

RESO INFO

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RESO's 25th Anniversary in 2009 Looking ahead for another quarter century!

The closing event of RESO's 25th anniversary, brilliantly hosted by comedian Christopher Hall, was a great success. On December 2 in the Dompark building, nearly 300 guests feasted on a gourmet dinner punctuated by a variety of presentations: singing by the RESO employees' choir, highlights of videos produced by RESO over the past 25 years, a tribute to the community's builders, a demonstration of Gumbo, the South African dance symbolizing solidarity, and more.

"I think we should be proud of the fact that, 25 years ago, the first Community Economic Development Corporation (CEDC) in urban territory was born in the Sud-Ouest," declared new borough mayor Benoît Dorais. He assured the crowd that he intended to work with all the partners in the same spirit of cooperation and partnership as RESO and that the borough would continue to support RESO's work in community economic development. Pierre Sylvestre, honorary copresident of the 25th anniversary celebrations and one-time RESO president, and Gilles Paquette, current RESO president, also spoke to the crowd.

From its launch on May 19 to the closing ceremony, events highlighting 25 years of community economic development in the Sud-Ouest were plentiful this year: four evenings in honour of the builders of the Sud-Ouest, an annual assembly on the challenges of community economic development in the Sud-Ouest, and an afternoon of culture at the Corona on October 25.

The theme *RESO: 25 Years of Innovating Together* underlay all events, whose spokesperson was Yvon Deschamps. And if the past was recalled during the ceremonies held in honour of the community's builders, the future of community economic development was also addressed, at the RESO annual assembly.

On the latter occasion, participants in a round table – Claude Béland, a businessman and one-time president of the Mouvement Desjardins, Paul Bélanger, director of the Center for interdisciplinary Research and Development and Advanced Studies on Lifelong Learning (CIRDEP), Édith Cyr of Bâtir son quartier, Fausto Lévy, president of FTM Capital, Gaétan Morin, first vice-president of investments at the Fonds de solidarité de la FTQ, and Louise Sicuro, president and chief executive officer of Culture pour tous – identified the actions RESO that be should taking over the next 25 years. What emerged was that RESO would have to continue to have an impact on the conditions for accepting large-scale projects in the area, while respecting – and benefiting – the Sud-Ouest community as a whole, and that it must continue to found its activities on the values it has always championed: citizen participation, cooperation and solidarity.

Throughout the year, RESO has paid homage to the builders of the Sud-Ouest, highlighting the contribution of projects, companies, organizations that have been particularly innovative in the Sud-Ouest's renewal, and the personalities that stood out for their unifying leadership over the course of the last 25 years. One of the evenings was also the occasion of the launch of the Carrefour jeunesse-emploi du Sud-Ouest de Montréal's updated local strategy for young people and jobs.

At the Corona on October 25, over 500 people took part in free activities for the whole family – including a screening of the film *Les petits géants* by Anaïs Barbeau-Lavalette, and the high point of the event, a performance by the great jazz pianist Oliver Jones, accompanied by singer Raneé Lee – that highlighted the cultural community’s contribution to the development of the Sud-Ouest.

Consultation on Bonaventure district What will happen to Dalhousie Street?

The preliminary project presented by the Société du Havre for redeveloping the Bonaventure autoroute is attractive in its entirety, but certain questions remain unanswered, particularly those concerning the transformation of narrow Dalhousie St. into a bus corridor, according to Pierre Morrissette, RESO’s general director who will submit a memorandum for consultation to the Office de consultation publique de Montréal (OCPM).

At the request of the City of Montréal, the Société du Havre produced the preliminary project, which proposes to transform the autoroute into a major urban artery and to establish a residential area – the Bonaventure district – in the freed-up space. The first phase of the project, which is scheduled to last until 2025, consists in lowering the autoroute between Brennan and Saint-Jacques streets to ground level. Duke and Nazareth streets, which now run parallel to the autoroute, will be widened after Brennan St. to four lanes each in order to split traffic on either side of medians.

