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① Ste. Pierrefonds

Pierrefonds Has New Plant

Suburb Hits Water Abuse

By BRUCE TAYLOR

Pierrefonds announced last night it has ordered new pumping equipment to increase the flow of water through its filtration plant from 9,000,000 to 14,000,000 gallons a day.

At the same time, it began sending municipal employees door-to-door to deliver copies of new lawn-sprinkling regulations — and the warning that fines will be levied for any and all infractions.

A bylaw states that water can be cut off directly from the home of a person who repeatedly ignores the regulations.

The moves were taken to meet excessive water consumption created by booming residential development in Pierrefonds and the other North Shore communities which use its water, according to Town Manager Benoit Couture.

He said average water consumption in Canada is about 100 gallons per day per person. In Pierrefonds it is nearing 200 gallons. Reason, he explained, is new construction.

"Hundreds of lawns have been put in this year. Homeowners seem to be sprinkling them at the same time, forcing water pressure almost to nothing at times when it is most needed.

"Many of them leave their sprinklers on all night. That's the time we normally build up our water reserves."

Dozens of complaints about low pressure—especially at dinner time—have been made by irate citizens.

The new regulations, which restrict lawn-sprinkling to 12 hours a week per household,

were drawn up by Couture in conjunction with the town managers of Roxboro, Dollard des Ormeaux and Ste. Genevieve, which use Pierrefonds' filtration facilities.

The area has been divided into three "wards," west, centre and east. The regulations stipulate that homes with even-numbered street addresses may sprinkle lawns on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays; those with odd numbers on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. No water may be used outside the homes on Sundays.

Those in the west ward, from the west side of St. Charles road westward to the limits of Pierrefonds — and including Dollard des Ormeaux — can sprinkle lawns from 8 a.m. to 12 noon.

Hours are from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the centre ward, from the western limits of Roxboro to the east side of St. Charles road.

Hours are from 8 p.m. to midnight in the east ward, from the eastern limits of Pierrefonds through and including Roxboro.

Ste. Genevieve has not yet completed its regulations, but is expected to comply with those of the west ward.

Town manager Couture pointed out the regulations do not permit lawns to be sprinkled between noon and 1 p.m., and between 5 p.m. and 8 p.m.

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Prêts de la SCHL pour des projets d'épuration des eaux vannes à Montréal et à Pierrefonds

OTTAWA — M. John R. Nicholson, ministre fédéral chargé de répondre au Parlement de la Société centrale d'hypothèques et de logement, a confirmé que le gouvernement fédéral avait approuvé un prêt de \$250,000, en faveur de la ville de Montréal pour aider à y réaliser un projet d'épuration des eaux-vannes.

Ce prêt, qui est consenti aux termes de la Loi nationale sur l'habitation est remboursable en 25 ans au taux d'intérêt de 5% p. 100 l'an. Il est calculé d'après le coût estimatif de \$450,777.

Dans la réalisation d'une nouvelle phase de son programme d'ensemble établi pour enrayer la pollution, Montréal doit amé-

nager une section en tunnel de l'égout collecteur du bassin nord de Décarie Rainbault. Ce tunnel fait partie du système d'épuration des eaux-vannes qui doivent desservir neuf municipalités occupant une superficie de 25,000 acres dans Montréal et sa banlieue. Le prêt consenti doit aider à construire un égout collecteur en tunnel de 5 pieds de diamètre sur 2,246 pieds courants.

Ce prêt est le sixième du genre qui soit consenti aux termes de la LNH à Montréal pour des projets d'épuration des eaux-vannes. Le montant global de ces prêts a été estimé à \$4,503,727.

Si les travaux sont parachevés au plus tard le 31 mars

1967 la SCHL pourra renoncer au remboursement de 25 p. 100 du principal du prêt LNH et à 25 p. 100 de l'intérêt couru au compte du prêt à la date de parachevement des travaux.

Par ailleurs, M. Nicholson a confirmé que le gouvernement fédéral avait approuvé un prêt de \$73,000 en faveur de la ville de Pierrefonds pour aider à y réaliser un projet d'épuration des eaux-vannes.

Ce prêt, qui est aussi consenti aux termes de la Loi nationale sur l'habitation est remboursable en 30 ans au taux d'intérêt de 5% p. 100 l'an. Il

est calculé d'après le coût estimatif de \$109,500.

La ville de Pierrefonds doit aménager un rajout à sa station de pompage des eaux-vannes actuelle et agrandir un égout déversoir existant jusqu'à la Rivière-des-Prairies, avant de procéder à la construction d'une station d'épuration des eaux-vannes dans le secteur nord-ouest de la ville. Le prêt consenti doit aider à la construction d'un rajout à la station de pompage actuelle et d'un égout déversoir de 42 pouces de diamètre sur 1,350 pieds courants.

Ce prêt est le second qui soit consenti à cette ville pour des projets d'épuration des eaux-vannes. Leur montant global est estimé à \$279 000.

Si les travaux sont parachevés au plus tard le 31 mars 1967, la SCHL pourra renoncer au remboursement de 25 p. 100 du principal du prêt LNH et à 25 p. 100 de l'intérêt couru au compte du prêt à la date de parachevement des travaux.

Pierrefonds : restrictions sur les heures d'arrosage

Dans une entrevue accordée peu après la cérémonie de la prestation du serment, le nouveau maire de Pierrefonds, M. André Théoret, a fait mention de sa politique en ce qui concerne l'approvisionnement en eau qui est un problème crucial pour sa municipalité.

La ville de Pierrefonds fait effectivement face à un manque d'eau qui menace le bien-être de ses citoyens. Au sujet de l'attitude qu'il entend adopter à cet égard, le nouveau maire a précisé qu'il étudie ac-

tuellement la possibilité, avec l'aide de MM. Benoit Couture, c.s., et Joachim Cloutier, ing., de renforcer les restrictions sur les heures d'arrosage.

Il a d'autre part tenu à préciser de façon formelle que le système des soumissions publiques qui est en vigueur à Pierrefonds depuis 1960, et qui l'était à Ste-Genève où M. Théoret a été maire de 1957 à 1963, sera maintenu dans la ville de Pierrefonds. M. Théoret entendait ainsi mettre fin à certaines rumeurs qui couraient à cet effet dans la municipalité.

Montreal Suburbs Run Out of Water

By VICTOR STEINBERG

With the advent of the first real signs of summer, residents in the northern suburbs of Montreal found their water taps bone dry over the weekend.

The hardest hit area was the Cloverdale section in Pierrefonds, at seven miles the farthest point from a water pumping station. By the time water had passed through the station and a filtration process, the water pressure had dropped to practically nil.

And what was the reason for all the trouble?

Sprinklers used to water lawns and the unusually heavy number of showers taken, police reported.

The Pierrefonds city council has scheduled an emergency meeting for tonight in an attempt to straighten out the problem.

Pierrefonds, which takes water from the Rivière des Prairies, also supplies the neighboring suburbs of Roxboro, Dollard des Ormeaux and St. Geneviève.

The waterless situation developed several days ago. Yesterday, however police reported all back to normal except for a slight irregularity in the system's pressure.

"We appealed to all citizen's to stop using water unnecessarily so that the reservoir

would be given a chance to get back to normal—it takes at least 12 hours," a police official explained.

Other suburbs reported to have been experiencing a water shortage are Ville d'Auteuil and Chateauguay Centre. The latter community takes its water from Lake St. Louis and Mayor Richard Sutherland consulted engineers in an effort to remedy the situation.

The Pierrefonds administration was warned last September of the problems that would be faced this summer. Engineers suggested installation of boosters at several points along the main pipeline at a cost of \$63,000.

The job could have been completed in a few months. A new pipeline at a cost of \$500,000 was decided upon instead and is supposed to be completed by next month.

The new pipeline and pumping station will be equipped to handle a large scale population. The present one, officials say, was constructed to service about 2,000 families but since then the population figures have jumped to over 8,000.

Pierrefonds a manqué d'eau pendant 3 jours

par Roger-J. BEDARD

Les usines de filtration des villes de banlieue ont fonctionné à plein rendement depuis quelques jours. Malgré cela des disettes d'eau ont été signalées dans plusieurs villes de la région métropolitaine, principalement à Pierrefonds.

"Nos vertes pelouses absorbent plus d'eau que nos usines peuvent en distribuer", a dit un capitaine de police de la ville de Pierrefonds.

Plus de 1.500 familles de Pierrefonds, ville de banlieue au nord-ouest de l'île de Montréal, ont été incommodées par un régime sec vendredi, samedi et dimanche. Le district le plus affecté a été celui de Clovedale, situé à huit milles de l'usine de filtration.

"Cette situation était à prévoir", a déclaré le maire André

Théoret, de Pierrefonds, précisant qu'il aurait fallu installer l'automne dernier des pompes auxiliaires pour prévenir cette carence.

"Malheureusement, le conseil a passé outre à nos suggestions, a-t-il ajouté, et nous devons attendre que la nouvelle canalisation soit en service pour résoudre définitivement le problème. Or il faudra encore huit ou dix semaines pour parachever les travaux."

Grâce à la coopération des citoyens qui ont accepté de fermer les robinets, le service d'eau a été rétabli dans toute la ville de Pierrefonds hier soir.

Le conseil de cette ville tiendra une réunion ce soir pour trouver les moyens d'éviter que cette fâcheuse situation ne se produise de nouveau.

"De l'eau! de l'eau! des discours après..."

— les contribuables de Pierrefonds

par Roger-J. BEDARD

"Arroser les pelouses dans l'ouest ou donner à boire aux enfants dans l'est, tel est le problème que vous devez résoudre, messieurs."

C'est par ce thème qu'un citoyen courroucé de Pierrefonds a résumé à une réunion du conseil de cette ville la situation des 5,000 habitants de cette municipalité qui, à toutes fins pratiques, manquent d'eau depuis cinq jours.

Plus de 200 propriétaires ont rempli à capacité hier la salle du conseil.

Ces contribuables du secteur Cloverdale, de langue anglaise pour la plupart, ont laissé tomber leur flegme et ils ont exprimé leur indignation en des phrases de style percutant. La chaleur aidant, certains ont perdu leur sang-froid et laissé exploser leur colère.

Les savantes explications apportées par l'ingénieur Laurent Girouard concernant le retard apporté à la réalisation des tra-

voux d'aqueduc n'ont pas non plus calmé les impatiences.

L'ingénieur conseil a exprimé l'avis que les travaux pour la pose d'une canalisation de deux pieds de diamètre seront complétés le 8 juillet. Hué copieusement.

"De l'eau, de l'eau; les discours, après", a chahuté l'assemblée.

Quelques mères de familles ont rappelé que les écoles ont été fermées durant toute la journée hier par suite des dangers pour la santé et la sécurité des enfants qui résultent de la carence d'eau.

Quelques mesures d'urgence

Plusieurs mesures ont été adoptées par le conseil pour assurer un approvisionnement d'eau suffisant dans toute la ville :

a) Dès aujourd'hui, l'entrepreneur général qui effectue les travaux d'aqueduc sera invité à ajouter des équipes additionnelles d'ouvriers de façon à tenir le chantier ouvert 24 heures par jour. Les conseillers ont autorisé hier soir une somme de \$10,000 pour défrayer les déboursés

supplémentaires causés par cette accélération.

De cette façon, la canalisation de deux pieds de diamètre sera en service une semaine plus tôt que prévu, le 1er juillet.

b) Une pompe auxiliaire de 500 gallons-minute sera installée aujourd'hui à proximité du parc Belvédère. Une deuxième pompe de même débit sera ajoutée incessamment au circuit de distribution.

Dans les deux cas, l'eau sera puisée à la rivière des Prairies et abondamment chlorée pour éviter qu'elle ne soit un danger pour la santé publique.

c) Des pourparlers ont été commencés hier et seront continués aujourd'hui en vue de l'achat d'eau de la ville de Montréal. Cette eau serait dirigée vers l'aqueduc de Pierrefonds par une canalisation placée en surface sur le boulevard Guin ouest.

d) Les citoyens de Pierrefonds ont été invités à suivre à la lettre le règlement de la ville concernant l'arrosage des pelouses.

En raison de l'état d'urgence, des représentations seront ef-

fectuées devant la Cour municipale pour que les contrevenants soient condamnés au maximum de la peine prévue, \$100 d'amende.

e) Finalement, les contribuables des villes de Roxboro, Ste-Geneviève et Dollard-des-Ormeaux, approvisionnées par l'aqueduc de Pierrefonds seront

invités une fois de plus à réduire leur consommation à des niveaux raisonnables.

À la suggestion de contribuables présents, l'assemblée a été ajournée à 8 h., mercredi soir. Des mesures d'urgence additionnelles seront annoncées à cette occasion si elles s'avèrent nécessaires.

Pierrefonds rejects road extension plan

The City of Pierrefonds has asked Montreal to revise its plans for extending de Salaberry road through its territory. Alderman Arthur Hooper, president of the Town Planning Commission, said last week that Pierre-

fonds had recently met with Montreal, St. Laurent and Dollard des Ormeaux representatives to discuss the proposed extension.

The boulevard would cross the Marlborough Golf Club and St. Laurent and touch

Pierrefonds at its Eastern extremity before continuing through Dollard des Ormeaux. At the point where it would cross Pierrefonds an interchange is shown on the plans. The alderman said, "I suppose they would expect

us to pay part of the cost of the interchange."

Pierrefonds is opposed to the plan since the road would be of no apparent benefit to the community as it stands.

Instead, the City has sub-

mitted an alternate plan to Montreal in which de Salaberry would join at Montee de Liesse with Gouin and Lalande Blvds., which could be enlarged to 66 feet, the with proposed for the extension, and then join the City's

new East-West artery, Pierrefonds Blvd.

Although Montreal has made no comment on the alternative proposal, Alderman Hooper has said that another meeting will be held at the end of August or in September.

A spokesman for Pierrefonds explained that since the City of Roxboro was not directly involved in the original plans, it was not represented at the meeting and as far as he knew, did not know about the counter-offer.

Mayor William Boll of Roxboro said that he had heard nothing about the plans at all, and expressed surprise that Pierrefonds would make such a proposal without consulting Roxboro.

"According to the master road plan system prepared for the West Island by the Province four years ago, Gouin Blvd. was not shown as a major artery." He said also that it was senseless to build a large East-West artery so far from the Trans-Canada Highway, especially in light of all the undeveloped land in Dollard. "I would have to see the plan first, before being able to tell how much it diverges from the original," he said.

Les résidents de Hillcrest Gardens sont mécontents

L'Association des Propriétaires de Hillcrest, au nom des résidents de ce projet, a protesté au conseil de la Cité de Pierrefonds, de la façon dont on avait procédé à l'enlèvement de la neige dans leur projet.

Dans une lettre en date du 21 novembre, M. J.A. Beauchamp, président de cette association déclare:

"Ceci est pour vous aviser des conditions déplorables dans nos rues de Hillcrest Gardens, à la suite de la tempête de neige qui a débuté vers 2:00 p.m., le mardi 12 novembre 1968.

Les résidents de Hillcrest Gardens ont déjà connu deux hivers au cours desquels, l'enlèvement de la neige a été inadéquat et il semble bien que l'hiver en cours ne sera pas différent.

Il semble clair aux résidents de Hillcrest, même si ce n'est pas l'avis du gérant de la Cité, que des mesures immédiates doivent être prises, afin de corriger les situations suivantes:

1. Travail inadéquat: Les charrues retardent trop à nettoyer notre développement; lors de la dernière tempête, nous avons été isolés pendant 26 heures. Il

nous semble que le contracteur n'a, ni l'équipement, ni le personnel, ni les connaissances voulues pour enlever la neige.

2. Conditions des rues: Les rues ne sont pas nettoyées à leur largeur et plus souvent qu'autrement, on nettoie seulement le centre en laissant un passage étroit pour les automobiles. En particulier, nous risquons notre vie lorsque nous empruntons la Montée St-Charles, par la rue Mayer (notre débouché principal) à cause du passage étroit laissé par la charrue. Egalement, le coin des rues n'est pas nettoyé adéquatement et cela conduit les automobilistes à des situations parfois impossibles.

Nous aimerions recevoir une réponse, à savoir, ce que le conseil entend faire pour corriger cette situation.

Nous croyons que le contracteur est amplement payé pour ses services et la question en litige est: "Que donne-t-il en retour?" En jugeant le calibre de ses services, le contribuable ne reçoit pas le service pour lequel il paie.

Bien à vous.

J.A. BEAUCHAMPS,
président

Seule Pierrefonds parmi tant d'autres a son usine d'épuration

Parmi toutes les municipalités riveraines de la rivière des Prairies, Pierrefonds est la seule à posséder son usine d'épuration pour ses eaux d'égout.

