



Unitarian Church of Montreal

Église unitarienne de Montréal

Congregational Newsletter
Summer 2009 – July & August
Ete 2009 – Juillet & Août

Summer Worship Calendar Services begin at 10:30 am

July

- 5 Leader: Hendrik Boom, *Empathy*
Musician: Marie-France Boisvert
- 12 Leader: Hari Thakur, *How to prepare for the Unknown*.
Musician: tba
- 19 Leader: Cym Gomery, *Sloth*
Musician: Brian Bryce
- 26 Leader: Louise Halperin, *Bel Canto: method in harmony with mind, body, sound*.
Musician: Louise Halperin

August

- 2 Leader: Emanuel Freitas, *The Faith of an Athiest*
Musician: Emanuel Freitas
- 9 Leader: David Horan, *Religion and Geography*
Musician: Shawn Dohring
- 16 Leader: Mark Abley, *Tibet*
Musician: Louise Halperin
- 23 Leader: Alan Lobo, *Becoming an Adult*
Musician: Marie-France Boisvert
- 30 Whole group participation in *Poetry and Music*

September

- 6 Labour Day Weekend—last summer service
Leader: Kirstin McKeown *Teaspoon Activism*
Musician: tba

For information or to volunteer as a musician please contact
Aldyth Harrison at lithjam@hotmail.com or 514.739.3830.

Fall Worship Calendar (advance notice)

- 13 September Homecoming Sunday and water communion.
Bring some water from your summer experiences to
share in our ingathering
Led by Rev. Diane Rollert
Music by Sandra Hunt

Every year, on Homecoming Sunday
Whether we've stayed home or travelled far,
We each bring back some water to church
in a tiny, tiny jar.
This year we'll pour into communal bowls,
one, two or three,
listening to a sweet melody.
How has the summer transformed you and me?
Our "reasonable accommodation" needs:
Boil your water, please!*

*By order of the Department of Public Health!

From Our Minister

Last night, incoming and outgoing members of our Board of Management met for the final Board meeting of the year. Around the table were gathered more than twenty leaders who truly care about this community. The energy was high and the room was filled with good humour. What more could a minister ask for?

Those who have served on the Board in recent years can tell you that it is fun and satisfying work. Yes, there is still one slot open on our Board, but there are many people who have expressed interest in becoming Vice President in the future. Stay tuned.

There are so many volunteers who have given so much of themselves to make this a wonderful year. Open your directory, read the names, and you'll know what I mean. There's already much planned for the fall – an Italian dinner dance, neighbourhood gatherings, BidNite, a potluck dinner shared with the women of our local Muslim community, and a family fun day. Wow!

Among the many things that have happened this year, the congregation has entrusted me with the role of the staff leader. I take this new charge very seriously, and I am grateful for this honour.

For a long time, our staff has reported to the Board, or to committees, or in some cases to no one. Feedback and evaluations have been hard to come by. My hope is that this change in leadership will enable the staff to become a stronger team that works together to help the congregation fulfill its mission.

Over the summer, members of the Personnel Committee will be working on standardizing contracts. In addition, Aline Deckers will be putting together tools that the staff and I can use to set goals and participate in meaningful evaluation. She and I agree that the word "supervision" is not the right word for these changes. We prefer "coaching" or "leadership".

Some have expressed concerns that this new role could be a distraction from my ministry. I see it as an opportunity to strengthen our shared ministry here. I will not be micromanaging the staff – our staff works hard and knows what it needs to do. Instead, I will be a coach and staff leader. These are roles I play already, but now will have clarity and accountability as support.

The Personnel Committee and Executive have wisely advised that this change undergo a year-and-a-half trial. This enables us to fine-tune things and to re-evaluate before making any changes to our Standing Rules. This will be an opportunity for growth for us all.

(continued page 2)

From Our Minister – continued

This summer, as I take my leave, the Board will step in to support the staff. In the past, it was the President's role to be on call all summer. This year, the Board will share the responsibility, a wise and welcome change. Barbara Jackson will be coordinating the Caring Network over the summer. In case of a death or significant pastoral emergency, she will know how to reach me.

