

Office de consultation publique de Montréal
Avenir du secteur Pierrefonds-ouest

April 25, 2017

I am writing to appeal to municipal leaders to reconsider the proposed development project in the ecologically sensitive region of l'Anse à l'Orme. I believe it would be a mistake to destroy one of the last natural green spaces on the island of Montreal and it would be a tremendous loss for all Montrealers.

As a resident of Pierrefonds West, I have often walked the woods and fields of this region, looking forward every spring to the sight of the forest floor blanketed by trilliums as far as the eye can see. On a particularly lucky day, a deer or fox might cross my path. But five thousand new households will not integrate gently into this scene, they most certainly will have a profound effect on this biodiverse area that connects to several other green spaces, and the connectivity that is vital for viable habitat will be lost.

The 'Cap Nature' project spokesman, David Cliche, claimed recently that resistance to this development project was simply a case of a 'not-in-my-backyard' mentality, but I would suggest to him that if that backyard represents the largest unprotected natural land space on the island of Montreal, capturing 1,000 tonnes of CO2 annually, home to disappearing wetlands and over 270 species of flora and fauna, some of which are threatened or endangered, then I would say YES, not in this backyard, because this backyard is simply too ecologically valuable a resource to squander for housing that could likely be reconfigured in other less significant areas, like brown fields or former industrial land. It might not be 'Cap Nature' but it would seem more sensible to me not to 'scrap nature' in order to offer up a weak imitation for residents.

Our world is heating up, with each new household contributing many more tonnes of CO2 to the atmosphere. The city of Montreal has rightly pledged to protect 10% of Montreal's green space. With only 6.5% currently protected, would it be wise to sacrifice this rich, biodiverse area only to be obliged to 'create' a new one?

Yours sincerely,

Linda Jackson
Pierrefonds