

Mayor Coderre and City Council,

I am writing to you to strongly object to destruction of the nature and wetland areas on the western part of Montreal Island. There one can find rare species of a fauna that once was abundant here in Quebec. The wildlife in these enclaves of natural and ecologically rich and diverse wetlands serve an important need for the population at large both now and for future generations. Once they are built over they will be gone for ever.

Montreal is not living up to its commitment to preserve 10% of the land on its territory: we are now at 5.4 % at most.

Where is the city going to find available land to be able to fulfill its promise? As the saying goes : land- they don't make it any more! So I urge the City Council of Montreal to act bravely and with an eye to the future of its present population and that of our children and grandchildren - do not permit any destruction of these precious wetlands, we need them to remain in their present state for ever.

The City Council has an obligation to stand firm against commercial interests, to guard against exploitation of every kind. Montreal is an Island- the space available is limited and it stands to reason that we preserve the land over which we have control.

As noted in an op-ed piece in the Gazette - there are several areas where construction of homes in Pierrefonds is possible. With a little imagination, good will and brainpower certainly alternatives to wetland destruction can be found. Preservation of the wetlands is a priority and it is the duty of the Montreal City Council to act accordingly.

Yours Truly Christina Duvander