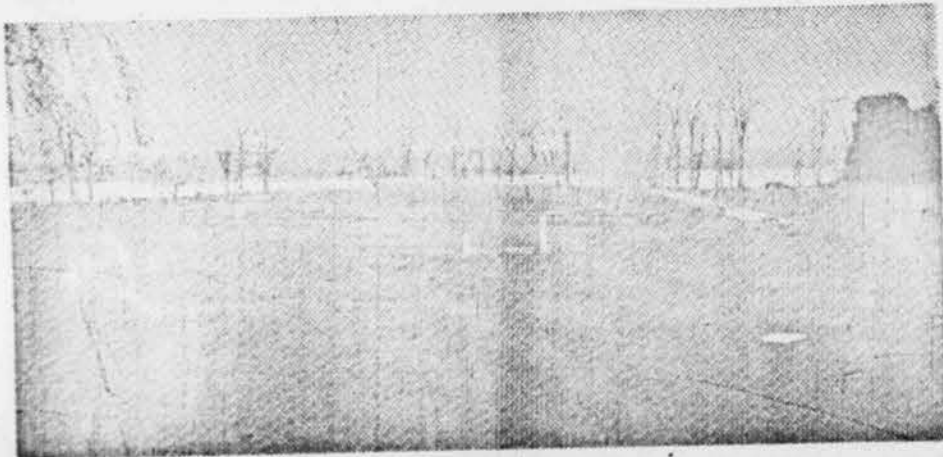
A ce chapitre, il convient de féliciter sincèrement le Conseil de Ville qui a compris l'importance de la non-pollution des eaux. Espérons que les autres municipalités sauront suivre ce magnifique exemple de civisme. Il faut aussi féliciter les citoyens

de Pierrefonds, car, en fait, ce sont eux qui payent les taxes et qui ont permis la construction de cette usine d'épuration.

Toutefois, en dépit de ce magnifique effort de la municipalité de Pierrefonds les eaux de la rivière des Prairies ont atteint un degré de pollution incomparable au Québec. Les poissons n'y survivent pas et on peut encore moins s'y baigner.

Pour l'épuration des eaux, à Pierrefonds on a fait construire quatre usines de pompage majeures qui pourront éventuellement desservir une population beaucoup plus grande.

Si toutes les municipalités riveraines de la rivière des Prairies suivaient cet exemple de civisme unique, cette dernière pourrait devenir un refuge splendide pour le pêcheur à la ligne et pour les estivants.



Les ilots de verdure de Pierrefonds sont situés en des endroits stratégiques et la rivière qui coule à côté leur donne encore plus d'attrait.

A Pierrefonds la population boit de "l'aqua pura"

Toujours animé par le même sens profond de civisme, le dynamique Conseil de Ville de Pierrefonds n'a pas hésité un seul instant à faire construire une usine de filtration pour ravitailler en eau vraiment potable la po-

pulation actuelle ou future. Cette usine a une capacité de 11,000,000 de gallons par jour. Eventuellement elle pourra desservir une population de 200,000 habitants. Elle a d'ailleurs été conçue de façon à ce qu'elle puisse

être agrandie facilement et à peu de frais.

Actuellement l'usine de filtration de Pierrefonds dessert trois municipalités, qui, chose curieuse, faisaient autrefois partie de la paroisse Ste-Geneviève.

Pour ses autres besoins éventuels en eau, soit en cas d'incendie ou d'urgence par suite de la sécheresse, la ville de Pierrefonds possède aussi des réservoirs d'une capacité totale de 4,000,000 de gallons.

La population est très fière de son usine de filtration, et pour cause. Jusqu'à ce jour bien peu de municipalités du Québec peuvent se féliciter à ce titre. Dans certaines villes de la Belle Province dont la population est de beaucoup supérieure à celle de Pierrefonds, l'eau qu'on leur distribue est tellement polluée qu'elle rend malade.

Conflit sur la répartition du coût d'une usine d'épuration devant desservir Pierrefonds et Dollard-des-Ormeaux

par René-François
Désamoré

Les représentants de la municipalité de Pierrefonds et ceux de la municipalité de Dollard-des-Ormeaux ont soumis à la Régie des eaux, hier, leur preuve respective afin de permettre à la Régie de déterminer la part qui sera payée par la ville de Dollard-des-Ormeaux pour l'usine d'épuration de Pierrefonds qui dessert les deux municipalités.

Si les parties ont presque abouti à un accord sur les coûts de construction, leur financement et les coûts d'exploitation, la proportion de ces coûts à être payée par chacun a été très contestée.

La ville de Pierrefonds préconise une méthode qui consiste à baser la répartition des coûts sur les territoires desservis ou qui le seront dans un avenir très court.

Quant à la municipalité de Dollard-des-Ormeaux, elle préfère une répartition suivant le volume de l'eau usée.

Me Roger Savard pour la ville de Pierrefonds et Me Paul Bisaillon pour Dollard-des-Ormeaux ont fait part à la Régie de leurs savantes considérations contre la méthode de l'autre partie.

Chaque ville, selon sa mé-

thode, arrive à des pourcentages de répartition différents.

Pour Pierrefonds, Dollard-des-Ormeaux devrait payer 1/2

du prix total tandis que pour Dollard-des-Ormeaux, sa part ne devrait pas dépasser 23 pour cent.

La Régie a pris l'affaire en délibéré et fera ses recommandations après l'étude du dossier.

Pierrefonds making own sewage report

The city of Pierrefonds has authorized its engineer to comment on a report made recently for the Quebec Water Board which suggests that a giant sewage treatment plant be built at Man and His World's Victoria parking lot to serve both downtown and West Island.

Council has told engineer Joachim Cloutier to prepare a simple, documented comment on the report made by the firm of Asselin, Benoit, Boucher, Ducharme and Lapointe.

In making the decision Pierrefonds turns down a request by several other West Island municipalities to share in preparing an expensive, in-depth report which would among other things assess the recommendations made in the QWB report.

Mayor Eddie Lalande was one of two West Island mayors who voted recently at a

meeting of the Montreal Urban Community to study island wide water purifica-

tion and sewage treatment.

Seven West Island municipalities have joined together

to study the feasibility of creating one west end city within the Urban Community.

Pierrefonds gasps for water as crisis nears

By MARK DALY

Another "dry" summer faces the citizens of suburban Pierrefonds and its surrounding municipalities this year, unless a solution is found to the critical water shortage problem which exists in the area.

If a solution is not found — and Pierrefonds city manager Gérard Lepage is hopeful it will be, at least on a short-term basis—it will mean another summer of water rationing for the residents.

Mr. Lepage said last week that the Quebec Water Board and the Montreal Urban Community have hired a firm of consulting engineers to study the situation.

The manager expects a short-term solution may be found by way of a water hook-up with either Dorval or Pointe Claire.

The North Shore community sells water to nearby Roxboro, Dollard-des-Ormeaux and Ste. Geneviève and has recently been ordered by the Quebec Water Board to supply Ile Bizard.

In recent years Pierrefonds' huge 11 million gallon-per-day water plant has been

laboring full capacity to supply the nearby communities as well as the large city itself.

Even so, the city and its recipients have been forced to schedule such things as lawn watering on a rotating basis (one side of a street for one hour twice a week, for example).

The hook-up to a nearby municipality such as Dorval would provide immediate relief, says the manager, but would not allow for population expansion or other elements that would necessitate an increase in water usage.

Mr. Lepage, newly appointed to the post of city manager, has many reasons for wanting a solution to the water situation this year.

Exasperated citizens stormed city hall time and time again last year hoping that something could be done, at least temporarily as their lawn died, cars went without washing and swimming pools became dirty.

New water problems in Pierrefonds indicate residents are patsies once more

Sir, — I find it highly ironic to be informed through the press by the administrative powers of Pierrefonds that its residents need educating with regard to use of water. Having tried to establish a nice garden, and therefore add to the beauty of the city, I find the attitude taken highly aggravating, in view of the fact that their so-called "great link up" obviously is

not successful and the residents are once more the "patsies" of inadequate planning.

I wonder why we as residents have to put up with unfinished work, which was started when the snow was still here, which damaged property and is in no way completed. Allard, Dechamps and Langevin streets in particular are dust bowls; a veritable disgrace to the city, and a source of utter disgust and despair to most of us who live on these streets.

The city's engineers whom we have contacted to find out when this eyesore will be completed have made many vague promises; the mayor stated in a letter that "all work will be completed this year".

One resident had sewage backing up into his basement and garage, had a beautiful lawn and new hedge dug up by city employees who carelessly broke the sewer pipe with blasting operations which should have all been completed before the houses were built.

Before anyone who might read this letter asks why I live here, may I say that I did not know such things happened, and have only learned them sadly over the years I have lived in Pierrefonds. I have also learned that similar things happen in other communities.

I have also invested too much labor, money and time to want to leave and start all over again. I just wish the city administration would live up to its promises and responsibilities, and would do the jobs for which they were either elected or are paid.

**Rosemary Robinson,
Pierrefonds.**

Pierrefonds scraps drainage project

By ROBERT PLASKIN

The Pierrefonds plan to install surface drainage and eliminate roadside ditches in the Versailles Gardens, Rockliffe and Pavilion Heights sections of the town has been scrapped.

A town hall official, in giving this information, denied the claims of some citizens that the town is continuing with the work, in spite of a 221 to 145 referendum vote against it.

The official described the matter as "a giant misunderstanding from the beginning."

The issue arose last year when Pierrefonds adopted a dual loan bylaw for \$1,080,000 to cover the surface drainage and the installation of larger sewer collectors. However, although the bylaw was approved at a ratepayers' meeting, the town decided to go ahead with only the sewer collector installation.

Town manager Gérard LePage said the surface drainage plan was put off until this summer.

"But in the meantime costs went up — materials by 10 per cent, labor by 15 per cent

and so on," Mr. LePage said.

"As a result, we found it would cost about \$100,000 more to do the work now than it would have cost last year," he said.

For this reason enough ratepayers signed against an increase in the loan bylaw at a meeting July 8 that the issue was put to a referendum on July 15.

Many citizens mistakenly thought that the work being done was for both parts of the original bylaw and that the town had run out of money. However, it was explained that work has to be carried on to complete the collector portion of the original bylaw.

"That was already approved last year and has nothing to do with the referendum. It's just that people think we're going ahead with the work anyway," Mr. LePage said.

He said that the covering of the ditches is a form of local improvement and that the citizens, after being told it would cost \$2 per linear foot frontage, were being given a chance to tell the city whether or not they wanted this particular improvement.

Usine d'épuration: Pierrefonds approuve la CUM

Le maire Eddie Lalande de Pierrefonds a demandé à ses collègues du conseil, hier soir, de coopérer avec la Communauté urbaine de Montréal (CUM) relativement au projet de construction d'une usine d'épuration dans le parc de stationnement Victoria, en bordure du fleuve Saint-Laurent.

Le maire faisait ainsi écho à l'ordonnance de la Régie des eaux du Québec, émise la semaine dernière, enjoignant aux villes de banlieue de se soumettre au projet de la Communauté urbaine de Montréal en ce qui concerne le traitement des eaux.

Selon le maire Lalande,

c'est la voie que Pierrefonds doit suivre pour solutionner son problème d'eau polluée. "Enfin, a-t-il dit, on a la chance de se faire payer quelque chose par les contribuables de Montréal: profitons-en! Nous avons fait notre part du côté des dépenses pour la police de Montréal; à nous maintenant de recevoir quelque chose", a-t-il dit.

Cette corporation qu'il a demandée aux membres du conseil, le maire la conçoit de la façon suivante: pas d'obstruction inutile en favorisant les intentions qu'ont certains conseils municipaux du West Island de commen-

ter et de critiquer cette ordonnance et les initiatives que pourra prendre le gouvernement intermunicipal.

A l'heure actuelle, plusieurs maires du West Island ont ouvertement critiqué l'ordonnance. "C'est encore Montréal qui empêche le gros lot", disent-ils. Plusieurs villes du West Island avaient soumis un projet d'usine d'épuration devant desservir tout le territoire ouest de

l'île, jusqu'à Saint-Laurent. Cette usine "devait être construite dans une île "à créer" à même la baie Valois, face à Dorval.

Mais la Régie des eaux du Québec a opté en faveur du projet de la Communauté urbaine de Montréal, laissant de côté la suggestion du West Island.

Pour le maire Lalande, Pierrefonds y gagnera énormément grâce à la construc-

tion d'une usine d'épuration dans le parc de stationnement Victoria. "Nous serons les premiers à être desservis d'autant plus que la Communauté urbaine ordonnera sans doute à des villes comme Kirkland, Roxboro et Dollard-des-Ormeaux de cesser de nous empester avec sa pollution en déversant leurs rejets dans la rivière des Prairies", a déclaré le maire.

Mayor has QWB's word

Pierrefonds first in river cleanup

By MARK DALY

The Quebec Water Board's plan to clean up waters surrounding Montreal Island by 1981 will be concentrated initially on north shore Rivière des Prairies, according to the mayor of Pierrefonds.

Mayor Eddie Lalande told his council last night he had been assured by Water Board authorities that areas of the "Back River" along Pierrefonds' shoreline would be tackled by 1972, four years before the target date for elimination of all sewage outlets around the island.

"Certain bays, especially at the north end of St. John Boulevard (which connects Pierrefonds to the Trans Canada Highway) are extremely badly polluted and are offending citizens," said the mayor.

He said QWB authorities have recognized that the water pollution situation is "worse in the Pierrefonds area than anywhere else."

Sewage from the city will eventually be channelled either to a projected \$125 million plant at Man and His World's former Victoria Parking lot or to another plant now being built in the east end.

The mayor said last night it was important that the river near Pierrefonds receive immediate attention because of the large distance of shoreline — more than 12 miles — the city has. Clean water is essential to future development, he added.

Meanwhile, Pierrefonds' summer water shortage problem does not seem to be improving and the city has asked that it be allowed both to expand its water treatment facilities and to install water meters in north shore homes that receive water.

The city supplies Ile Bizard, Ste. Genevieve, Roxboro and part of Dollard des Ormeaux. Water restrictions have been imposed in these municipalities because of the present shortage.

Recent hook-ups to Dorval and Pointe Claire ordered by the QWB haven't worked, says Mayor Lalande, be-

cause of differences between pressures in the systems. Pierrefonds will receive water from the two cities only in extreme emergencies, he added.

Meanwhile, at a meeting of Laval municipal council last night, councillors voted in favor of a basic services construction project in Fabreville that had previously been defeated at a ratepayers' meeting.

All eight opposition councillors opposed the bylaws but were voted down 12-8.

The bylaws cover the installation of sewers, water mains storm sewers and lights, as well as the building and paving of streets for the first two phases of the Fabreville project.

In other council business, Laval adopted a \$7.5 million plan to enlarge the Chomedey water filtration plant and change its chemical treatment system from chlorine to ozone.

Laval also adopted a foodstuffs sanitation bylaw that stipulates that all meats be inspected before and after slaughter. The bylaw also controls the time lapse between preparation of all foodstuffs and their sale in the city.

Recours à la loi pour mettre fin au déversement des eaux d'égout dans la rivière des Prairies

par Madeleine BERTHAULT

Trois propriétaires et la compagnie S.T.O.P. ont envoyé hier une mise en demeure à la Ville de Pierrefonds, à la Communauté urbaine de Montréal et à la Régie des Eaux du Québec, au sujet des eaux d'égouts non-traitées qui se déversent dans la rivière des Prairies.

La compagnie S.T.O.P. est une société dont le but est de combattre la pollution de l'air, du sol et de l'eau. Les trois propriétaires de la Cité de Pierrefonds ont fait appel à cette compagnie pour qu'elle les appuie dans leurs revendications. Il s'agit de MM. Ubaldo Fasano, Marcel Leclerc et Mme Jeanne Laforge-Longtin, dont les propriétés sont situées sur le bord de la rivière.

Si la Ville de Pierrefonds, la CUM et la Régie des Eaux ne donnent pas suite à l'avis d'ici 15 jours, et n'agissent pas en conséquence, elles s'exposent à des poursuites judiciaires en dommages et

intérêts, de l'ordre de \$75,000 pour chacun des trois propriétaires.

Les odeurs

Parmi les principaux inconvénients qu'ont à subir les trois propriétaires, il appert que ce sont surtout les mauvaises et fortes odeurs qui se dégagent de la rivière des Prairies à la hauteur de leurs demeures. M. Fasano a même précisé qu'il "appréhende la chaleur de l'été" car les odeurs sont plus tenaces à cette époque et "il est absolument impossible de garder les fenêtres ouvertes, quelle que soit la température".