My plans for this summer are still taking shape. I hope to spend ten days in Turkey as part of an interfaith exchange hosted by the Dialogue Foundation. This is the Muslim group that has brought us Noah's Pudding for the past two years.

I also hope to travel to Transylvania to attend the meeting of the International Council of Unitarians and Universalists, September 1-5. This will be an opportunity to meet UUs from around the world and to visit the cradle of Unitarianism dating back to the 16th Century. (You know how much I love our history.) With a little luck and a lot of frequent flyer miles, this trip should become a reality.

Whatever your path may be this summer, may it be warmed by sunshine and cooled by gentle breezes. Thank you again, for a great year.

Paix, Shalom, Namaste,

Diane Rollert

Entre Nous

Special guests at the unveiling of Westmount's refurbished totem pole at the Westmount Library were Beavers and Cubs of the 2nd Westmount Pack. Their Akela is Melani Litwick who has been with the pack for six years. The pack, one of the oldest active units in Canada, will celebrate their Centennial this year. Melani says, "I have really amazing kids in my pack this year and I'm awfully proud to be their Leader."

Used stamps help Guide Dog Training

The UCM Caring Network is collecting postage stamps again! If you receive mail with unusual (not everyday regular) Canadian or US stamps or stamps from another foreign country, please carefully cut them from the envelope leaving a ¼ inch border around the stamp. Drop these in the gold box located next to the name tag boxes in the Church lobby. The Caring Network will ship these to Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind. (See website for more information about guide dogs www.guidedogs.ca) Proceeds of stamp sales will provide help for their work. This UCM project is in honour of Muriel Jackson and in memory of Jane Hugessen.

THE BIG PICTURE

¡BidNite Fiesta!

Mark thy calendar now: 21 November is BidNite. Fun for the whole family and better than ever. Québex-Mex supper and a pinyata as well as many offers.



THE FINE PRINT

¡Changes in the offing!

BidNite will be held on Saturday 21 November 2009. Supper will be from 5:30pm to 7pm and the auction will be from 7pm to about 8:30pm. You will note that although the supper starts about the same time, the auction will end considerably earlier than in the past. This is possible because on Sunday 7 November and Sunday 14 November (before the Service and during the social hour) many items will be on display for silent auction and all of the fixed cost offers will be available for sign-up. This in turn means that the deadline for submission of offers has been moved up to Sunday 1 November! BidNite offer forms will be included in the September newsletter (and available in Phoenix Hall after that time). Note well that this leaves a shorter time to submit offers than in past years. So start thinking right now about offers that you—or you and some friends—would like to submit. Catalogues from the past few BidNites will be posted in Phoenix Hall in September to remind you what sorts of offers have been made and to stimulate you to make new and different offers.

More details of BidNite will be made in September, but have fun thinking now about activities you like doing and would be happy to do with other church members and friends.

Elizabeth Anglin

Book Group

The book discussion group is pleased to announce that it has chosen eight titles for next year. In other news, the group has hired Wewerethe Mulvaney, a 5-star seagoing Chef who is famous for his truffled Sweet Françaises with Golden Spruce and his candied Peony-in-Love soufflés confected in his tiny galley on the good ship HMCS Gilead, a Ship Made of Paper under charter to Exit Lines Dry Bulk Inc.

Kathy Douglas

Librarian for the UCM Library

All year we have been gifted with the services of **Christian Nielsen** who has been our Sunday morning librarian for the Phoenix Hall book collection. Chris has done a great job of helping people find just the book they were looking for. Thanks, Chris.

Aldyth Harrison

Religious Education News

As I write this column, I'm just back from an old friend's lovely Quaker wedding, and reflecting on the miracle of "love found." It's a second marriage for both partners, and the caring vows they made to respect and nurture one another, and to honour their differences, prompted me to review my own most significant relationships.

After completing my first year as your Director of Religious Education (DRE), I know that my relationship to the Unitarian Church of Montreal is indeed one of my most significant ones! I feel pleased with the many connections I have made with parents, children, RE teachers and other adults at UCM, and especially with the growing richness of my relationships in the RE Committee. Of course I look forward to our continuing development as a committee and foundational programme of the church.

