

## Who Does What at the OMHM?



During a consultation meeting, liaison officer Julie Chalifour looks at the work plans with tenants of Habitations Plamondon.

In the course of a month, you could be in contact with many different employees of the Office municipal d'habitation de Montréal (OMHM), whether for repairs, some kind of activity, your lease renewal or a resident consultation. The following is a brief description of what these people do.

- The **rental agent** is your first point of contact. He is the one who has you sign your lease. He also rents parking spaces, renews leases, handles housing changes and ensures the building regulations are followed.
- As his title indicates, the **maintenance and repair worker** takes care of maintenance and repairs at the buildings he is assigned to. He also makes sure that equipment is working properly.
- The **tenant security agent** is present at the low-rent housing project every day. He patrols the common spaces twice a day between 6 p.m. and midnight to make sure that everything is as it should be.
- The **tenant relations assistant** intervenes when the rental agent is not able to resolve a problem that has resulted in complaints. He also works with the community organizers and the social workers.
- The **community organizer** helps tenants start or run an association. He also works with local organizations to initiate social projects and community activities.
- The **social worker** looks after tenants who have mental or physical health problems or whose behaviour puts them at risk of eviction and so forth. He assesses their needs and refers them to the appropriate resources.
- The **sanitation agent** steps in when units are infested or cluttered. In cooperation with other workers, he makes sure units are prepared properly before work is done.
- The **liaison officer** acts as a bridge between the major projects team and the tenants when work is planned at a low-rent housing project. He organizes consultation meetings on the various projects to keep residents informed, discuss their concerns with them and accompany them throughout the project.

### Knocking at the Right Door

DVDs of the *Knocking at the Right Door* video were given out to the tenant associations at the sector committee meetings on May 7.

Have you received your copy? If not, please call 514-872-2104 to request one. Watching the DVD as a group is a good way to give all tenants a chance to see it.



## Swinging Into Summer

After a tough winter and a spring that was a long time in coming, summer will soon be here, beckoning us to come outside. This is a good time for neighbours to gather together to beautify their surroundings or to work on a garden that will produce fresh vegetables for people to snack on at the next community meeting. You could also plan an outing to the beach or the local swimming pool for the children. They will love it!

If you need help in organizing your summer activities, look no further than your community organizers. They are there to guide you and to help you find ways of getting the tenants of your building interested in community life. They can also help create ties with the organizations in your neighbourhood. Call on your community organizer and find out about all the resources that are available to you.

Of course, the dog days of summer do have their downside. When the mercury rises too high, make sure you open up your air-conditioned common room to all residents. Everyone needs to be able to go there to cool off and refresh themselves. And be on the look-out for anyone who seems to be experiencing health problems because of the heat. If that is the case, do not hesitate to step in and send the person to the local health services. This will ensure that everyone is able to enjoy the beautiful weather. In closing, I wish us all lots of sunshine, both in our hearts and outdoors.

Esther Giroux, Director  
Service du développement communautaire et social

### THE WORK OF THE CCR

Over the last few years, the Advisory Committee of Tenants (Comité consultatif des résidents or CCR) has been actively involved in a number of projects, including the creation of the call centre and the complaints office, updating of the housing transfer policy, and other matters that touch the daily lives of low-rent housing tenants.

## The CCR Wants to Know

In December, the Advisory Committee of Tenants (Comité consultatif des résidents or CCR) welcomed its Ottawa counterpart, the Tenant Advisory Group. According to CCR chair Sylvain Labrecque, "this gave us an opportunity to see what is being done elsewhere and to discover different ways of doing things." The gathering of tenant representatives and the managers who accompanied them was a rewarding experience, "despite the fact their legal environment is very different, since the mayor serves on their board of directors," continued Mr. Labrecque. The meeting piqued the curiosity of the CCR, which hopes to hold similar meetings in the future. With its counterpart in Toronto, perhaps? Who knows?

## Growing Together



There they go again for another season! Thanks to the Flower and Garden Club, you have an opportunity to make your little corner of the city a more beautiful place.

At a low-rent housing project, this can become an activity that brings people together and draws on everyone's talents. Here is a good way for a tenant association to take the initiative and to promote mutual cooperation at their buildings. Go ahead and invite everyone to come out to plant, weed and water in good cheer. This will give you an excellent excuse to celebrate at the end of the day. And remind your neighbours that they can join the Flower and Garden Club simply by calling 514-872-2016. Membership is free!

The Flower and Garden Club was started not only to beautify the environment, but also to give residents a vision of sharing and achieving something together. Give the tenants of your low-rent housing project the chance to share in that experience!



Rolling up their sleeves to make their surroundings more beautiful often puts a smile on people's faces and gives tenants an opportunity to get to know one another better.

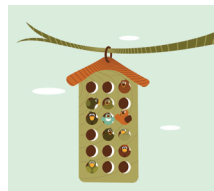
# Major Projects That Incorporate Your Ideas...

By Marie-Eve Leblanc, special contributor



When the OMHM carries out major projects, it listens to what you have to say. It wants to hear your ideas and your concerns. This is the ideal time to share your knowledge of how the spaces are used. Participate in the meetings, express your views on the options proposed by our professionals and become a partner in the project. In these situations, having a tenant committee makes things easier. It enables the liaison officer to find out what tenants think and to ensure that any necessary adjustments are made. These committees are our eyes and ears!

The OMHM met with two tenants who spoke about the impact of such projects on their living environments. In these videos they talk about such things as the notion of pride, their sense of being listened to and the impact on community life. Go to [www.omhm.qc.ca/en](http://www.omhm.qc.ca/en), click on "OMHM Videos", select "Major Work" and watch the videos.



