

Solution of l'Anse- al'Orme woods in the works: mayor

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Will polar bears wander l'Anse-à-l'Orme? Responding to the Apostles of the Green like Ryan Young (who is, incidentally, my colleague on the Ste. Anne de Bellevue environment committee) ("It's time to save l'Anse-à-l'Orme woodlands, West Island Gazette, May 15) is not unlike dealing with religious enthusiasts at the door: they've seen the light and they are determined to shine it blindingly in your unbelieving face. If you engage them in a discussion, it's a sign you're a potential convert for the green world and you'll never get rid of them. If you slam the door in their face, you're a bad-mannered, lost soul with no salvage possible. May your dreams be haunted by polar bears and their forlorn cubs wandering along urban boulevards.

All rational argument is drowned in emotion. It's believers versus unbelievers. All trees have to be preserved, development is evil, the suburban way of life is noxious. "Sustainable development" is reduced uniquely to its environmental component: what else matters after Al Gore?

Facts are fudged. You can't even rely on the information.

For example, Young, whose Merger-Demerger documentary film is being shown this week, should know that Ste. Anne de Bellevue was not a "borough council" in 2007: the duly elected town council of Ste. Anne de Bellevue passed its detailed planning document in 2007, modified after public consultation with the town's taxpayers. The plan was the work of the town council's planning committee.

In the world of the green, the complex interplay of environmental, economic, political, social and cultural components that make up our real life of accommodation and compromise is dismissed as irrelevant. We are on the brink of an enviro-Apocalypse. The glaciers are in meltdown. We should all hold hands and above all we should not build houses, industries and offices. It is too late! But salvation may be on hand! I would like to assure Young and the green community, as I did recently our town environment committee, that the three levels of government – municipal, Montreal agglomeration and provincial – are negotiating to find a win-win-win solution to the development issues on our territory. And Geoffrey Kelley, our MNA, has been very active in this matter.

Fifty-two per cent of Ste. Anne de Bellevue's territory is already protected and we are working to see what else can be done.

These are complex issues with competing interests at stake and they will not be resolved by a blinding green flash or the sighting of polar bears on l'Anse-à-l'Orme. It's a lot more complicated than that.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BARRY SOLMAN



Letter By Barry Solomon

This photo of a deer was taken April 6 in an area just off l'Anse-à-l'Orme St.

Area for wildlife needs to be preserved

Please forward my sincere thank you to Ryan Young of John Abbott for his excellent editorial ("It's time to save l'Anse-à-l'Orme woodlands, West Island Gazette, May 15).

The article was well written, informative and educational regarding the l'Anse-à l'Orme situation and what needs to be done to protect it for our future generations to enjoy.

I am an avid wildlife photographer and with such beautiful wildlife so close to all of us, Mr. Young is right on !

It is now time to save these woodlands.