

sous forme de campagne publicitaire? J'en n'ai aucune idée comment qu'on pourrait faire ça j'imagine que quelqu'un pourrait se pencher sur la question pour trouver des moyens.

1045 Mais je pense qu'on pourrait être avant-gardiste de ce côté-là. Puis de toute façon c'est à l'aide de l'ordinateur, c'est tellement facile de travailler à la maison. Là, c'est juste peut-être voir au niveau des besoins des employeurs qu'est-ce qu'ils auraient besoin comme aide pour que justement que ce soit plus facile pour eux.

1050 **LA PRÉSIDENTE :**

Alors merci, Madame Émond. J'inviterais maintenant Madame Sylvia Oljemark s'il vous plait.

Good evening.

1055 **MME SYLVIA OLJEMARK :**

Good evening. I'll spread my papers out a little bit. I'm a little nervous.

1060 **LA PRÉSIDENTE :**

Well.

1065 **MME SYLVIA OLJEMARK :**

Everybody is I guess. Yes.

LA PRÉSIDENTE :

1070 I think so. Yes.

MME SYLVIA OLJEMARK :

1075 Mesdames, Monsieur, Hello. My name is Sylvia Oljemark. And I'm a founding member of the Saraguay Citizens Group and a co-founder of the Green Coalition or the Coalition Verte. Since the 1940's, I've lived along the river Rivière-des-Prairies in a small village in the old village of Saraguay.

1080 And that village is sheltered today between two nature parks. Years ago they didn't exist because that's where the conversation of Montreal's natural spaces began 40 years ago.

Now, history and new realities show us that no construction can take place on the 185 hectares of wetland prairies at L'Anse-à-l'Orme in Pierrefonds West.

1085 Commissioners, your role is so important. Decisions being made right now will determine if there is a future for Montreal's very special natural heritage.

1090 I'm here to plead that the Cap-Nature Project be rejected and that all of the Anse-à-l'Orme corridor is protected and I'm pleading too, that we get a surge of real political will to save and protect the last natural spaces that Montreal has because they're disappearing fast and they are threatened with disappearing forever.

1095 But now, it's pretty clear no new city can possibly be built on those 185 hectares of wetland prairies at L'Anse-à-l'Orme.

1100 Flooding, devastation in Pierrefonds recently shows us that no construction could possibly take place on such wetlands near the river, lowlands near the river. These wet meadows retain vast quantities of water every year, every spring and once replaced by artificial surfaces on all that territory for the new city, the retention and sustained retention of water would be impossible. And massive flooding would be the result over a lot of that area which would be close to the size of Parc Mont-Royal.

1105 Now, as the flood waters were rising back in the beginning of May, we had our annual meeting of the Green Coalition, it was just a coincidence but that's what happened. And former Environment Minister, Tom Mulcair was our guest and he had some strong warnings for us.

He said brace yourselves for more severe and extreme weather events that they will increase and they will increase in frequency and intensity.

1110 He said: this is global climate change and we are living it.

1115 So, now due to unchecked urban sprawl over the last half century, the 185 hectares we're talking about are now the last large unconserved space on Montreal Island. And these wet meadows along with those in Ste. Anne-de-Bellevue North are very important and valuable for a flood prevention but there are also very important for the City to achieve its own new target for biodiversity conservation of 10%.

1120 Now that would require 2,000, I'm sure you've heard all this before, you've heard from many people and that would require 2,000 more hectares to be protected to achieve the 10% goal. However, Team Coderre has only protected and conserved 61 hectares to date; just got to keep

that in mind.

1125 But just to check back a little bit, in 2009 Chistine Alfsen of UNESCO met Montreal Officials to discuss how the Greater Montreal Region could become a United Nations World Biosphere Reserve. Mrs. Alfsen understood that with its great river ecosystem in this region at the center of the Domaine bioclimatique des Érablières à caryer cordiforme du sud-ouest du Québec, harbours the greatest biodiversity in all of Quebec.

1130 That's why environmentalists are so keen for our metropolis to join the international big leagues for biodiversity conservation like London, Berlin, Vancouver and Toronto. The Ontario Greenbelt is in and around Toronto is now the largest greenbelt in the world. Why are we so far behind?

