



Transforming our community through love...

Volume 1, Summer 2023



Our Lady of Grace Mural by 'A' Shop

INSPIRE! Editorial Magazine

Our mission - your inspiration and motivated involvement

Representing the views and opinions of some of NDG's most intelligent, thoughtful and loving community members.

Come Away With Me

by Ross Harvey, rossG3@gmail.com



A look 7 years down-the-road (2030)

As individuals, every person in NDG is thriving rather than merely surviving. While we are not yet at a level of equality for all, poverty has been eliminated from the social landscape. All our neighbours are now our friends and we are in regular communication with many of them. At a very local level (block) there are a large variety of activities held regularly, which are getting tremendous support from the community.

We have developed a very effective network down to every resident in NDG. This has facilitated the flow of information, services and products between all levels. No person is alone, isolated or lacking of anything the community has to give. All of the social organizations are experiencing record growth and ability to carry out their missions owing to the great support they are receiving from the community. Local tradespeople are being patronized as never before, merchants are experiencing unprecedented volumes and as a result are giving back to their community.

The faith institutions have stepped up and taken a central role in the community. Their message is one of inclusion and love for every human being, whether they be black or white, atheist, religious or spiritual, rich or poor or any of the myriad of sexual persuasions. As a result, a great many of our residents are patronizing these institutions regularly. A vast array of programs and services are mediated through these organizations: art exhibitions and lessons by local artists, plays by local troupes, concerts by local musicians, barbecues and 'pot luck' dinners open to everyone and patronized by many. As far as bringing an end to poverty, the faith institutions are central in this. It is they who gather from those who have much and disseminate to those who do not have sufficient.

Love is the order of the day. On the streets people walk with their heads held high and greet their fellow man with a smile and a jovial 'hello.'

We have moved to duplicate our successes from NDG not only to other communities across Montreal, but also all across the world. The world is awakening to a new day and every day more people across the earth are joining the movement and growing in love and it all started in NDG! To find out more about Ross' work in the community and globally, please go to NDGProject.com

Kates 'n Dogs by Kate Davey

In Montreal, especially around this time of year and July 1st (Moving Day) there is a spate of domestic animal abandonment. This occurs mostly at the Montreal S.P.C.A. on Jean Talon. In truth, this is something which happens year-round, but is more prevalent from May 1st through September 1st. July 1st finds the S.P.C.A. with an overload of animals - completely full cages and even full to overflowing. In the past I



have served there as a volunteer. It is extremely sad as these pets wait for their owners to return to pick them up. This generally does not happen - whereby the animals are found new homes or in some cases suffer a much worse fate.

Some animals on Moving Day are brought to an area like Westmount where the owners open their car doors and let the animals out to fend for themselves. I have seen this happen, several if not many times. Sometimes the animals are just left behind in the locked apartment with a bowl of water and some kibble. Hopefully the landlord/ concierge will check the dwellings and find the animals/pets. For animal lovers - and a great many are - there could be no worse day to celebrate Canada's birthday Than the July 1st Moving Day.

Most leases (new and older) say NO PETS. Why is this exactly?

Montrealers are taxed on all animal products including food, veterinary bills and all other products including toys, coats, boots as well as pet grooming. Over 51% of Montrealers are pet owners. Where does all this tax money go to? Surely not all to building and maintaining dog parks. How could we use these dollars to better serve our animals?

Why should anyone have to choose between their beloved pet as a result of moving/having to move. As more and more properties make the decision not to allow pets, the crisis heightens.

Bill 494 is a motion to allow all animals in housing across the province. Please check out the [SPCA's site](#) on this and use the provided form to send a message to your local MNA. In the meantime, if you have room and love to give, please consider helping out in this area by either going to the S.P.C.A. and adopting an animal, or consider fostering an animal. Please also check [LogisAction](#) as well as they maintain a list of pet-friendly apartments in NDG. The law in Montreal is that in one household you can have up to 4 pets, 8 for those fostering.

Please make the time to complete the letter to the Minister of Housing for Quebec as well as our local MNAs. Hopefully this will provide a long term solution to this problem. kates.and.dogs@gmail.com



Experiential Education

By actively engaging students in practical activities, these systems promote deeper understanding, skill development, and personal growth. Here are some key advantages of experiential education:

Enhanced Learning: Experiential education encourages active participation, allowing learners to apply theoretical knowledge to real-life situations. This hands-on approach fosters a deeper understanding of concepts and promotes critical thinking, problem-solving, and decision-making skills.

