

April 27, 2017 Office de consultation publique de Montréal AVENIR DU SECTEUR PIERREFONDS-OUEST

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I urge the OPCM and the City of Pierrefonds to consider the VALUE and BENEFITS of conserving the Anse à l'Orme area. The EDUCATION and HEALTH BENEFITS of preserving this GREEN SPACE are significant.

The Anse-à-l'Orme Conservation Area should be protected from development for the following reasons:

1. Ecological Value: Biodiversity of plants and animals 160 species of birds including 10 species of owl and 13 species that are vulnerable or threatened
2. Connectivity: It is important that the area be conserved to allow wildlife to move from one green space to another
3. Health Benefits: Natural areas provide valuable health benefits to communities and can significantly reduce health care costs.
4. Educational value: Children benefit from nature walks and contact with nature
5. I urge the City of Montreal and Pierrefonds- Roxboro borough to protect this green space and negotiate a LAND SWAP with the developers for a less ecologically sensitive area as was done with Cheval Blanc. Green spaces should be preserved and new development should be restricted to Brownfields.

I support the assessment of Dr Richard Gregson in his brief:

“A total of 160 species of birds have been reported in the Kestrel Fields and the immediately adjacent habitats of Anse-à-l'Orme and Cap-St-Jacques (there being considerable exchange of species between local sites as they move around in search of nesting territory and food). These birds include representatives of both forest, grassland and “edge” habitat species as well as wetland species and migratory birds that pause here in passage for essential feeding and rest. There are songbirds, raptors, insectivores - in fact representatives of most families of birds. There are even breeding ducks despite it not including lakeshore access. The birds listed include the following species of particular note: • 13 species of national concern (vulnerable or threatened) • At least 3 additional species that are locally rare or vulnerable • Perhaps uniquely, all 10 of the species of Owl that occur in this region (of which one is a species of national concern) have been reported from this site. • There are breeding individuals of the American Kestrel and the Northern Harrier; iconic raptors for which this is perhaps the last remaining breeding territory on Montreal island

This is not habitat that can ever be restored or reclaimed or replaced once lost to construction. I urge those in charge of this public consultation to recommend that the proposed development not be permitted.”

“Nature-study cultivates in the child a love of the beautiful ... a perception of colour, form, and music. But more than all, nature-study gives the child a sense of companionship with life out-of-doors and an abiding love of nature”. – David Orr, Author of Ecological Literacy

“In every walk in nature, one receives far more than he or she seeks”. – John Muir, Scottish-American Naturalist