The projected bus corridor on Dalhousie St. has stirred controversy for several months. Some 1400 buses a day are forecast to commute between the South Shore and Montreal. If the Dalhousie St. route is retained, the buses will take this street, which is narrow and runs alongside a heritage building – the New City Gas Company – and near major residential projects such as the Lowney’s. “We are now working with the Société du Havre to evaluate whether alternate scenarios are possible,” Morrissette said.

The OCPM held three information sessions on November 24 and 26, and December 1. Hearing of memorandums will begin January 12, 2010.

BAPE report on the Turcot Interchange RESO hopes for a new start

In its report on the redevelopment of the Turcot complex (see www.bape.gouv.qc.ca), the Bureau d’audiences publiques en environnement (BAPE) has asked the Ministère des Transports du Québec (MTQ) to “make sure the right choices are made before work begins, and to do so in spirit of partnership with the communities concerned.” For RESO (see the press release at www.resomtl.com), this fundamental recommendation calls for a review of the project’s most controversial aspects for the Sud-Ouest community, namely the lowering of the highway onto raised roads, and the expropriation of over 160 Saint-Henri homes.

BAPE also suggests that the reconstruction of the Turcot complex must “reconcile issues of sustainable development with the human environment it coexists with, primarily health protection and improving quality of life.”

“It’s a victory for those calling for more transparency and collaboration from the MTQ to define a project that is socially acceptable, more consensual and better adapted to the requirements of sustainable urban mobility” said Pierre Morrissette, RESO’s general director. It is what many organizations, citizens and institutions involved in Turcot mobilization, including RESO, have been asking of the Québec government since the fall of 2008. “This is the opportunity for a new

beginning on a project that will determine the conditions for the development of a major part of Montréal's Sud-Ouest for the next 50 years," he added.

Several recommendations in the report have been well received by RESO, which nonetheless deplores that the BAPE makes no mention of the opportunity to transform the east-west axis (20 and 720) into an urban boulevard. This proposal, put forward by RESO and a number of interested parties, is aimed at reducing car use, encouraging public transit and maximizing the development potential of the Turcot yard to better integrate it into the city. "We are always ready to cooperate fully with the government, the ministry and the City of Montreal to define a project that is inclusive," concluded Morrissette.

Revitalization of commercial arteries in the Sud-Ouest: It's a go!

A festive event on Centre Street August 28, a Christmas window contest on Notre-Dame St... The commercial arteries of the Sud-Ouest have taken a decisive turn to revitalization. In partnership with the Sud-Ouest borough, RESO is helping to promote the City of Montreal's PRAM-Commerce, a program that offers assistance for revitalizing commercial arteries through renovations to commercial property and more, and supports the establishment of merchant revitalization committees.

Two merchants' committees, the Comité des commerçants et des propriétaires des rues Notre-Dame et Atwater and the Comité des commerçants et des propriétaires des rues Centre et Wellington, have been formed this year to develop these commercial arteries' potential. Furthermore, the SDC Monk is responsible for Monk Boulevard's revitalization.

Revitalizing these commercial arteries will diversify their commercial offerings, improve residents' quality of life, protect heritage and emphasize the added value of commercial buildings.

The window contest on Notre-Dame St. is addressed to merchants, who have been invited to decorate their windows, and customers, who have been invited to vote for their favourites and in so doing, run a chance of winning a prize. The contest, in its first year, was open to entries till December 15. The merchant's committee is also working on producing a corporate signature for Notre-Dame St.

Bassins du Nouveau Havre Agreement with the CLC for the employment zone

RESO has signed an agreement with the Canada Lands Company (CLC) to collaborate on the development of a tourist and cultural hub that will create 200 to 300 new jobs on the Bassins du Nouveau Havre site. According to the agreement, the CLC agrees not to sell employment zone properties for a two-year period, allowing RESO and its partners to proceed with the technical studies and financing package required for the project.