Increased Engagement: By immersing students in interactive experiences, experiential education captivates their interest and motivates them to take ownership of their learning. This heightened engagement helps combat boredom and disinterest, leading to improved retention and knowledge retention.

Practical Skills Development: Experiential education systems prioritize the development of practical skills that are highly valuable in real-world contexts. Through simulations, internships, fieldwork, or project-based learning, students acquire skills such as teamwork, communication, leadership, adaptability, and creativity, making them better prepared for future challenges.

Personal Growth and Self-Reflection: Experiential education often incorporates reflection exercises, encouraging students to analyze their experiences and consider the insights gained. This reflective practice cultivates self-awareness, empathy, resilience, and a sense of personal growth, empowering learners to make informed choices and develop a stronger sense of identity.

Real-World Relevance: Experiential education connects classroom learning with real-world applications, bridging the gap between theory and practice. By engaging with authentic problems and challenges, students develop a practical understanding of how concepts and skills can be applied in meaningful ways.

Improved Retention and Transfer: Due to the active and immersive nature of experiential education, learners often retain information more effectively and can transfer their knowledge to new contexts.



Transport as a Service (TaaS)

As I look down the road at the future of the automobile industry, I am filled with wonder and excitement. On my twice daily walks around our community and time at my 'office,' I am struck by how many people do not know about the impending future. Just the other day I was speaking to a really nice man who I see regularly. We were talking about our cars and how we use them infrequently. He has a 2021 Nissan Rogue and was telling me all about the advanced features of the car. He told me that the car actually warns him to not hold on to the steering wheel too tightly in order for it to steer automatically!

Electric vehicles represent the foundation of this new era for the industry. Virtually every car and truck manufacturer already has EVs and are expanding their range of offerings. The limiting factor, the battery technology is improving regularly - extending the range of the vehicle to upwards of 500kms as well as lowering the charge time to full. In addition, the STM as well as the major school bus companies are making progressive changes over to EVs.

Self-driving or autonomous vehicles. It was thought that this would take a long while to reach the market. It is already here! In the Montreal area we already have several EV, autonomous vehicles in operation. These are mostly low speed shuttles between a small number of locations. It is predicted that within several years, autonomous vehicles will be present on all roads across the world. People's reluctance/fear to turn the wheel over to a computerized system is unfounded. 95% of all accidents are caused by driver error - mostly distracted driving. There will be less accidents on our roads.

Uber, Lyft and others. It is predicted that a great number of individuals and families will give up their personal cars and SUV's in favour of a new system which will be released on the market once a great many autonomous vehicles are available and present. Companies such as Uber and Lyft will maintain fleets of automobiles all across the landscape. Anyone requiring a lift will order a car/SUV, detail its destination, pay for the service and just wait until a self-driving car is deployed to their co-ordinates! It is expected that the savings from not having to pay for the purchase or lease of a vehicle, registration, insurance and maintenance will prove a more economical way of getting around saving the consumer thousands annually.



Descent of New Jerusalem by Patricia Wagner

Today I was speaking with a friend about a conversation I had recently with a very spiritual, very caring individual. We were speaking to the challenges facing the world moving forward and what we can do to advance this progression. I asked him what he would do. He said to me; 'First off it has to be good and non-violent?' I said; 'Most definitely.' He told me that he believes there is a component of the world who are 'bad apples' and that he would put all these people on an island and let them manage themselves there and that everyone else would be free to engage in making the world better, through love. He asked me if I liked his idea and I said; 'No! How do you decide where the cut-off for badness is - is it 5%, 10%, 50%? What are the criteria? Do you have to have killed a person? Several? Many? What about people who have killed out of self-protection - like in war? Or domestic violence? What other criteria are there? This was all playing with him.' The real reason I don't like his suggestion follows.

Between the days of December 25th and 31st, 2003, I had a time I call my '7 Days on the Mountain With God.' I was not looking to be 'saved.' I was leading a wonderful life. On December 25th, God placed the Living Spirit of Jesus Christ inside of me and it has grown in me daily, taking me from Glory to Glory to Glory. My life is decidedly different today than anything I could have ever envisioned - and I would say unequivocally that it is better than anything I could have imagined!