De plus, l'été dernier, il y a eu plus de cinq cas d'éruption cutanée, qui n'ont pu être soignés qu'avec l'intervention de dermatologistes. Ces éruptions ont fait leur apparition, dans le cas de M. Fasano, une heure environ après que ce dernier se fut promené dans son jardin.

Domages

En plus des mauvaises odeurs, de

l'air devenu "irrespirable", et de certaines maladies de peau, que la S.T.O.P. qualifie de "dommage à la santé", il y a aussi les dommages directs et indirects à la propriété.

On peut citer, entre autres, la perte de jouissance de la propriété et l'impossibilité permanente et partielle d'en jouir selon les us et coutumes, la détérioration et la dévaluation de la dite propriété ainsi que les effets hygiéniques néfastes des impuretés de l'eau et les dangers pour la santé.

L'un des propriétaires a attiré l'attention des journalistes, au cours de la conférence de presse, en disant que le lit de la rivière des Prairies est recouvert d'un dépôt de deux pieds de déchets d'égouts.

Les propriétés dont il est question sont situées à proximité d'un tuyau de trop-plein "dangereusement surchargé".

Pierrefonds pourra agrandir son usine de filtration

La ville de Pierrefonds pourra agrandir son usine de filtration d'eau potable de sa capacité actuelle de 9 millions de gallons par jour à 15 millions de gallons. L'ordonnance a été émise hier par le ministre responsable de l'Environnement, M. Victor Goldbloom.

De plus, l'ordonnance gouvernementale autorise Pierrefonds à faire construire un réservoir d'emmagasinage d'eau potable d'une capacité de 3,4 millions de gallons pour le réseau d'aqueduc qu'elle alimente. Le réservoir sera toutefois situé dans le territoire de Dollards-des-Ormeaux, une municipalité avoisinante.

C'est Pierrefonds qui alimente en eau les villes de Roxboro, Dollard-des-Ormeaux, Sainte-Geneviève et l'île Bizard. L'ordonnance du ministre affirme que, dans le passé, il y a eu de sérieuses pénuries d'eau potable et que Pierrefonds doit entreprendre les travaux dont il est question ci-haut pour remédier à cette situation.

On se souviendra qu'au début du mois, le maire de Roxboro M. Boll, avait réclamé de Québec l'autorisation de procéder à l'intégration des services d'aqueduc de plusieurs villes de la banlieue ouest de Montréal, dans le but de prévenir de nouvelles pénuries d'eau en période de pointe l'été. M. Boll fondait sa requête, entre autres raisons, sur des informations voulant que le projet d'agrandissement de l'usine de filtration de Pierrefonds, soumis depuis un an à la Régie des eaux, avait été refusé.



André Beauvais
Chroniqueur municipal

**Pierrefonds augmentera
son débit d'eau**

Le ministre des Affaires municipales et de l'Environnement, M. Victor Goldbloom, vient d'émettre une ordonnance à l'endroit du conseil municipal de Pierrefonds l'obligeant à faire effectuer les travaux nécessaires de façon à permettre une augmentation du débit d'eau de ce secteur. Pierrefonds alimente en eau potable les villes voisines de Roxboro, Ste-Geneviève, Dorland-des-Ormeaux et de l'île Bizard. Tous les ans, durant la saison estivale, les citoyens de ce secteur de la CUM sont aux prises avec de sérieux problèmes d'approvisionnement en eau potable.

MONTREAL-MATIN, MARDI 13 MARS 1973



Goldbloom ne serait pas contre, "en partant"

De l'avis du maire Lalande, le nouveau ministre des Affaires municipales et de l'Environnement, M. Victor Goldbloom, ne serait pas contre cette idée "en partant". Bien que ce soit M. Maurice Tessier le "partant" dans le domaine des Affaires municipales...

M. Lalande se pose même certaines questions quant à l'ordonnance que vient d'émettre M. Goldbloom à l'endroit de Pierrefonds, ordonnance visant à augmenter le débit d'eau potable à Pierrefonds qui, incidemment, fournit l'eau aux villes voisines de Roxboro, Sainte-Geneviève, Dollard-des-Ormeaux et Ile-Bizard.

Le maire de Pierrefonds y va de sa propre spéculation: la fourniture de l'eau est une responsabilité de la Communauté urbaine de Montréal et d'importants projets dans ce domaine sont prévus au cours des dix prochaines années. Pourquoi, alors, le ministre des Affaires municipales et de l'environnement — un homme qui voit tout de même loin — commande-t-il à Pierrefonds d'augmenter le rendement de ses installations alors que cette responsabilité, à la base, en est une du gouvernement métropolitain?

La question arrive à point, si l'on considère que le ministre Goldbloom doit être dans le secret des dieux relativement aux études que termine le comité Hanigan, relativement aussi au schéma d'aménagement de la CUM, que le service de planification de la CUM rendra public dans les prochaines semaines.

Small suburbs demand water from neighbor

By MARK DALY

Two small West Island municipalities have teamed up to try to force their big neighbor to increase their supply of drinking water.

Ile Bizard, located in Riviere des Prairies and linked to Montreal Island by a bridge, is seeking an injunction to stop Ste. Genevieve, located on the mainland, from cutting off its water supply as of midnight Saturday.

Ste. Genevieve has threatened to halt the flow of drinking water to Ile Bizard, according to a town official, "because we haven't enough for our own needs."

The water originates in Pierrefonds. St. Genevieve is supplied through a six-inch water main. The water then flows to Ile Bizard via pipes of the same size.

Because both communities are growing, the pipes are too small to give adequate water pressure to either municipality. The threat to cut off Ile Bizard's supply has been made once already, but delayed, presumably because it is not a serious threat at all. The threat and injunction are designed to force action by Pierrefonds.

St. Genevieve and Ile Bizard insist the mains should be enlarged at no cost to them. The former municipality hooked up Ile Bizard in 1969, according to the town official, "with the promise that the pipes would be enlarged by Pierrefonds within six months."

Pierrefonds, meanwhile, insists it

does not need convincing.

City manager Gerard Lepage said last night the need to enlarge the mains is recognized and will form part of a \$5 million water improvement program to get underway within a year.

Mr. Lepage admits his city received orders last year from the now-defunct Quebec Water Board to enlarge the pipes. "But we told them we didn't have enough water for ourselves. We asked them for an ordinance to enlarge our existing water pipe and received this only recently."

It will be a year at least before anything is done, because none of the other municipalities served by Pierrefonds wants to share the cost of the giant improvement program.

Pierrefonds serves 80,000 people of which 35,000 are its own residents. "Now we must find out how it will be paid," adds Mr. Lepage, "because we are not going to fork out for everybody."

Included in the program are plans to create a large reservoir in Dollard des Ormeaux, which also buys Pierrefonds' water, and then a hook-up to Dorval for emergency supply.

Mr. Lepage will accompany city mayor Eddie Lalande to Quebec tomorrow to try to correct the situation.

West Island water battle

Injunction keeps taps open

By MARK DALY

The West Island community of Ile Bizard has obtained a Superior Court injunction ordering its neighbor Ste. Genevieve, to keep supplying drinking water to residents of the island.

Ste. Genevieve, in an effort to increase water pressure to its own citizens, had threatened to cut off water to Ile Bizard — located in Riviere des Prairies just off the mainland — at midnight last night.

The water, which originates in Pierrefonds, flows through Ste. Genevieve pipes to Ile Bizard. Ste. Genevieve and Ile Bizard have both complained to Pierrefonds of inadequate pressure and are demanding that the existing six-inch pipes be enlarged.

Pierrefonds contends that since neither of the municipalities wishes to share the costs of installing larger pipes, the work will not be done until the provincial government works out a cost-sharing plan and orders the smaller communities to pay on a per capita basis.

The dispute began, as a

combined effort on the part of the two small communities to get action from Pierrefonds, which also supplies Dollard des Ormeaux and Roxboro. But Ste. Genevieve council then passed the resolution ordering the water supply to be cut.

A town official said: "We would have had no choice but to do that if we hadn't been served with the injunction".

The court order is valid until Wednesday.

Pierrefonds has been ordered twice by the now-defunct Quebec Water Board to enlarge the pipes. But city officials insist there is not enough water for the city's own needs. Pierrefonds, with a population of 35,000, serves a total of 80,000 people with water.

A \$5 million expansion program is being planned, which will include enlargement of the water treatment plant and construction of a reservoir in Dollard des Ormeaux and Pierrefonds wishes to incorporate enlargement of the pipes in the overall program.

Pierrefonds' officials went

to Quebec earlier this week in an effort to solve the dispute, but did not receive any definite answer. They say the expansion program would not begin for another year. Enlargement of the pipes alone would cost \$70,000.

Quebec officials have suggested that Pierrefonds go ahead with the work and get reimbursement through sale of water to the smaller communities, but the city feels the expense is too great and wants to "see" the money before work is started.

Court told homes ruined

Pierrefonds shoreline 'full of filth, muck'

By CYNTHIA GUNN

They called it "filth" or "muck," but witnesses appearing in court yesterday agreed it looked and smelled like human excrement and it ruined once-pleasant riverside homes in Pierrefonds.

The witnesses were testifying in the first day of court action by STOP (Society To Overcome Pollution) and three Pierrefonds residents against the City of Pierrefonds, the Montreal Urban Community and the Quebec Water Board.

The suit, filed in Superior Court last summer, accuses the defendants

of failing to provide adequate sewage treatment facilities in Pierrefonds and seeks a total of \$225,000 in damages — \$75,000 for each resident. It also asks for an injunction to stop the present conditions either by alternate disposal methods or sewage treatment.

STOP's presence in the action is on two levels. It has bought one-quarter interests in the rights of the three plaintiffs. As an environmental group, it maintains it has the right to act on the public's behalf to protect the environment.

At issue are two conduits near a bay on the Pierrefonds shoreline of

Riviere des Prairies and a pumping station owned by the City of Pierrefonds, built in 1960 for a population of about 5,000 homes. There are now 40,000 to 50,000 homes in the area.

Unbearable stench

The plaintiffs charge the pumping station is not adequately treating domestic sewage and almost-raw human excrement is spewing out of one of the conduits, forming a 19-mile-wide ring along the shoreline of their properties.

They claim it is causing an unbearable stench in the summer heat, dirtying their land, making the water

unfit for recreation, menacing public health, damaging home and social life, reducing value and desirability of their properties and, in one case, interrupting employment.

The other conduit is for land drainage.

The Pierrefonds plaintiffs, Ubaldo Fasano, Marcel Leclerc and Jeanne Longtin, all own property on Rive Boisee and say they have tried to move away, but were unable to sell their homes because of the riverfront conditions.

All three say they lived downstream from the conduits. However, both Mrs. Longtin and Mr. Leclerc

have recently moved to other Pierrefonds locations. Mr. Leclerc rents his home to a brother-in-law for \$75 a month. Mrs. Longtin, a widow, no longer has a tenant for her property.

Mr. Fasano and his wife still live on their property. Mr. Fasano, a composer of music for film and advertising, bought his home in September, 1967.

At that time, he said, he didn't notice any shoreline pollution or odors although he was aware swimming in the water was not advisable. In 1969 and 1970 he started to notice smells coming from the river.

The summer of 1971 was the



Claude Castonguay

worst, he said. Because of the smell, he was demoralized, had to leave home on several occasions and, because he works at home, his work was interrupted. He wasn't able to bring clients to his studio.

Although conditions had improved since the summer of '71, in the past couple of weeks they have worsened, he said. "There is solid muck 10 feet out from the natural shoreline. You can't even find the real shoreline."

Fasano has written letters to Mayor Eddy Lalande of Pierrefonds, to Lucien Saulnier, then MUC chairman, and to Jean Marcotte, MUC water treatment director. Mayor Lalande told him the responsibility was with the MUC. Mr. Saulnier referred him to Mr. Marcotte, who, after a delay, entered into what Mr. Fasano said was unsatisfactory communications.

Docks dirtied

Mr. Leclerc and Mrs. Longtin said they lived on their properties when it was possible to use the water for boating and swimming. They both started to notice the alleged pollution in the late 60s, when their docks began to be dirtied.

Regent Brosseau of the Quebec government's environmental quality services, brought a government report on water conditions which showed the coliform content at testing points in the area.

The highest level was recorded near the shoreline of Fasano's property on June 6, 1973 — more than one million coliform per 100 cc of water. The type of coliform was from human waste.

Normally acceptable levels for consumption are under 1,000 per 100 cc, he said.

Ray Affleck, of the architectural firm Arcop Associates, said waterfront property usually is valued in excess of properties not on the waterfront. What makes it so valuable is the view of water, the smell of good water and the ability to get into the water.

"If I were advising where to live in Pierrefonds, I would advise away from the waterfront which is a complete reversal of the normal."

Hearings are expected to continue into next week, with a number of experts yet to appear for both the plaintiffs and the defence.

Residents crying foul over 'stench' from Pierrefonds shoreline

By RENE LAURENT
of The Gazette

A Superior Court judge yesterday found himself considering the case of a pungent four-letter word: MUCK.

Muck — mainly human waste — is now nearly three feet deep along a 700-foot stretch of the Pierrefonds shoreline, he was told.

And three of the local residents are definitely turning up their noses at it.

- "The whole place smells like a country outhouse," said resident Marcel Leclerc.

- "It has become demoralizing — affecting my state of mind and hampering the ability to concentrate," said resident Ubaldo Fasano.

- "It's a disagreeable smell... so disagreeable you can't sit outside," said resident Mrs. Gerard Longtin.

TEST CASE

All three home-owners were testifying in a unique test case they have brought against the West Island municipality, the Quebec Water Board and the Montreal Urban Community.

They are seeking \$225,000 for personal and property damage caused, they say by two municipal sewage pipes dumping waste into the Riviere des Prairies behind their Rive Boisse lots.

An environmental group, the Society to Overcome Pollution (STOP), is also joining in the suit.

It is asking for \$100,000 punitive damages for a "failure to provide adequate sewage treatment facilities."

Leclerc, whose lot is 350 feet downstream of a sewage pipe, told Justice Andre Montpetit that "pungent smelling muck" from the sewer line was recently measured up to 30 inches deep in some spots on his section of waterfront.

He said he bought the property to help the recovery of his sick wife. But she is now forced to suffer with all windows shut to block the smell on most days, he said.

Leclerc, a printing shop stockkeeper, said he spent \$8,000 improving his property over the past 18 years.

Now he feels it was a waste of money.

"Even our grown children refuse to visit us because of the smell," said the 59-year-old father of three.

Before the pipe was built in 1965, the area was "perfect for swimming," he said.

Resident No. 2, Ubaldo Fasano — he composes music for films and television commercials — said obnoxious smells affected both his work and family life.

Fasano, who has a studio at his home, said: "Imagine sitting down to eat under such conditions."

"It was embarrassing to ask friends over so I began advising them against visiting us."

Fasano introduced as evidence a sheaf of letters and telegrams to municipal and urban

government officials which he said brought "no improvements whatsoever."

Why didn't he move?

Fasano replied that he couldn't afford it.

Resident No. 3, Mrs. Gerard Longtin, said two years of advertising had produced only one prospective buyer — who backed out after a visit to the site.

'STINKS'

"It stinks," she quoted the disgruntled buyer as saying.

Rejean Brosseau, a chemical engineer with the provincial government's environmental protection branch, testified water samples taken in the area showed pollution was way over acceptable limits.

The hearing continues today.

Pierrefonds sewage health threat: Witness

By RENE LAURENT
of The Gazette

Living in the vicinity of Pierrefonds' controversial Riviere des Prairies sewage pipe is not only unpleasant but is dangerous, a witness testified in Superior Court yesterday.

"A definite health hazard," warned Dr. Andrijs Pakalns. "It's the first time I have ever seen a sewage pipe so exposed, and dumping so close to the shore."

A professor of sanitary engineering at McGill University, Dr. Pakalns was testifying in the joint court action brought against the West Island municipality, the Quebec Water Board and the Montreal Urban Community.

In the test case three Pierrefonds residents with waterfront properties and the Society to Overcome Pollution (STOP) are pressing for a halt to the dumping and asking for damages amounting to \$325,000.

Dr. Pakalns told Justice Andre Montpetit that he was overpowered by the smell of scum lying along the riverbank during a visit to the Rive Boise site last week.

He blamed the smell on detergents which hid a real danger in rampant bacteria from human waste.

It was not surprising human waste poured out of the pipe since the municipality's St. John's Road sewage plant is overtaxed by 300 per cent, he said.

The 13-year-old primary treatment plant was designed to serve about 10,000 persons but instead is now serving an estimated 40,000.

