



Dialogue

Newsletter of the Fabrique de la paroisse Notre-Dame de Montréal

Vol. 5 No. 17 September 2003

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SPECIAL EDITION

MASTER DEVELOPMENT PLAN PROTECTING A MEMORIAL SITE AND A GREEN SPACE UNIQUE TO MONTRÉAL

During the next few weeks, Notre-Dame-des-Neiges Cemetery will face a great moment in its history when its master development plan is presented for public consultation. The three preceding issues of Dialogue have presented the goals, directions and provisions related to the architectural heritage contained in this plan. This special issue summarizes the content of these past three issues. The following pages will help you understand the specific concerns dealing with the construction of the mausoleum and the bicycle path.

With a view to allowing the public to enjoy our site while at the same time honouring our mission, which is a sacred vocation to provide a peaceful and serene cemetery and preserve our commemorative markers with appropriate respect and dignity, we have to deal with these two major concerns.

The first concern is our wish to protect the green zone the cemetery represents. In this regard, our institution is prepared to commit itself to no longer conducting burials in the sector of the cemetery known as "the plain," which runs along Côte-des-Neiges Road, if we are granted the option of providing mausoleum burials.

The master development plan envisages the construction of two mausoleums over the next 25 years. These mausoleums

would provide for the type of burial that meets modern burial customs as well as the growing need of various cultural communities that have traditionally had access to this type of burial. In the short term, the mausoleum we are proposing, to be located near the Bois de l'Est (eastern wooded area) in a rather bleak and undeveloped sector of the cemetery, will be almost entirely underground to make it blend harmoniously with the site and meet environmental requirements. Moreover, its

walls and flat roof will be covered with vegetation to emphasize the predominance of plant material over building material. This design element will also help the building blend into its natural environment. The mausoleum will be invisible to anyone looking in its direction from public areas. This new architectural concept was developed in response to advice from municipal authorities and interest groups wishing to reduce the visual impact of these buildings, and it corresponds to a design trend adopted in 1995 when the Ste-Marguerite d'Youville Mausoleum was constructed.

Mausoleums provide an effective solution to our space problems because they allow for 10 times the number of burials in the same space as the traditional method of burial outdoors. In doing so, they allow us to preserve the plain located next to Côte-des-Neiges Road, our only other choice for burials if the mausoleums are not built.

The Fabrique of the Notre-Dame de Montréal parish,



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a non-profit organization that receives no government subsidies, needs to offer its clientele a complete range of funerary services and products in order to maintain the cemetery site and ensure its conservation and enhancement.

A second concern that must be taken into consideration is the use by the City of Montreal of a strip of land from 8-to-12 metres in width along Côte-des-Neiges Road for the construction of a bicycle path. In order to meet this specific request by the city, we must move our fence to avoid having the bike path become an integral party of the cemetery thereby disturbing its peaceful atmosphere. If in fact we want to encourage walking, reflection and contemplation within the confines of the cemetery, we will have to ask visitors to go to other sectors of Mount Royal outside cemetery boundaries to practice activities that are not consistent with the religious character of the site.

The master development plan, which was undertaken in 1995, has already received the approval of municipal bodies including the Comité consultatif sur la protection des biens culturels de Montréal (advisory committee for the protection of Montreal's cultural property), the Jacques Viger Commission, the Urban Planning Advisory Committee for Côte-des-Neiges/Notre-Dame-de-Grâce Borough, the Côte-des-Neiges/Notre-Dame-de-Grâce Borough Council and the City of Montreal's Architecture and Planning Committee. Over the past eight years, a substantial amount has been invested in various studies in order to develop a quality plan for the future that reflects the cemetery's vocation and local site requirements. The most qualified specialists in their respective fields have contributed, and their collaboration has allowed us to produce a first-rate master development plan.

This plan meets the cemetery's longstanding tradition with regard to the protection of Mount Royal. The cemetery's existence since 1854 has, in itself, guaranteed the conservation of this section of the mountain, which otherwise would have been given over to residential development.

For additional information about our master development plan or cemetery activities, or if you have comments to share with us, please visit our Web site at www.cimetierenddn.org or call us at (514) 735-1361.


Yolande Tremblay, General Manager

THE CEMETERY'S MISSION: IN KEEPING WITH THAT OF THE NOTRE-DAME-DE-MONTRÉAL PARISH COUNCIL

The Notre-Dame-de-Montréal Parish Council owns two exceptional historical sites: Montreal's Notre-Dame Basilica and Notre-Dame-des-Neiges Cemetery. The Parish Council takes a management approach that respects its mission as a religious institution serving the Christian community.