1135 Mayor Denis Coderre must be persuaded to change his mind about L'Anse-à-l'Orme because the proposed development is a huge error. Scientific synthesis confirmed the site provides essential habitat for exceptional flora and fauna and that the development would damage habitats and animals from Senneville to Cap-Saint-Jacques and from Île-Bizard to Angell Woods in Beaconsfield.

1140 Green Coalition groups have been working to save L'Anse-à-l'Orme corridor and adjacent natural areas since the 1980's. Forest and farm lands and marsh lands, flood plains have actually been conserved along Montreal's only inland river, Rivière à l'Orme. And many millions of tax payers' dollars have been invested in the nature parks along Lac-des-Deux-Montagnes. Green
1145 Coalition is insisting that these unique assets be conserved as Le Grand Parc National de L'Anse-à-l'Orme, all of it. The huge ensemble and be protected in the heart of the Center Belt du Grand Montréal. We've got big dreams at any rate.

1150 Briefly now, my little 40-year old story about Saraguay and its moral and it's very simple. Political leaders can be persuaded to change their minds. Mayor Jean Drapeau changed his mind and he preserved Bois-de-Saraguay exactly 40 years ago, in 1977. I lived through all this, believe it or not.

1155 Tough citizens campaigned, cancelled out a huge building project there that threatened our village and our forest. Saraguay became known as a déclencheur for the creation of the nature park network.

1160 Forty years on, I could report progress has been made with nature parks established from east to west across the agglomeration. But gains have also been offset by major biodiversity losses. For example the 700 hectares of prime farmland that was dissolved in 1991, I fought

through that one too. Why? The simple answer is: lack of political will.

1165 Please consider this that despite the City of Montreal becoming the 100th partner in 2012 of the Partenaire du Parc écologique de l'Archipel de Montréal, this great greenbelt project for Montreal and South-Western Quebec lacks any real political traction or action. Sadly our metropolis still ranks dead last of any city in Canada per capita for the natural space.

1170 In conclusion, you will be glad to know, construction of a new city on the wet meadows at L'Anse-à-l'Orme is not sustainable either environmentally or fiscally in the long term.

1175 The fiscal growth model for urban developments is often called a Ponzi Scheme because developers reap a large share of profit by a large margin, then towns and cities are required to grow some more to maintain their aging infrastructures into the future.

By the way, passing on major debts to those generations to come. Instead let's do something different, let's convince Mayor Denis Coderre to change his mind about L'Anse-à-l'Orme like Mayor Drapeau did 40 years back. Eco, recreal, tourism can be a bonanza at L'Anse-à-l'Orme.

1180 Let's boost Montreal's international credibility for biodiversity while bringing healthy profit to the City. Imagine we can validate and we can protect and we can honour Montreal's outstanding patrimoine naturel.

1185 Please imagine le Grand Parc National de L'Anse-à-l'Orme protected in perpetuity in the heart of the Ceinture Verte du Grand Montréal et le Québec Méridional.

Thank you for listening to me.

LA PRÉSIDENTE :

1190 Thank you. Ça bien été.

MME SYLVIA OLJEMARK :

1195 Yes. It's not too bad. Still nervous though.

LA PRÉSIDENTE :

1200 Ça bien été.

LE COMMISSAIRE WOLFE :

1205 Several people have talked about a national park and I think, and I've asked lots of questions and no one has given me answers, I'm hoping you will be able to.

MME SYLVIA OLJEMARK :

1210 Alright.

LE COMMISSAIRE WOLFE :

Because I imagine that you're one of the main actors players working for it?

1215 **MME SYLVIA OLJEMARK :**

Absolutely.

LE COMMISSAIRE WOLFE :

1220 So have you done analyses of the costs and funding sources?

MME SYLVIA OLJEMARK :

1225 Not at all. We've done just a lot of work to promote the ideas and bring them to the public, take them to our political leaders, be at question periods and so on and so forth, then get a lots of support as you can see, we've got over 100 partenaires to the notion of a great big greenbelt project for Montreal, the Greater Montreal Region and South Western Quebec.

1230 **LE COMMISSAIRE WOLFE :**

But how do I ask this question delicately? In the time when Mr. Mulcair was Minister of the Environment, do you have any access to any studies that were done at that time?