CORRECTIVE STEPS

Asked by the judge what immediate corrective measures should be taken, Dr. Pakalns outlined a series of priorities.

To compensate for the overload, increased amounts of chlorine should be added to kill bacteria and neutralize the effluent, he said.

"This would be a quick, cheap and effective way to eliminate the health hazard and possibly prevent epidemics."

The municipality should also extend the pipe further into the river and add a series of smaller lines along its underwater path to spread the effluent, he added.

BIGGER PLANT

Both measures would help compensate for the shortcomings of the primary treatment process which only removes 60 per cent of soluble matter, he said.

Ideally, the municipality should increase the capacity of the plant, a simple process involving the addition of easily obtained units, he said.

The whole process could be completed in one and a half to two years, he predicted.

The measures would cure the unsightly waste problem for nearby riverfront residents and lighten the water pollution load downstream, he said.

Practical effects would become noticeable immediately, he told the judge who must decide whether an injunction should be issued.

Sewage plant often not working

By CYNTHIA GUNN

The Pierrefonds primary sewage treatment plant is not only heavily overloaded but on some days it is not working, witnesses told Superior Court yesterday.

The charges were made during the third day of hearings before Justice Andre Montpetit in an action by the Society to Overcome Pollution (STOP) and three Pierrefonds residents against the City of Pierrefonds, the Montreal Urban Community and the Quebec Water Board.

The plaintiffs are seeking \$225,000 in damages, plus another \$100,000 in punitive damages and an injunction to stop the source of damages — allegedly raw sewage being pumped from the treatment plant through a conduit exiting near the shoreline of the plaintiffs' properties.

Dr. Gustave Prevost, a former head of the Quebec Water Board before its services were amalgamated into the MUC environment services, told the court he visited the sewage treatment plant late last week and found it wasn't working. He was told it is often shut down when it rains. It had been raining that day.

He also noted seeing suspended matter in the effluent coming from the plant and found the smell of a nauseous gas along the shoreline area. He compared the smell to a country cesspool, with odor of sulphuric acid.

No plant acceptable

He also testified that in his opinion no primary plant, no matter how efficient, is acceptable. In Pierrefonds, he said, "for me, a primary plant is like nothing." He recommended at least secondary treatment if not a third treatment for sewage and that all sewage treatment facilities should be completed before any area construction takes place.

Expo, he explained, was an example of proper treatment and it was his recommendation that promoted completion of sewage treatment facilities before construction began.

Asked by the defence why he had not ordered closure of sewage outlet pipes dumping sewage into water all around the Island of Montreal, he said he had no time before his retirement from the board to do it. But, he added, now he would be happy to be able issue an ordinance to the City of Pierrefonds.

He estimated differences in primary, secondary and tertiary treatments were not much more costly. If it would cost \$6 per person per year for primary treatment, it would cost \$8 to \$9 for secondary and maybe \$12 to \$15 for tertiary.

He also cited a case in Ontario where a town was refused building permits before it had provided adequate sewage treatment.

Not too costly

He said Expo was a good example for the province and municipalities that prior planning isn't too costly. Expo's sewage treatment cost \$2 million, he said, and nothing was built on the site until the treatment plants were in place.

Dr. Francois Briere, a sanitary engineering professor at Ecole Polytechnique, estimated that the plant could probably serve 5,000 people.

The primary sewage treatment plant in question (there is another one in the area) serves about 32,000 people, it was established yesterday. About 17,000 of this population is in Pierrefonds with the rest living in Dollard des Ormeaux.

A key witness for the plaintiffs yesterday was real estate agent Sheila McQuitty, who lives in a nearby area of Pierrefonds.

"In the bay area on Rive Boisée Street where the plaintiffs own property, there are far more properties for sale than I've ever seen before," she said.

Similar houses on similar sites on other parts of the island have a higher value, she noted, adding that although the municipality evaluated the water front property in one area at 45 cents per square foot, a recent sale in that area showed the value to be more like 30 cents a square foot.

"The property is practically unsaleable now," she said.

The hearings were to continue today.

Pierrefonds sewage court fight

\$925 million would clean up Quebec waters

By CYNTHIA GUNN

The cost of Quebec's planned fight against polluted waters has risen more than 50 per cent from estimates three years ago, Superior Court was told yesterday.

The original estimate in the 1970 Quebec Water Board study entitled *The Fight Against Pollution of Quebec's Waters* was \$600 million. Today it's \$925 million, said Andre Chamberland, former Quebec Water Board technical adviser, now with the municipal commission of the Quebec environment department.

The over-all, 15-year plan hasn't changed, he said.

The Quebec Water Board services and jurisdiction were incorporated into the municipal commission last December with the passing of Quebec's Environmental Quality Act. For legal purposes, the Quebec Water Board still exists.

Mr. Chamberland was testifying yesterday during the fifth day of court action by the Society To Overcome Pollution (STOP) and three Pierrefonds residents against the City of Pierrefonds, the Montreal Urban Commission and the Quebec Water Board.

The suit seeks \$225,000 in damages, \$100,000 in punitive damages and an injunction to stop the cause of damages — allegedly the outflow from a Pierrefonds primary sewage treatment plant exiting from a conduit near the shoreline of the residents' properties.

Mr. Chamberland testified that two-thirds of the municipal sewage treatment plants in Quebec do not operate properly.

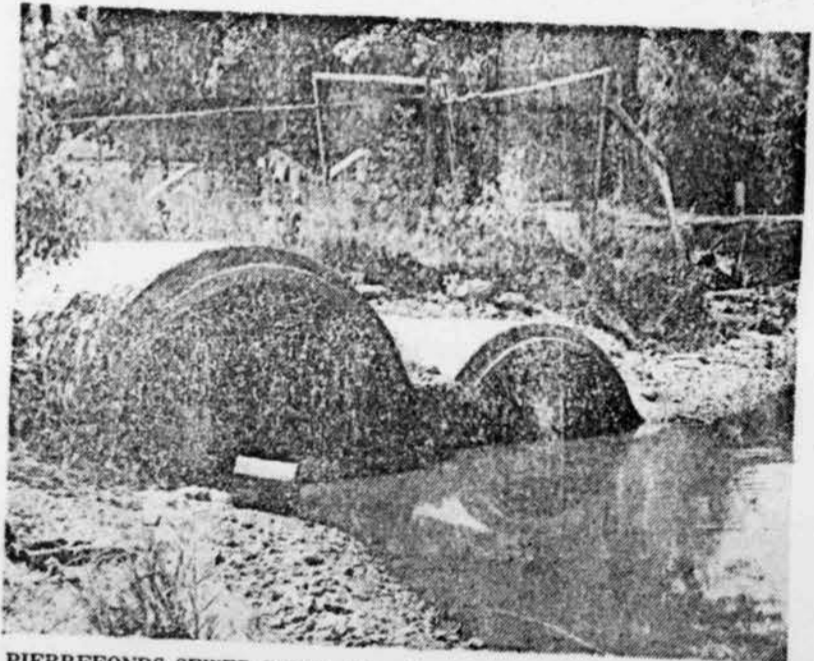
Called scandal

He also said that a magazine article calling Quebec "the province where time stands still" might be correct in some of its assertions. The article, which appeared in the August edition of *Water and Pollution Control*, states: "The amount of raw sewage going into Quebec's waterways is nothing short of scandal."

"We all know the situation is carried to an extreme in Montreal where Canada's largest city virtually has no sewage treatment. Meanwhile, Montreal Mayor Jean Drapeau plans his latest extravaganza, the Olympics. It's true Montreal does have a plan to treat its effluent, but it will take a ridiculous 10 years for it to be implemented."

"Currently, the truth is that the province has only built a handful of large treatment plants; over 3½ million people, more than half Quebec's population, have nothing."

Mr. Chamberland said funds for the Quebec Water Board plan would come from the municipalities.



PIERREFONDS SEWER PIPES: Pipes from primary sewage treatment plant empty into Riviere des Prairies. One pipe allegedly emits raw sewage overflow.

Using the new figure of \$925 million, prosecution lawyer Claude-Armand Sheppard estimated the cost of the Quebec plan would be about \$10 per inhabitant.

Also testifying yesterday was Jean R. Marcotte, director of the MUC's water purification department, who said the MUC was considering Pierrefonds' sewage disposal as part of its over-all collection and disposal system for the Island of Montreal. The MUC plan is envisaged for completion in 1981.

Mr. Marcotte said that although he had discussed the possibility of a local solution in Pierrefonds with its mayor and engineers, Pierrefonds had never submitted a recommendation for MUC approval, as required by MUC bylaws. All the solutions that had been discussed were contrary to the MUC's over-all program, he said. Any extension of the disposal pipe might affect Laval on the opposite side of Riviere des Prairies.

The MUC's plan, he said, was to take all the sewage away from the area.

Stop's aims

Sheila Shulman, a former president of STOP and now a co-ordinator at its Centre for Environmental Law, explained STOP's functions and its presence as a plaintiff in the court action. Mrs. Shulman was STOP president when the action was instituted last summer.

The Pierrefonds case was a "blatant example of what some citizens had to endure," she said, adding that STOP has received hundreds of calls from people about the lack of sewage treatment around Montreal.

A federal government Local Initiatives Program (LIP) grant enabled it to defray the costs.

For \$1, STOP acquired a 25-per cent financial interest in each of the plaintiff's actions.

Any punitive damages collected would be put into a legal defence fund for the future, she said.

STOP's aims are to increase public knowledge and seek solutions to air, soil and water pollution problems, she explained.

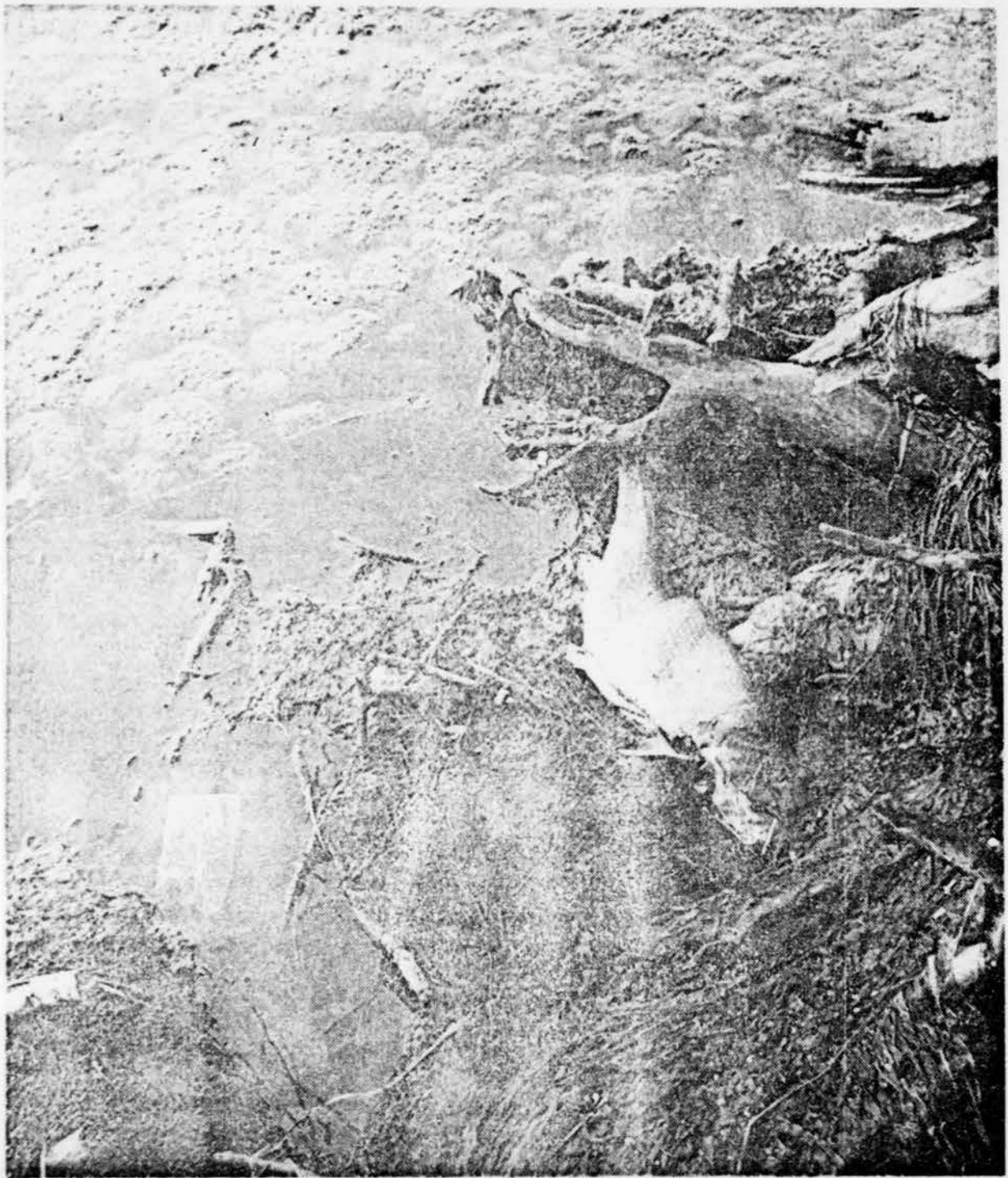
An example of its public education program was a sewage treatment week held in May, 1972, she said. Quebec's environment minister, Dr. Victor Goldbloom, had sent a letter of endorsement as well as a government cheque for \$2,000 to help the project.

He also signed a petition which demanded an immediate start to construction of sewage treatment facilities for Montreal. The petition had about 17,000 signatures, she said, including those of Montreal Island municipality mayors.

One of those mayors was Eddie Lalande of Pierrefonds, she added, who stipulated he supported the importance of sewage treatment, but that his signature did not constitute support of the MUC plan.

Blaise Juillet, who works with the firm of consulting engineers responsible for the primary sewage treatment plant in Pierrefonds, said it was meant to serve a population of about 5,000. Earlier evidence showed it now serves more than five times that number in Pierrefonds and Dollard des Ormeaux.

The hearing continues today.



NEAR PIERREFONDS HOMES: This photo (and left photo) was submitted as evidence last week during Supreme Court

action by STOP and three residents of Pierrefonds. Dead fish and other rotting debris are shown along the shoreline.

Sewage clean-up in Pierrefonds

\$500,000 conduit urged

By CYNTHIA GUNN

Six months and \$500,000 might be required to take offensive sewage away from Pierrefonds' shores and into strong Riviere des Prairies currents, Superior Court was told yesterday.

The means of transport, a 1,200-foot extension to an existing conduit, would dump raw sewage from a Pierrefonds primary treatment plant into the river's current, where it would be swept away, said witness Blaise Juillet, an engineer with a firm of consultants responsible for much of Pierrefonds sewage treatment installations and plans since about 1955.

Mr. Juillet was speaking during the sixth day of court action by the Society To Overcome Pollution (STOP) and three Pierrefonds residents against the City of Pierrefonds, the Montreal Urban Community and the Quebec Water Board. The plaintiffs claim damages on the basis of the defendants' failure to provide adequate sewage treatment facilities.

They are seeking \$225,000 in damages, \$100,000 in punitive damages and an injunction to stop the cause of damage — allegedly raw sewage originating at a primary sewage treatment plant on lot 153 in Pierrefonds and exiting through a conduit near the residents' waterfront properties.

The pipeline extension is one of several solutions previous expert witnesses have suggested and that Pierrefonds has examined.

Mr. Juillet, sole witness yesterday, explained that aside from questions of cost there were other difficulties in a pipeline extension.

He also noted that if the sewage were not treated more than at present it would be the same raw sewage emitted from the extended pipeline, which could be carried downstream and possibly annoy another municipality.

A functioning secondary plant would reduce that possibility, he admitted. But he added that all the solutions were costly.

When the primary treatment plant on lot 153 was built in 1960 to serve a population of 5,000, it was expected to serve adequately for five years, said Mr. Juillet.

In 1964, his company produced plans for secondary treatment and an enlargement of the existing plant. At the same time, it was proposed the capacity should be doubled. There also was another plan in 1966 to create an intermunicipal system between

Pierrefonds, Dollard des Ormeaux and Roxboro.

According to annual census figures introduced yesterday, Pierrefonds' population using the sewage plant in

question was 6,077 in 1963, 13,549 in 1967 and 16,991 in 1973. In 1965, Dollard des Ormeaux hooked into the system.

Hearings were to continue today.

Pierrefonds hearing

Seepage 'major sewage problem'

By CYNTHIA GUNN

Reduction of ground water seeping into a Pierrefonds sewage treatment system could shave millions of dollars from the cost of a solution to the sewage problem, Superior Court was told yesterday.

