

**Memoire PMAD Malcolm Johnson 12 Septembre 2011**

**Presentation for Le plan metropolitain d'amenagement et de development (PMAD) of the  
Communaute Métropolitaine de Montréal (CMM)**

**Presented by Malcolm Johnson-- an interested citizen attempting to protect what is possible to  
protect.**

**11A Chemin Lakeshore, Pointe Claire Qc. H9S 4G8**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**We must be clear in our planning for the future in that private interests do not supersede the public  
interest.**

**Urban development often occurs in favour of a few developers who become wealthy as a result.**

**The decisions to change zoning laws are made by elected municipal councillors who believe that  
economic benefits will occur as a result of their decision making processes.**

**Often councillors lobby for their own interests or those of a single constituent with the result that  
long term planning is not considered.**

**An agency of the Provincial government, Société générale de financement purchased land with  
taxpayers money then sold the land to developers. This occurred recently in the municipality of Ste  
Anne de Bellevue.**

**This process of short term planning with long term loss must be revised and changed if we are to have  
a viable future.**

**Farms provide us with food .**

**NO FARMS NO FOOD**

**Farmland is easy for developers to pave and build on. It is generally level and has had all the clearing and stones removed, it has been cared for. Good farmland must not be destroyed for residential, commercial or industrial development. Ontario had some of the best farmland in Canada. 49% of Ontario's prime farmland was lost to the urban sprawl of the Greater Toronto Area.**

**Today Ontario imports approximately 4 billion dollars worth of food over what it exports. Canada imports 53% of vegetables and 90 % of fruits consumed.**

**In Ontario, the Kitchener-Waterloo area is surrounded by very rich farmland, yet 58 kinds of fruit consumed in that area must travel an average of 4,497 kilometres to reach them.**

**Once a farmland is destroyed for commercial considerations it is lost forever. Land banking must be on the agenda of civic responsibility.**

**In the Borough of Pierrefonds-Roxboro there is a fine example of what can be done for the future. The Parc de Cap Saint Jacques and the farm of Des Trois Pierres gives us an encouraging example.**

**Des Trois Pierres farm uses 30 acres to produce , 410 baskets of organically grown vegetables per week (June through September).**

**These baskets are sold to those families who are subscribed to the program, which is fully booked. Two greenhouses produce 95-100**

**kilograms of tomatoes per week from April to September. At the same time the farm is educating young people in the practice of organic**

**farming and producing food in an ecologically sustainable process.**

**In the same Borough of Pierrefonds-Roxboro , there are approximately 1300 acres of good farmland planned for destruction by developers.**

**The term destruction is used because once the land is developed it can never be used to grow food again.**

**The land in question lies south of Gouin Boulevard, west of Institute Charlemagne and a cemetery, and east of Anse a L'Orme road.**

**This is good farmland ( Macdonald College Agronomists), and has been rezoned for development by the Borough Council.**

**What has been rezoned can be rezoned again.**

**We cannot continue to import 90% of our fruit and 53% of our vegetables, as the cost of transportation will increase and the availability of the product will diminish (population growth). We must become more self-sufficient and sustainable.**

**We must plan economically for long term survival and discard short term profit thinking.**

**There is an added advantage. The Communauté Métropolitaine de Montréal , home of the Secretariat of Biological Diversity, will be able to announce that an additional 1300 acres will be added to the Green and Blue belt; an ecological assurance for the citizens of Greater Montreal.**

**There is a pressing need to legislate Farmland and Water as Essential Resources.**

**Merci pour votre attention.**

**Malcolm Johnson**