I believe that inside every person there resides good and bad. Some people are 99% goodness and 1% evil. Some are the opposite. What God has demonstrated to me is that He is able to take a person where he/she is and to transform them. I have an annual visit with my psychologist whereby he asks me one question; 'How are you?!' My answer to him is always the same; 'I am great and getting better every day!' To which he responds; 'That is not possible!' My answer is; 'I am on a continuous, upwards and never-ending spiral through the infinite levels of heaven (on earth).' So that is my hope and prayer for the future. That God can and will come to every person on the face of this earth, as He did for me, and will save them. rossG3@gmail.com



Empress Theatre model - by Alex Montagano

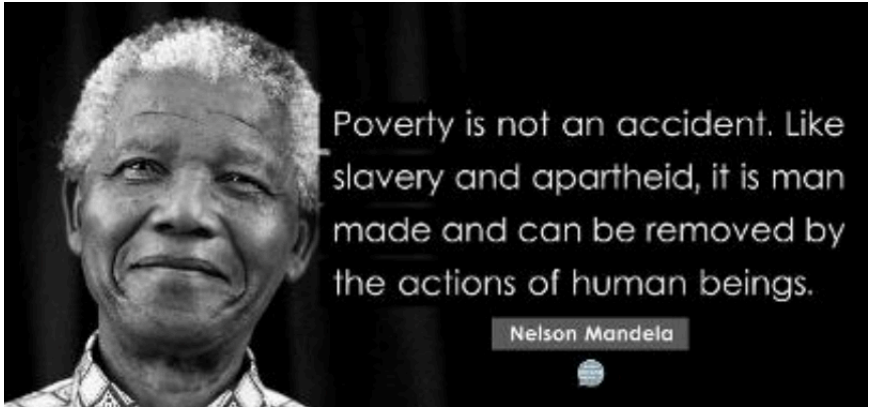
For many years one of the hottest topics across NDG was what to do with the Empress Theatre following the fire which tore through the inside of the building. While many groups have tried, no one has succeeded to date. In 2021, the city called out to the community to submit ideas for rebuilding. You can see the different proposals here: [Transformation of the Empress.](#)

We need to act on this and to all band together towards not only developing a plan but also generating the funds necessary to pay for the rehabilitation. The price tag to completely renovate the building's interior and exterior are estimated at around \$12M. Our community counts 67,675 residents. If every person in the borough were to pay a one-time fee of \$200, this would generate the necessary revenue. While it is realized that many are struggling to make ends meet in this post-Covid era, this solution is put out there as a means to get us thinking on creative solutions.

The most recent news we could find is that the latest plan for the building is to turn them into condos, with 10% of the spaces going to artists. The plan is to return the exterior as close to original as possible. For a great many people this is simply not a viable option. The Empress is a landmark in the area and should be one of the focal points of our community - the artistic community as well as the community-at-large.

We are calling out to everyone who would like to see the Empress saved and transformed into something extremely special for the community, featuring performance spaces (concert hall, movie theatre...), commercial spaces (cafe/resto...) as well as social housing. The time is now! We must all band together to form a synergistic dynamo, focused on finally doing what needs to be done in the immediate! I will gladly do my part, whatever part that ends up being! Time waits for no-one!

rossG3@gmail.com



Ending Poverty and More

In order to make NDG the best community in the world, one of the initial and most critical steps is raising every resident above the poverty line. Governments across the world have toyed with the idea of instituting what is known as a Basic Income. This issue is now front and centre given the massive amount of jobs lost/being replaced by technology. In NDG there is a petition circulating, asking all levels of government to institute a Basic Income Pilot Project in NDG. Please read and sign this important petition. The essence of the proposed Pilot Project is that every resident of NDG aged 18 and over receive \$1000 every two weeks, no strings attached. This would ensure that every person, at \$26,000/year, was able to afford modest living quarters, sufficient food and basic necessities as well as to save a little for emergencies.

Taking this one step further, in order for every community member to thrive rather than merely survive, each and every person must be moving in a direction towards realization of their dreams. Many people have never dreamed about their ideal life and for the majority of others, these dreams died early in life, generally when they finished school and reality, rent and all the other expenses of life forced them to give up on their dreams. NuVoWay LifeStyle Coaches will be present across the community with a mission to help each and every person to first determine what their ideal or dream life should include and then to assist these people in reaching for and even overshooting these goals/dreams.

Another exciting new program for the NDG community is BuyNothing NDG. This is a 'gift economy' whereby members freely give of their unique goods and services with no expectation of return in any form. It is a very important step towards a world where there is no form of currency and where everyone has access to everything.