



**THE POINT IS... GRASSROOTS ORGANIZING WORKS : WOMEN FROM POINT ST. CHARLES SHARING STORIES OF SOLIDARITY**  
**The CourtePointe Collective**

*It's going to be so great when people pick up the book and say "Hey, things were really happening in that neighbourhood ! Those women, they really knew how to take charge of their lives !" - Thérèse*

Since 2001, the Popular Archives of Point St. Charles have been working on a book on the history of community organizing in this Montreal neighbourhood. The book aims to share the rich traditions of grassroots organizing in Point St. Charles and to recognize its contribution to the history of Québec.

Point St. Charles is widely heralded as a precursor in the development of community organizing in Québec. The history presented in this book is rooted in the oral histories of nine women, five Anglophones and four Francophones, who experienced in their everyday lives, the sizeable transformations that were happening in the neighbourhood. The book helps us better understand the scope of its citizen organizing efforts, as well as to shed light on the role of women who were at the heart of these struggles, playing leadership roles in the attempts to improve neighbourhood living conditions.

Published simultaneously in both French and English, with a great many illustrations, the book deals with many themes, including: citizen struggles for secure and pleasant public space, decent housing, health and social services, popular education, initiatives to stimulate the local economy, the birth of the women's movement, the founding and constant struggle to preserve the autonomy of the community health clinic.

**The CourtePointe Collective** is composed of Denise Boucher, Thérèse Dionne, Louise Lanthier, Donna Leduc, Marguerite Métivier, Madeleine Richardson, Myrna Rose, Maureen Ryan and Frances Vaillancourt, who recounted this history, and Isabelle Drolet and Anna Kruzynski, who edited it.

**Anna Kruzynski** has a PhD in Social Work from McGill and Université de Montréal, and is particularly interested in working with citizens to take charge of their neighbourhood at a political level. Since June 2005, she has been assistant professor at the École de service social at the Université de Montréal. In 2001, she moved into a housing cooperative in Point St. Charles and has since been involved in several different community organisations.

**Isabelle Drolet** worked at the Popular Archives from 2001 to 2005 and has worked, on call, at the Community Clinic since 1993. She has been involved in the community life of Point St. Charles, where she has been living since 1987, for over ten years, namely at the Legal Aid Services.

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