In the fall there will be some staff changes, which we celebrated at the potluck feast after service on June 14th. I also hope we'll find a few more volunteers for key roles in RE. So let me announce:

- ▶ Ivy O'Reilly has been selected as the new RE Assistant with me and the whole RE programme. She and Rita Izzi spent time together in June to prepare the transition. I will miss Rita tremendously, am grateful for all her support these past months, and am excited by the new relationship I will have with Ivy.
- ▶ Ivy O'Reilly will also become the new Youth Programme Coordinator for our Senior Youth reporting to the DRE. Ivy brings broad experience in many different aspects of our program to this job, and I am looking forward to her skills and support as well as to helping her grow—one of the most delicate yet rewarding aspects of my own role.
- ▶ Elizabeth Charbonneau will continue her valuable roles as the secretary of RE Committee, and as the lead writer of our francophone RE curricula. However, because Ivy now needs to step off of RE Committee, and also because Zach Long and family are moving away, the RE Committee needs two more members. Please let me or Shawn Dohring know if you could fill one of these empty-but-important places on this vital Committee.
- ▶ We also need two more people to join the Junior Youth team of teachers, to work under the leadership of Rhett Parnas, developing more weekend programming as well as some Sunday morning lessons. Rhett is taking over from Ivy, who still will be active peripherally, as will Alain LeFevre. Allen Lobo is the other current teacher for Jr Youth—come join this terrific group!

Meantime, the inspiring Spirit Play work bee on 13 June was attended by 13 people, of whom half have taken on specific story boxes to prepare over the summer. Our visitor, Sparrow Alden, taught a group to create felted heads for making story figures, and many materials were organized.

We are looking for someone to paint two bookshelves, a

person with a router to make at least two finger labyrinths, and someone to take over Jim Lewis's former role as the helpful man-with-tool-kit, perhaps making a dozen or more story boxes.

Please see the names of those involved in the Spirit Play method on the bulletin board hung on the stairwell, and contact any of them to volunteer. Don't forget our 2nd Spirit Play work bee will be from 10am until 4pm, Saturday 29 August! And look for the RE calendar for 2009–2010 on the church website.

As for me, I am planning to have a good rest over the next two months and renew my energy for the fall. I'll be back in the RE office on 24 August.

Caroline Balderston Parry

From our Youth Program Coordinator

I believe that life is about our connections to each other, about learning, always learning and finding our way through the labyrinth of existence, and ultimately about how to fulfill our connections to each other (how to love well).

My experience with the Youth Group these past two years has indeed given me these things. Thank you for showing me the ropes when I first parachuted in, and for your continued patience as I continued to gain a more complete understanding of my role and the Youth Group's purpose.

I have been enriched by the lives of others that have touched mine, whether it was during the Sunday Youth Group time, through our hosting the QuOMcon, through the various cons and trainings I have had the privilege of attending and participating in, through our fundraising efforts, or through the interesting, enthusiastic, challenging, insightful, or even difficult conversations and interchanges with youth, parents, and other adults.

The youth of this church have truly been a source of inspiration. It has been extraordinary to see various young individuals grow and be transformed through inspiration, skill development, motivation, and confidence.

Youth have certainly touched my life, as I hope I have touched theirs in some way; as we continue on our paths, my wish is that we all carry what we have received with us, even if it is only as a forgotten detail at the bottom of our knapsacks that reappears in some inspiring or comforting way at some turn of the road ahead.

This is not adieu, only a stepping back, to allow others to take this project forward, with their strengths and vision. I will continue to be part of the larger community, and look forward to seeing you all, either when chatting in Phoenix Hall after service, at some other church function, or perhaps collaborating on some other project further into the future.

Elizabeth Charbonneau

Tribute to Geneviève Delmas-Patterson

As I gathered input for the tribute to this year's Unsung Hero Award, a clear pattern emerged. Geneviève, through her actions both within the congregation and in her personal and professional life in the wider community, is a one-person embodiment of our mission statement. She's someone who always seems to be taking action! She has inspired and challenged us on a regular basis. And, from what I hear, her home is shared not only with her husband, but any number of people needing to be welcomed and nurtured.

