

This is to register my opposition to the proposed destruction of remaining natural green spaces on the Island of Montreal, including the proposed development at L'Anse à l'Orme among others.

It is quite normal for human social-cultural behaviours to become rigidly routinized over time. Knowledge systems structured in specific vocabularies, frames, metaphors, myths, and other cognitive tools work to establish conventional wisdoms that then become difficult to dislodge and replace. At some point, however, a reckoning must be made of how these standard operating procedures are impacting the collective prospects for *survival*, let alone quality of life, for future generations.

If we consider, for a moment, the role the characteristics of landscape play in the psychological development of peoples, the foundations the landscape lays down for the peoples' ongoing capacity to achieve psychological, intellectual, physical, emotional, social, cultural, economic, and ecological health, then we have an already vast and rapidly growing body of scientific literature that suggests the following:

1. People, and especially developing children, require access to naturalized areas where they can engage in non-structured activities on a regular basis.
2. People also require the knowledge that such places exist and will continue to exist.
3. Material linkages to the past, including monuments and historical architectures as well as historically congruent ecological communities are critical.
4. The absence of a sense of rootedness that only the above landscape qualities can provide, has a long term economic cost in terms of lost productivity, lost creativity, and compromised human health.
5. The dominant contemporary planning procedures, and especially those in evidence on the Island of Montreal, fail to account for these psychological (and in consequence, *economic*) costs of the routinized failure of the planning process.

I would like to respectfully suggest that business as usual should no longer be considered as staying within the normal definition of due diligence or avoiding the normal definition of gross negligence. Past planning operations have rendered the landscape on the Island of Montreal increasingly handicapped from an economic point of view. To continue along the same path could be expected to result a Hobbesian type of existence for more and more Montréalers, where life becomes increasingly nasty, brutish, and short.

We can do better. I am fully cognizant that it is not easy to make the kind of systemic change I am advocating for here, but the human costs of your failure to make such changes are simply too great.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require additional information.

Sincerely,
Peter Graham