



GRAND SEMINAIRE DE MONTREAL – Rue Sherbrooke Recommendations

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- The Sulpician Order founded by Jean-Jacques Olier in 1642 in France to train Catholic priests.
- The Order established in Montreal in 1657 was instrumental in the development Ville Marie with Sr. Jeanne Mance. Notre Dame Basilica and its Gardens, Mount Royal cemetery, amongst its contributions. The Order has a rich history of helping the poor and the native population.
- College de Montreal has a 250 year history as a seminary which developed into a private boys high school. It started accepting girls in 1997 and has an enrollment of approximately 1,700.
- Controversially the Order sold parcels of land on Atwater to Condominium developers 20 years ago who constructed 12 - 18 story condos, which somewhat succeeded in blending into the natural setting of the Sulpician Park.
- Public access to the Grand Seminaire de Montréal on rue Sherbrooke to accommodate Public paid meter parking for approximately 250 vehicles was granted under Mayor Tremblay.
- 6 other parking lots on the expanded College Montréal site, including ones reserved for Montréal General Hospital, Montréal Childrens' Hospital and College de Montréal staff and employees can accommodate about 400 additional cars.

- The land is defined by a steeply graded 3 meter grass hill topped by a 2 meter wrought iron fence, backed by 2 meter high bushes which extend the approximately 300 meter length of the Parc Sulpician property along the north side of rue Sherbrooke from just after rue Chomedey to almost the corner of Atwater Avenue. The land extends from rue Sherbrooke another approximately 300 meters to the upper reaches of rue Atwater and then extends eastwards 300 meters to an access road which leads to more parking lots, a number of unused storage sheds, unused garages and the artificial turf playing field and facilities of the College de Montréal.
- Mowed 10 meter lawn extends the 300 meter distance adjacent to the bushes and fence on the interior adjacent to Sherbrooke.
- A path leads north from near Atwater to the top of Atwater with 5 distinct east/west paths. The first through the rather dense woods; the second along the two sides of a 120 meter, at least 100 year old, stone reflection pool, where priests in training would meditatively walk; the third path is actually a full length football field with only about a 40 yard width; the fourth and fifth paths extend through the woods, one running adjacent to the apartment buildings.
- Much dense bush exists between the paths and extends below Atwater and Sacred Heart School and Cote des Neiges. Different animals and birds make their habitation there, as well as some of the oldest trees on the Montréal Island.

- Residents in the downtown Montréal area as well as students and workers have no parks or recreational spaces for themselves and little for families with children.
- Investments in the human infrastructure by developing parks, exercise and playing areas for downtown residents is essential for promoting a positive quality of life and enhancing an appreciation for nature.
- Hundreds of millions of dollars in infrastructure money is being pledged and is annually spent on roads and highways, to essentially transport hundreds of thousands of people from the outskirts of Montréal into and out of the (most often) Centreville Montréal area in a safe and sufficient manner - on a daily basis.
- This virtually untouched natural habitat is by far the largest body of Green Space left in downtown Montréal. The 120 meter Reflection Basin is a unique Heritage Site, which can accommodate benches. The football playing field could be utilized by the many local childrens' soccer teams who do not have a place to practice and play; a dog-run could be established. Most importantly a Nature Trail could be developed throughout the property that would encourage secure walking and exercising.

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Recommendations

1. No further constructural development of green spaces in the Sulpician land on Sherbrooke.
2. Preserve and develop the Park as a historical, ecological and recreational space that will encourage and promote its usage by local residents and Montréalers.
3. Ask the Sulpician Order to make a gift to the people of Montreal - or the Ville (with perhaps private partners) makes an offer to purchase and develop its possible natural, ecological and recreational potential in a magnificent, respectful style befitting a park of this stature situated in the heart of the city, exemplified by the grand and visionary spirit of the great Frederick Olmstead
4. Eliminate the parking lot at the entrance and convert it into a kids park, perhaps a patageoire, and an exercise park for seniors and others - equipped with special outdoor fitness equipment and a skating rink in the winter.
5. Insist that any development of the Grand Seminaire buildings or property not impact the green environment, and that a minimum of 25% of any residential housing development in the Grande Seminaire be designated for social housing, as has been pledged for the Childrens' Hospital Project.

Thanks - Merci

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