



25 April, 2017

Office de consultation publique de Montréal (OCPM)  
1550, rue Metcalfe – Bureau 1414  
Montréal (Québec) H3A 1X6

**Subject:** Please Protect l'Anse-à-l'orme

Dear Sir or Madam:

I write to urge the City of Montréal to cancel the planned 185-hectare, 5500-house development project in Pierrefonds-Roxboro. In so doing, I join my voice to all the other caring Montréal citizens who are beseeching the City of Montréal to preserve this entire space - to protect and assure the future of our natural flora and fauna on this beautiful island we are fortunate enough to live on.

**Last unprotected large green space on the Island of Montréal**

The Anse-à-l'Orme in Pierrefonds-Roxboro is a 220-hectare expanse of wet meadows, forest and fallow agricultural lands. It is also home to more than 270 species of fauna and flora, including several endangered species such as the bobolink bird and Canadian Black Snakeroot, a wild plant. L'Anse-à-l'Orme is part of the largest wildlife corridor on the Island of Montréal, a network of forests and fields that includes Cap-Saint-Jacques, the Morgan Arboretum, Parc-Agricole du Bois-de-la-Roche, the Ecoterritory of Senneville Forest, and Angell Woods.

The diverse habitats of the l'Anse-à-l'Orme corridor include Montréal's only remaining inland river (rivière à l'Orme), and support the richest biodiversity and *the last unprotected large wild green space* on the Island of Montréal. This last refuge of exceptional intrinsic value is threatened by the planned housing project that



will compromise the integrity of the existing ecosystems of that area - and species that live there now will have nowhere to go. Loss of habitat is the main cause of animal and plant extinctions.

### **Why not take care of the island and be proud Montréalers?**

Did you know that the *Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity* is based in Montréal, Canada? As something we can be proud of, this underscores a status that Montréal should strive to live up to by being at the forefront of sustainable practices that preserve precious ecosystems and biodiversity, like l'Anse-à-l'Orme.

In taking steps to protect the l'Anse-à-l'Orme eco-territory in its entirety, the City of Montréal would move closer to honouring its own promise and objective to conserve natural spaces on the island, as per the Plan métropolitain d'aménagement et de développement of the Montreal Metropolitan Community (PMAD). PMAD requires the protection of 17% of the territory of the CMM - with only 6% presently protected.

### **More traffic and pollution - or a greener healthier environment?**

The proposed construction project will *not* improve the life of Montréalers - in fact, it will increase traffic and pollution, increase the heat island effect, contribute to global warming, and change irremediably the future of Montréal.

**In closing**, I urge city officials to focus their attention on sustainable development and find forward-looking projects that will allow us to appreciate, enjoy and protect l'Anse-à-l'Orme, now and in the future. Where there's a will, there's a way.

Sincerely,

Brenda Fewster  
Proud Montréaler



**Bobolink Bird**