

Lachine's Dauphin says he's willing to dialogue on Meadowbrook

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Claude Dauphin, the Borough of Lachine's mayor, is not ruling out the possibility of starting a dialogue with the City of Côte St. Luc over the future of the Meadowbrook Golf Course.

Dauphin was responding to questions during the Montreal Agglomeration Council's monthly meeting last week from Côte St. Luc resident Avrom Shtern, a member of les Amis de Meadowbrook. The environmental advocacy group favours the golf course's preservation as a permanent public green space.

Meadowbrook was sold last October by a subsidiary of Canadian Pacific for \$3 million. The sprawling golf course covers 57 hectares. Thirty-one hectares of the site are in Côte St. Luc, which has zoned its area for recreational purposes. Twenty-six hectares are in Lachine, which has zoned its sector for eventual residential development.

"Mayor Tremblay has said that Meadowbrook was a priority for all," said Shtern. "Is it not time now to discuss common interests, common values and sit down in an official capacity with Côte St. Luc and come to a common vision which will benefit both Lachine and Montreal, monetarily, as well as environmentally?"

According to Dauphin, Lachine hasn't discussed Meadowbrook with Côte St. Luc since Robert Libman was mayor. Libman, who served as mayor of the pre-merger City of Côte St. Luc, was also mayor of the former mega-city Borough of Côte St. Luc-Hampstead-Montreal West until December 2005.

"From our side in Lachine, it's not our priority to do any development there," said Dauphin. "But one thing is sure. Before deciding anything from our point of view, we'll make sure that we'll sit down with our partners — the other reconstituted municipalities. We're talking tonight about Côte St. Luc. So I can assure you that nothing will be done unless we'll have discussion with our neighbours."

Shtern told Dauphin that les Amis de Meadowbrook and other groups interested in its preservation feel that a more "pro-active" approach is necessary. In 2004, les Amis recommended to the Office de Consultation Publique de Montréal (OCPM) that Meadowbrook be added to a list of 'ecoterritories' on Montreal Island that have a protected status.

"Couldn't we enter into an active dialogue right now, as well as, let's, say (with Borough of Saint-Laurent) Mayor (Alan) DeSousa and the mayor of Montreal, Mayor (Gérald) Tremblay, and settle all the animosities that were felt post-merger and integrate Meadowbrook, let's say, for example, with an improved Dorval rail service and the creation of a reception hall or a motel at the club house area?" he said.

Dauphin said he has never had any objections to sitting down and discussing the various aspects of Meadowbrook's future. "We have a lot of things to settle," he said. "But on the matter of Meadowbrook, in the near future, honestly I have no objection to sitting down and exchanging. That's my style."