On May 7, 2014, some 250 volunteers were hosted at the Plaza Antique, on Sherbrooke Street East, for the Community Activity and Volunteer Recognition Ceremony. The red carpet was rolled out and a photographer welcomed the guests at the entrance to make this evening memorable from start to finish.

Unique entertainment
To express their appreciation for the commitment of these volunteers, the employees of the Office municipal d’habitation de Montréal (OMHM) presented a musical number that was created especially for them! Serge Villandré, Assistant Executive Director, Low-Rent-Housing Management, and Nathalie Morin, Director for the promotion of social development and consultation, sang their appreciation to the tune of *Star d’un soir*. A group of dancers and singers from the Service du développement communautaire et social, including Director Esther Giroux, accompanied this performance, which put a smile on everyone’s face. Volunteer Beverley Deroy also contributed spontaneously by singing a tune *a cappella* with great emotion and talent.

Here are three of the volunteer stars that shone brightly on the evening of May 7.

1. **Nicole Binette Guay**, a kind-hearted woman who has organized numerous parties over the past 14 years in the De Salaberry housing project in the northwest sector.
2. The Plateau Mont-Royal housing project, in the east sector, has in **Monique Gauthier**, an astute administrator who never hesitates to offer assistance to the tenants.
3. Dynamic and generous, **Iluminada Averion** is recognized for her landscaping work on her balcony and around the Place Newman housing project in the southwest sector.

An evening when all the stars were shining!
A year of positive results

For a little more than a year now, we have been conducting consultations on the operations of the Advisory Committee of Tenants (Comité consultatif des résidants, or CCR) and the sector and sub-sector committees. This exercise has revealed numerous strong points in these participating entities, but also elements that could be improved.

Early last October, we presented results in the three sectors and to the CCR that generated a lot of interest. Five tenant representatives have volunteered to take part in the task force that will explore, over the next few months, ways to inject new dynamism into the sector committees. We will get back to you with more detail on this subject in a future edition.

For its part, the CCR will implement the recommendations related to its operations. In fact, it has been thoroughly committed all year long to continually improving the pertinence of its actions. It has formed several committees to analyze in detail such questions as the assistance to be provided to tenants and their associations, the welcoming of new tenants and problems with maintenance and repairs. You should be proud of your representatives; they are committed to presenting your concerns to the Office’s administration and, above all, to returning to you with solutions.

We have also continued to hold information meetings for tenants not represented by an association. These meetings, which have been held in the three sectors over the course of the year, inform the tenants about the participatory bodies and the services of the Office.

With 2014 drawing to an end, it is time to prepare your annual activity reports. We will soon be sending you the form to be filled out to obtain your 2015 subsidies. In the meantime, I sincerely hope you have a wonderful holiday period and that you start the new year filled with joy.

Esther Giroux
Director
Service du développement communautaire et social
Tenants’ Annual General Assembly
A lively and rewarding meeting

On October 23, some 45 representatives attended the Annual General Assembly of the tenant representatives of Montreal’s low-rent housing projects. Three elected members of the Advisory Committee of Tenants (Comité consultatif des résidants, or CCR) hosted the day: Nicole Vallières, from the Richmond housing project (Southwest), Richard Fitzgerald, from the Terrasse Ontario housing project (East), and Marie-Benoite Bukuru, from the Sackville housing project (Northwest).

A CCR that knows its business
In the morning, the session leaders presented the report of the CCR and reviewed the initiatives undertaken in 2014, including the major RAM (replacement, amelioration and modernization) projects and budget, assistance to tenants and their associations and the welcoming of new tenants. A discussion period followed, to allow the tenant representatives to state their priorities for 2015.

A number of questions were raised, such as “what to do about the loss of autonomy of our neighbours?” and “how to know how much time is allowed to move when an apartment becomes too big or too small?” The members of the CCR answered all the questions and encouraged the tenants to use the various resources available to them.

