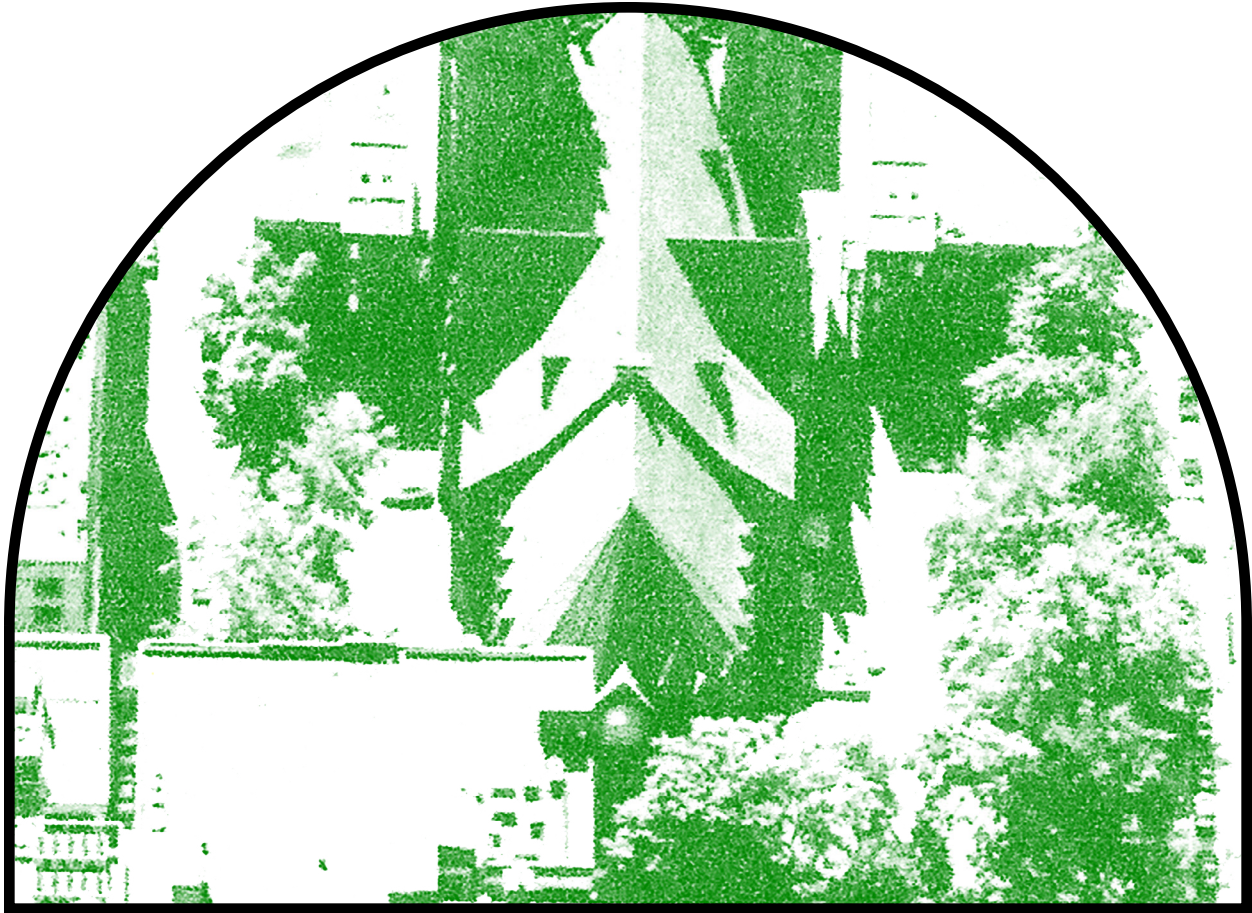


Green SAGE Vert No. 01

OCTOBRE 2020



1 ... A Community of Friends—An Introduction to Green SAGE Vert :

GREEN SAGE VERT IS AN OFFSHOOT, or tendril, of MCM's framework for mission and social action called SAGE, whose broad theological aim is to Live with Respect in Creation, and from which is gleaned its mission of ecological care. SAGE describes an approach to social action—in particular, work with refugees and citizens of various Faiths—with Friendship at the root of its mission, fulfilled through four interrelated paths:

SERVICE, provided to those who are marginalized and face exploitation; ADVOCACY, through bearing public witness and helping to tell the stories of those we serve; GATHERING, where newcomers, diverse publics, volunteers, and community and staff members can learn, work, celebrate, eat, and

act with each other; and EUNOIA, the beginnings, or seeds, of friendship, experienced in gathering together to serve, to learn, and to advocate.

