

May 15, 2003

OPCM
1550 Metcalfe Street,
Suite 1414,
Montreal, QC

Re: Amendment to By law P-03-044

Attention: M. Gilles Gosselin,

Mr. Gosselin,

I attended the meeting this past Tuesday evening in the Pointe Claire city hall and was pleased to see that there are public meetings taking place to inform people as to what is to be done around the island of Montreal to preserve and enhance the taxpayers' environment.

My comments are detailed in the paragraphs below and are listed in the same order as presented in the documentation that was handed out to those who were at the meeting.

1. **Preservation of Mount Royal:** While I have always believed that this is a good idea; there needs to be a renewed dedication to doing this.
A constant failing in high use areas such as Mount Royal is the lack of basic respect for the mountain that is shown by both the users and those who are in charge of maintaining it:
 - You people should act to keep the Mountain cleaner than it is at present through simply providing more garbage containers and keeping them from overflowing onto the ground. (The cost is minimum and a clear message would be sent to users that Montreal leads by example in fostering respect for the Mountain).
 - Advertising of any kind should be banned in all the protected areas and graffiti should be removed immediately in any of the areas where it exists for the reason detailed above.

The rest of the plan for the Mountain can come from those who live in the immediate area and who surely know what problems exist that are not being addressed or stand in the way of improving the preservation of the mountain and daily life in that area.

2. Protection of Views.

This concept is an important one because the "view" has the most immediate effect on the reaction people have to where they live and where they want to live.

It is almost an intangible in that people do not always sense or know why they are drawn to certain areas until a stranger or tourist tells them what they like about where they live.

The view also looks both ways; and should be considered in both directions: the view from the island surface toward the river and the view toward the island surface from the river.

As stated above and a theme that I will touch on in all of the five measures outlined in this document is the same – clean up the view by cleaning up the City.

A clean city, as Montreal once was, is a pleasant place in which to live, a positive place to bring people to and conveys a very strong sense of ownership and pride to the inhabitants; a sense that subsidies and cheap land deals will never succeed in providing.

People move into an area that to them has potential and that is why we have moved into suburbs like Pointe Claire in such large numbers.

The solution to the problem is clear – get all Montreal workers on side and set up a simple non-bureaucratic plan to get the job done, and do it.

3. Maintenance of existing measures.

Visit any park downtown and what do you find when you look around?

- Poorly maintained grass, untrimmed trees and a general look of dis-repair – why?
- Too much garbage, papers, bottles and dog crap – why?
- Too few garbage containers too seldom emptied – why?
- Broken concrete and poorly maintained walkways – why?

Restaurants, bars and other commercial establishments should be inspected by the departments that issue their licences and a set of sensible, enforceable rules should be established that benefit both the proprietors and the municipality.


The concept that has been promoted in the forced mergers, that is totally unacceptable, is that the same rule or method must apply to all. We are overdue for some originality.

4. Dividing Line Harmony: I am against this concept being inscribed into a law as it gives city bureaucrats too much power and allows for little common sense and mutual compromise.

Neighbouring municipalities are to be encouraged to work together to serve their clients (the taxpayer) to the best of their ability while avoiding confrontation.

The current mindset of the average Montreal bureaucrat toward our suburban cities is one of contempt as if Montreal bought the suburbs instead of having been given them by Louise Harel. (Thank God she has been removed).

4. Banning of billboards on certain streets.



This idea should be implemented immediately with a timetable to do the same with billboards island wide and all advertising that is painted on the sides of buildings with large bare walls.

The same plan should be put in place for cell phone towers which could still be erected but better concealed from view.

The last item is a serious problem that is not being addressed and has proliferated in the last five years.

The time has come to declare that graffiti is vandalism and is illegal to be done or left on any property either private or public.

A law should be formulated that provides that all graffiti must be removed within fifteen days by the building owner (including all government agencies) or a substantial fine will apply. The fine should be in the \$ 5,000.00 range and those properties that are well maintained would qualify for a tax credit from the City of Montreal.

I hope the foregoing thoughts will be of interest to you and your commission. The City of Montreal (the original small area) is in dire straits and will never reach the status of a great international city that we keep hearing about until there is a profound "virage" in the attitudes of all of it's employees to serve the taxpayer first.

As you may have noticed; I am an avid demerger advocate and will work tirelessly for the return of my city.

My wishes, however, for the points raised are sincere and achievable and would go a long way to influencing people to move into the downtown core.

Yours sincerely,

Bruce Walsh,
24 Sunnyview
Pointe Claire, QC
H9S 5B7
tel: 514 695 0258