Instructive presentations
In the afternoon, Ms. Bukuru, Ms. Vallières and Mr. Fitzgerald explained in detail the participatory bodies that are accessible to residents and the way they interact. Following that, Serge Villandré, Assistant Executive Director, Low-Rent-Housing Management, presented the three videos Knocking at the right door that clarify who to contact when you have a problem. You can watch these videos at www.omhm.qc.ca, under the “Current tenants” section, click “OMHM Tenants,” then “The OMHM at your service.” Mr. Villandré then described the roles of the various members of the local support team and answered questions from the tenant representatives.

At the end of the day, several representatives thanked the CCR for its conscientious work and the wealth of content of the assembly: more informative than ever.

Meeting at the crossroads
Seeking ways for different cultures and generations to live together

All together at the beach!

One of the challenges facing a tenant committee is organizing get-togethers that are fun for everyone. “In summer, a trip to the beach at Cap Saint-Jacques is always a success for the tenants of the André-Grasset housing project in Ahuntsic, because families just dream about outdoor activities,” explains Claire Katma, a community outreach worker involved in the OMHM’s Living Diversity project.

The concept is simple: everyone brings their barbecues and their food; the tenant committee supplies the briquettes. The participation fee covers admission to the beach and part of the cost of transportation by bus. The difference comes from the committee’s budget.

“Each time, it has been a memorable sharing experience,” adds Ms. Katma. “Last year, a woman made sticky rice for everyone, and another offered tea. The people are very generous and proud to have you taste their specialities.” Claire Katma also noted that “some elderly people complimented the parents because they found their children to be well brought up and helpful.” After such a beautiful day, the smiles and hellos are more frequent in a housing project.
New tenant committees

Numerous elections have been held in the low-rent housing projects since last spring. We have counted 31 of them, including 2 that gave birth to new associations. Our congratulations to the 165 newly elected representatives and thank you for committing to this great adventure!

**EAST SECTOR**

**Plateau-Mont-Royal**
- Denise Gagnon
- Monique Gauthier
- Simone Fortier
- Jean-Claude Sauriol

**De Maisonneuve**
- Afaf Lemnour
- Dilroba Islam
- Mounira Khalec
- Rajaa Samir
- Samira Azzouz
- Serge Arbour

**Hôtel-de-Ville**
- Denise Blackburn
- Noëlla Lapointe
- Pierrette Grenier
- Christian Houle
- Denis Marisseau
- Glenmore Browne

**SOUTHWEST SECTOR**

**De Carillon**
- Jean-Pierre Malette
- Ginette Primeau
- Sylvie Lalonde
- Madeleine Dufour
- Juanita Carroll

**Des Oblats IV**
- Cecilia Burton
- Irène Gibson
- Patricia Moore

**Richmond**
- Nicole Vallières
- François Barbin
- Pierre Morin
- Sylvain Dépatie

**Laviole**
- Félix Chendri
- Jaspal Bedi
- Annette Jean
- Aziza Alliova
- Dina Niyazov

**NORTHWEST SECTOR**

**NEW ASSOCIATION**

**NOHM low-rent housing for seniors**

**NEW ASSOCIATION**

**Boyer**
- Ginette Richer
- Jeanne Gendron
- Lise Chrétien
- Marie-Anne Allard
- Nicolas Dattoli

**André-Grasset**
- Danielle Duperon
- Drenimi Seid Djimet
- Emmine Versailiau
- Hakima Amroune
- Samira Wardi

**Parc Royal**
- Atika Mjidla
- George Basile
- Jamila Sall
- Ludmyla Vastremaks
- Badia Bassar
- Marc Milord
- Olga Kadeniski

**Manoir Roger-Bernard (876)**
- Edward Staniewicz
- Esther Falconer
- Grace Brookes
- Sandra Cleary
- Shirley Birch Voe

**Saint-Michel Nord**
- Elizabeth Cruz
- Monique Sauvageau
- Tishmaine Jackson
- Maria Lopez
- Marie-Josée Ramirez Khawly
- Vivienne Boston

**S** OMMHM low-rent housing for seniors

**F** OMMHM low-rent housing for families and people living alone

This information is provided as a guideline and is subject to change as tenant associations evolve.

The role of an association

A strong association is one that treats all its members equally. Each association has its by-laws so that all its members follow the same rules. This avoids a lot of problems between tenants.