Implementing the SAGE framework is an exercise in nurturing, little by little, a “community of friends,” where Friendship is an experience shared by people of all faiths and no faith—an experience of difference, and a language spoken by everyone.

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SAGE Vert est une branche, ou vrille, du cadre de l'action sociale et de la mission de la MCM appelée SAGE, dont le but théologique est de Vivre en respectant la création, et de laquelle émane sa mission de protection écologique. SAGE s'inscrit dans un processus de l'action sociale - en particulier dans le travail auprès des réfugiés et avec des

partenaires de toutes confessions confondues - ayant l'amitié comme pierre angulaire et accomplie à travers quatre voies interdépendantes :

LE SERVICE, fourni à ceux qui sont marginalisés et confrontés à l'exploitation ; LE PLAIDOYER en témoignant publiquement et en aidant à raconter l'histoire de ceux que nous desservons ; LES RASSEMBLEMENTS où les nouveaux arrivants, les divers publics, les bénévoles ainsi que les membres de la communauté et du personnel peuvent apprendre, travailler, célébrer, et manger les uns avec les autres ; et EUNOIA, les débuts ou les graines de l'amitié nouée lors de rassemblements en vue de servir, apprendre et plaider.

La mise en œuvre du cadre SAGE est un exercice visant à nourrir, petit à petit, une "communauté d'amis", où l'amitié est une expérience partagée par des personnes de toutes les confessions et sans confessions particulières, une expérience de la différence elle-même, et une langue parlée par tous.

2 ... Summer Pick Up Day :

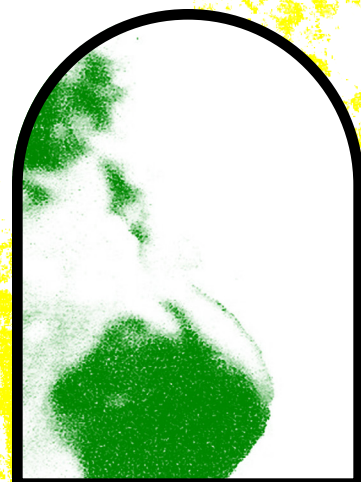
With the possibilities of Friendship at the heart of our endeavour, Green SAGE's first step is to collaborate with our partner, and close friend, St-James United Church, to encourage the growth of a public which cares for the downtrodden yard that surrounds the church, and for the many lives which call the yard home. As a way to imagine a different future for the yard, we've called it the

St-James Church Forest, a forest that we can grow, and love, and call a friend—to the congregation, the neighborhood, the city, and the planet. Although the City occupies, at present, a large part of the yard with construction equipment and varied refuse, there's still room to be with the Forest, and its large old trees, shrubs, bugs, and ghosts.

Back in late July, Green SAGE took its First Step on the path toward a more hardy, more liveable Forest—welcoming, biodiverse, and brimming over with friendship across different species—during an activity that we called *Pick Up Day*. Members of Green SAGE, MCM, the St-James congregation, friends from Concordia University, and other Friends of the Forest, gathered together to learn how we can better serve the Forest, to meet each other after a drawn-out spring, and, of course, to pick up trash and other bits of junk scattered across the land around and in back of the church.

The Saturday afternoon gathering was also spent in conversation with one another. Rev. Wendy Evans reminded us of the Mohawk heritage which marks the land in indelible ways, and which must be reckoned with as part of our endeavour to care for the Forest and for each other. We are made of our landscape and its histories, no matter where we're from.

Professor *Carly Ziter* and her students at Concordia University spoke of the ecosystem "services," the Life-sustaining and Life-affirming phenomena



that Nature conjures, and that something like our Forest can provide. Finally, over a nourishing meal provided by *Women Weaving their Dreams Catering Collective*, Pick Up Day was a welcome occasion to learn anew how to talk and be with each other.

