

RE: "Editorial: Airport must justify flights; Flight changes that could have a major effect on residents' health and property values should get a full public airing.", The Gazette, Tues., Feb. 26, 2008, P.A16./Letter/Avrom David Shtern.

Dear Editor,

The future of Meadowbrook Public Golf Course is not "... a quite different story..." as your editorial suggests. It is the story. What has been lost in this night flight fracas is that Meadowbrook be protected. It seems as if mechanical birds are more sexy and newsworthy than the real thing. Many bird species use this rare open greenspace as a stopover and resting place as it lies directly over the main migratory flyway. It remains a bulwark surrounded by a jungle of twisted metal and the constant chaotic cacophony of noise. It is imperative that this golf course be re-naturalized and rededicated as an eco-territory.

No doubt the ADM's plan is an ill wind that blows no one no good. It is based on minimal standards of safety and security that it hopes will satisfy Transport Canada's regulations. However, the new flight path over the Highway 20/Norman corridor reinforces Meadowbrook's vocation as a buffer zone between heavy industrial activity, railways and sensitive residential neighbourhoods. Lachine Borough Mayor Claude Dauphin's "fight of his life" should also shine the light on the imperative of natural spaces in a sea of brownfields in Southwestern Montreal.

Moreover, the aviation industry is one of the most subsidized, energy inefficient, unaccountable, environmentally unsustainable activities. If government were to focus on short haul alternatives like High Speed Rail, ADM would not have to break the curfew, disturb the peace and degrade the quality of life. Unfortunately, the fly/drive paradigm has led us down the path of the synthetic and the virtual that encourages endless sprawl and selfdestructive development.

Yours Sincerely,

Avrom David Shtern,
Cote Saint Luc, QC,