

Brief for presentation to L'Office de consultation publique de Montréal
(OCPM)

November 24, 2003

Côtes-des Neiges cemetery development proposal

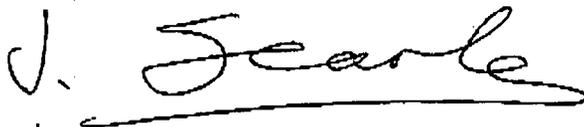
I am opposed to the granting of any permission that may lead to the building of mausoleums or of any other commercial structures within the territory of the Côtes-des-Neiges Cemetery.

Cities, due to the very nature of their development, tend to lack green space in their central areas. Cemeteries, once full, have historically provided green spaces due to the fact that there is a continuing and marked societal aversion to building on the sites of the burial of the dead. Consequently, when filled to capacity, they tend to transform into public green spaces. Dominion Square in downtown Montreal, was once a burial site, provides an excellent example of this tendency.

While it is privately owned, the activities that may take place within the Côtes-des-Neiges cemetery are controlled through the mechanism of zoning regulations. We are in no way required to extend the range of uses upon which the original business is based. Denying the zoning changes that are requested will do nothing to lessen the existing rights or the ability to do business of the cemetery corporation especially as the fact that the cemetery would one day be full has always been known.

Our society has chosen a form of burial that leads to the ultimate closing of all burial plots when, according to our rites and rituals, they have been filled to capacity. This ultimately benefits society. The proposal to install a bicycle path would also benefit society but this could clearly be negotiated between the city and the corporation without any need for allowing the commercial uses of the cemetery to be changed and extended.

Consequently, I recommend the rejection of the zoning changes request presented by the cemetery corporation.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. Searle". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Jeremy Searle
City Councillor, NDG Loyola District
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