

Towards a new park (2012 to present)

Construction contracts for infrastructure renewal, including the MUHC superhospital and the Turcot megaproject, lead to corruption charges that force Mayor Tremblay to resign in 2012. After an unstable period with several interim mayors, Denis Coderre is elected in November 2013. In his first year, he slashes Tremblay's \$36-million fund established to acquire and preserve natural spaces. This act sparks green activists across the Island to find common ground in diverse causes, from fighting the Réseau Express Métropolitain (REM) to creating new parks. It launches the current era in which activists work together in informal issue-oriented coalitions. After one term, Coderre is succeeded as mayor by Valérie Plante in 2017. In 2019, Montreal becomes an official United Nations Blue Community, committing to protect public water as a human right and public trust.

2012



Groupe Pacific applies for building permit of 1,500 units on the Lachine side of Meadowbrook

April - Meadowbrook master plan is unveiled by Les Amis.

See

<https://docs.google.com/file/d/0B74sG8jw2ZKLUWN2QXloZF80SEE/edit>

A Quebec lobbying commission report finds Groupe Pacific guilty of lobbying provincial and municipal governments without being registered as a lobbyist.

Groupe Pacific forced by Quebec Lobbying Commission to disclose its secret lobbying campaign in operation since May 1, 2007.

August - In the wake of the Lac Megantic derailment, Montreal's Agglomeration and Municipal Councils unanimously adopt Federation of Canadian Municipalities/Railway Association of Canada safety guidelines. AMT and CP Rail opposed to residential development on Meadowbrook.

May - Les Amis organizes a Jane's Walk (a yearly event in honour of activist Jane Jacobs) on Meadowbrook.

Summer - Construction begins on AMT Lachine maintenance centre adjacent to Meadowbrook.

November - Fundraiser at Comedy Nest for creation of Meadowbrook master plan.

December - Design charrette held in conjunction with Conseil régional de l'environnement de Montréal (CRE) and Catalyse urbaine to create a Meadowbrook master plan.

See the video:

<https://youtu.be/xOdkVY0kqeo>

2013



Novembre 2014

Marque de recul 300 mètres des cours de triage CP et Sortin/AMT

September - Les Amis present memorandum to OCPM on general deficiencies of the Montreal development plan with respect to environmental requirements set out in the PMAD.

<http://lesamisdemeadowbrook.org/about/campaign-2013-2/>

2014



February - Promoter Groupe Pacific files two lawsuits against City of Montreal for \$44 million alleging disguised expropriation and demanding the City stop polluting the St. Pierre River.

October - Les Amis holds 25th-anniversary celebration at Royal West Academy.
"This is the way developers used to run the city of Montreal: they would buy a property for a song, make some noise about developing it and then, when they were turned down, they would sue;" – Campbell Stuart.

November - Les Amis call for resignation of Réal Ménard, person responsible for green spaces and sustainable development at City Hall, for secret dealings with Meadowbrook owner Groupe Pacific.

Les Amis, and their friends, participate in public hearings on Montreal Urban Agglomeration Land Use and Development Plan. Fourteen briefs presented on Meadowbrook; 18 mentions in other briefs.
"We need to have the City of Montreal act to make Meadowbrook Montreal's 25th nature park." – Campbell Stuart

Following public consultations, OCPM adopts Labrecque Commission recommendation that Meadowbrook be preserved and made into a nature park connected by a green corridor to Falaise St. Jacques.

CSL files motion for dismissal of Groupe Pacific's 13-year-old lawsuit.

Presented by councillor Sylvain Ouellet and seconded by councillor Peter McQueen, a motion on urban rivers and their renaturalization is adopted at the Montreal municipal council.

December - Letter campaign to Mayor Coderre to endorse OCPM recommendations.

Audio:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1WEcu3tHoFyDWuUICyUL6miaMRuK8XIm9/view?usp=sharing>



R-48
 Que soit attribuée l'affectation « Grand espace vert ou récréation » à tout le territoire du secteur Meadowbrook et qu'un accès y soit aménagé sur le territoire de la Ville de Montréal, à partir de l'arrondissement de Lachine;

R-49
 Que soient insérées, à la page 38 sous interventions, les modifications ci-dessous en caractère gras:
 p) (ajout) (une) en équipements collectifs, notamment bibliothèques, écoles, espaces publics, dans les nouveaux quartiers à l'échelle de la planification d'ensemble de ces territoires;
 Faire des représentations auprès des gouvernements afin de prévoir dans les programmes d'investissements la mise aux normes, la rénovation et l'adaptation des équipements existants, notamment les bâtiments académiques affiliés au CUSM et au CHUM, en fonction des besoins de la population en termes de logement social et abordable et selon les principes de mixité et d'inclusion;

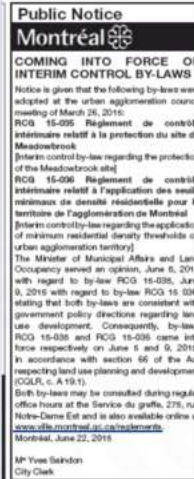
January - Montreal Agglomeration adopts new Urban Plan designating the whole of Meadowbrook as Espace vert ou récréation; Meadowbrook now preserved as green space.

April - Groupe Pacific tries to amend its suit against Côte Saint-Luc to \$32 million, with \$19 million slated for Côte Saint-Luc to acquire Meadowbrook. Superior Court disallows the recourse but allows Groupe Pacific to proceed with a \$12-million lawsuit. Groupe Pacific appeals.