There is no doubt that Geneviève is a woman who takes action in the world. You can attend virtually any worthwhile protest in Montreal and find Geneviève participating and well-informed on the issue at hand. This can be very reassuring when you are heading to your first protest march—you are guaranteed to have Unitarian company. Her passionate involvement in the Palestinian cause and Middle East peace initiatives was demonstrated by her consistent participation in the weekly vigils at the Israeli consulate and any number of other activities with PAJU (Palestinian and Jewish Unity) and CJPME (Canadians for Justice and Peace in the Middle East).

At UCM, Geneviève has been the driving force behind many letter-writing campaigns with Amnesty International, bringing to our attention human rights stories that don't make the headlines, and providing us with an opportunity to do something about it. Many of us have signed many a petition over the years thanks to Geneviève—sometimes without reading it; not out of lack of interest but because we know that, if Geneviève is involved, it is a worthwhile and important issue.

Geneviève's passion for issues of globalization saw her and husband Donald travel to Venezuela for the World Social Forum in 2006. This is the global justice movement's annual gathering in response to the annual World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. Although held in January each year, I think it is safe to say that Geneviève went for the politics, not the sun.

Geneviève has also been very active in CUSJ – Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice, serving on its board for many years. She knows that to work for change you have to get involved. To that end, Geneviève has been a card-carrying member of virtually every major political party in this country at one point or another. Geneviève does what it takes to take action in the world.

Long before we were talking about a "million acts of green", Geneviève was encouraging the natural look in her front yard, composting either outdoors or with worms indoors. They haven't owned a car for over 30 years. Long before we were reciting the mantra: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Geneviève was doing it and setting an example.

Through her action Geneviève has inspired and

challenged many of us to do more, to get involved, to speak up. I don't think I could ever keep up with her! Geneviève is tireless. Even as she was laid up in bed recently due to a broken ankle, Mary Louise Engels visited and found her cheerfully surrounded by newspapers and journals and busily writing.

Geneviève welcomes and nurtures, too. Geneviève and Donald's house on Argyle Street has been a sort of "refuge" to many people over the decades, some for a few weeks, others for many years. Some were students needing a place to live, others were people just going through tough times. In the 1970s, it was home to as many as 15 Vietnamese refugees, or "boat people" as they were referred to at the time.

In the 1970s, Geneviève sponsored the entire family of Gertha Batrville, a Haitian woman employed as Nanny to Elisabeth and Juliette at the time. There was no halfway, if she was going to sponsor Gertha's family, then she would sponsor all of them. The two families remain close to this day.

Throughout her career at UQAM, Geneviève was always a help to students, especially foreign students trying to get on their feet and settle in to a new culture—perhaps because she, as a young woman arriving from France in 1958, was seen as a foreigner and not made welcome. Daughter Elizabeth recalls that her mother always made time for students who would call, knowing they would find a sympathetic ear with Geneviève. Even after retirement from the faculty at UQAM, Geneviève still has an office there to allow her to continue to work with students.

An annual open house potluck on Boxing Day, or thereabouts, is a long-standing tradition at Geneviève's when their home is open to all who seek fellowship at that time of year, especially those without extended family here. From all accounts, they receive quite a crowd!

As a member of the Unitarian Church since 1978, Geneviève has been an active and generous supporter. She has served on the Board in various capacities over the years, including a stint as publicity chair in the 70s when she undertook an ad campaign in the French newspapers to publicize a Francophone gathering at the church. One person showed up and surmised that she was just too early, the timing "just wasn't right." Francophones were politically preoccupied at the time. But, as Charles Eddis recalls, "she sure gave it the old college try!"

During her tenure as Social Concerns Chair, Geneviève facilitated the group's focus on the Rights of Aboriginal Canadians and instigated outreach activities with local aboriginal groups. The donation of the use of Geneviève and Donald's Paris apartment has become a famous offering at our annual BidNite Services Auction. And, as a member of one of the covenant groups, Geneviève has been a source of wisdom, caring, and a planetary perspective. These are just a very few anecdotes that don't do justice to Geneviève's deep

involvement in the life of this congregation.