*Meeting at the crossroads*  
*Discovering how to live together harmoniously*

## A Pleasant Outing and a Wider Circle of Friends

This spring, residents of low-rent housing projects Marie-Laure Porcheron, Simone-Léveillé, Fernande-Rochon de Gongre, and Clotilde-d'Amico in Verdun went sugaring off in Saint-Eustache along with some tenants of Entre-deux-âges community housing and residences managed by Alternatives communautaires d'habitation et d'intervention de milieu (ACHIM). Some 150 seniors enthusiastically took part in the activity, which gave them a chance to get out and meet with people from their neighbourhood.

"This was the first time we had been on an outing with residents of other low-rent housing projects," said Lise Dufour, treasurer of the tenant committee at Habitations Fernande-Rochon de Gongre. "People really enjoyed it. They can't stop talking about it and asking whether we will be going out again."

Alain Métivier, Serge Rollin and Loovendson Civil, the community workers behind this day trip, are convinced that working together on a common project opens up new horizons. "Tenants connect with people from other buildings and chat with the community workers accompanying them," related Mr. Métivier. "All of this creates a sense of belonging that extends beyond a single low-rent housing project."

The event was so successful that Mr. Métivier and his colleagues are already working on another one. They hope to attract 190 people to a méchoui this fall.



150 seniors from Verdun, Ville-Émard and Côte-Saint-Paul enjoy sharing a meal at a sugar shack this spring. Will there be an even larger group at the méchoui in the fall?

# New Committees

This spring no fewer than 17 elections took place at low-rent housing projects in Montreal, and four of them resulted in the creation of new associations. The 81 people elected were chosen to organize activities, start projects and represent tenants of their low-rent housing projects at sector committee meetings and other events. Thank you, everyone, for your participation, and congratulations to those who were elected!

## SOUTHWEST SECTOR

**Domaine des Rapides** **S**  
Ginette Demers  
Marie-Orietta Beauregard  
André Limoges

**Téléphore-Savaria** **S**  
Ginette Pinet  
Yvon Pinet  
Pauline Larivière  
Nicole Joly

**Shevchenko** **S**  
Carol Couillard  
Shirley Groleau Leblanc  
Germinie Garnon

## NORTHWEST SECTOR

**Hélène-Boullé** **F**  
Pierre Gauthier  
Bertha Labrie  
Diane Sarrazin-Fournier  
Claudette Gagné  
Jean Binette

**Saint-Roch** **S**  
Hermando Betancourt  
René Cordero  
Juan Antonio Abal  
Kyriakoula Karampelas  
Dorothee Savard

**Boyer** **S**  
Lise Chrétien  
Ginette Lefebvre  
Nicolas Dattoli  
Janine Brazeau  
Jeannine Gendron

**Rousselot** **F**  
Chantale Révolus  
Palaninathan Arumugam  
Lydia Munoz  
Fariba Asmadys

**Gabriel-Sagard** **S**  
Lourdes Martinez  
Guylaine Lebœuf  
Raquel Caitak  
Hortensia Rodriguez

**Badeau-Sauvé** **S**  
Hayat Darouni  
Diane Grainger  
Cécile Gordon  
François Courtois

## NEW ASSOCIATION

**D'Auteuil** **S**  
Ginette Lavoie  
Marcel Vervais  
Micheline Butler  
Yanick Ambroise  
Vahan Sekeryan  
Jocelyne Décary  
Marianne Girard

**De Bellechasse (6001)** **S**  
Micheline Carrière  
Ronald Coleman  
Manon Dupuis  
Ginette Larocque  
Carmen Lafrance  
Francine Therrien

## EAST SECTOR

**Jacques-Cartier** **F**  
Doris Roussy  
Sylvain Labrecque  
Jamila Anzer  
Mohamed-Rachid Asma  
Pierrette Therrien

**Longue-Pointe** **S**  
Hélène Vaillancourt  
Micheline Gagné  
Normand Vincent  
Claudette Labrie  
Lydia Després

## NEW ASSOCIATION

**Séguin** **F**  
Julie Laprès  
France Bisson  
Annie Lapierre  
Gaétan Gauvin  
Sophie Rousseau  
Lucie Cayouette  
M.H. Thomas-Gauthier

## NEW ASSOCIATION

**Sainte-Brigide** **S**  
Jacques Bradet  
Gilles Aubry  
Michèle Pronovost

## NEW ASSOCIATION

**Honoré-Beaugrand** **S**  
Suzanne Parenteau  
Léon Plante  
Ginette Sénécal  
Céline Auchu  
Pierrette Valiquette  
Lise Massicotte

**Desjardins** **S**  
Jocelyne Noël  
Nicole Lecours  
André Brûlé  
Antonin Gagnon  
Diane Paquin

**S** Low-rent housing project for seniors

**F** Low-rent housing project for families and single people

This information is provided as an indication only and is subject to change as tenant associations evolve.



Within an association, it is the tenant committee that looks after matters which were entrusted to them by the members. The committee is the residents' voice. It takes an interest in quality of life and initiates projects. It also encourages as many tenants as possible to help organize activities and to take part in community life.

*Mark it on Your Calendar!*

*The next annual general meeting of OMHM tenants will take place on Tuesday, October 6, 2015.*

*Be there! The meeting will take place from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the CEDA offices (2515 Delisle, Lionel-Groulx station). Associations will be receiving an invitation with all the details towards the end of the summer.*