1235 **MME SYLVIA OLJEMARK :**

1240 Not at all because I do know however that we met early in his mandate, the first year 2003 with Mr. Mulcair and he was sold right-a-way on the idea of a greenbelt for Montreal. And he certainly espoused the notion of the creation of a national park right here on Island of Montreal at L'Anse-à-l'Orme. And we envisaged too saving all those spaces, you've probably seen this image

before that the City has espoused the same sort of notion.

1245 Ours was different, we called it Lake of Two Mountains National Park that we asked Mr. Mulcair to start us a pilot project for a much bigger scheme of course involving the whole of the Greater Montreal Region and South Western Quebec because it's all such wonderful biodiverse stuff.

1250 Now, and here at L'Anse-à-l'Orme, we asked Mr. Mulcair to start with a pilot project and he and we agreed that it would be great to protect all these natural areas around Lac des Deux-Montagnes as well as the L'Anse-à-l'Orme corridor and we also said: let's protect the Lake itself.

1255 So that's where we started from, wasn't very long however whereby Mr. Mulcair envisaged a much greater notion of getting going right away on Archipeligo Park to protect and link up the natural green spaces with the riverine systems waterways and link it all together in a great greenbelt project for the Archipel including Île de Montréal and Île Jésus.

1260 So that's where we were going in 2006. Mr. Mulcair was set to announce his project when he left Cabinet and that was all over a controversy about Mount Orford Park as you may recall that.

So we lost out so we said: well, we'll start again from scratch.

LE COMMISSAIRE WOLFE :

1265 So you don't have the documentation and then to go back further.

MME SYLVIA OLJEMARK :

1270 Not have any have Mr. Mulcair's plans we don't have any of that.

LE COMMISSAIRE WOLFE :

1275 Okay. Alright. But when you talked about Archipelago, I go back as far as you do, I don't know if you remember that Hydro-Québec had an Archipel Project?

MME SYLVIA OLJEMARK :

Yes, I do.

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LE COMMISSAIRE WOLFE :

Which included green space.

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MME SYLVIA OLJEMARK :

Yes. I'm a bit sketchy on that one.

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LE COMMISSAIRE WOLFE :

Okay. I understand.

MME SYLVIA OLJEMARK :

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Alright.

LE COMMISSAIRE WOLFE :

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So there is no link there.

MME SYLVIA OLJEMARK :

No.

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LE COMMISSAIRE WOLFE :

But now we have three names. We have the Lake of Two Mountains, we have the Grand Park Nature de L'Anse-à-l'Orme and we have the Archipel.

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MME SYLVIA OLJEMARK :

Yes and we have the whole notion of making, of linking green areas and coridoring throughout the whole of South Western Quebec.

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LE COMMISSAIRE WOLFE :

But none of this has been costed.

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MME SYLVIA OLJEMARK :

No.

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LE COMMISSAIRE WOLFE :

Okay.

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MME SYLVIA OLJEMARK :

No, not at all.

LE COMMISSAIRE WOLFE :

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Okay.

MME SYLVIA OLJEMARK :

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But we would like to see it start right here on the Island of Montreal with L'Anse-à-l'Orme, this ensemble of all corridor spaces including the 185 hectares of fabulous wetland prairies and included with all the nature parks and park agricole and so on and keep it as a great ensemble. We have the most beautiful and pristine assets here. These assets are incredibly valuable not just to developers there are valuable to the population.

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Other cities have actually protected assets like these and we've asked our Mayor Jim Beis about it and he kind of has a twinkle on his eyes and he sort of had a semi: Oh, It would be wonderful. And we've brought some of these ideas also to Denis Coderre and he's less keen about it. I would think. But we're not, we're not giving up.

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LA PRÉSIDENTE :

Could we have a copy of the map you showed us, that one.

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MME SYLVIA OLJEMARK :

This one.

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LA PRÉSIDENTE :

Yes. Unless we could know where it comes from.

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MME SYLVIA OLJEMARK :

Sure it's from the bilan.

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M. PIERRE LEGENDRE :

It's the Bilan of the politique des Grands Parcs.

LA PRÉSIDENTE :

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Yes. Okay.

M. PIERRE LEGENDRE :

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It's on line on the... sur le site de la Ville de Montréal ici.

LA PRÉSIDENTE :

It's already there.