Geneviève once asked Patricia Gordon what was the answer to give despairing people when they had lost hope for the world and wanted to give up their efforts or not even start them. Patricia answered that Geneviève herself was the answer, that her life was the answer. That, throughout all her life, she had persevered—standing in the rain and cold week after week in solidarity with the oppressed; writing letters and petitions when tired and the cause seemed hopeless; continuing to inform herself no matter how daunting and overwhelming the findings; continuing to act with caring no matter how crushing the circumstances. She herself is the answer, a continuous outpouring of love, living love, being love.

Geneviève, in recognition of all that you have done and will continue to do, to seek justice in our world through compassion and action, all the while inspiring others, we honour you with the Unsung Hero Award for 2009.

Alison Hall, Chair, Nominating Committee

[At the AGM, this presentation was read by Mary-Louise Engels]

Note: the Unsung Hero award is presented, after a recommendation from the Nominating Committee to the Board, to a member or long-time friend of the Church who has a history of being helpful to others, both in and out of the Congregation, and who is not already recognized for such activities by most of the Congregation.

Kahnawake Pow-Wow 2009: July 11 and 12

If anyone would like to go together as a group, please contact me at kikuhalperin@hotmail.com. It's always a fascinating outing and a thrilling event; I've gone many times. Perhaps we could car-pool.

Louise Halperin

Note bene: bottled water is expensive, damages the water table where excessive pumping takes place, and uses excessive packaging to make bottles which then fill dump sites with non-composting plastics. There are two simple things you can do to help the world!

1. Don't buy or use bottled water. Fill and refill your own liquid carriers to drink as you go about life.
2. And fill just one small reusable bottle of water—potable or not—from your summer activities and bring it to the First Service of the new church year, 13 September. (See page 1.)

Ciao!

UCM Italian Dinner Dance
Saturday 19 September

Our Back Yard: A Summer Special—History

As you may know, my garden involvement has been primarily with the back yard of the church. The UCM website pretty well covers the story. Diana Scott was very involved with the front garden and Pierre Binette was quite active at the time it was put in. And also Jane Atkinson I think—this was all before my time at UCM. I remember that Diana worked with a grass landscaping specialist who came up with the planting plan for the ornamental grasses in the front.

The back yard has trees that were donated, but none are memorial in nature. The tree in the front by the front walk (the Serviceberry) was in memory of someone, but I can't remember the name now, and the family did not want a plaque.

The implementation “committee” for the back yard garden was myself, Jack Shenkar and Tom Kramer. We met with the landscape architect and contractor etc. And many, many people helped with planting shrubs, assembling the shed and composter, shovelling mulch, etc.

Alison Hall

Newsletter mail-out

Many people have asked how the newsletter gets mailed out. Here's the answer:

Barbara Holubek coordinates the volunteer crew who fold, stamp, seal, and distribute the UCM Newsletter every month, Hip, hip, hooray for Barbara! Now you know.

Church Office Summer Hours

- ★ Monday to Thursday, 10am to 2pm
- ★ Friday, 10am to noon
- ★ Closed Monday 27 July until Monday 17 August

The answering machine will be working all summer and monitored daily. Call and leave a message and someone will get back to you.

In case of emergency, contact any member of the Executive (listed on back page, noted with an *)

Our Front Yard: A Summer Special—Histories

Janine Cobb asked me if the Newsletter might celebrate the summer season with an article on the UCM gardens. Thanks to Jim Douglas, Phyllis Greggain, Alison Hall and Christine Rourke, you can read about beginnings, ongoing work and the joys of being a garden volunteer. And plan-a-neighborhood-garden walk, thanks to Mary-Louise Engels.

Marion Blake

Gardener's Apprentice

When I retired in 1994, one of the things on my "To Do" list was to garden both at home and at the church where I had long admired the lavender bed and the flowering thyme along the walkways. Diana Scott was the mover and shaker around the garden and she had two cohorts: Pierre Binette and Jim Douglas.

No one except Diana has been more dedicated to the garden than Jim Douglas who has put in countless quiet hours at Spring and Fall cleanup days and over the summer tending the weeds.