May - Les Amis du Parc Meadowbrook awarded Green Coalition Award for Exceptional contribution to the environment.

December - Court of Appeal dismisses Groupe Pacific bid to amend its lawsuit against the City of Côte Saint-Luc.

2015



2016

March - Hydro Quebec cuts down five old trees on Meadowbrook.

April - First citizen conference on the protection of natural spaces called Forum Nature organized by many Montreal environmental groups. Adoption of the Charter for the protection of Montreal's Green Spaces and Natural Environments, the Green Charter. See:

<http://lesamisdemeadowbrook.org/uncategorized/charter-for-the-protection-of-montreals-green-spaces-and-natural-environments/>



March - Meadowbrook among four green spaces featured in "Nature in the City" series of conferences and visits organized by Transition NDG and three other West-End environmental groups.

April - On first anniversary of adoption of the Green Charter, Montreal is given failing grade for inaction on environmental issues at Montreal's Green Report Card Conference organized by Les Amis.

May - Les Amis participate in OCPM hearings on development of Pierrefonds West, stressing that L'Anse-à-l'Orme corridor must be protected.

<http://lesamisdemeadowbrook.org/development/all-stakeholders-mustparticipate-in-decision-about-lanse-a-lorme/>

June - Les Amis present brief to OCPM hearings on Plan de développement urbain, économique et social (PDUES) pour les quartiers aux abords de l'échangeur Turcot.

September - Superior Court decision in case opposing Groupe Pacific to City of Montreal where GP accuses City of disguised expropriation and bad faith in its dealings with the developer. GP loses but appeals decision.

2018

June - Letter to Transport Minister Lessard demanding that damages to Falaise Saint-Jacques by construction work on Turcot Interchange be repaired and Falaise protected from further encroachment

<http://lesamisdemeadowbrook.org/uncategorized/the-falaise-saint-jacques/>

August - Les Amis adopt a resolution sent to Ministers McKenna, Dion, Heurtel and Fournier, and Mayors DeSousa, Coderre and Ménard to support the preservation of the wetlands at the Technoparc in Saint-Laurent.

September - Les Amis present brief to Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement (BAPE) opposing the proposed Réseau électrique métropolitain (REM).

Nature walk organized along Côte Saint-Luc Road to the entrance of Meadowbrook with environmentalist David Fletcher.

Photo <http://lesamisdemeadowbrook.org/environnement/nature-walk-2/>

November - Launch of petition to Mayor Denis Coderre to make Meadowbrook into a nature park accessible to all.

December - Les Amis and 60 other community organizations write to Premier Couillard asking for Dalle Parc to be reinstated over the Turcot Interchange.

2017

May - Les Amis present brief to the Commission sur la culture, le patrimoine et les sports asking for opening of Meadowbrook in winter for cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and walking.

June - Superior Court renders decision in case opposing Groupe Pacific to City of Montreal where GP is looking to have City stop polluting St. Pierre River. City loses but both parties appeal. Les Amis up pressure at Montreal West, Côte Saint-Luc and



May - Les Amis and Revitalisation Saint-Pierre sponsor a lecture and walk with environmental historian Laetitia Deudon of Université de Montréal along the St. Pierre River as part of Jane's Walks.

<http://lesamisdemeadowbrook.org/waterways/following-the-st-pierre-river-of-yesteryear/>

September - Appeal hearing into Groupe Pacific lawsuit against City of Montreal regarding disguised expropriation. Decision deferred.

November - Appeal Court confirms 2017 decision of Superior Court in Groupe Pacific lawsuit against City of Montreal. GP applies to Supreme Court.

The Meadowbrook saga is not finished – not by a long shot. For now, we leave the final words to one of our founders, Kay Wolofsky:

"May this green space continue to be a place of beauty for future generations of Montrealers to treasure. I KNOW we will succeed."

Agglomeration Council meetings.

See

<https://montrealgazette.com/news/local-news/last-remnant-of-st-pierre-river-could-be-buried>

November – Les Amis participate in OCPM hearings on proposed nature park in Turcot Interchange.

<http://lesamisdemeadowbrook.org/nature-park/les-amis-supports-creation-of-falaise-saint-jacques-nature-park/>

December - Les Amis and Sauvons la Falaise canvass businesses along St. Jacques Street to alert them and authorities to dumping on falaise.

2019

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Les Amis du Parc Meadowbrook wishes to thank Montreal West historian Dave Watson for his priceless contribution.

Photo Gallery



Barza Howard



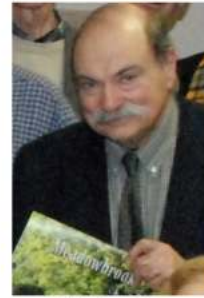
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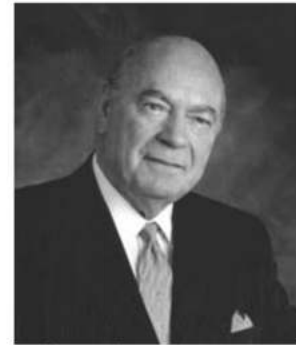
McQueen Peter



Goldsmith Bernice



Tremblay G erald



Simms Dr. John



Asch Patrick



Lambert Phyllis



Stuart Campbell



Wolofsky Kay



Goldwater JoAnn



Lang Bernard



Mulcair Thomas



Patterson Juliette



Schtern Avrom



M enard R eal



DeSousa Alan



Coderre Denis