

I have lived in the Peter McGill area for the last 16 years. I started off as a single person, got married and now am the mother of 2 (one of which is a teenager). Throughout those years I have been involved in my community, regularly frequenting parks, community centers and activities, sports installations, libraries and local businesses. I have seen the population change, with a large increase of people and young families arriving in the area.

Most people in the area live in condos and apartments and in general have smaller living space compared to the rest of Montreal, and little access to private gardens or backyards. A balcony that can comfortably hold a table and chairs can be a luxury. Public outdoor space such as parks is therefore very well used in the area (I know, I spend every day outdoors with my children and I walk 30 minutes to school each way every day!) and the area is lacking green space. Schools and pedagogical entities greatly promote healthy living and I assume a great amount of money is used for promotional brochures, workshops, teachers, etc. Apart from educational tools and showing young people that healthy eating is important, there have to be facilities to promote sport, movement and time away from today's addictive screens and technology. There has to be some concrete way for youth to have exercise easily available to them, so more facilities are needed to promote healthy lifestyles. Unfortunately, the area has little to offer youth as organized serious sports and even getting my children in to local swimming classes has been difficult. My children play soccer, basketball and tennis and do track and field, and as a family we often go skating in winter and go to outdoor swimming pools in summer. We have had to look outside the borough for these sports as there are sometimes no teams for them to join or the few places where they can do these activities are over-crowded.

So we still pay local taxes and also end up spending a lot of extra money as outsiders in other areas in order to join teams. Many of my neighbours do the same thing. I have been contacted in the past about my opinions by different area organizations and I have been suggesting for the last few years that the site formerly used by the Franciscans fully become an area for public use. What about using it to put a 3 seasons soccer field (soccer is becoming one of the most played games in Canada) with a running track around it and an outdoor pool and water jets and some gardens? Yesterday I heard the Mayor of Montreal talking on TV about spending over \$3m for granite seats on Mount Royal that could be "sort of useful". Well, that money or other funds could be used here. Why not have a legacy for the future and invest in the little remaining green space there still is in the city core? I believe there has to be a long-term vision and a concrete plan for future generations. More condo buildings are being built, so the population is going to increase and explode in the next few years.

A responsible, respected, strong, serious and organised administration can make changes (yes, I am addressing the elected people who make the decisions on behalf of their citizens like myself and my neighbours) so that all the newcomers and the existing population have quality lifestyles; and Montreal continues to be at the forefront of an evolving world.

Thank you.

Peter McGill resident