And it came to pass that Diana put out the call for volunteers to help in the garden and I became a garden groupie, first warning Diana that I knew nothing about gardening. Imagine what a ripe recruit was I for an enthusiast like Diana. Soon I was more than weeding and planting; I was off to the Jasmine nursery for new "burning bush" to replace the winter kills, over to Rona to buy the snow fence, down to Atwater Market for Hostas to fill in blank spots where the junipers were dying, and off again to buy patio stones to make a path to the wayside pulpit. There was always something brewing in Diana's mind to improve "the look." One year Diana was keen to have an automatic watering system installed and she enlisted me and Eleanor Ellis to help her finance that. In retrospect, it would seem more practical to adjust the garden to the natural environment. Every spring Pierre Binette and I would plant new lavender in the "nursery," to be moved the following spring into the large bed.

One year, after consultation with an expert in ornamental grasses, we hurried off to Saint Sauveur to buy some new plants. These turned out to be a mixed blessing and some did not survive.

As often happens, other demands on time and energy make it necessary to move on and I could no longer continue. But the time spent in the garden with Diana, Jim, Pierre and others was energizing, educational and above all memorable.

Marion, you are such a pest! Now that I have written this bit, I must truly thank you. I have looked back in time and remembered someone who was very significant in my life and an activity that continues to enrich my life.

Phyllis Greggain

Gardening at UCM

I was asked to form a "committee"—not to have lots of meetings, but to look after the garden—shortly after Diana Scott retired from the care of the front gardens. No one who had worked with her was willing to take over the task of being coordinator; what wise people they were! It was not easy to piece together how things had worked, or when and how various plants were pruned or otherwise cared for. My gardening education and experience had been in a very different climate from that of Montreal, and experience is everything in this profession.

The work of the volunteers has been to maintain the garden, bearing in mind that the garden at the back of the church has more than doubled the amount of work to be done just to keep the things in some kind of order. Several methods of allotting work have been tried. Dividing up the grounds into "lots" cared for by one or more volunteers worked well for a short time, but many volunteers found the pressures of life too great to donate the time required and the system could not keep going. Then we followed a system of having a set time each week when volunteers could come, while some "regulars" came at their own convenience. A loyal band of "regulars", and some occasional workers, have contributed valuable time and strength that is greatly appreciated.

Time rolls on, the plants have matured. Extensive professional pruning is needed, many plants need dividing and it is very difficult to keep abreast with the amount of work required to keep the grounds "reasonably tidy" and free from weeds. We are aware that things are not perfect, but we do what we can in the time we have; we have been fortunate to have the assistance of Reiner on Friday mornings during the summer months. Last summer volunteers came regularly on Thursday evenings and I would like to thank all volunteers, particularly Jim Douglas, Yves Manseau, Prue Rains (who still looks after her original "lot"), Judy Henkewick, Denny Meyer, Elizabeth Anglin, Eleanor Beattie, Kirstin McKeown, and special thanks to Kathy Douglas, who provided wonderful baked goodies for hungry gardeners. I would love to hear from any new volunteers.

Some of our regulars are now finding it difficult. We all have our own gardens and other commitments, so there needs to be some re-thinking about garden maintenance. The recent severe chopping of the Euonymous hedge, while considered necessary for opening up the view of the building, illustrates the need for careful consultation both with our gardeners and with outside qualified professionals.

Christine Rourke



Beginnings of the Church Garden: a Brief History

“A garden is a living thing which constantly evolves.”

In November 1995, the construction of our present church was well underway. During coffee hour in Channing Hall (where, after the fire, we also held services until our new church could be completed), I innocently asked a Board or Building Committee Member (probably Pierre Binette) if the Building Committee had someone concerned with landscaping. His reply was to the point: Thank you for volunteering!

I had informal discussions on how to get started with Krystyna Matula (President of the Church Board), Diana Kleins (Chair of the new church Building Project Management Committee), Ray Drennan (Minister), and others. In February 1996, an ad hoc “Landscape Committee” was formed: Diana Scott, Jane Atkinson, Rosalind Moquette, Deborah Bunka, Hannelore Poncelet, Helen Krutz-Weil, and myself (as Chair). Input was also obtained from Tessie Tomasek, Don Hamlett and others who could not attend meetings. We quickly agreed that we couldn’t do everything!

