

**MME SHAEN JOHNSTON:**

Those are our recommendations.

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**LE COMMISSAIRE WOLFE :**

All right because you made it sound like those were the recommendations of the Office.

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**MME SHAEN JOHNSTON:**

My apologies. They made a lot of good recommendations.

**LE COMMISSAIRE WOLFE:**

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I'm going to refer to them, yes. Thank you, I just wanted to understand what that coming from.

**MME SHAEN JOHNSTON:**

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Sorry.

**LE COMMISSAIRE WOLFE :**

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Okay. Thank you.

**LA PRÉSIDENTE :**

Alors je vous remercie beaucoup, Madame.

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**MME SHAEN JOHNSTON:**

Merci.

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**LA PRÉSIDENTE :**

J'inviterais maintenant monsieur Donald Hobus.

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**M. DONALD HOBUS :**

2150           It's a little bit different I think you can read. It's a little bit distorted but I guess we can work with it.

          You've heard a lot of different opinions. You've heard a lot of subjects and I would like to talk about biodiversity because I think this is the critical aspect of what we're trying to do in saving L'Anse-à-l'Orme.

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          I had a president when I was working the president of the company used to say: start at the end and you may be have saved a lot of time. So, my conclusion is that we have to save 100% of L'Anse-à-l'Orme and when I say L'Anse-à-l'Orme, I talk about Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue, Senneville, and Pierrefonds-Ouest.

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          The subject of these hearings are Pierrefonds-Ouest but I include all of the natural space out in that area to be L'Anse-à-l'Orme and I think it has to be protected 100%.

2165           A number of years ago I was at hearings, a public hearing in Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue and there were some consultants who gave an image of what could be done with their territory. And they talked about an industrial park and they talked about a residential park and they talked about saving 40% of the land in its natural state, very similar to what we're seeing in Pierrefonds.

2170           And when they came to the opened mic, I said that 40% wasn't enough and the director general asked me what would be acceptable to you and I said: zero percent development. And he said: but Sir the developers have bought this land, they've invested money and I said: what gives you the right to protect their investment. I said I bought shares in Nortel, I said did I come to Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue and get a guarantee for that. And he said well it's not the same thing. I said it's certainly is the same thing.

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          These gentlemen speculated in land and I speculated in shares of Nortel. Now I have lost my money. It wasn't as much as they would lose but it might happen that the investors in this land have bought a little bit too late on the Island of Montreal and there's nothing left on the Island of Montreal.

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          If you remember in my brief, I talk about growing up in the East-End of Montreal. I started by saying that. Three things influenced me, I included the hymn in there, I have no intentions of singing the hymn to you and yet I'd clear the room if I did.

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2190 But those three things had a big, big influence on me. Pointe-aux-Trembles was considered to be country back then. I'm 68 years old. In Ville St-Léonard, you had farm and all of Rivière-des-Prairies was wooded area. And now if you go down there, there's almost nothing that's been protected.

Réal Ménard who is the mayor for the East-End or part of the East-End the City, apparently made a statement that you people in the West-End should consider yourself lucky because you've already got a lot of space that is protected.

2195 And I went to the question period and I addressed him with that. I said I grew up in the East-End of Montreal. Je connais très bien la Ville de Montréal surtout l'est de la Ville de Montréal. And I said : if you're so concerned about the East-End of Montreal, why did you change the zoning in the Metropolitan Golf Course, 36 holes, now 18 holes are industrial park.

2200 Montreal not only in the West Island, Montreal lacks green space. It is the lowest city in Canada, major city in Canada and one of the largest lowest city in North America in terms of green space, percentage green space protected.

2205 And I talked about biodiversity on this first slide and I refer to E.O. Wilson, the Professor at Meredith of Harvard University. He says that we are now losing as much as, it doesn't mean we are doing it but, we may be losing 10% of the biodiversity every 10 years. And he said that back in 1990.

2210 So if he's right we've already lost about 19% of the biodiversity. I'm a bee keeper I know what's happening to bees. If we lose the bees, the three of you and myself included we'll be sitting in the field with a paint brush pollinating the flowers. There's 95 food crops that are dependent on bees and that's just one of the insects that are being threatened and a lot of that is due to human activity, due to development.

2215 Tom Mulcair when he first was the minister of Environment, he did sort of a tour of the province and during that tour he spoke about if it was just a matter of protecting land, he said I could that very easily. I could pick a pen and with the stroke of a pen, sign my name and protect 20% of the Grand Nord but he said that's not the point. The point is that we should be protecting biodiversity, not land but biodiversity.

2220 So we should be looking at areas and say what is the biodiversity on that land. If we went out to Pierrefonds-Ouest and we said there's nothing here then go ahead and develop it. But I don't know if you had the studies presented to you already. But I believe that Richard Gregson is going to present a study that he did through bird protection Québec, showing that they've observed 160 bird species out there. Many of them, 11 of them, are on Canada's vulnerable and endangered list.

