

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing as a citizen of Roxboro to express my very serious concerns regarding the potential housing development in the Western Sector of Pierrefonds. In the twenty years that I have lived on the west island I have watched several green spaces that were once wild and natural be destroyed and turned into housing developments. Take for example the area above Gouin Boulevard at the most northern tip of Sources. All of the beautiful forest that was once there has been reduced to a bare minimum. Walks in the woods for that neighborhood are a thing of the past.

The traffic (and pollution) generated by this development has turned Sources Boulevard and suburban living in that area into a congested nightmare not dissimilar to downtown Montreal. The thought of adding another 6 000 housing units to the Pierrefonds-Roxboro borough is terrifying. What will become of the beautiful open, natural space home to a rich bio-diversity and eco-systems within the wetlands? The negative environmental impact is immeasurable. The increased number of cars will only create more traffic problems and spew more carbon dioxide into the air we breathe.

The concept of this development looks good on paper but in reality it will simply contribute to urban sprawl and feed the needs of a very few greedy and self-serving developers. If the needs of the citizens and the environment were the true motivation behind this project, I would endorse it whole-heartedly. I simply cannot see how this will improve the quality of life on the west island for anyone.

I believe this project is short-sighted especially at a time when climate change is our planet's biggest threat. We need to be preserving and conserving as much green space as possible. I want there to be open natural spaces, fields and forests for not only my grandchildren but for generations to come. We just cannot continue to treat Mother Earth with such complete and utter disrespect. Leave the 185 hectares alone. Let us continue to enjoy the peaceful space that it offers for once it is gone, it is gone for good. Where will we go then?

This is an election year, why not be democratic and let the people decide the fate of this land? Why not hold a referendum and allow voters to have their say? The question could be put to them on their election ballots. Elected officials are supposed to represent the majority, let's see what the majority wants!

In the meantime, I urge you to Google Arnault Laville and enjoy his beautiful photography. You will see how magnificently he captures the beauty of this very unique area. I urge you to leave this pristine land to the artists, the wildlife, nature lovers everywhere and especially for future generations.

On closing I would also urge you to watch Diana Beresford-Kroeger's (a renowned Canadian botanist) most recent movie, Call of the Forest: The Forgotten Wisdom of Trees. This labour of love will surely convince you to rethink your plans.

"For every breath you take, thank a tree!" Diana Beresford-Kroeger

Thank you.

Ms. Janice Macdonell