The municipal council of Montreal approved the Bassins du Nouveau Havre project on August 25, bringing the project, which meets the expectations of the Sud-Ouest community, one step closer to realization. "We're inviting the public authorities, notably the federal government and the government of Québec, to cooperate with us in making the employment zone projects a reality so that developing the Lachine Canal benefits the Sud-Ouest population as a whole," said Pierre Morrissette, RESO's general director.

RESO is collaborating on at least two social economy projects for the zone: an affordable hotel with the Auberges de jeunesse du St-Laurent, and construction of roughly 100 workshop-residences for artists with the Cité des Artistes.

Beginning in 2011, the Cité des Artistes hopes to offer artists specially adapted creation workshops combined with affordable living space in an environmentally friendly area (LEED certification). The project, whose spokesperson is Théâtre du Nouveau Monde (TNM) artistic and general director Lorraine Pintal, includes elements essential to artists' places of work: storage space, a loading dock, a freight elevator, abundant natural light, and more. It also proposes rental space for arts and art-oriented social economy organizations, and workshop-boutiques for artisans. "Artists interested in the collective rental housing project are invited to register as soon as possible on the La Cité des Artistes site at www.citedesartistes.org," said André Paradis, painter and president of La Cité des Artistes.

SENSIO Technologies

A successful exit for RESO Investissements

RESO Investissements Inc. (RII), a capital development fund for the Sud-Ouest de Montréal borough, has completely disposed of all its shares in SENSIO Technologies Inc. on the Toronto Venture Exchange (TSX-SIO). The sale result is equivalent to 12 times RII's initial investment, an exceptional yield in these difficult economic times. In social terms, RII has amply fulfilled its mission of job development in a cutting-edge technology sector.

Now recognized as a world leader in 3D home theatre, SENSIO develops and commercializes advanced stereoscopic and 3D technology designed to offer the most evolved and immersive movie experience available.

RESO Investissements Inc., RESO's financial arm, was one of the first funding agencies to support the company in 2002 with an initial investment of \$250,000. RII took an active part in processes and decisions to enhance the value of this promising company and to create quality jobs in the Sud-Ouest. SENSIO was registered on the stock exchange in 2006.

"We are delighted with our decision to invest in SENSIO. The quality of its human resources, its market potential, its product positioning and the innovation it has demonstrated put it inevitably in a leadership position next to its competitors," said Moustafa Magar, RII's general director.

"RII is an extraordinary tool for supporting the transition of the Sud-Ouest's economy to high-value-added fields like information and communications technology. With our partners, including the Fonds de solidarité de la FTQ, we are actively working to make sure RII is here to stay," said Pierre Morrissette, RESO's general director.

CN Yards: RESO shares its concerns

In its memorandum on the CN yards (see www.resomtl.com) submitted to the Office de consultation publique de Montréal (OCPM), RESO shared its concerns with certain elements of the project submitted by the developer, namely those involving the industrial and commercial sector in the central part of the site, which have the potential to lead to activities detrimental to harmonious coexistence with the residential sector and neighbouring district. RESO has therefore recommended that the zoning change to the industrial part, requested by the developer, not be granted immediately, and that the projects relating to this part be subject to a new consultation when they are ready.

In the southern part of the site, the affordable social/community housing units should be built in the first phase of the project, according to RESO. Built to LEED environmental standards and including a multifunctional hub hosting a variety of social/community and commercial activities, the residential portion of the project responds to expectations long expressed by the community, according to RESO. RESO has nevertheless recommended that an agreement be signed with

organizations in the community to use building no. 7, decontaminated and rented at affordable terms, for artists' workshops and community and commercial services. RESO also suggested that bank guarantees be required of the developer for fulfilling his or her commitments on the public domain.

Favourable to installing, in the northern part of the site, a railway equipment maintenance centre, RESO is asking that the Agence métropolitaine de transport (AMT) complete the design of its project and obtain consent from the Québec government for financing so that citizens can evaluate its impacts and spinoffs.