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2230 Just that alone should protect the area targeted for development. And he wasn't talking about the area along the L'Anse-à-l'Orme River or the area in Ste. Anne de Bellevue, they went in and they targeted the area that was to be developed and they've said that there's a 160 birds.

2235 Jérôme Dupras, he and his team from the Université du Québec did a specific study and they were lucky that they got it completed before the developers put No Trespassing signs up. He can't do that the study we don't want to know about it so we're going No Trespassing. It's illegal to go on my land.

Well but the study was completed and the study shows that there is a tremendous amount of biodiversity on that land and it must be protected.

2240 This is a bit of funny image to be talking about L'Anse-à-l'Orme or anything else. But a few years ago, I was over at the MRC Roussillon and there was about 150 of us, I was invited by Guy Turcotte, he organized an event. Part of the PMAD, one of the five projects was to protect the Chateauguay-Léry forest.

2245 And the Town of Léry was a little bit nervous let's say. They were threatened by the developers. We're going to sue you and it's a small town. They didn't have the means to defend them. So they were going back and forth, should we develop it or not. Anyway, Guy Turcotte organized this event. And I believe the gentleman's name is Professor Pierre Brunel from the University of Montréal.

2250 He used an airplane as an illustration and he said to the mayors: I don't think any of you understand the importance of biodiversity. So he said: I'm going to give you this illustration. Think of biodiversity as the rivets that hold together an airplane. And he said now all of us are on the airplane and we're flying and one of you looks at the window and you see a rivet pop out. You say Ah! Well, plane is still okay. And somebody sees the second and the third and the fourth and the fifth and so on and so on. And then he stopped and he said to the mayors: how many rivets can we afford to lose before that plane crashes?

2260 And he said that is the importance of biodiversity. How much biodiversity can we lose before the earth crashes. And we know that we're in what they call the sixth and perhaps final extinction and it's caused by mankind. It's caused by developers going crazy and people not standing up and saying: enough, is enough. And that's what we're here for tonight, enough is enough, L'Anse-à-l'Orme, that whole area, Ste. Anne-de-Bellevue, Senneville and Pierrefonds-Ouest has to be protected.

2265 I don't know if I'm allowed to do this but I'm doing it anyway. The pictures should be a little bit, they're not that skinny, anyway. This was the signing of the Convention, the Secretariat for the Convention on Biodiversity is located in Montreal. Very few people realized that, it's at, I think it's, I've got the address. 413, St-Jacques Street.

2270 Anyway, the Convention on Biodiversity, their head office, let's call it is located here in Montreal. That I believe gives us a certain responsibility and a certain obligation to respect the Convention on Biologic diversity and we're not doing that.

2275 We benefit from the United Nations being here but we're not, I know, for a fact, or I've been told I shouldn't say I know for a fact. I've been told that there are a number of cities that look at Montreal and say that Montreal is failing and they want the Convention Biodiversity moved to their city because they believe that their city is doing a better job.

2280 Mr. Coderre, on a number of occasions and some of the people will back me up on this. I've heard him say twice now that sustainable development is made up of two words and one of them is development. Unfortunately for Mr. Coderre, sustainable development cannot be separated into two words. It loses its meaning completely.

2285 Development is one thing and sustainable development is another. And if you go back to the First Nations people, the Iroquois and Nation they talk about the 7<sup>th</sup> Generation and they basically say: Whatever you do, cut down a tree, kill an animal, whatever you do, you should be looking at the impact on your children, their children, their grand children, seven generations down the road.

2290 I don't have children so maybe I should walk out of here and say who cares. But my brother has six grand children. And they all live in the Yukon Territory and if you want to see the impact on global warming, and the damage the biodiversity come with me to the Yukon and you'll meet a lot of people who have a lot to say. The evidence is clearer up there than it is here.

2295 A number of years ago, 2014 to be exact, some of us including myself presented briefs to the Agglomeration on the Urban Plan for the Agglomeration of Montreal. We had done the PMAD and now they had come down to the Agglomeration MRC level. I presented a brief to the Agglomeration and I also presented to the MRC Thérèse de Blainville where I live.

2300 Mr. Richard Bergeron who was the Projet Montréal Leader at the time presented a brief on November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014 and after his brief very much like tonight, the commissioners had the right to ask questions. And Paola Hawa asked the question of Mr. Bergeron. She asked him what he thought about Angell Wood. And his response was that he did know Angell Wood. He had never been there but he could continued and he said: I do know on the other side of the highway, at L'Anse-à-l'Orme, I visited it with the Green Coalition, la Coalition Verte and he continued by saying:

2305 100% of that area must be protected. He said there is so little remaining natural space on the Island of Montreal that everything that is now natural must remain natural.