Yves Lord, a sewage specialist with consulting engineers working for Pierrefonds, said ground water seeps in to the already-overloaded sewage treatment system, probably through pipe joints opened by ground movements.

He was testifying in the seventh day of a court action by the Society to Overcome Pollution (STOP) and three Pierrefonds residents against the City of Pierrefonds, the Montreal Urban Community and the Quebec Water Board.

The action seeks \$225,000 damages, \$100,000 in punitive damages and an injunction to halt the cause of the damage — allegedly raw sewage piped into Riviere des Prairies from a primary sewage treatment plant in Pierrefonds.

Other solutions suggested during hearings were an enlargement of plant capacity and an addition of secondary treatment to remove more wastes; more chlorination of sewage to reduce a possible health hazard and an extension of the exit pipe into stronger currents in the middle of Riviere des Prairies.

Mr. Lord theorized that because of the additional load due to seepage at peak periods 26 million gallons per day might go through the plant. Normally, he said, it should only be about eight million gallons per day for the population of about 30,000 people using it. At pre-

sent the plant can adequately cope with only about one million gallons a day sufficient for a population of about 5,000.

To enlarge the plant and add secondary treatments before reducing seepage could cost \$10.5 million. It could cost \$4 million to expand it to the eight-million-

gallon capacity if seepage were eliminated.

With no secondary treatment added, expanding the plant to an eight-million-gallon capacity could cost about \$1 million, he said, stressing that all his statistics were based on U.S. figures and technical reports, not on actual Pierrefonds studies.

Mr. Lord agreed with a colleague that lengthening the exit pipe into the river current could create a pollution problem for another municipality. He suggested a periodic pumping of the bay area along the shoreline where the sewage now collects could be a temporary solution to the problem.

He also said it would be preferable to lengthen the sewage exit pipe into the river than wait three years for the MUC's collector system which is planned to take all the sewage from the western sector of the island by 1976.

If the problem of seepage were solved, he said he would recommend that an eight-million-gallon capacity plant be built.

Pierrefonds problem unsolved

\$12.5 million extra spent on sewage

By CYNTHIA GUNN

Pierrefonds spent more than \$12.5 million above its normal water works expenditures between 1954 and 1973 but was unable to solve its sewage treatment problem, Superior Court was told yesterday.

It was a question of priorities, said Joachim Cloutier, the city engineer, and top priority was to supply adequate drinking water to Pierrefonds and, later, to part of Dollard des Ormeaux, Ste. Genevieve and Roxboro.

Mr. Cloutier was speaking during the eighth day of court action by the Society To Overcome Pollution (STOP) and three Pierrefonds residents against the City of Pierrefonds, the Montreal Urban Community and the now defunct Quebec Water Board.

The plaintiffs are seeking \$325,000 in property, personal and punitive damages as well as an injunction to stop the cause of damages, said to be raw sewage being dumped on the residents' shorelines from an over-

loaded, 13-year-old primary sewage treatment plant.

Capacity of the water filtration plant has been increased twice and will be increased a third time to keep pace with the population and added municipalities, said Mr. Cloutier. The original capacity was 1.5 million gallons a day. It now is nine million gallons and the Quebec government and MUC approved future expansion to 21 million gallons.

More than \$12.5 million

was spent on waterworks and filtration plants, drainage and sewage facilities and sewage treatment plants, said Mr. Cloutier.

The sewage plant was built in 1960. In 1963-64 an expansion and secondary treatment was planned but never built.

A severe surface water seepage into sanitation pipes increases the load on the sewage treatment plant beyond what it can handle. The surface water also

caused drain blockage and flooding of basements in new homes.

Several attempts were made to solve the surface water infiltration problem.

In 1967-68, Mr. Cloutier examined the possibility of draining a 10-million-square-foot swampy section west of St. John's Road and south of Gouin Boulevard. But, after soil studies, it was found that pumping the water from the land into Riviere des Prairies would be impossible because

more river water would return to take its place.

In 1971, a citizens' referendum postponed construction of a \$1.08-million collector and street drainage system that was to alleviate the infiltration problem. When \$100,000 extra was needed, citizens voted to postpone the construction one year.

Mr. Cloutier had produced an itemized account of the extra water works projects since 1965.

The case continues today.

Sewage cries 'watered down'

By RENE LAURENT
of The Gazette

An inadequate water supply in Pierrefonds poses an even greater problem than the controversial sewage pipe crisis, a Superior Court hearing was told here yesterday.

In the past 10 years, water taps have often run dry during peak water use periods. Residents often fill their bathtubs to ensure a proper water supply, city engineer Joachim Cloutier told the court.

He appeared yesterday as a witness in the week-old court action brought against the municipality, the **Q u e b e c**

Water Board and the Montreal Urban Community.

Three riverfront residents, along with the Society To Overcome Pollution (STOP) are seeking an injunction to prevent sewage flow from a pipe on the banks of Rive Boisé.

The group contends the flow is virtually untreated and is asking for \$225,000 in personal and property damage plus \$100,000 in punitive damages in the test case.

Cloutier said he was confronted with three mammoth problems when he took over the job in 1965.

He was required to upgrade the drinking water supply for

Pierrefonds and three neighboring suburbs, and also begin work on both a sewer network and collector pipe system.

SEWAGE WORK

Over the past 19 years, the municipality has spent more than \$12.5 million on water and sewage work, he told Justice André Montpetit.

Cloutier explained that most of the spending was devoted to the doubling of drinking water pumping capacities.

But by 1970, when the MUC ordered a merger with Dorval and Pointe Claire drinking water systems, the system proved inadequate. Final approval for expansion from the

MUC came this summer "after a two-year wait," he said.

Meanwhile, the city had allocated more than \$1 million to expand its badly overloaded sewage treatment plant and conduits but a citizens' referendum killed the project, Cloutier told the court.

Ratepayers feared a new raise in taxes — when city council had to vote an additional, unexpected \$100,000 to begin the project, the engineer explained.

"Council decided to shelve the program to calm the people down," said Cloutier recalling civic meetings in 1971.

On veut que Pierrefonds cesse de polluer

Le mouvement STOP (Society To Overcome Pollution) a déclaré que son avocat, Me Claude-Armand Sheppard, présentera probablement lundi, devant le juge André Montpetit, de la Cour supérieure, une nouvelle requête en injonction contraignant la ville de Pierrefonds à se conformer au délai que lui a fixé la CUM pour la construction d'un système d'égout, qui collecterait toutes les eaux-vannes de l'ouest de l'Île de Montréal. Ce délai expire en 1976.

Cette nouvelle demande d'injonction est étroitement associée à la poursuite en dommages-intérêts au montant de \$325,000 intentée conjointement et solidairement à la ville de Pierrefonds, à la CUM et à la défunte Régie des eaux du Québec, par le mouvement STOP et trois résidents du bord de l'eau, Marcel Leclerc, Ubaldo Fasano et Jeanne Laforge.

On sait que ces trois personnes se plaignent du fait que les eaux d'égout déversées dans la rivière des Prairies, polluent les rives et empestent l'air, au point que les gens du voisinage doivent fermer leurs fenêtres en été. Elles réclament, à

ce titre, \$225,000 de dommages-intérêts, tandis que STOP réclame \$100,000.

L'injonction tout d'abord présentée par Me Sheppard demandait que Pierrefonds remédie à la situation dans un délai de 90 jours. Il estime que la nouvelle version de sa requête serait plus réaliste et plus facilement applicable par les organismes publics concernés.

On sait qu'un directeur du ministère québécois de l'Environnement, M. André Chamberland, appelé à témoigner au procès, a déclaré que l'usine de filtration de Pierrefonds, comme bien d'autres dans la province, ne suffisait plus.

L'ingénieur de Pierrefonds, M. Joachim Cloutier, tout en affirmant que la situation était moins grave que ne l'affirment les demandeurs, a cependant admis que depuis huit ans son principale problème avait été de mettre un terme aux infiltrations provenant des tuyaux d'égouts. Il a affirmé que Pierrefonds avait dépensé \$100,000 depuis 1965 pour vérifier ses tuyaux d'égouts au moyen d'un système de télévision en circuit fermé.

Pierrefonds citizens blocked sewage funds seven times

Of the more than \$12.5 million spent by Pierrefonds on extra water works projects since 1954, only about one-quarter was for projects directly related to sewage treatment and disposal, Superior Court was told yesterday.

A little more than \$3 million was spent on sanitation or drainage projects, Pierrefonds engineer Joachim Cloutier admitted under cross-examination during the 10th day of court action by the Society To Overcome Pollution (STOP) and three Pierrefonds residents against the City of Pierrefonds, the Montreal Urban Community and the now-defunct Quebec Water Board.

The plaintiffs are seeking \$325,000 in personal, property and punitive damages and an injunction to halt the cause of damages, said to be raw sewage emitted from an overloaded primary sewage treatment plant that is polluting the residents' riverfront properties.

The court yesterday was also shown evidence that seven bylaw bids were turned down in citizen referendums. The bylaws were aimed at providing funds or approvals for sanitary systems projects but would have meant extra taxes to the Pierrefonds taxpayers.

Evidence also showed yesterday that Pierrefonds' rev-

enues have gone up almost five times in 10 years, the population has more than doubled and municipal properties evaluations have gone up about three times.

The Pierrefonds population was about 16,000 in 1962; in 1973 it was 34,000. Evaluation of municipal properties in 1962 was about \$46 million, while in 1973 it came to

about \$161,300,000. Revenues in 1962 were about \$1.5 million; in 1973 about \$7,129,500.

Witnesses also told of a 1971 effort to cover a stench from the Rive Boisée area by encircling sewage outlet conduits with a lime mixture. It was laid on a 30 foot-wide area along the pipes to combat odors and possible infectious bacteria.

'Island-wide sewage system' ready by 1981, court told

By RENE LAURENT
of The Gazette

More than \$3.5 million has been spent in the program to complete by 1981 an island-wide sewage system, the director of the Montreal Urban Community's water purification department testified yesterday.

Jean Marcotte made the statement in Superior Court during arguments over a \$325,000 damage action against Pierrefonds, the Quebec Water Board and the MUC over sewage.

Three Pierrefonds residents and an anti-pollution group claim it is a health hazard

and are asking for personal, property and punitive damages. The case has been adjourned until Oct. 1.

124 PIPES SEALED

Marcotte said progress indicates the sewage system will be ready by 1981 and that 124 pipes dumping mainly raw waste into Montreal waterways also will be sealed.

Pierrefonds' controversial Rive Boisée pipe flow, like the others, will be diverted into a 74-mile collector-network within three years, he testified.

He said all but about 40 of 380 acres needed for the central sewage plant on Ile

Ste. Therese had been bought.

A \$60,000 study of sewage line fitness in the West Island has begun and more than \$1 million in other contracts have been awarded.

350 PROJECTS

More than 350 projects are to be done in the \$300 million program and Marcotte said he expected no setbacks.

The collector system will ring Montreal Island and vary from three and 17 feet in diameter. Tunnels will resemble those in the Metro which were bored through bedrock at depths of 30 to 100 feet.

Pierrefonds given go-ahead for \$4.5 million water plant

Pierrefonds has received the go-ahead from Quebec for a \$4.5 million project that would increase the capacity of the city's water filtration plant to 15,000,000 gallons daily — and at the same time to construct a 3,400,000 gallon storage reservoir.

The project will avoid a serious shortage of water in the West Island area, Mayor Eddie Lalande said last night. The mayor said the ministry of municipal affairs has ruled that the costs will

be shared on a gallonage basis as supplied to Pierrefonds' neighbors and as used by Pierrefonds itself.

Mayor Lalande told *The Montreal Star* that tenders would be called for the work early next month — following the municipal election in his city.

Pierrefonds supplies water totally to Roxboro, Ste. Genevieve and Ile Bizard — and to about 80 per cent of Dollard des Ormeaux. The mayor said financing of the project would be spread over about 40 years. The re-

servoir could be built in six months while enlargement of the filtration plant will take about 15 months.

Local initiative grants and winter works aid are expected to cut the costs.

Pierrefonds now has two reservoirs and the city to date has spent \$2 million on its modern filtration plant and \$4.5 million on distribution facilities.

Pierrefonds est condamnée à assainir les eaux et à dédommager des riverains

par Guy Deshaies

La municipalité de Pierrefonds devra agir d'ici le 1er juin pour assainir les eaux d'une baie de la rivière des Prairies dans laquelle elle déverse ses égouts et elle devra payer des dommages de \$20,300 à trois riverains qui ont intenté une action en dommages et demandé

une injonction.

Quant au mouvement STOP (Society to Overcome Pollution), son action de \$100,000 a été renvoyée parce que le tribunal a jugé que ce mouvement n'avait pas subi de dommages, et les mis en cause, soit le ministre des Affaires municipales et de l'Environnement, M. Victor

Goldbloom, et le gouvernement du Québec, ont été écartés du litige dans une action incidente.

C'est le juge André Montpetit, de la Cour supérieure du district de Montréal, qui a ainsi jugé cette affaire soulevée par les citoyens de Pierrefonds, appuyés par STOP, pour dénoncer la pollu-

tion causée par la Ville de Pierrefonds.

Il a été avéré que l'usine de traitement des eaux usées de Pierrefonds pouvait desservir une population maximale de 5,000 âmes alors que la population y est actuellement de 30,000.

Le juge Montpetit a trouvé que la Régie des eaux et la CUM ne pouvaient être au nombre des défendeurs.

Les dommages sont accordés à M. Ubaldo Fasano, \$6,500, M. Marcel Leclerc, également \$6,500 et Mme Jeanne Laforge, \$7,300 parce qu'elle loue des chambres à des pensionnaires dans la maison qu'elle habite seule et elle a fait valoir que les odeurs nauséabondes qui émanent de la baie polluée sont telles qu'aucun locataire ne veut habiter à cet endroit.

Quant à l'injonction, elle précise que Pierrefonds devra prendre les mesures nécessaires d'ici le 1er juin pour enrayer les odeurs fétides qui se dégagent de ce plan d'eau et qu'elle devra nettoyer le fond du bassin d'ici le 1er septembre.

Court cleans up river mess

By CYNTHIA GUNN

There was no celebration on Rive Boisee Street last night, but two families were looking forward to their first good summer in about six years.

Cause for their optimism was a Quebec Superior Court judgment handed down yesterday ordering the City of Pierrefonds to pay \$20,300 in damages and to clean up part of Riviere des Prairies.

Mr. Justice Andre Montpetit ordered the municipality to pay two Rive Boisee property owners, Ubaldo Fasano and Marcel LeClerc, \$6,500 each and a former resident, Jeanne Laforge Longtin, \$7,300.

He also gave the West Island municipality until June 1 to take all necessary measures to clean up noxious odors emitted by a sewage outlet near the residents' properties and until Sept. 1 to clean the shoreline and riverbed near their homes and afterwards to maintain it in an acceptable manner.

For the Fasanos and the LeClercs, it was not the money awarded that counted. It was the thought that maybe finally they would be able to enjoy their riverside property without the stench of raw sewage chasing them indoors.

For Mrs. Longtin, a widow who had been unable to rent rooms in her house because of the noxious odors, the victory came somewhat late. After trying to sell her home

for about three years, she sold it about a month ago for a price below market value.

The court action was undertaken last fall by the three Pierrefonds residents and the Society To Overcome Pollution (STOP) against the City of Pierrefonds, the Montreal Urban Community and the Quebec Water Board. Residents sought \$75,000 each in property and moral damage, STOP sought \$100,000 in punitive damages and plaintiffs all asked for an injunction to stop the cause of damage — the outflow from a Pierrefonds primary sewage treatment plant exiting from a conduit near the shoreline of the residents' property.

In an amendment, plaintiffs' lawyer Claude Armand Sheppard also named as respondents in the case Dr. Victor Goldbloom, Quebec minister of urban affairs responsible for the environment and Gilles Jolicoeur, director of the Environment Protection Services, since the duties of the Quebec Water Board had passed, by virtue of Bill 34, under their jurisdiction.

The judge dismissed the case against all but the City of Pierrefonds, saying only the municipality could be held responsible for the state of the river.

The sewage treatment plant had been built to serve a population of about 5,000 and now served 30,000.

Judge Montpetit also recognized STOP's interest in the case under the

Quebec code of civil procedure, articles 1582 to 1584, whereby a party may buy a legal interest in an action.

But he did not recognize its right to claim punitive and moral damages since it hadn't suffered the kind of damage that could be attached to a person.

STOP had decided to get involved in the court action because of the blatancy of the problem, Sheila Shulman, former president of STOP and now a board member, explained during the hearings. "The Pierrefonds case was a blatant example of what some citizens had to endure," she said, adding that STOP has received hundreds of calls from people about the lack of sewage treatment around Montreal. She further explained that STOP hoped to be accepted as private attorney-generals representing the public interest. Any punitive damages collected would be put into a legal defence fund for the future, she said.