News Briefs

New faces in the management team

RESO's management team has a few new faces. Guy Biron, who was director of employability services, has become vice president of strategic development. Gabrielle Richard, who was coordinator of RESO's centre for assistance to the unemployed, is the new director of employability services. The new position of director of finances and accounting is occupied by Saïd Louerguoui. The other members of RESO's management are: Pierre Morrissette, director general, Richard Roussel, director of business services, and Christine Guay, director of the CJE.

Entreprendre au cœur du Sud-Ouest

The winners of the first annual Entreprendre au cœur du Sud-Ouest contest were announced at a gala evening December 10. The contest is a partnership of the Fondation du maire de Montréal pour la jeunesse and RESO, in collaboration with the Sud-Ouest borough, SAJE Montréal métro, the borough's caisses populaires Desjardins, the Centre financier aux entreprises Desjardins and the Sud-Ouest's Chambre de commerce et d'industrie. Thanks to a contribution from the Imperial Tobacco Foundation and the Jeunes Promoteurs program, entrepreneurs aged 19 to 35 were able to share \$75,000 in grants to start their companies in the Sud-Ouest. At least \$10,000 has been set aside to open a business on one of the commercial arteries targeted by PRAM-Commerce.

Occupational training for future success

On October 26, a new group of students began occupational training in dental secretarial studies, offered by RESO in collaboration with the École des métiers de l'informatique, du commerce et de l'administration of the Commission scolaire de Montréal (CSDM). Fourteen people obtained a vocational diploma in tiling in June, a training program offered in English by RESO in collaboration with the École des métiers de la construction de Montréal. Another group of students recently obtained their vocational diplomas in carpentry and joinery, the product of yet another partnership with the École des métiers de la construction.

12th annual Québec Entrepreneurship Contest: Register until March 15

"Transforming Québec with each new project" is the theme of the 12th annual Québec Entrepreneurship Contest. Any project that had no sales revenues prior to April 1, 2009, or any new company that will be launched by December 31, 2010, is eligible. For contest criteria and registration (the deadline is March 15), visit www.concours-entrepreneur.org, or telephone Alain Rheault at (514) 931-5737, extension 267.

La tête de l'emploi at the Centre Saint-Paul

The Carrefour jeunesse-emploi du Sud-Ouest de Montréal (CJE) asked mature students from the Centre Saint-Paul to find out “who does what” in a quiz called *La tête de l'emploi* (You Fit the Part) held on November 18. The goal of the quiz was to familiarize the students with inspirational professions. Five people cheerfully endured questions by students, who then tried to guess their professions. After the quiz, the guests stayed on to discuss their professions with interested students.

MEMBERS OF THE RESO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Gilles Paquette, FTQ Unions Representative and President
- Madeleine Breton, Institutions Representative (Health, Education)
- Marc Caouette, Manufacturing Companies Representative
- Édith Cyr Social, Economy Enterprises Representative
- Claude Deveault, RESO Employees Representative
- Pierre Gauthier, Co-opted member
- Daniel L'Africain, Retailers and Self-Employed Workers Representative
- Francis Lagacé, CSN Unions Representative
- Denis Lévesque, Saint-Henri Community Organizations Representative
- Geneviève Locas, Ville-Emard/Côte Saint-Paul Community Organizations Representative
- Igor Nérisson, Representative for Participants in RESO Activities
- Véronique Olivier, Service Industries and New Economy Representative
- Vicente Perez, Little Burgundy Community Organizations Representative
- Madeleine Poulin, Cultural Sector Representative
- André Raymond, Financial Institution Representative
- Karine Triollet, Pointe-Saint-Charles Community Organizations Representative
- City Councillor for Louis-Cyr, Sud-Ouest de Montréal Borough: coming soon

Non-voting members

- Pierre Morrissette, Director General
- Guy Biron, Vice President, Strategic Development
- Marguerite Blais, Member for Saint-Henri/Sainte-Anne
- Carole Vaillancourt, Centre local d'emploi (CLE) Director

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