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En plus de la tâche de ramassage, le rassemblement du samedi après-midi a été consacré à une discussion entre participants. La révérende Wendy Evans nous a rappelé l'héritage mohawk qui marque la terre de façon indélébile et dont il faut tenir compte dans le cadre de notre effort pour prendre soin de la forêt, et des uns des autres. Nous sommes faits de notre paysage et de son histoire, peu importe d'où nous venons.

Le professeur Carly Ziter et ses étudiants de l'université Concordia ont parlé des "services" de l'écosystème, des phénomènes de maintien et d'affirmation de la vie que la nature évoque et que notre forêt peut fournir. Enfin, autour d'un délicieux repas offert par le collectif de restauration *Women Weaving their Dreams*, la journée Pick Up a été l'occasion d'apprendre à nouveau comment dialoguer et être ensemble.

3 ... Community Feedback :

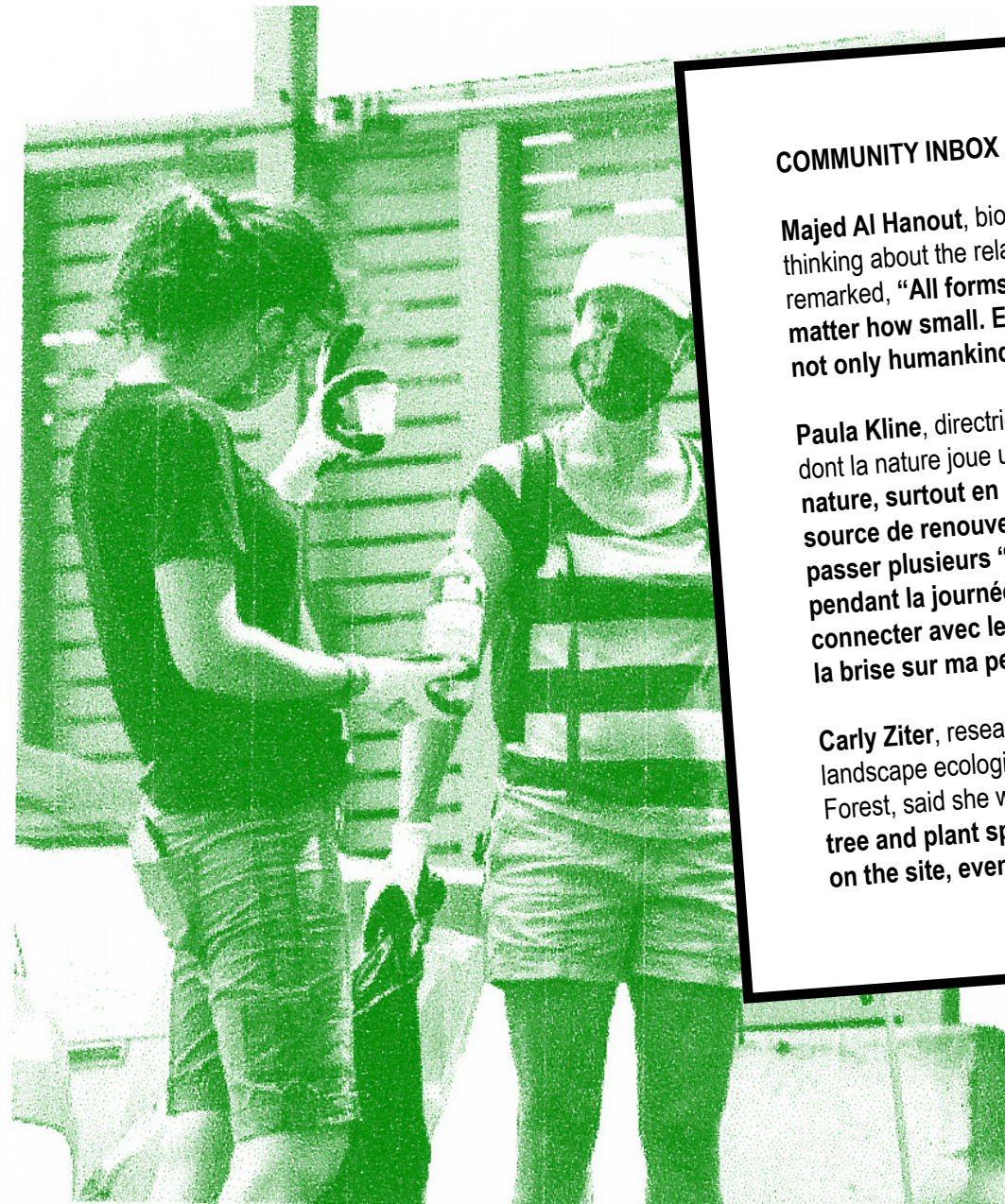
As we ready ourselves for a new season, and for a different kind of Pick Up Day in the coming month, we wanted to have a closer look at our first one, in order to find out what kinds of lessons were learned. Here's what some of our friends had to say!