Whatever STOP's legal status, both Mr. Fasano and Mr. LeClerc hold the organization in high esteem.

But both feel celebrations are premature. Neither had seen the 64-page judgment last night and both reserved opinion until they knew more of the details.

"I can't say it renews my faith in justice," said Mr. Fasano, a music composer, who works out of his home. "I always believed in it and I felt we would win. Otherwise I

wouldn't have gotten involved. So, I'm not so surprised. What remains to be seen is what degree of a victory it is.

"But I do feel we've shown a lot of people it is possible to fight a government or municipality and win and as far as it goes, it is a win. We've won a victory for other people as well. We've confirmed their liberties."

Mr. Fasano intends to finally spread the landfill that has been sitting on his property since 1967. Before, he said, "because of the water condition it was not encouraging to have it levelled out. I knew I wouldn't go near the water anyway. But now I'm going to do the part near the house anyway. But I'll leave the last part until I see what kind of action is taken to clean up the shore and the water."

Mr. LeClerc, whose backyard is already landscaped and who used to have a dock on the water, intends to wait until something is done before he builds another dock.

"We used to live here very happily," he said. "My wife will be especially happy if it's cleaned up because she's at home seven days a week. I can go to work. She got sick twice and had to go to the hospital and she needs fresh air. I mean FRESH air."

"If Dr. Goldbloom wants to know what it's like to live here under present conditions, I'd gladly lend him a trailer to live in for a couple of months — on the shore," he added.

Neither Mr. Fasano nor Mr. LeClerc are counting on money from the damages awarded. They both figure it will go to pay legal costs.

But they don't care. "We like money like everyone else, but that wasn't the point," said Mr. LeClerc. "We just want to be able to enjoy our homes."

They both are also looking forward to having friends and family visit again.

"When it was really hot in summer, people made all kinds of excuses not to stay long because of the smell," said Mr. LeClerc.

"Our visitors have been more direct than that," added Mr. Fasano.



Staff Photo by Paul Lagace

Ubaldo Fasano (left) and Marcel LeClerc stand near the water behind Mr. LeClerc's Rive Boisée home. Raw sewage has been coming up on their shores for six years.

River sewage

WHEN THREE home owners in Pierrefonds went to court seeking recompense for river pollution affecting their properties, the existence of foul conditions created by sewage discharge in Rivière des Prairies was never an issue — the discharge was so obvious. What Justice Montpetit had to decide was the question of culpability, and he held the municipality solely responsible.

So Pierrefonds, in addition to paying a total of \$20,000 to the property owners for what they have gone through, has been ordered to clean up the specific section of the shoreline and the riverbed by the end of the month. Thereafter it is enjoined to proper maintenance. That is fine as far as it goes: The small area involved in the action has won the protection of the court. But what about the rest of the shoreline along the river which is, according to figures in the judgment, the repository for the discharges from nearly 200 sewage outlets around the clock?

Should the precedent of the action just concluded be seized by other residents along the riverbank, the courts could be swamped. Pierrefonds, moreover, is not the only municipality afflicted by disposal problems. The outflow from one community affects the contiguous downstream neighbor as well. While Pierrefonds may be able to do something about the disposal plant built to serve a fraction of its people, the pollution of the river cannot be ended by the town itself.

What is still required is the joint action in which the provincial government has been expected to cooperate, as well as galvanize, through the ministry of the environment. The court judgment holds that the only practical approach to the problem rests in the Montreal Urban Community's plan for a huge network of collector sewer lines to a central treatment and disposal plant. Unfortunately, a fantastic amount of sewage, raw and partly treated, is going to be dumped into the river before that system is in operation unless lesser, short-term action is taken.

Sewer spill ruins beach

Pierrefonds to pay \$15,848

By LEON LEVINSON
of The Gazette

Reproaching the city of Pierrefonds for letting "its left hand ignore its right," a Superior Court judge yesterday awarded \$15,848 damages to a man whose riverside property was sold far below its value because of sewage overflow.

Achille Remy, a retired resident of Verdun, produced evidence that from 1956 until he sold the property in 1969 his beach on Rivière-des-Prairies was so polluted it was impossible to rent the three cottages on it.

His real estate agent, after taking several prospective buyers to see it

told him that because of the sewer pipe which discharged waste slightly upstream he could not make a sale at the indicated price.

Remy accepted the agent's advice to sell the property for \$8,000, despite municipal evaluation of \$21,210.

ADDITIONAL DAMAGES

Justice Antoine Bergeron held yesterday the plaintiff was entitled to claim a \$13,210 loss on the sale, using the municipality's valuation of the property.

Further amounts were added to the damages, including \$1,500 for the

plaintiff's inability to rent the cottages in the three years involved and additional amounts to cover the cost of preparation of the case.

Justice Bergeron rejected Pierrefonds claim its \$21,210 evaluation should not be used to calculate the loss on the property's sale.

"Is it possible today for the defendant (the city) to claim the amount did not represent the true value when it did not hesitate to collect taxes on that evaluation?"

"The left hand of the defendant must not ignore what its right hand did."

New treatment coming

Pierrefonds water to taste better

The 70,000 West Island residents who use water supplied by the city of Pierrefonds, should have better-tasting water to drink by early next year.

Pierrefonds city manager Gerard Lepage said yesterday that work will begin soon on construction of a \$900,000 ozone-treatment unit at the Gouin Boulevard filtration plant in the municipality's west end.

The project will not be finished until next spring because of delays in obtaining parts.

It will be the first such treatment unit on Montreal Island. Lepage said ozonization, long part of the water-purification process in Europe, has been used in Laval, Quebec City and Ste. Foy for the past few years.

"This is an excellent thing for the people who receive our water," he said.

Pierrefonds not only supplies its own residents, but also much of Dollard des Ormeaux — the most populous West Island community — and all of Roxboro, Ile Bizard and Ste. Genevieve.

Ozonization does not involve the addition of chemicals; it kills bacteria and viruses by means of an electrical discharge. It gives water a fresher, cleaner taste and allows the addition of chlorine to be cut to the minimum required by law.

Lepage said: "The amount of pollution in Riviere des Prairies (from which the city draws all of its water) makes this ozone treatment justified."

Pierrefonds' water is fluoridated, as is water from the West Island's other purification plants in Pointe Claire, Dorval and Ste. Anne de Bellevue. The only other water-treatment plants on the island are in Montreal and Lachine.

Lepage said a new 4½-million-gallon reservoir in Dollard des Ormeaux will be ready later this month, and should ease Pierrefonds' water-shortage problems. The \$1-million reservoir is also linked to Dorval, which will use water during peak summer periods.

Lepage said that the optimum output of the present Pierrefonds treatment plant is 9½ million gallons a day, but it has been forced to produce between 10 to 12 million gallons a day.

Although this overloading requires a faster filtration process, he said, random water samples are being sent four times a week to provincial government laboratories, and have been certified as safe.

For the past two years — because of extremely wet springs — Pierrefonds has not found it necessary to strictly enforce its lawn-watering restrictions.

Suburb lawn taps clamp set as plant nearing completion

By BOB HAYES
of The Gazette

Residents in five West Island communities will be turning down lawn sprinklers this summer, but the mini-draught should get washed away with help from a \$15 million plant being built in Pierrefonds.

City manager Gerard LePage said yesterday water restrictions will be imposed to conserve the 9,000,000 gallons the present water treatment facility pumps each day.

Pierrefonds pumps water to more than 75,000 residents in Dollard, Roxboro, Ste. Genevieve, Ile Bizard and its own area.

But a big problem is the price. Three years ago, when plans for the plant were being considered, the price-tag was estimated at about \$4.5 million but the figure jumped to \$8 million a year ago when building got underway.

LABOR COSTS UP

The city decided that, rather than hiring a general contractor to do the work, it would be the builder and farm out the sub-trades.

"We couldn't have saved any money with a contractor because labor and material costs have skyrocketed," LePage said.

The new plant, with a maximum daily output of 21 million gallons, will also have an ozone-treatment unit, providing "healthier" water so the use of chlorine will be cut down. Bacteria and viruses will be killed through use of an electrical charge.

Cost of the process will be about \$890,000, as compared with \$400,000 to install chlorinating machinery.

In the meantime, work on a 4,750,000-gallon reservoir in neighboring Dollard is nearing completion and should help this summer. The reservoir can also serve Dorval and can be employed when the Pierrefonds plant is operating at capacity.

Suburb to account for waterworks

By MARK DALY

The city of Pierrefonds agreed last night to provide a detailed breakdown of expenditures on its \$15-million waterworks expansion project.

The project — completing expansion of Pierrefonds' water-filtration plant, addition of an ozone-treatment unit and an already-built 4½-million gallon reservoir — will be paid for by Pierrefonds, Dollard des Ormeaux, Roxboro, Ste. Genevieve and Ile Bizard, all of which receive Pierrefonds water.

Dollard recently protested that cost of the project had jumped \$11 million since first outlined three years ago.

Pierrefonds says increased costs are due to inflation; the provincial government's demand that capacity be raised from nine million gallons daily to 21 million instead of to the originally

proposed 15 million; and the unforeseen addition of special equipment.

When the project is completed within two years, the 75,000 residents of the five communities will receive better-tasting water and will not have to endure chronic shortages which have forced Pierrefonds to restrict water use during peak summer months.

Dollard, the most-populous West Island municipality, will pay almost half the cost of the project. The \$1-million reservoir has been built there.

The ozonization unit alone will cost \$900,000. Ozonization has been hailed by the Quebec department of health as a superior method of water purification.

It does not involve the addition of chemicals; it kills bacteria and viruses by means of an electrical charge; and allows addition of chlorine — the present method of purification — to be cut to the legal minimum.

Pierrefonds council last night rejected a request that the city's finance committee — composed of citizens and council members — investigate cost of the waterworks project because, said mayor Cyril McDonald, "the time involved and the nature of the documents make's this prohibitive."

But the city would make available "to anyone who wishes to look at it," a list of expenditures including original cost estimates as well as the revised figures, he said.

The plant is to be expanded in such a way that daily output eventually can be increased easily from the projected 21 million gallons to 45 million gallons a day.

Although optimum output at present is nine million gallons a day, the plant has been forced recently to produce between 10 and 12 million gallons daily, mainly because of residential expansion in Dollard and Pierrefonds.

Pierrefonds hopes to ob-

tain a provincial government grant towards cost of the project, although grants usually are not given for such works. But the city points out that it was Quebec which ordered increased expansion of the plant.

Homeowners in all five communities will be fined for disobeying stringent

water restriction laws which go in effect April 15.

Those living in even-numbered homes will be able to water lawns on Wednesdays and Fridays between 7-11 p.m., and those in odd-numbered homes on Tuesdays and Thursdays during the same hours. No watering will be allowed from Saturday to Monday.

Suburban plant under fire

Probe to tap water costs



MAYOR CY McDONALD
'... on with the job'

By **BOB HAYES**
of *The Gazette*

The Quebec Municipal Commission (QMC) will launch a probe into construction costs of the Pierrefonds water treatment plant, which have soared from \$9 million to an estimated \$15 million in little more than a year.

Pierrefonds Mayor Cy McDonald said yesterday QMC officials have been asked to examine documents related to the project including files and contracts.

"City council has called for the probe to allay suspicions of citizens and area municipal officials that there is anything wrong with construction contracts," he said.

The QMC team is expected to begin its investigation next week and will meet members of the city's management committee.

The project price has provoked stiff protests from four neighboring municipalities — Dollard, Roxboro, Ste. Genevieve and Ile Bizard — faced

with sharing costs for the waterworks development.

Dollard Mayor Gerald Dephoure, describing his town as "a very dissatisfied customer" has called for a detailed cost report on the project and "an immediate halt" to the awarding of any further contracts.

This week Pierrefonds city council voted to let out contracts totalling close to \$500,000.

McDonald described the tenders as "comparatively small" in relation to the total project and "absolutely necessary if we are to get on with the job."

They included bids for building tiles, overhead crane and landscaping.

Mayor William Boll of Roxboro said Pierrefonds' move to act as general contractor in the multi-million dollar complex, instead of hiring an experienced builder, was "a grave mistake."

"This has left the project wide open to rising labor and material costs and we are at the mercy of any decisions made by Pierrefonds," he said.

In addition to paying for the water supplied by the 21-million-gallons-a-day plant, the five municipalities must share the project's capital costs.

Pierrefonds taxpayers will be hit with the largest load at 50 per cent; Dollard, 35 per cent; Roxboro, eight per cent; Ste. Genevieve, five per cent; and Ile Bizard, two per cent.

The North Shore communities are now served by a plant which pumps nine million gallons of water daily to the area's 75,000 residents.

As a result, residents will be restricted on times they can water their lawns. Starting Tuesday home-owners living at odd-numbered addresses will be restricted to sprinkling Tuesday and Thursday and even numbers Wednesday and Friday between 7 and 11 p.m.

Watering on all other days is prohibited.

McDonald said the restrictions will stick until next April when the plant is scheduled to be in operation.

Pierrefonds has approved a resolution limiting water use and is waiting for neighboring customers to follow suit.

À Pierrefonds

Québec enquête sur les coûts de construction de l'usine de filtration

Les autorités de la Commission des Affaires municipales du Québec

vont lancer dès le début de la semaine une importante enquête sur le coût

de construction de la future usine du traitement des eaux dans la

municipalité de Pierrefonds, banlieue du sud-ouest de la ville de Montréal. Cette usine dont le coût original devait être de \$9 millions en coûtera maintenant plus de \$15 millions. Cette hausse s'est produite au cours d'une seule année.

Selon le maire de la ville, M. Cy McDonald, la Commission prendra connaissance de tous les documents relatifs à cette construction dont les contrats, la correspondance et autres articles. "C'est le conseil municipal, a-t-il déclaré en fin de semaine, qui a exigé une telle enquête. Nous voulons prouver aux citoyens et aux employés municipaux qu'il n'existe

aucun accroc dans l'attribution des contrats". Les enquêteurs provinciaux débuteront leur enquête en interrogeant les membres du comité exécutif de la ville.

Ce projet a attiré depuis quelque temps de vigoureuses protestations de la part des municipalités voisines qui ont été appelées à partager le coût de l'entreprise. Il s'agit des villes de Dollard, Roxboro, Sainte-Geneviève et l'Île Bizard. Pour sa part, M. Gérald, maire de la ville de Rollard, s'est dit un "client désenchanté". Il a exigé un rapport détaillé sur le coût du projet en réclamant l'arrêt immédiat d'octroi de nouveaux contrats. Il faut dire que lors de sa dernière réunion, le conseil municipal de Pierrefonds a voté la somme de \$500,000 pour l'octroi de divers contrats. Le maire McDonald a déclaré à ce sujet que les soumissions sont toujours "très basses". Le maire de Roxboro, M. William Boll, interrogé en fin de semaine, a déclaré que

toute cette histoire qui constitue selon lui une très grave erreur, réside dans le fait que la ville de Pierrefonds a voulu agir comme son "propre entrepreneur dans un projet complexe de plusieurs millions de dollars, au lieu d'avoir recours à un entrepreneur d'expérience dans ce genre de travaux". Il en est résulté que la hausse des coûts de la main-d'oeuvre et des matériaux a fait augmenter également le coût de la construction de la nouvelle usine. Et nous sommes à la merci de toutes les décisions prises par le conseil municipal de Pierrefonds. "Cette usine doit produire plus de 21 millions de gallons d'eau par jour. Les municipalités doivent se partager le coût de construction. La part des contribuables des municipalités a été fixée aux barèmes suivants: Pierrefonds, 50 pour cent, Dollard, 35 pour cent, Roxboro, 8 pour cent, Sainte-Geneviève, 5 pour cent, et l'Île Bizard, 2 pour cent.

Inquiry defuses outburst over bill for water plant

By BOB HAYES
of The Gazette

A \$15 million extension to Pierrefonds controversial water treatment plant has been given "a clean bill of health" by the Quebec Municipal Commission.

QMC officials were called in to probe the project last month following complaints from neighboring municipalities that costs had gone from \$9 million to \$15 million in little more than a year.

"The Commission sent in a team and checked every bylaw and tender and completed a step-by-step survey of every contract awarded," Mayor Cyril McDonald said yesterday.

'SUSPICIONS'

"The QMC had already approved the way contracts were awarded and every bylaw that was passed by council.

"Everything was found to be in order and I hope it has allayed the suspicions of those sharing in the cost of the development," the mayor told a news conference.

