



Engage!

Communities Collaborating 2005

People in communities share common dreams. They dream of a better quality of life and safer, healthier and more prosperous places to raise their children.



At Tamarack we believe that people can find a better path forward when different sectors work together strategically in communities.

In 2005 we want to celebrate communities that are collaborating for change.

By: Paul Born

The Death of Environmentalism

There is an increasing awareness that social and environmental issues are closely intertwined and have an impact on important aspects of community life including social inclusion, 'liveability' and neighbourhood renewal.

A recent report released in the US Environmental states it is time for the environmental sector to 'take stock' and adopt a new and bolder vision and strategy.

By: David Pell

"The Right Formula in Saint-Michel

Saint-Michel is one of the most culturally diverse urban neighbourhoods in Montreal, and indeed, in Canada. Like many neighbourhoods in the country, it has its fair share of social and economic challenges.

This may change. After a year of consulting, planning and researching involving 400 community members and stakeholders, a community collaboration, under the leadership of Vivre Saint-Michel en santé, has packaged a comprehensive plan to renew the community with a focus on three key areas:



1. Employment, income and business development.
2. Affordable housing.
3. Culture, recreation and sports opportunities.

Plans are one thing. Action is another.

Vivre Saint-Michel has a detailed workplan that will guide the broad-based community partnership in pursuit of 12 strategic targets, ranging from business development projects to programs to help people purchase homes.

Revitalizing a neighbourhood from the ground up is a big job. But thankfully the neighbourhood is not alone - they have powerful supporters that include, among others, the world famous Cirque du Soleil, the City of Montreal and Centraide/United Way of Montreal.

An observer of many neighbourhood renewal efforts, impressed by the spirit of community engagement in the Saint-Michel efforts, happily observed, "It might just be the right formula."

[!\[\]\(6059a5aa8b4ca7bb793408023d6c6e42_img.jpg\) Saint Michel in Vibrant Communities](#)

Related Links:

- [Saint-Michel's community plan](#) (en français)
 - [English translation](#)
- [Plan d'action](#) (en français)
- [L'engagement du quartier Saint-Michel Contre la Pauvreté et Exclusion Sociale](#) (Media release en français)

By: Mark Cabaj

Engage's top 5 in 2004

On January 23, 2004 Tamarack tentatively sent out our very [first issue of Engage](#). We wanted it to be a quick, helpful and entertaining read for you.

25 issues later, we've worked out those initial jitters and kinks. Engage is now delivered to over 4,500 subscribers every two weeks. And your response to the e-newsletter has been phenomenal.



You've loved the community profiles, appreciated the resources, signed up for tele-learning events, and raved about our banner photos. (Learn more about the photographer [here!](#))

We thought it would be fun to take a look at the 25 issues of Engage that were produced in 2004.

Based on the number of people who access our website following the delivery of Engage, we've been able to track the top 5 issues of the newsletter this year.

These are your favourite issues of Engage!

1. 1,173 people accessed the website for Issue 24 on December 9 to find out [how to live longer](#).
2. 1,151 of you read about our [Urban Canada](#) tele-learning series in Issue 21 in early October.
3. 1,088 were inspired by [Jane Jacobs](#) and her ability to turn conventional thinking on its head in our 19th Issue.
4. 995 people wanted to know about [Canada's New Deal for Cities](#) and our tele-learning event featuring The Honourable John Godfrey and Sherri Torjman in Issue 23.
5. 949 learned about [Exceptional Canadians](#) and FCM's quality of life monitoring system in Issue 18 on September 16.

In 2005, Engage will continue to be your source for all that's new at Tamarack as well as a resource for community engagement in Canada.

Thanks for making our first year such a success! Your feedback and encouragement throughout the year has informed and fostered our enthusiasm for learning and promoting community engagement in Canada.

 [Access back issues of Engage!](#)

By: Louise Kearney

Love Actually: A Great Holiday film

“General opinion is starting to make out that we live in a world of hatred and greed – but I don’t see that – seems that love is everywhere. Love, actually, is all around.”

If you are looking for a heart-warming movie with a twist this holiday season, Love Actually is it. A hopeful film, starring Hugh Grant and Emma Thompson, this movie follows the lives of several couples and families over the holidays. Culminating on Christmas Eve, it is a film of hope, friendship and love.



What I love most about the film is that it shows love, in all its modern forms, as hopeful in a world in which violence, fear and hatred dominate the media. It encourages us to think about the small things, people meeting in unexpected ways, reaching out to others as friends, family and lovers.

I have spent a lot of time in airports. Consumed with getting from point A to point B, I seldom looked around to see those coming and going. But since watching this film, that’s changed forever. Watching people say good-bye and say hello to friends, family, and newcomers has made the airport a study of hope and joy for me. The final scenes in this film are precious and make a subtle, everlasting statement.

Related Links:

- [Movie website](#)
- [Additional Tamarack movie reviews](#)

By: Paul Born