COMMUNITY INBOX

Majed Al Hanout, biology student with Prof. Ziter, thinking about the relation of Nature to Faith, remarked, "**All forms of Life deserve to live, no matter how small. Earth is created for all creatures, not only humankind.**"

Paula Kline, directrice du MCM, décrivant la façon dont la nature joue un rôle dans sa vie, a dit : "**La nature, surtout en été, est un refuge, un ami, une source de renouvellement. Cet été, j'ai essayé de passer plusieurs "pauses sacrées" sur le balcon pendant la journée de travail à la maison pour me connecter avec les arbres et les oiseaux, et sentir la brise sur ma peau.**"

Carly Ziter, researcher at Concordia University in landscape ecologies, speaking on the condition of the Forest, said she was "**surprised by the number of tree and plant species that were already present on the site, even in difficult conditions.**"



4 ... Another Regard ... Plant-thinking and Dump philosophy, with Michael Marder :

Over the summer, Green SAGE volunteer Royal Orr had a *conversation over Skype* with *Michael Marder*, a philosopher, writer, and teacher, and the Ikerbasque Research Professor at the University of the Basque Country. You can read a few of Marder's most relevant essays in our *GSV Library*, and you can watch or listen to Marder and Orr in conversation on our YouTube channel, *Green SAGE Vert Media*.

5 ... On the Horizon ... Discovery Day :

A second iteration of Pick Up Day, which we're calling Discovery Day, will continue with the task of tending to the St-James Forest, and, with any luck, will take place in the coming months, before winter settles in. We'll remove branches and other kinds of debris and step beneath the surface of the Forest to learn about the state of the soil with the help of Green SAGE volunteer, Dr. Heather McShane! We'll close out what's sure to be a fulfilling day by sharing a meal provided by our friends from WWD.

Visit our *Facebook* and *Instagram* pages for updates on events!

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Nous allons poursuivre nos efforts suite au « Pick Up Day », lors d'une 'Journée découverte'. Nous nous occuperons de la forêt de St-James et, avec un peu de chance, cette journée aura lieu dans les prochains mois, avant que l'hiver ne s'installe. Nous enlèverons les branches et autres types de débris et nous nous enfoncerons sous la surface de la forêt pour connaître l'état du sol avec l'aide de la bénévole de SAGE Vert, Dre Heather McShane ! Nous terminerons

cette journée en partageant un repas préparé par nos amis de la WWD.

Visitez nos pages *Facebook* et *Instagram* pour les mises à jour.

6 ... A Parting Word On Friendship :

There is nothing shiny, new, or novel which will save us from either the planetary or personal struggles that we'll experience in our lifetimes. What remains when our desires for excessive, indulgent power are, not satiated, not quelled, but altogether forsaken, is the sensation of aliveness—what some of us call God, or the Divine—that spreads across all beings on Earth and which binds us to each other, and represents the very possibility of Friendship and Love. MCM's SAGE framework holds friendship at the Heart of its mission and seeks to affirm a "community of friends," that gathers to serve those who are relegated to the margins. Green SAGE attempts to extend this friendly notion across species, investigating how friendship can function as a beacon as we grow and work in our small piece of inner city land. Thanks for stopping by, friends.

Edited by Karlo Trost, Paula Kline, Royal Orr, and Wendy Evans.

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