

To: The Office de Consultation Publique de Montreal

Re: Opposition to the development project in L'Anse a l'Orme, Pierrefonds-West

I am writing to express my opposition to the development of the natural space in Pierrefonds-West known as L'Anse a l'Orme.

Preserving natural wild land in urban areas should be a high priority for all levels of government, especially on the island of Montreal which is far behind many other Canadian cities.

I would like this land to remain as a natural wild space for the following ecological reasons:

- To preserve the habitat for the fauna and flora presently living in this space
- To help ensure the survival of native plants and endangered species in our area.
- As part of the green corridor with adjoining natural spaces for wildlife movement and bird migration.
- To help combat the effects of climate change; forests and fields are the lungs of the planet. Green spaces help filter the air of pollution, act as a carbon sink, and create oxygen.
- Natural spaces absorb water and reduce spring runoff into nearby lakes and rivers raising water levels.

I oppose the proposed land development plan for the following reasons:

- Built-up areas increase run-off putting pressure on our already inadequate sewer systems. Occasional overflow runs into our lakes and rivers untreated. Road runoff adds to the pollution in the lakes.
- People living in the proposed 5500 housing units would put pressure on the Cap St Jacques Nature park. This would have an impact on recreational activities and limit the stress relief opportunities walking, skiing...etc. natural spaces provide for people.
- Clearly delineated "buffer zones" essential for the well-being of ecosystems, between the roads and the undeveloped space were not included in the drawing plans.
- Traffic on Gouin Blvd. would increase, potentially causing problems for the many cyclists and joggers that enjoy the quiet roadway.
- Increased traffic on the already congested Autoroute 20 and Autoroute 40.
- The CDPQ-Reseau Electrique Metropolitain (REM) has not been approved, therefore should not be included in the development plans. Even if approved, many people do not

work downtown in offices. There will be many who need their trucks and cars to get to work, leading to more congestion on the existing roadways and autoroutes.

- Do we need 5 500 new housing units on the island of Montreal when there are so many thousands of homes and condos for sale?

City parks are not wild or natural places. There are very few places within a short drive where people can enjoy the outdoors, observe wildlife, and wander without regulations, restrictions, and direction signs. I was lucky to grow up in Pierrefonds beside a forest where I spent many hours enjoying nature. It was a place where kids could be kids, build tree houses, forts, and PLAY. Those forests are gone. Forever. I don't want this to happen to l'Anse a l'Orme!

Thank you for this opportunity to express my views.

Janet Rhodes
Beaconsfield
April 22, 2017