

Construction not the answer

In response to councillor Bert Ward's assertion in our local newspapers to the effect that the scaling-down of residential construction projects generates an important loss of tax revenue, I would like to respond to some of his claims.

How can Pierrefonds/Roxboro know its revenues since it does not produce financial statements? Our revenues are presently combined with those of the city of Montreal. For the past few years, residential construction has been massive and in spite of this, it seems evident that our tax revenues have not been sufficient due to expenses related to infrastructures and the services that must follow.

Taxes have increased in spite of electoral promises.

Our services have been cut and it is reported that Montreal has had to increase the number of administrative posts. The megacity needs our revenue to liquidate its deficit of \$400 million. Because of this, we receive only a fraction of our tax revenue from Montreal. Before the merger, the cities controlled the management of its revenues and expenses; unfortunately, this is no longer the case.

To obtain some information, we must go through management intricacies whereas before the merger we could obtain information and documents quickly, this is no longer the case.

Moreover, some of our municipal services are now inadequate, such as the selective garbage collection that is still inoperative in certain parts of the borough and the upkeep of our parks, public areas and streets is still deficient. Public security is limited to one vehicle per shift in the whole borough.

In 2003, the parks management of the city of Montreal produced a study which came out in favour of the regional park vocation for the Rapides du Cheval Blanc territory.

Last May, the agglomeration council of Montreal adopted a borrowing by-law for the purchase of green spaces in Angell Woods in Beaconsfield. Why hasn't the council past and present of Pierrefonds/Roxboro in conjunction with the agglomeration council taken steps to acquire these green spaces, such as Beaconsfield did a few months ago?

In short, even if thousands more residences are built, Pierrefonds/Roxboro will not be any richer since the decisions concerning the budget and money distribution are owned by Montreal whose interests differ significantly from our own!

Noémie Rouleau
Roxboro

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