

**BLAINVILLE** 

\* This plan represents the approximate property lines of the owners' lots and the boundaries of the zones.

# A REFERENDUM TO DETERMINE THE FUTURE OF FORÊT DU GRAND COTEAU

Forêt du Grand Coteau, located in Lorraine, is made up of two parts that have been placed in a land reserve:

- 165,300 square meters, already protected by conservation zoning
- 40,099 square meters located to the north and zoned residential. Since the land reserve has expired, this part is no longer protected and may therefore be developed by its owners at any time.

The referendum will deal with what Lorraine residents want done for this unprotected, residentially-zoned part of the forest. It will be held in keeping with the Act respecting elections and referendums in municipalities.

## **REFERENDUM QUESTION**

Do you agree that the city acquire the portion of approximately 40,099 square meters of unprotected land in the Boisé de la Forêt du Grand Coteau in order to preserve it, through a special tax?

#### Why a special tax and what will the amount be?

- Why? Through our concern for transparency. It is a special project that requires a special tax.
- The loan bylaw will finance the project over a 25-year period, as suggested by the standard.
- There will be an annual contribution of \$68 or less to be made equally, by all owners, as this project involves our collective wealth.
- The amount might be less if the steps taken with various partners to finance the project prove to be positive



## Ville de LORRAINE



# **REFERENDUM**

on Forêt du Grand Coteau in Lorraine

Advance polling: Sunday, November 27, 2011

Voting day: Sunday, December 4, 2011





The Mayor's Message

From the very start of the last election campaign, my team made a commitment to preserve Forêt du Grand Coteau, located on our territory, and today, we're pursuing our efforts to do so.

In 1991, a zoning bylaw was adopted to ensure the preservation of part of this forest. The other part—zoned as residential and situated south of rang Saint-François—is no longer protected, since September 16, 2011, in fact, because the land reserve has expired. The owners of the unprotected residential zone are now entitled to submit permit applications to develop their lands. We must therefore act quickly to appropriate that section of the forest and to protect it.

City Council therefore decided to hold a referendum on Sunday, December 4, 2011, to give you an opportunity to express your opinion on the future of the unprotected residential zone of the forest, by informing us whether you would consent to paying a special annual tax of \$68 for the next 25 years in order to preserve it. This amount might be less if the various partners we have contacted agree to help finance the project.

Between now and the referendum, we want to share our vision of the forest's future with you. This vision starts with protecting and eventually acquiring the residentially-zoned part of the forest. That's the first stage. And once it has been completed, we will draw up a plan to develop the whole forest so that present and future generations can benefit from it.

I made a commitment that the referendum process would be carried out with full transparency so that you can make a sound decision. This pamphlet, the information meeting on October 25 and the special section created on our City's website (www.ville.lorraine.qc.ca) are some of our ways and means of informing you well.

Together, let's make the best decision!

Ramez Ayoub, Mayor of Lorraine

## FORÊT DU GRAND COTEAU, OUR COLLECTIVE WEALTH!

Of everyone living in Greater Montréal, Lorraine residents are definitely the most indulged from an ecological standpoint. They are lucky to have—right on their territory—a mature forest, a jewel of nature that is home to a number of rare plants, a variety of tree species as well as many types of birds and mammals, including deer and foxes.

The environment and ecological habitats occupy a large place in Lorraine. They represent our collective wealth!

# Actions to Protect the Forest Over the Years

Oct. 2005

Oct. 2007

Oct. 2008

Sept. 2009

Sept. 2011

Jan. 2010

Adoption of Zoning Bylaw U-91 designating part of Forêt du Grand Coteau as "conservation"

Adoption of a resolution, "Tripartite agreement with the municipalities of Rosemère and Blainville – Intermunicipal park – Forêt du Grand Coteau"

Adoption of a land reserve for the parts zoned as residential and conservation

Adoption of a resolution by the municipalities of Blainville, Rosemère and Lorraine, reiterating the "Protection of Forêt du Grand Coteau – Creation of an intermunicipal park"

Renewal of the land reserve

Adoption of a resolution asking the MRC to amend the land-use planning and development plan in order to recognize the outstanding value of Forêt du Grand Coteau

Expiry of the land reserve

Referendum on Forêt du Grand Coteau

## WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO VOTE?

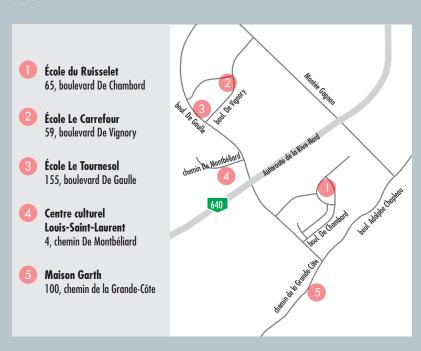
Only people registered on the referendum list will be allowed to vote. The list is available for consultation at City Hall and at the library. If your name isn't on the list, you will have to go to the Commission de révision at Maison Garth:

November 13, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. OR November 15, 7 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Information on voting eligibility criteria may be found on the City's website and in local newspapers. The ballot will be in French.

### WHERE DO WE GO TO VOTE?

All voters will be mailed a card indicating the address of their polling station.



Consult the complete file in French at

www.ville.lorraine.qc.ca