Pierrefonds will pay about 50 per cent of the total cost; Dollard des Ormeaux, 38 per cent and the balance will be shared by Roxboro, Ste. Genevieve and Ile Bizard.

TO SERVE 140,000

Pierrefonds' management committee, which has directed the plant's construction since February, 1974, met elected officials from the four contributing communities during the weekend and presented them with a complete financial breakdown on the project.



Gazette, Garth Pritchard

Pierrefonds city manager Gerard Le Page and Mayor Cyril McDonald on site of controversial water treatment plant.

The committee, composed of Councillor Jean Legault, city engineer Joachim Cloutier, manager Gerard Le Page and consulting engineers, said the plant is now "on schedule" and will be pumping 21 million gallons of water a day by next March.

The plant is now capable of providing 9.5 million gallons daily and can push through 12 million gallons during peak periods.

McDonald said Pierrefonds is now supplying water to 75,000 persons in the area and the new plant will have an eventual potential to serve a population of 140,000.

He said the plant's daily capacity will likely be increased to 42 million gallons a day within five years as a result of the West Island's residential and industrial growth.

The mayor noted that \$1.5 million of the total price will be spent on facilities required to double the project's pumping capacity "when the need arises."

NEW RESERVOIR

"If we didn't make these allowances now, we would have had to tear down walls and install new piping to boost the supply when it was needed," he said.

A 3.4 million gallon reservoir is now being built in Dollard and it is scheduled for completion in July.

In the meantime, Pierrefonds has set lawn watering restrictions and has called on its four municipal customers to follow the lead.

Home owners living at odd-numbered addresses will be restricted to sprinkling Tuesdays and Thursdays and even numbers Wednesdays and Fridays and only between 7 and 11 p.m.

He Bizard has agreed to go along with the ruling and Pierrefonds is waiting to hear from the others.

Suburban customers say estimates inaccurate

Pierrefonds hears complaints about water plant costs

By MARK DALY

Original 1973 estimates of \$4 million for expansion of the Pierrefonds water filtration plant must have been based on "totally inaccurate information," Dollard des Ormeaux Mayor Gerald Dephoure said last night.

Dollard, which buys Pierrefonds' water, must pay for almost 40 per cent of the capital and distribution costs of the project. Pierrefonds now estimates costs will be \$15 million.

Mr. Dephoure said his city council is studying a detailed breakdown of expenditures for the waterworks expansion program, provided by Pierrefonds this week following complaints by Dollard, Roxboro, Ste. Genevieve and Ile Bizard — all buyers of Pierrefonds' water — that costs have jumped unreasonably.

The project includes expansion of the filtration plant on Gouin Boulevard to produce 21 million gallons of water per day compared with nine million at present; addition of an ozone-treatment unit; and construction of a 4¼-million gallon reservoir.

The reservoir, located in Dollard, is completed and will be ready for use this summer. The water-treatment expansion work is under way.

Said Mr. Dephoure, "We are studying the cost breakdown, but one thing is evident, and that is that the Quebec Water Board approved estimates which must have been based on totally inaccurate information provided by Pierrefonds."

He indicated his council was skeptical of claims that the major reason for the jump in estimates was inflation.

Pierrefonds mayor Cyril McDonald says the cost breakdown was approved by the Quebec Municipal Commission — which had already approved the project step-by-step over the past few years — before it was presented to elected officials of the four suburbs this week.

Ile Bizard officials have indicated they are satisfied with Pierrefonds' explanations of cost increases. Roxboro and Ste. Genevieve spokesmen have not yet commented.

Increased costs were due to inflation, said Mr. McDonald, and to the Quebec government's insistence that capacity be raised to 21 million gallons daily rather than the originally planned 15 million gallons.

The city also spent an additional \$1.5 million to make the plant large enough to accommodate special equipment that will expand the plant's capacity to 42 million gallons within the next decade — double its present size. Now serving 75,000 people in five communities, Pierrefonds' plant will eventually be able to provide water for 140,000.

Although optimum output of the plant at present is supposed to be nine million gallons daily, however, recent expansion has forced production — even during non-peak winter months — to between 10 and 12 million gallons.

When the project is completed next March, engineers believe recipients of Pierrefonds' water will notice a "distinctly better taste" because of the ozone process, which kills bacteria by means of an electrical discharge and allows chlorine content to be reduced to the minimum required by law.

Homeowners will not have to endure chronic water shortages that have forced

Pierrefonds to restrict water use during peak summer months.

Restrictions are in effect this summer, however. In the five communities, residents of odd-numbered homes will be able to water lawns on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 7 and 11 p.m. and even numbered homes on Wednesdays and Fridays during the same hours.

Mayors McDonald and Dephoure both say Montreal Urban Community police have been instructed to enforce the watering regulations strictly.

Pierrefonds' four neighboring suburbs also complained about Pierrefonds' move to act as its own general contractor for the project instead of hiring a builder who would give out subcontracts.

Said Mr. McDonald "We went to contract for the reservoir, which was supposed to be ready long ago but is just now ready. By acting as our own contractor we called for tenders and

avoided unnecessary delays."

Consulting engineers Arsenault, Garneau, Villeneuve and Associates prepared the original estimate for the expansion in July, 1973 and estimated costs at \$4,455,000.

On Aug. 28, 1974, the estimate was revised to \$8.5 million and on Feb. 24 this year it was estimated again at \$15 million.

This week the same firm said in its cost breakdown and history of the project

that 39 requested major charges cost an extra \$3,095,000.

Inflation alone (including increased materials costs) accounted for an increase over the original estimate of \$4,420,000.

Water bylaw leaves residents confused

If you are a Pierrefonds homeowner whose tomato plants are thirsty, just wash your car in the middle of the garden.

Confused?

So were several Pierrefonds residents who attended a city council meeting last night to question a law passed last Thursday restricting water use in the municipality and four neighboring communities which buy Pierrefonds' water.

When it was passed last week, journalists after questioning city officials interpreted the bylaw as forbidding use of water for any outside purposes until further notice because the city fears a water shortage this summer.

Last night, after a confusing debate involving councillors, residents and journalists, no one seemed sure of when water could be used in Pierrefonds, or for what purpose.

The law was explained to residents — in what council admitted were vague terms — in a notice sent to every home. It is geared to eliminate wastage of water until a mammoth extension to the city's water filtration plant is completed next March.

No copy of the bylaw was produced last night but city manager Gerard Lepage tried to clear up the confusion saying that "the bylaw means using common sense."

There is no watering of lawns or any grounds," he added.

Journalists said they had been told this included watering gardens and washing cars.

Councillor Ken Mann took over, saying: "Speaking for myself, if you have a garden you should be able to water it. Also, we did not cut washing of cars or filling of pools.

"If you believe everything you read in the papers, you'll be in a real mess."

As reporters broke their pencils and grumbled, another councillor muttered: "the bylaw means no washing of cars and no watering gardens."

Mr. Mann, acting as pro-mayor in the absence of Mayor Cyril McDonald, abruptly closed the meeting as a ratepayer asked: "So you mean I can wash my car but not water my lawn? Your priorities seem confused."

Roxboro given water warning by Pierrefonds

By MARK DALY

Pierrefonds city council has given an ultimatum to neighboring Roxboro, which purchases water from Pierrefonds, demanding it outlaw watering of lawns for the remainder of the summer.

Fearful of a critical water shortage, Pierrefonds last Thursday ordered a halt to watering in its own municipality as well as in Roxboro, Ste. Genevieve, Dollard des Ormeaux and Ile Bizard, all of which buy the city's water.

All of the municipalities except Roxboro, immediately complied with the order, passing bylaws to restrict the use of water.

At a council meeting last night Roxboro gave notice-of-motion on such a bylaw but Pierrefonds council, which also met last night, indicated a notice-of-motion would not be acceptable.

Pierrefonds pro-mayor Ken Mann said: "Roxboro has a meeting tonight and they have until tonight to pass a law. Otherwise, Quebec will be asked to issue an ordinance."

Restrictions are expected to remain in effect until next March when an extension of the city's water treat-

ment plant is completed. The extension will boost capacity from nine million gallons daily to 21 million.

Dollard, Roxboro, Ile Bizard and Ste. Genevieve have already expressed dissatisfaction because estimates for expansion of the treatment plant — which a \$900,000 ozone treatment unit have jumped from \$4 million in 1973 to \$15 million.

The four municipalities must share capital and distribution costs with Pierrefonds.

Last night Pierrefonds authorized the purchase of a third ozonating unit at a cost of \$207,000. City manager Gerry Lepage said that when initial plans were drawn up it was thought that two would be sufficient.

New plant will cut water shortages

By ALAN ALLNUTT

After years of restrictions on the use of water in summer, residents of five West Island suburbs face a relatively "wet" summer this year.

A newly-enlarged water filtration plant in Pierrefonds can now deliver some 21 million gallons of water per day, compared to nine million gallons from the old plant.

Aside from Pierrefonds, Dollard, Roxboro, Ste. Genevieve and Ile Bizard use the filtration plant.

In recent years summer peak use of water meant extremely low pressure in the inter-municipal system and sometimes resulted in taps running dry.

Last year, Pierrefonds and the other municipalities banned the watering of lawns and strictly limited other uses of outdoor taps.

With the new system now operating at near peak capacity, the only restrictions placed on homeowners this year will be on the time of day watering can be done.

Each of the five municipalities is expected to pass resolutions allowing watering between 7 p.m. and midnight Monday through Saturday. Pierrefonds officials explained that Sunday watering would be forbidden to allow the system to fully replenish itself for the start of each new week.

Pierrefonds flood system work resumes

Crews are back on the job building Pierrefonds' flood protection system this week, following the lifting of a temporary injunction which halted work for two weeks.

The \$1.1 million project, which involves raising the level of Saraguay Boulevard in the city's east ward, was stopped when several waterfront residents applied for the injunction on the grounds that the loan bylaw funding the work had not been approved by Quebec.

The residents are unhappy with the plan because, they said, it would leave them unprotected in a flood, because they will be left on the water side of the higher street.

City manager Gerard Lepage said yesterday he had received final approval from both the Quebec Municipal Commission and the Ministry of Natural Resources last Friday and the injunction was lifted Monday.

"We had the men back at work as soon as possible Monday," he said, "because time is precious at this point."

Mr. Lepage said he was unsure if the street-raising would be completed before solid frost sets into the ground.

"It would be a waste of money to build the road if it will break up with frost," he said, "and it is supposed to act as a dike—too much frost would make it susceptible to water infiltration."

The residents opposed to the project have asked for a waterfront dike and pumping system which would protect them along with residents farther inland. But Pierrefonds and provincial officials rejected that course because of cost.

Such a system would cost about \$6 million, according to government estimates.

Mr. Lepage said yesterday the residents on both sides of Saraguay Boulevard would have driveways and front yards repaired by the city where the road is raised.

"If the people want to raise their houses up to the new street level we will contribute to it," said the city manager. But he was careful to stress the word "contribute."

The street level will be raised by as much as four feet, but Mr. Lepage said most of the street will go up between six and 18 inches.

Along with the street raising, Pierrefonds will install a large pumping station near its border with Roxboro, where the two municipalities' anti-flood networks will meet.

Pierrefonds had plans to install other systems in different parts of the city over the coming years at a total cost of about \$6.5 million.

But the eastern part of the city received priority treatment this year because it was hardest hit with flood waters last spring.

Sewage clean-up demanded

Pierrefonds city council continued pressing the MUC and the province to "take whatever action is necessary" to clean up raw sewage in L'Anse a L'Orme last night with a resolution to both levels of government.

Neighboring Kirkland has been dumping largely untreated sewage into L'Anse a L'Orme Creek — which flows into Riviere des Prairies in Pierrefonds West, fouling a natural beach and the shoreline.

An environment department official has visited the city to check on the situation but has proposed no solutions. Pierrefonds wants the effluent diverted through pipes from Kirkland to a point downstream in Riviere des Prairies.

Original MUC plans would have directed the sewage into its "southern collector" sewer, but construction of that main has been delayed for at least three years.

DOSSIER

L'usine de filtration
de Pierrefonds



Municipalité 78 / Mai 1978

L'usine de filtration de Pierrefonds

Une réalité régionale

«La croissance prévue d'ici 1986 imposera une augmentation de la capacité de production d'eau dans toutes les agglomérations. La relative rareté des sources d'approvisionnement et la politique de régionalisation imposeront un renforcement des réseaux intermunicipaux. Les villes pourvoyeuses d'eau, pour satisfaire leurs besoins et ceux des municipalités qu'elles desservent, devront augmenter la capacité de leur usine de filtration et des conduites, à cause des changements d'échelle et de l'intégration des réseaux».¹

Ces considérations sont extraites du dossier sur «L'urbanisation dans la conurbation montréalaise», publié en avril 1977 par le ministère des Affaires municipales du Québec. Cette analyse se présente avant tout comme «un document préliminaire diffusé pour fins de consultations».² Après une revue de la situation présente, ce dossier établit une prospective de la conurbation en 1986 selon les tendances actuelles. C'est de ce regard sur l'avenir, portant entre autres choses sur l'alimentation en eau potable, que pourrait sans doute s'inspirer l'usine de filtration régionale de Pierrefonds, si sa réalisation terminée en 1976 n'avait déjà prouvé que les municipalités qu'elle alimente ont démontré, dans les circonstances, un certain avant-gardisme. Pierrefonds ne représente qu'une petite partie de la conurbation montréalaise. Elle se félicite cependant d'avoir donné pour ainsi dire le ton à ce qui devrait ou pourrait être fait, d'ici 1986, pour régler les problèmes d'alimentation en eau dans cette partie du Québec.

Le réseau régional

L'inauguration de l'usine de filtration régionale de Pierrefonds, le 22 octobre 1976, mettrait fin à huit années de requêtes, d'études et de travaux. Dès 1968, en effet, les difficultés d'alimentation en eau potable pour les cinq municipalités desservies par l'usine alors existante devenaient telles que Pierrefonds devait imposer de sévères restrictions à la consommation d'eau potable par les populations des membres du réseau. Cette partie du secteur ouest de l'île de Montréal comprend les municipalités de Pierrefonds, Dollard-des-Ormeaux, Roxboro, Saint-Raphaël-de-l'Île-Bizard et Sainte-Geneviève, formant ensemble la circonscription électorale Robert Baldwin.

Durant les années 60, elle avait connu un taux de croissance démographique assez rapide, dont la moyenne a dû se situer alors aux environs de 35 pour cent. Pour illustrer ce phénomène d'explosion, retenons que Pierrefonds, la plus peuplée des cinq municipalités ne comptait en 1960 que 13 000 habitants. Dix ans plus tard, le chiffre de sa population s'élevait à 32 000, pour connaître par la suite un rythme de progression beaucoup plus lent.

La carte du territoire de la Communauté urbaine de Montréal indique bien la position géographique des cinq membres du réseau régional, à l'extrémité nord-ouest de l'île de Montréal, dont l'île Bizard, séparée de cette dernière par la rivière des Prairies. La superficie de ces municipalités représente 13,5% de celle de tout le territoire de la CUM. Deux des cinq municipalités, soit Pierrefonds et Dollard-des-Ormeaux, ont une population presque égale d'environ 36 000 âmes; Roxboro en compte 8 000 et les deux autres ne dépassent guère les 3 000 habitants. Ces populations ne forment donc ensemble que 4,5% de la population globale de la CUM qui se chiffre par plus de deux millions. La ville de Roxboro est la seule dont la densité de population, 9 375, se rapproche de celle de la CUM, 10 540.³ C'est dire que les villes de Pierrefonds et Dollard-des-Ormeaux, avec leur densité respective de 3 735 et 5 894, sont fort susceptibles de voir croître encore leur population. Dans ces circonstances, on peut s'expliquer les préoccupations du ministère des Affaires municipales, face à la probabilité de croissance démographique d'ici 1986, dont fait état «L'Urbanisation dans la conurbation montréalaise». On pourra aussi mieux saisir les prévisions retenues par les concepteurs de l'usine de filtration régionale de Pierrefonds, dont la capacité de production peut éventuellement être doublée.

L'historique de l'usine

Le cheminement qu'a connu, au cours des ans, le réseau régional d'alimentation en eau potable de Pierrefonds s'inspire en réalité de la logique. Toutes les composantes du réseau sont en effet issues de la paroisse de Sainte-Geneviève, fondée en 1741, et dont le territoire comprenait alors également celui de l'Île Bizard.

