



News Release for immediate release

Montreal, November 13, 2006

Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue to propose plans for colossal development project in Montreal's most ecologically pristine ecoterritory.

Public consultation

Date: Monday, November 13th, 2006 at 7:30 pm

Place: École du Bout-de-l'Île, 190 rue Vallée, Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue

At a public consultation meeting tonight plans will be unveiled for a residential and industrial development in the north east sector of Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue, just west of the rivière-à-l'Orme. These plans include only a very small sliver of protected woods alongside the Rivière-à-l'Orme, Montreal's largest inland river. This would be by far the largest loss of natural space on the island since the adoption of the Tremblay administration's Natural spaces policy in 2004. Once again thickets, wetlands, and meadows will be transformed into concrete and asphalt.

A large part of the development planned on public land managed by the Quebec government.

The Société Générale de Financement du Québec (SGF) is an industrial and financial holding corporation of the Quebec government. Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue's plans could permit the SGF to sell its public land holdings in the Rivière-à-l'Orme ecoterritory. Presently the ecoterritory is crucial to the remnants of Montreal's deer population, the brown snake and barred owls and is a major flyway for migratory birds such as the bobolink.

Sale of SGF land at Rivière-à-l'Orme would flout Québec Cabinet decree

A December 2005 Québec Cabinet decree proscribes the sale or swap of publicly-owned ecoterritory lands on Montreal Island. These lands, defined in the decree on a "liste d'équipements et infrastructures d'intérêt collectif", including Rivière-à-l'Orme explicitly, cannot be sold or swapped.

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