
PIOPOLIS



ISSUE: Building on attracting new residents

ITINERARY 6C

Date: Thursday, September 12, 2013

Location: Saint-Zénon Church

PROMOTERS

Marc Beaulé, Saint-Zénon-de-Piopolis Festival | E-mail: m.beaule@gmail.com

Fernand Roy, Piopolis Local Development Committee | E-mail: fernroy.roy@gmail.com

Summary of Marc Beaulé's presentation:

The primary goal of the Saint-Zénon-de-Piopolis Festival (offering mostly concerts) was to establish an organization that could carry out cultural activities for the inhabitants of Piopolis, as well as for the Granit region population in general.

Faced with an aging town of 364 inhabitants, where the population's median age is 56.7 years, it is difficult to recruit volunteers who are willing to get involved in the community.

To help improve the quality of life in the community, several projects were achieved by the Piopolis Local Development Committee (the trails, the Halte des Zouaves, etc.).

The key elements to remember according to Marc Beaulé:

Creativity: think of new projects that are mobilizing, that make you want to get involved. He believes that a dynamic environment exerts an attraction on future residents and facilitates the recruitment of volunteers.

Summary of Fernand Roy's presentation:

In 1998, the Piopolis Local Development Committee (CDLP) noted the issues of aging population and lack of manpower. Mr. Roy, President of the CDLP, presents some related statistics. The Committee relies on the exceptional environment, the proximity of Lac-Mégantic and of some major industries. It also relies on the population's engagement to maintain and improve the quality of life for the residents, and to attract young families by providing a stimulating environment and maintaining the local services.

The key elements to remember according to Fernand Roy:

Initiate several actions in order to develop the infrastructures that will attract the young families and newcomers, and, more importantly, to retain the current population.

RESEARCHER

Laurie Guimond, UQAM | E-mail: guimond.laurie@uqam.ca

Summary of the researcher's presentation:

In the context of migrations from the city to the countryside, Mrs. Guimond presents her study on the informal meeting places for the new and longtime residents in Québec. She first identifies what distances these two populations, whether it is the geographical origin, the differing way of life and vision of country life, or the social origin. She then explains that the reception, integration, time and places of sociability and shared interests help bring everyone closer, through daily interaction.

The key elements to remember according to the researcher:

While "new rural resident" is often synonymous of conflicts within the public and media discourse, we must also focus on the alliances and compromises to better understand the game of newcomers and longtime resident encounters.

QUESTION PERIOD

Q.: What is the number of tickets sold for each concert?

A. (Mark Beaulé): Between 300 and 400 tickets.

Q.: Are the artists expensive?

A. (Mark Beaulé): Sometimes yes, but sometimes, the artists will reduce their fees to accommodate a performance at the church of Piopolis.

Q.: Given the important vacationing aspect, do you mobilize the vacationers?

A. (Mark Beaulé): Since they are not present when we hold our meetings, this is difficult.

Q.: Is the area deserted during winter?

A. (Mark Beaulé): This is not so bad, only a few actually leave.

Q.: How many people make up the CDLP?

A. (Fernand Roy): Five people. However, sometimes up to 25 volunteers participate in specific projects.

Q.: Are the Piopolis volunteers also involved at the regional level?

A. (Fernand Roy): Hard to say, I do not know the involvement of all, but yes, certainly for some.

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

NOTE: All *linked* documents (PowerPoint, Prezi, etc.) are only available in their original French version.

Presentation by Fernand Roy

Presentation by Marc Beaulé

PowerPoint from Laurie Guimond, UQAM

Website: www.neoruraux.ucs.inrs.ca