



The Search for Community

Welcome to the first issue of our community newspaper, *Place publique Milton-Parc*. The paper represents a way to give our neighborhood a voice, to circulate important information, to learn more about each other and to help bring us together to discuss and act upon our present and future.

Place publique Milton-Parc was the name chosen for this newspaper because for a community to have meaning, it must have a public space and a public life. Our society tends to stress the private at the expense of the public, and so we want to encourage a balance. We would like to re-define the idea of citizenship. Citizens are more than taxpayers. Citizens are people who take the time to support and participate in community and public affairs. Our neighborhood has a rich history of resident involvement in public affairs. This history includes many years of hard work to establish the largest non-profit co-operative housing project in Canada. Our neighborhood is rich with cultural activities and people from many ethnic backgrounds speaking several languages. It is also a neighborhood that has pioneered important political changes.

Place publique Milton-Parc will inform readers about the various citizen groups in the area, from the *Women's Centre* on Saint-Urbain street to the *Strathearn Community and Intercultural Center* on Jeanne-Mance street to the social action of the *Milton-Parc Citizens' Committee* as well as many others.

Place publique Milton-Parc will inform readers about important activities in the neighborhood ranging from job creation and community economic development projects, to cultural activities, community organizing around ecological problems and public forums where community and city-wide issues will be discussed. We'll report about local and global issues that affect our neighborhood.

Place publique Milton-Parc will let readers learn about the history of our neighborhood including its architecture and the many interesting people who lived here in the past. We will interview some of the wonderful people who live in our midst. We will inform you about the multitude of small businesses whose hard-working owners and staff also support our community. We hope, in turn, that you will support them.

Place publique Milton-Parc will be part of a collective effort to define what community is all about and what it means to live in a real neighborhood where we know our neighbors and are pleased to live here. All these aims are ambitious and can only be realized with the collaboration of many citizens of good will. It was very rewarding in preparing this first issue to receive help from so many people in the neighborhood.

Place publique Milton-Parc is a community newspaper with a difference. In the world of journalism it is admitted that community newspapers are the most widely read. *Place publique Milton-Parc*, however, is not a commercial newspaper. It is not meant

to make a profit for any individual or company. It is meant to be financially well-administered and to serve a social purpose. Therefore it depends on your interest and support. Please tell us your opinions, your ideas about what should be included on its pages and whether you can help in any way. Telephone in your comments to 844-6917.

Place publique Milton-Parc is published by *Société de développement communautaire Milton-Parc Inc.* (S.D.C.), a non-profit corporation established in 1983. The S.D.C. was founded to administer the commercial properties which are part of the Milton-Park housing project. We have received a grant which partly supports the publication of this community newspaper. The paper, in turn, is part of a larger community development project. We hope to report on this project in future issues of the newspaper.

Place publique Milton-Parc will be publishing every two months for now. As we all move together towards realizing our aim of establishing a more democratic community with new forms of participation, we will increase the newspaper's size and frequency.

Best wishes for 1994 to all,

**DIMITRI
ROUSSOPOULOS**
President of the S.D.C.