Our initial focus would be the front yard. We decided to place emphasis on hardy, low maintenance plants and a substantial patio area. A suggestion was made to plant “a dense, prickly, fairly low hedge” on the Bulmer St. side. The minutes noted that “Litter will be an issue, particularly for the front area given the proximity of the Metro station....”

Meetings were held frequently and it soon became obvious that the landscaping could not be done before autumn. We recommended that the Church Board hire a landscape advisor to draw up plans (based on our suggestions). Stefane Sobkovick was hired in April and his proposal was presented to the Project Management Committee in mid-May. In early June, the Landscape Committee recommended further that a landscape architect be hired to supervise and implement the plan.

We also recommended that the back area be leveled by the building contractor and, as a temporary measure, be seeded with buckwheat to stabilize the soil and provide natural fertilizer. This was carried out by one or two members of the committee; but no sooner had the seeding been done than a large flock of pigeons descended and gobbled up most of the seed!

By late summer 1996, the Project Management Committee approved the hiring of Landscape Architect Elise Beauregard to supervise the work of the landscaping contractor. Work started in late September and was completed in early November (after the formal opening of the new Church in September). Several church members made horticultural donations in memory of loved ones.

The present front garden is the result of the natural growth of the original plantings, and some modifications over the years (dying of some plants, re-plantings, pruning,

etc.)

The Landscape Committee submitted a final formal report to the Church Board of Management on February 17, 1997. Following that, various members of the former landscape committee took part in suggestions / plans for use of the “back yard” of the church, but that is another story best told by others.

Jim Douglas

Neighbourhood Gardens

Many pretty gardens, large and small, line the blocks adjacent to the church. Here is a quick mini-tour starting at Claremont and Burton, and ending near Westmount Park. You can complete it in less than half an hour—or more, if you like to stand and stare.

317 Claremont: Boxwood topiary highlights the entrance of this residence, while roses, urns of mandevilla, purple clematis, and violets display a pink and purple color scheme.

377 Claremont: This red, orange and yellow corner garden is framed by a boxwood hedge and features roses, ornamental grasses, day lilies, yarrow and more. The highlight at the moment is a fast-growing yellow and orange honeysuckle vine shooting up the electricity pole.

Winchester between Claremont and Prince Albert, north

side: a block of attached Victorian houses displays one tiny perfect front garden after another: revel in the displays of interesting shrubs, perennials and vines!

Walk along Prince Albert back to de Maisonneuve, north

side, and then head west towards Roslyn. The block between Roslyn and Lansdowne features one spectacular garden after another. Note particularly the northwest corner house, 4801 de Maisonneuve, where bright coral bells contrast with the white, pink, and violet colors of roses and cranesbill geraniums. The northeast corner garden, 4729, displays an ever-changing profusion of shrub roses and perennials: irises, scarlet poppies, and peonies take centre stage now. And as you continue heading towards the park, the remaining houses on the block offer similar delights.

Mary-Louise Engels



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September newsletter submissions

Email your submissions to news@ucmtl.ca
or place them in the newsletter mailbox at the
church. Include your name, phone number, and
email address with your article or notice.

Deadline: **Wednesday 19 August at 8pm**

When sending Emails place your submission in
the body of the email. If sending hardcopy,
please type.

CARING NETWORK

The summer coordinator is Barbara Jackson,
514.488.5877 bejackson@sympatico.ca
Members of le Groupe francophone contact Francine Desmarais
450.332.3894 fdesma@gmail.com

If you know of someone in the UU community who needs help,
please get in touch. We have over 20 people registered as helpers:
individuals happy to make hospital or home visits, make telephone
check-up calls, prepare and/or deliver food, or act as chauffeur. If
there are other needs, we will do our best to satisfy them.

UCM Board Members * = member of Executive Committee

President: *	Membership:
David Kersulis	Petrina Lee Poy
514.365.3191	514.485.5555
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Building & Property Management:	caitlin@openface.ca
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Rosanne Baatz	Alison Hall
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