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To: "Aarre Oljemark" <golffhawk@securenet.net>, "Al Hay...
Date: Wed, Nov 2, 2005 8:57 AM
Subject: open letter to Mayor Tremblay: Antoine-Faucon road extension

Mayor Tremblay has told us proudly that his administration has devoted \$36 million to the conservation of natural spaces. This administration has also given us the excellent Politique pour la protection et mise en valeur des milieux naturels. Bravo, very good.

However, the triennial plan for the Borough of Pierrefonds/Senneville has budgeted at least \$16 million for the construction of roads within the Rivière à l'Orme ecoterritory. The Borough's chapter of the urban plan was recently adopted, but only by one vote. City councillors and borough mayors are not in favour of the proposed 6000 new residences, with no planned public transport.

The cost-benefit analysis for the proposed extension of Antoine-Faucon Boulevard (estimated cost to taxpayers according to the triennial plan: \$ 2,400,000) to serve a proposed housing development is essentially limited to weighing the estimated cost of building the road against the taxes that will eventually be perceived. No effort has been made to evaluate the impact of a increase in the amount of automobile traffic and emissions on the health and quality of life of citizens, or to translate this into monetary terms. It is significant to note that this proposed road and housing development will entail the destruction of part of the finest mature stand of trees on Montreal Island, the Anse à l'Orme Forest.

I would like to see Montrealers elect a mayor who is committed to protecting natural spaces on our island, and serious about ensuring that Montreal's development is in harmony with sustainable growth principles, an important value expressed by Mayor Tremblay. I have an idea for that mayor: instead of spending our money to plant 10,000 trees, as Mayor Tremblay has promised to do, save us money by not accepting the Antoine-Faucon extension, and by protecting the trees which are already there. With all due respect, they are much more magnificent trees than any mayor could ever plant, and they don't need any maintenance or upkeep.

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