Notre-Dame-des-Neiges Cemetery is a Catholic cemetery that provides burial services and related products and services.

As a sacred place, the Cemetery is an extension of the Church that seeks to commemorate the dead with respect and dignity. It is a manifestation of the Christian belief in the resurrection of Christ and in our own future resurrection. The Cemetery's role complements the pastoral function and provides comfort to the bereaved in their time of need.

The Cemetery, a non-profit organization that receives no government funding, manages its operations to ensure that they are financially sound, so that it can meet its long-term obligations.



Model of the Bois de l'Est mausoleum: An innovative design that is remarkably well integrated with the surrounding environment.

THE MAUSOLEUM: A SOLUTION WITH MANY ADVANTAGES

Since 1854, more than 900,000 people have been buried in our Cemetery. As we pursue our mission, we must deal with two specific factors. The first is our desire to protect the green zone that our Cemetery represents. The second is the fact that our institution has agreed to stop burials in the area of the site known as the field, along Côte-des-Neiges Road.

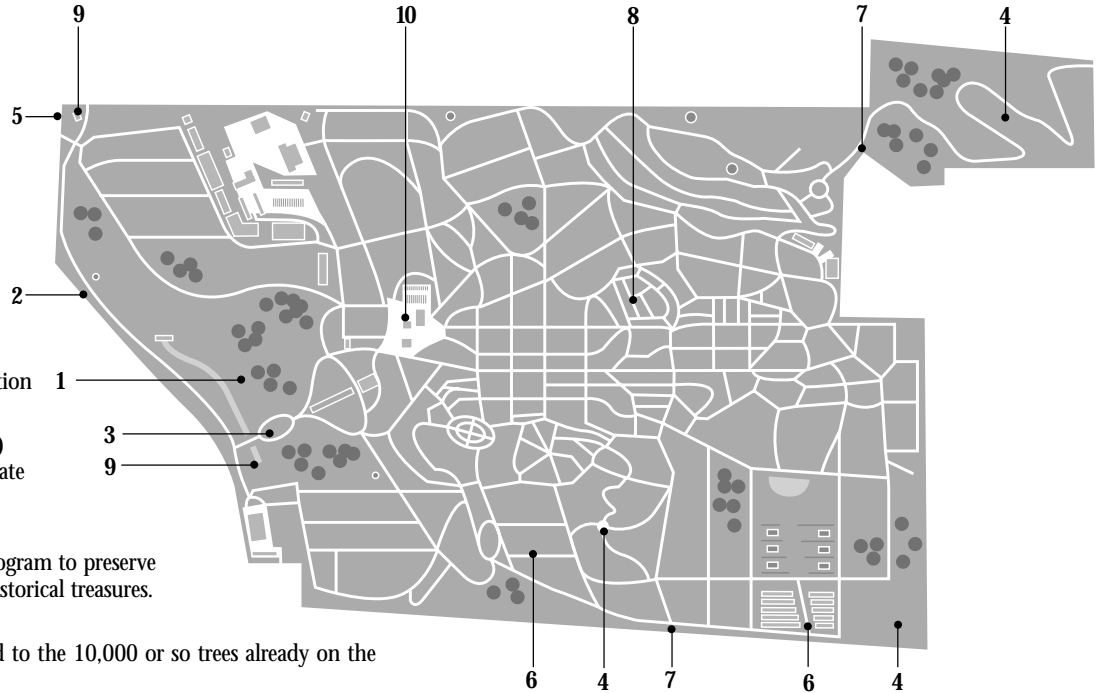
Given these factors, the building of two medium-sized mausoleums is an ideal solution. They would enable us to meet demand for the next 25 years, while preserving the field's natural character and providing the Cemetery, a non-profit organization that receives no government funding, with the funds it needs to implement the projects in its Master Development Plan.

In addition, the mausoleums would be designed to blend into their setting and would be out of public view, thereby respecting Montrealers' environmental concerns about Mount Royal.

For more information, please consult www.cimetierenddn.org or contact us at (514) 735-1361.

NOTRE-DAME-DES-NEIGES CEMETERY

A CEMETERY IN A UNIQUE SETTING



MAIN PROPOSALS IN THE MASTER DEVELOPMENT PLAN

1 The field

A quiet place for contemplation that is accessible to all.

2 The ring road (bicycle path)

An enjoyable way to appreciate the natural environment.

3 Architectural heritage

An ambitious restoration program to preserve the site's architectural and historical treasures.

4 Wooded areas

A planting program will add to the 10,000 or so trees already on the site.

5 Jarry-dit-Henrichon House (Decelles entrance)

Visitors will be able to learn about the Cemetery's history at the interpretation centre to be developed in this historic residence.

