

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Chronicle, By Albert Kramberger editor@transcontinental.ca Article online since April 25th 2007, The Gazette Published: Thursday, April 26, 2007

Comparing kids to eggs

The Grilli Group wants to build 251 residential units in the Rapides-du-cheval-blanc ecoterritory, located between Rivière des prairies and the railroad tracks in Pierrefonds, north of Sources Blvd. The engineering firm CIMA was hired to study the impact of this new development on the existing traffic within the immediate area.

The only way out from this small peninsula is through Riverdale Street that runs along both the traffic circle and the railroad crossing onto Sources Boulevard.

Incredibly, CIMA partly focused its traffic study on the impact of upcoming cars on Pavillon Street. In CIMA's report, one can read that the railroad parallels Pavillon Street, while there is no mention of Riverdale that also parallels that same railway. Furthermore, new residents will not be able to exit through Pavillon Street since the plan shows no access to it.

Why would CIMA not consider the impact of adding 400-plus vehicles to the 1,000-plus cars already going through Riverdale, the most important area to be affected by this project?

At the April 2 public consultation meeting, I commented that the project shows only a very small green patch called a 'park' for children no older than six. This patch is located in Phase One, far from Riviera Street.

I also remarked that the children living in the area will lose their playground at the end of Riverdale. Pierre Rochon, an urban planner for Pierrefonds, explained that a park is planned close to Riverdale. The plan does show a green spot intersected by a decorative wall, equal to 17 metres by 17 metres at the entrance of the project. How can anyone seriously designate such a minuscule area a 'park'?

In the name of the children, I implore the city to provide an actual neighbourhood park for all children aged 12 and less in the area and for the children of the upcoming development. All that has to be done is to subtract a couple of housing units for some grass.

I asked borough mayor Monique Worth how will the children be protected from construction trucks and the hundreds of vehicles that will be traveling on Riverdale. She replied, "One cannot make an omelette without breaking eggs." Worth, are you comparing the children to eggs?

Is it really possible that our elected officials lack so much humanity that they don't seem to care about the children's welfare?

Carmen Laroche Vrana

Pierrefonds/Roxboro