteers. Communication under a common language will encourage integration, promote learning, as well as help build social networks and restore social tissue.

After selflessly contributing to the community, Lambert still, "[for her] has the impression of having done nothing." However, Rose Mary Silletta, the Manager of Saint-Antoine Community Center, says that "We try to bring smiles to the community but sometimes the community does not respond. So, smiles are brought through Paulette."



Continue your good work Paulette.

You are much appreciated!

[www.ccs-montreal.org](http://www.ccs-montreal.org)

New web site thanks to Jean-Philippe Paquin, President of Auto123

And conception by his Team of designers:

Franco, Annie, Hélène, Tasso, Peter, Yan, Marc and Martin.

### List of CCS Board of Directors: as of September 30th, 2010

Ron DeLeskie, President;

Tom Boushel, Vice-president;

Marlene Demers, Vice-president;

Bonnie Roach, Treasurer;

Bernard Betts, Secretary;

David Dussault, Past President;

Debra Del Vecchio, Director;

Emily Dubé, Director;

Margaret Healy, Director;

Michael Palmer, Director;

Elizabeth Quinn, Director;

Kelly Trihey, Director;

Gary White, Director;

Geraldine Zemanovich, Director;

Bruno Mital, CCS Director General, e-mail: [brunom@ccs-montreal.org](mailto:brunom@ccs-montreal.org) ;

Priscilla Gilmore, Recording Secretary, CCS.