6 Mausoleums

These will enable the Cemetery to maintain its primary function while at the same time respecting the environment.

7 Crossroad

A new pedestrian walkway will bridge the two surrounding neighbourhoods.

8 Lanes and pathways

Arteries for pedestrians and vehicular traffic will remain in their present state and will continue to blend into the Cemetery's natural environment.

9 Interpretative activities

A complete program of activities will be offered at various locations in the Cemetery.

10 Heritage and architecture

A study will be conducted so that Montrealers can gain a better understanding of the Cemetery's heritage and architectural value.

11 Tree inventory

A replanting program will be accompanied by a complete inventory of trees on the site, with the goal of carefully planning all aspects of reforestation and conservation.

12 Signage

The Cemetery is crisscrossed by more than 55 km of roads, lands and pathways. A simple, discreet system of signs will make it easier for visitors to find their way.

The Master Development Plan, which will assist Notre-Dame-des-Neiges Cemetery in carrying out its mission, also serves as a form of assurance for Montrealers.

The proposals it contains will ensure that the green zone constituted by the Cemetery is protected, while laying the groundwork for an even closer relationship with the City. Here are some highlights from the Plan:

- At the request of the City of Montreal, the Cemetery's management has agreed that the 85,000-square-metre field along Côte-des-Neiges Road not be used for burials.
- Also at the City's request, the Master Development Plan allows for a strip of land

eight to 12 metres wide along Côte-des-Neiges Road to be developed as a bicycle path.

- A program for the restoration of architectural heritage buildings will be developed.
- Significant improvements will be made to the environment, through an ambitious reforestation program.
- An interpretation centre will be opened at Jarry-dit-Henrichon House, so that visitors can learn about the Cemetery's history.
- Two new mausoleums will be built on the site. They will blend into their surroundings and require less space than traditional burials. This will enable the Cemetery to main-

tain its primary function while at the same time respecting the environment.

- A north-south pathway will be added at the request of the City of Montreal.
- Interpretation activities will be developed.
- A heritage and architectural study of the buildings on the site will be conducted.
- A ring road will be built around the site.
- An inventory of the trees in the Cemetery will be conducted.
- The hierarchy of lanes and pathways will be respected.
- A new system of signs will be developed.



BECOME A MEMBER!

FRIENDS OF THE NOTRE-DAME-DES-NEIGES CEMETERY

Founded in 1854, the Notre-Dame-des-Neiges cemetery is one of the most precious and remarkable celebrations of religious, cultural, historical, architectural and environmental heritage in Montreal. A vital witness to the history of the community from which it grew, the Notre-Dame-des-Neiges cemetery not only deserves all our attention, but also to be known and recognized for its incredible richness.



- Reveal to the public the many facets of the collective treasure which is the Notre-Dame-des-Neiges Cemetery;
- Support the effort given to maintenance, enhancement and management of the site, with respect to its sacred vocation and exceptional environment characteristics.


Benefits of being a Friend

- Friends of Notre-Dame-des-Neiges Cemetery membership card
- Subscription to the *Dialogue* newsletter, mailed four times a year
- Annual tour of the Cemetery, reserved exclusively for Friends
- Pair of tickets to the *And Then There was Light* show at the Notre-Dame Basilica
- Free admission for two and guided tour of the Basilica

Following the lead of other large cemeteries, we are pleased to announce the creation of the Friends of the Notre-Dame-des-Neiges Cemetery.

Friends of the Notre-Dame-des-Neiges Cemetery is for those interested in the preservation, enhancement and promotion of the Cemetery and its rich religious, cultural, historical, architectural and environmental heritage. More specifically, the goals of the Friends are to:

Complete the form included with this issue of *Dialogue* to become a member of the Friends of the Notre-Dame-des-Neiges Cemetery.



**The ANNUAL
COMMEMORATIVE
MASS**
under the tent
will be celebrated
September 14, 2003
at 11:00 a.m.

Prior to the mass, a classical concert will be held for your entertainment from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. Light refreshments will be served as of 10:00 a.m.

Come one and all!

GUIDED TOUR OF THE CEMETERY
September 14 at 12:35 p.m.

Friends of the Notre-Dame-des-Neiges Cemetery

Last name: _____

First name: _____

Mailing address: _____ Apartment: _____

City: _____ Postal code: _____

Province : _____

Telephone : (_____) _____ - _____

Area code Number

You can send the *Dialogue* newsletter to the following e-mail address:

_____ @ _____

**Friends of the
Notre-Dame-des-Neiges
Cemetery
Membership form**



Annual membership fee is \$20.

Please include a cheque made out to *Friends of the Notre-Dame-des-Neiges Cemetery* with this form.