2310 And as several people have talked about the brown fields, he continued and he said: 10% of the Island of Montreal is brown fields. Est-ce que vous comprenez l'aspect de brown fields? Un brown field ,c'est un terrain qui est vacant, qui a été développé, puis maintenant il est abandonné.

2315 Le meilleur exemple c'est peut-être le Blue Bonnets, the Blue Bonnets Race Track. It hasn't been used as a race track in, I don't know 10 years, 15 years, it's sitting vacant. We should be developing that land and other lands instead of developing natural spaces.

Mr. Bergeron now has changed his mind but he's got a job on the Executive Committee and he switched allegiances. He's now no longer...

**LA PRÉSIDENTE :**

2320 Je vous demanderais de faire attention à vos propos. Juste faire attention à ce que vous dites.

**M DONALD HOBUS :**

2325 I'm simply stating a fact.

**LA PRÉSIDENTE :**

2330 Sur monsieur Bergeron.

**M DONALD HOBUS :**

2335 I'm stating a fact. I asked him about it and he said: I changed my mind. I've put a number of figures here but I call it biodiversity by numbers. It's the request for percentage of protected space. And some of these figures, the ones that I've done in asterix, Mr. Legendre and, I have a map here as well that shows the province believes that the Island of Montreal is 15% protected and Mr. Legendre said the other night that it was 17% protected.

2340 And yet the City talks about 6% going to 10% and the difference is supposedly land versus the St. Lawrence River.

I'm a little bit sceptical on the St. Lawrence River numbers and so I've submitted a request, an access to information request asking for the biologist's name who did the study in the St.

2345 Lawrence River, the dates that it was done and the list of inventory that they find in the river. And I hope it wasn't on the night that they flushed, they might find a little more biodiversity than they expected to.

2350 On the North Shore, I used the figure that comes from a map for the Laurentians and if you can look at the map most of it is up North of Ste-Agathe and it's not within the CMM Territory and the South Shore is the same thing. So, when I say 8.3% it's probably less but the point of those figures is if you combined the figures together, you don't come up to the 17% that we're supposed to be expecting.

2355 And only the Agglomeration of Longueuil will probably reach the 18%. Everybody else is going to miss their target.

2360 This is a slide that I added at the very end, it talks about flood maps and I really don't like doing in the text that I've included, I'm a little critical at people that use the flood as trying to take advantage of it and there's a lot of people been harmed by the floods and we see that the flood maps were updated recently for the Mille-Îles River but according to this CBC article, they have not been updated for Montreal and many years. In the recent days, I found or I was told that the dam in Cornwall was under a tremendous amount of pressure. The dam in Cornwall is managed by the American and the Canadian Authorities.

2365 On the American side in Lake Ontario, there's a lot of very wealthy people and some of their properties were being threatened and they were putting pressure on the Government to open the dams. If they had done that, Montreal would have got an awful lot more water than we actually got.

2370 The fact that they kept the dams relatively closed probably saved a lot more houses in the Pierrefonds area.

2375 The maps that I refer to. Oh, no sorry, if you want to look at the article, I've included the link to it.

2380 And so I've written based. It's almost like a resolution that I've put up there. This is my conclusion and I'm saying based on the rare and endangered biodiversity found in this area, based on Montreal's commitment to the Secretary of the CBD, the Convention on Biological Diversity, based on moral obligation to the Youth of the World and based on Montreal's obligation to all future generations, based on Montreal's poor ranking in protected natural spaces in Canada, based in Montreal's commitment in Paris to reduce greenhouse gases, based on recent events in Pierrefonds-Ouest, and to avoid future floods in this proposed development, I ask that you make the recommendation that the proposed project be rejected and that 100% of the land in question be protected in perpetuity as Montreal's largest and important natural space and I have a spelling

2385 mistake there too much is given, much is requested and I refer to that Montreal has been given the privilege of having the Secretary of Biodiversity here and much is requested of the City as a result.

Any questions?

2390 **LA PRÉSIDENTE :**

Merci beaucoup. Question.

**M DONALD HOBUS :**

2395 Everybody wants to get home early.

**LA PRÉSIDENTE :**

2400 No.

**LE COMMISSAIRE WOLFE :**

No, it's because you're very clear in your presentation.

2405 **M DONALD HOBUS :**

For a change. Thank you.

2410 **LA PRÉSIDENTE :**

Merci beaucoup.

Alors est-ce que la Ville aurait des choses à dire pour rectifier des données ou des propos?

2415 Ça va Monsieur Legendre? Peut-être une petite chose. Oui.

**M. PIERRE LEGENDRE :**

2420 Bonjour, Pierre Legendre du Service des Grands parcs de la Ville de Montréal. Je ne veux pas répéter ce que je vous ai déjà dit, mais c'est juste concernant le taux de protection des milieux naturels sur l'Île de Montréal. On est à 6% et puis l'objectif de 17% en considérant les espaces aquatiques autour de l'Île on l'a atteint à Montréal.