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MME SYLVIA OLJEMARK :

I had a little comment about that image and I find it so scary.

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LA PRÉSIDENTE :

You know this is a representation, it's not accurate.

MME SYLVIA OLJEMARK :

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However one of the elements is extraordinary scary and that's the extension of Pierrefonds Boulevard going Westward right through all this very sensitive drain fragile drain, we're talking a huge new city and this road going right through the middle of it heading for the so call conservation zone, won't be much left if it once you have all this city impacting on this natural area. It just won't work.

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So yes I read all about all those 12 principles and the first one being the conservation preservation of a corridor écologique de grande valeur biologique. The two are incompatible.

1405 We can't have that notion of a Grand Parc National or other just a plain old grand park with all these beautiful elements in it if you put a new city right in the middle of it. It's our car culture, I don't know if I mentioned that, I probably sled over that bit where i was talking about the car culture that we have, well we'll destroy that place very quickly with its light noise air soil water pollution.

1410 We'll just destroy the whole ecoterritory there as well as losing our investments because in fact quite a lot of money, millions of tax payers' dollars have already been invested in the nature parks and in the L'Anse-à-l'Orme Corridor too to protect a great variety of landscape elements that are just so precious and how can we envisaged now wasting all those tax payers' dollars by destroying it.

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LA COMMISSAIRE RAPHAËL :

Est-ce que je peux vous adresser la question en français?

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MME SYLVIA OLJEMARK :

Oui. Allez-y.

LA COMMISSAIRE RAPHAËL :

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Vous parlez d'un parc éco récréotouristique?

MME SYLVIA OLJEMARK :

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Oui.

LA COMMISSAIRE RAPHAËL :

Quelle est votre vision de l'aménagement de ce parc-là?

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MME SYLVIA OLJEMARK :

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I haven't got that far yet. We wanted to just see if we can get somewhere with some political traction to undertake this idea and as I mentioned the City of Montreal and the Agglomeration of Montreal became the 100th partner in 2012 to try to create such a greenbelt project with this

wonderful base at L'Anse-à-l'Orme. So, but there has been nothing, nothing talked about it since. I think it was just a publicity ploy on the part of the City to look kind of green but they've never gone any farther with it.

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But we're still hoping.

LA COMMISSAIRE RAPHAËL :

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Puis vous parlez aussi que ce parc pourrait générer des profits intéressants?

MME SYLVIA OLJEMARK :

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Oui.

LA COMMISSAIRE RAPHAËL :

Quel genre d'activités serait à la source des revenus?

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MME SYLVIA OLJEMARK :

Okay. From the point of view recreational, there's all sorts of sports that can be practiced on a huge natural area although you want to be careful how you treat that natural environment too. You don't want to spoil it, but things like cross-country skiing, cycling, paddling, kayak, planche à voile. Down by the river they have that already but you could have gites, you could have nice little boutiques and restaurants that in the quartier in the surrounding neighborhoods that could profit by all that activity that's possible, that you can generate through tourism.

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And especially you could have great little bit of wine industry perhaps some wine and some agriculture as long as you don't do it too heavy duty and keep the place kind of natural and you could do very well through promoting the potential for eco-touristic stuff.

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LA COMMISSAIRE RAPHAËL :

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Merci.

LA PRÉSIDENTE :

Merci beaucoup, Madame.

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MME SYLVIA OLJEMARK :

De rien. You're very welcome.

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LA PRÉSIDENTE :

Thank you. J'inviterais Madame Bond s'il vous plait.

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MME SYLVIA OLJEMARK :

May I just mention...

LA PRÉSIDENTE :

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Yes.

MME SYLVIA OLJEMARK :

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... that I did make some changes in I hadn't read my original brief for two months and I found over the weekend that I said : Oh, there's a couple of errors in one paragraph on the first page of the text and so I've sent a revision in to Mr. Vezina yesterday.

LA PRÉSIDENTE :

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Fine. Thank you.

MME SYLVIA OLJEMARK :

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Thank you.

LA PRÉSIDENTE ;

We'll have it and read it. Madame Martha Bond s'il vous plait.

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MME MARTHA BOND :

Good evening. My name is Martha Bond. I live in an historical stone farm house built about 1830 on West Gouin Boulevard in the central part of the former City of Pierrefonds.

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