



## Down Town Out-Reach International visitors welcomed

This summer was the launch of a new outreach initiative. Thanks to some special funding, we were able to open the doors of our church on an almost daily basis.

We had two wonderful hostesses; Clara Maranzano and Emma Marentette who, as members of our congregation, welcomed guests every Tuesday through Saturday between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Both Clara and Emma provided information on the history of our community, our building, and the treasures we are privileged to care for.

The July results were very heartwarming when we consider that we received, on average, 74 visitors a day. There is a great appreciation from people who come in and spend a few moments of quiet reflection in our church.

Emma, who sings in our choir, reports that: "Every day we get at least one person who says that they live or work in the area, and have always wanted to see inside the church, but couldn't as it was generally closed. We receive a lot of traffic from people on their way to or from the Musée de Beaux Arts. Being situated next to the museum is definitely an advantage, as we are on the tourist path.

Many people are grateful for a quiet space to pray, meditate, or simply close their eyes and escape from the city. A few people come regularly, for a few minutes each day.

Thursdays we have our Organ Intermezzi series. These have been well attended, and encourage a different audience to enter the church. Clara and I are spoiled with Mebbie Aikens' home-made cookies and iced tea, prepared specially for the organ music devotees!

We receive visitors from all around the world: Japan, Iran, Chile, France, Russia, as well as local visitors from Montreal. I find it especially enriching to speak with visitors from other faith groups. Clara had a long discussion with a big family from Oman, who were very interested in Christianity, and what that means, and the Presbyterian tradition. They seemed particularly intrigued by our tradition of women ministers.

A church should be open to the community, to receive visitors whenever they need a sacred place to pray, or admire the stained glass, or discuss issues of faith. Clara and I are delighted to be able to support this role in the church's mission."

## A&P Going Rock 'n Roll?

Well, sort of. At least for one day, on Sunday, September 28.

The *Rock 'n' Roll Marathon Series* visits 24 North American cities and four European cities and attracts participants from all five continents. It is now the largest running series in the world.

Over the years, the various events of the series have focused on the exciting atmosphere along the course and the music within the event (music every mile!), which quickly became the signature of the Rock 'n' Roll Series. All of the events are highlighted with local bands and local cheer squads that add to the excitement of the event.

This year's Montreal Marathon will find the finish line at Lafontaine Park where runners and spectators will enjoy live music and celebrations! With growing participation, the Series will have raised more than 235 million (since 1998) to help various charities.

Our charity of choice is Presbyterian World Service & Development. PWS&D works with international partners to carry out long-term community development programs that empower vulnerable people to overcome root causes of poverty and create lasting change.

There is a wide choice of running events, from the full 42-kilometer marathon, a half-marathon, as well as 10- and 5-kilometer runs, with a one-kilometer mini-marathon for tiny runners. Jeff and Diana Veenstra will lead Team A&P. Others confirmed for the half-marathon or 20-km run include the leaders of the Outreach PWS&D sub-committee, Frances Torlage and Derek Foote, plus Madonna Bailey, Diane Gardner, Michael Neil, Jeannette Kelly and David Newton.

Runner or not, your chance to support Team A&P will come on two Sundays, September 14 and 21, when you can sponsor individual runners or the entire team. All your sponsorship challenges will go directly to support the worldwide work of PWS&D.

And, if you feel like a little rock 'n' roll, join us for the celebration at Lafontaine Park after the service on September 28.

