

## **Reminiscence of the first social housing project in Canada**

**September 18, 2009**

At age 50, people look back over their lives and take stock. For others, this milestone is a time to start anew.

A half-century provides the maturity to see the future with a sense of calm.

50 years is a time to renovate, beautify the surroundings, and further develop the existing sense of community at habitations Jeanne-Mance.

On 18<sup>th</sup> September 2009, urban artworks were unveiled, scattered all around the site, to celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary:

- Two mural paintings, representing the Autumn and Winter seasons (Rush of Fall and Winter Haze) were painted by internationally renowned artists David Guinn and Philipp Adams. Two other paintings are planned for 2010 and 2011;
- A mosaic on the 200 Ontario Est edifice, backbone of the Habitations Jeanne-Mance, was created by Laurence Petit and realised by residents. This mosaic can be seen from the boulevard de Maisonneuve and brings a touch of beauty in Montreal downtown. Testimonies from residents and passers-by show that this mosaic is appreciated and contribute greatly to the beautification of the overall site.
- A sculpture, entitled Mañana, was realized by the artist Daniel-Vincent Bernard and donated for the occasion. This sculpture is located next to the 250 Maisonneuve East, in a garden landscaped by Éco Quartier Saint-Jacques. This huge welcoming hand was made from coaxial steel cables.
- Finally, scattered around the site and inspired by urban art techniques, waste bins are decored with floral and vegetal patterns. These were realized by young ones living at the Habitations.