Cette partie de l'île de Montréal, dont l'histoire est encore relativement peu connue mais dont on dit qu'elle constituait dès 1700 un point stratégique sur la route des pelleteries, se morcellera avec les décennies. En 1845, l'île Bizard se sépare et est constituée en paroisse autonome. En 1860, à même la paroisse, se crée un village qui porte lui aussi le nom de Sainte-Geneviève. Au début du siècle suivant, soit en 1904, ce dernier village se scinde à son tour en deux nouvelles entités: le village de Sainte-Geneviève, c'est-à-dire du nom déjà existant, et le village de Sainte-Geneviève-de-Pierrefonds. Le nom de Pierrefonds apparaît pour la première fois. Dix ans et vingt ans plus tard, donc en 1914 et en 1924, la vieille paroisse Sainte-Geneviève perd deux autres parties de son territoire qui deviendront les villes de Roxboro et Dollard-des-Ormeaux. Une autre étape de la transformation de ce territoire a voulu qu'en 1935 les deux villages de Sainte-Geneviève et de Sainte-Geneviève-de-Pierrefonds, nés en 1904, refassent leur unité et redeviennent le village de Sainte-Geneviève, tout court, sans Pierrefonds. Le nom de Pierrefonds ne sera réutilisé qu'en 1958 pour être attribué à ce qui reste de l'ancienne paroisse Sainte-Geneviève. Sa population n'est alors que de 6 000 habitants. Aujourd'hui, vingt-ans plus tard, elle approche 36 000. Finalement, le village de Sainte-Geneviève se transforma en ville, en 1959, tout en conservant le même nom.

Le territoire desservi par l'usine de filtration régionale de Pierrefonds est donc historiquement et rationnellement naturel. Rien de surprenant qu'avec le temps, passée l'ère des puits et des petits aqueducs locaux, on en soit venu à planifier un réseau intégré d'alimentation en eau potable. Déjà en 1961, Pierrefonds, qui avait sa propre usine de filtration, vendait l'eau à compteur à ses consœurs du nord-ouest de l'île de Montréal. Les effets de la croissance précipitée de la population se faisant sentir rapidement, Pierrefonds procéda en 1965 à l'agrandissement de son usine, au coût de plusieurs millions de dollars. Les besoins en consommation d'eau potable ne faisant à leur tour qu'augmenter, les résidants de cette agglomération régionale se virent imposer des restrictions. Un problème avait surgi qu'il fallait régler, une fois pour toutes, par une prise de conscience régionale devant présider à la naissance d'une oeuvre durable: l'usine de filtration régionale de Pierrefonds.

Les discussions, les études, la publication de rapports par des maisons d'ingénieurs-conseils et les ordonnances gouvernementales commencèrent à s'enchaîner à compter de 1968, au moment où les composantes du futur réseau subirent leurs premières restrictions à la consommation d'eau potable. Plusieurs solutions furent mises de l'avant, dont une de la Communauté urbaine de Montréal, formée en décembre 1969, suggérant la construction de réservoirs d'emmagasinage à Pierrefonds et à Pointe-Claire, tel que devait d'ailleurs le recommander en 1972 un rapport d'experts commandé par la CUM elle-même. Aucune des solutions proposées ne rencontrait cependant l'objectif majeur de l'administration municipale de Pierrefonds qui continuait à réclamer, comme seule solution logique, l'agrandissement de l'usine existante, surtout en vue du développement assez rapide de la région. Pierrefonds remporta une première manche lorsque l'ordonnance no 4 du ministère de l'Environnement, datée du 9 mars 1973, chargea la ville de confectionner plans et devis en vue de l'agrandissement de l'usine de filtration, avec une capacité de production de neuf à quinze millions de gallons/jour et de confectionner également plans et devis en vue de la construction d'un réservoir d'emmagasinage d'une capacité de 3,4 millions de gallons. Le mois suivant, la municipalité et le ministère convenaient, en principe, que la capacité nominale de l'usine serait portée à 21 millions de gallons/jour. Le 14 juin 1973, Pierrefonds reçut une nouvelle ordonnance du ministère de l'Environnement à l'effet de procéder comme suit:

1. Exécuter les travaux de réaménagement à la station de surpression de la Montée Saint-Charles;
2. Préparer plans et devis pour raccorder l'usine agrandie et le nouveau réservoir au réseau d'aqueduc existant de Pierrefonds;
3. Soumettre lesdits plans et devis pour autorisation de réaliser les travaux;
4. Exécuter ces travaux promptement.

Profil de fonctionnement de l'usine de filtration régionale de Pierrefonds

Caractéristiques de l'usine

Prise d'eau:	élévation 57'0"	Bassin d'ozonisation (2):	98' × 47' × 8' (h ₂ O) (74 000 pi. cu./460 000 gallons)
Rivière:	haut niveau 78'0" bas niveau 68'6"	Conduites principales d'alimentation des villes:	deux, dont l'une est de 30" et l'autre de 20", pour une longueur totale de 100 000 pieds de conduite maîtresse.
Eau brute:	diamètre de la conduite 36" longueur de la conduite 1 000' entonnoir 20' × 5'	Superficie de l'usine (2 niveaux):	3,25 acres
Bassins de pompage (2) Eau brute (seulement):	niveau moyen 15' surface 16' × 10'6" (5 000 pi. cu./31 000 gallons)		
Décanteurs:	nouveau 92' × 100' × 17' (h ₂ O) ancien 86' × 102' × 17' (h ₂ O) (306 000 pi. cu./1 900 000 gal.)		

Prise d'eau:
installée sur le lit de la rivière, celle-ci recueille l'eau brute.

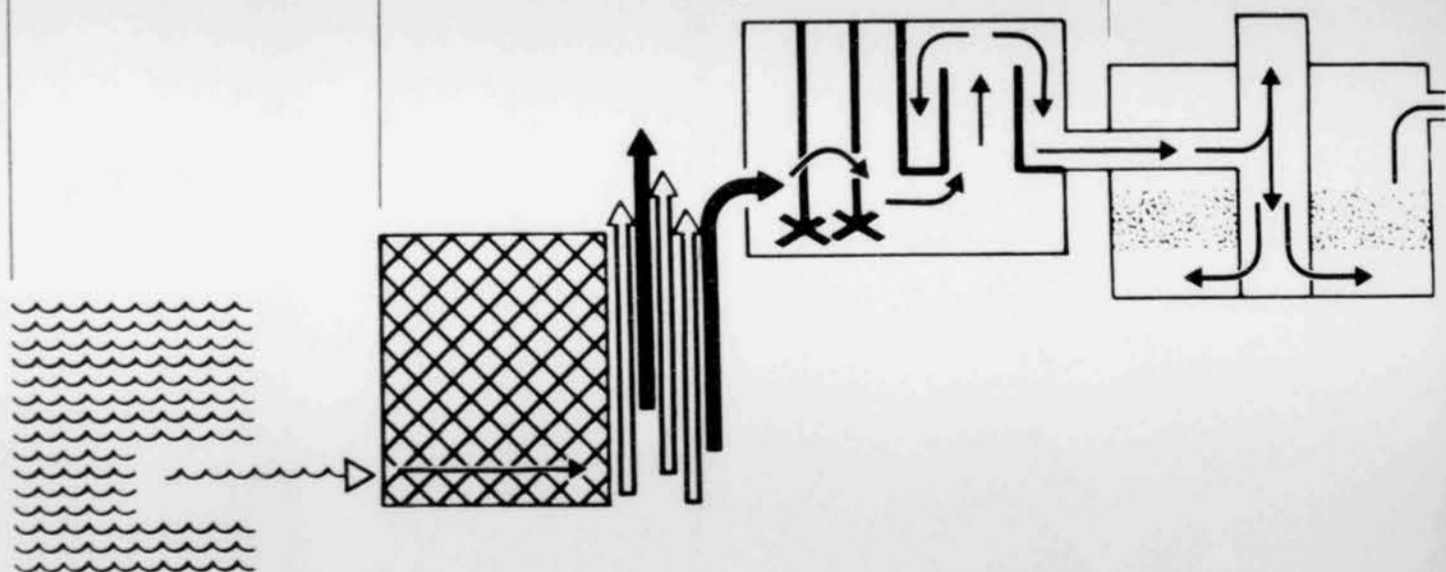
Conduite d'amenée:
d'une longueur d'environ 1 100 pieds cette conduite alimente l'usine.

Dégrillage mécanique:
grilles servant à retenir les algues, les poissons et les éléments indésirables de ce genre.

Poste de pompage d'eau brute.

Chambre de mélange:
des produits chimiques tels le chlore et l'alun sont ajoutés et mélangés à l'eau pour la désinfecter et favoriser l'agglomération des particules.

Décantation:
bassin où les particules se déposent et sont retirées de l'eau.

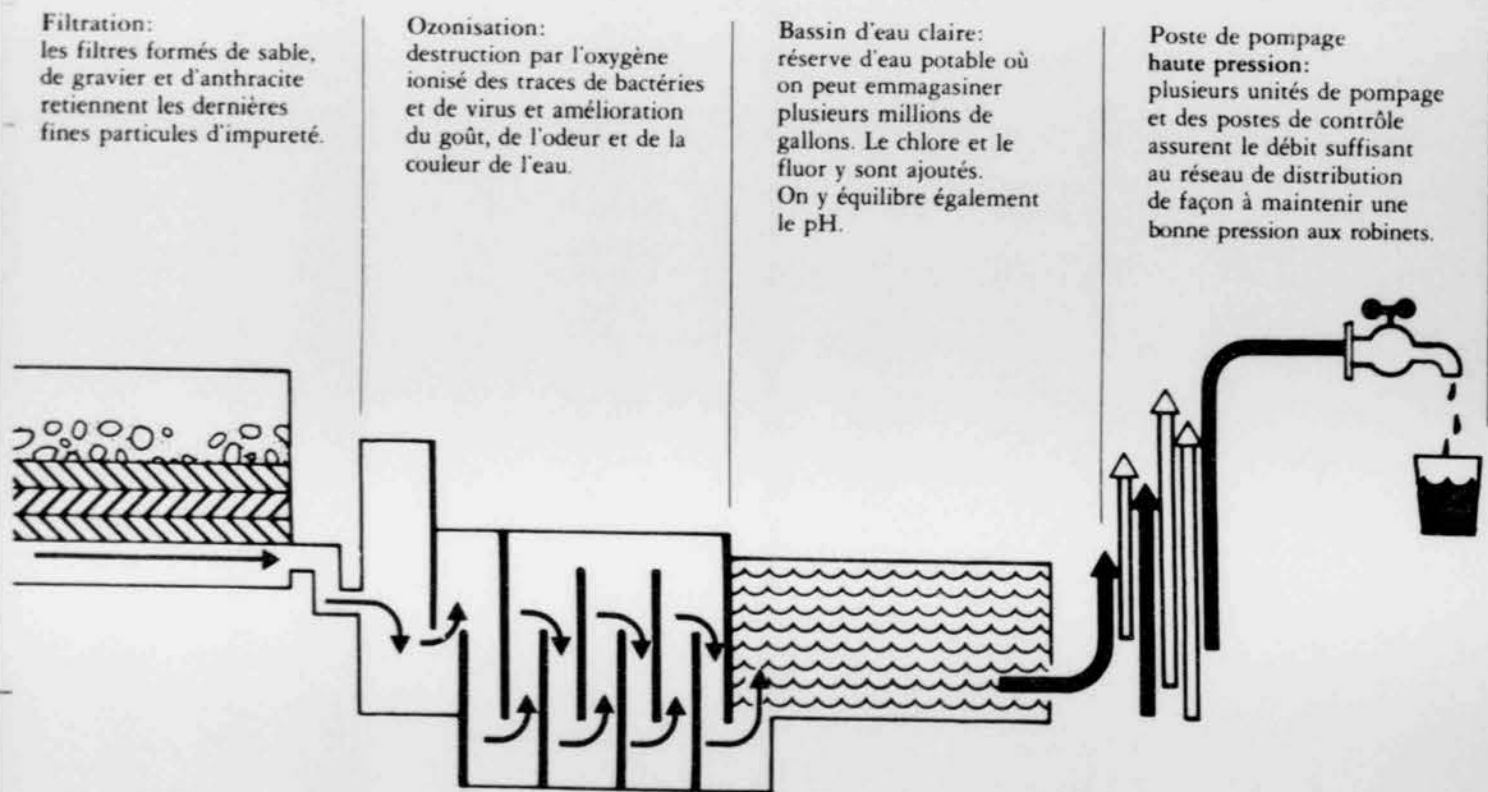


Capacité des réserves d'eau

Réserve d'eau à l'usine	3 000 000 gallons impériaux
Réserve du réseau	2 000 000 gallons impériaux (avec deux surpresseurs de 50 HP 1 000 gallons par minute chacun pour partie élevée du réseau)

Réserve sous-terrainne	3 400 000 gallons impériaux (avec pompage de 5 000 gallons par minute pour partie du réseau éloignée de l'usine)
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Réserve totale	8 400 000 gallons impériaux pour une production journalière possible de 21 000 000 gallons impériaux.
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L'action de Pierrefonds suivit son cours. Une troisième ordonnance du ministère de l'Environnement devait cependant commencer à donner au projet sa véritable image régionale. Cette ordonnance, datée du 4 octobre 1973, décrétait en effet:

1. L'utilisation en commun avec les villes clientes des ouvrages existants classifiés comme régionaux;
2. L'utilisation en commun des nouveaux ouvrages;
3. La tenue d'une comptabilité et d'un budget séparés;
4. Un réajustement à la note d'achat d'eau comme suit:
 - a) coûts de capital et intérêts partagés entre toutes les villes, suivant une base d'évaluation des immeubles desservis;
 - f) frais d'exploitation partagés suivant la consommation réelle de chaque municipalité;
5. Surveillance des dépenses relatives aux ouvrages décrétés «régionaux» par un comité sur lequel siègera un représentant de chaque municipalité desservie;
6. Approbation nécessaire par le directeur du Service de protection de l'environnement pour tous nouveaux travaux de plus de \$10 000.

Le caractère régional de l'entreprise s'amplifia lorsque les villes clientes contestèrent à Pierrefonds, à la suite de la dernière ordonnance ministérielle, le droit de procéder seule à l'agrandissement de l'usine de filtration et à la construction d'un réservoir. On procéda alors à la formation d'un comité de gérance pour l'exécution des travaux, qui réunissait les ingénieurs et les gérants des deux plus importantes municipalités du réseau, Pierrefonds

et Dollard-des-Ormeaux. Des travaux de toutes sortes se poursuivirent: plans de détails, règlement d'emprunt, engagement d'un architecte, etc., jusqu'à ce qu'une nouvelle ordonnance ministérielle confirme la décision de principe de porter la capacité de l'usine à 21 millions de gallons/jour. Pour des raisons d'économie et de convenance, le comité de gérance décide, alors, d'éliminer la construction par phases, initialement prévue, et d'exécuter les travaux au complet. Une dernière ordonnance du ministère de l'Environnement vint, plus tard, préciser que le rôle du comité de surveillance prévue par l'ordonnance d'octobre 1973 se limiterait à la surveillance des dépenses relatives à l'exploitation et au fonctionnement des ouvrages et conduites dont l'utilisation serait en commun, les travaux d'agrandissement de l'usine et la construction des réservoirs échappant ainsi, au comité de surveillance. On décida ensuite de munir la basse pression de quatre nouvelles pompes et d'ajouter une pompe de lavage neuve; on fit accepter à la CUM l'éventuel déversement des eaux usées dans le collecteur projeté par la communauté; on revisa enfin de \$8,5 millions à \$15 millions l'estimation du coût total des travaux, incluant honoraires, frais divers et financement. Pierrefonds et les autres villes du réseau n'avaient plus qu'à attendre le parachèvement des travaux, pour devenir co-propriétaires d'une des usines de filtration la plus à la fine pointe de la technologie, au Québec.

Qualité, quantité, coût du produit

Mise en état de fonctionnement en 1976, l'usine de filtration régionale de Pierrefonds semble avoir atteint son but: alimenter sans problème en eau potable de qualité («une eau dont le goût fait envie», disait M. Joachim Cloutier, ingénieur de la ville), la population de Pierrefonds, Dollard-des-Ormeaux, Roxboro, Saint-Raphaël-de-l'île-Bizard et Sainte-Geneviève. Pour réaliser cet idéal, les responsables du projet ont eu recours à tous les développements technologiques connus qui pouvaient en faire une égale de la nouvelle usine Desbaillets, de la CUM. L'eau subit une constante vérification de qualité en laboratoire. Chaque étape du processus de traitement et de distribution y est régie par une unité de contrôle automatique. Quant à sa capacité réelle de production, l'usine peut fournir jusqu'à 21 millions de gallons impériaux par jour et elle offre la possibilité de doubler sa capacité actuelle, lorsque les besoins et les circonstances l'y obligeront. L'ingénieur Joachim Cloutier nous a révélé que, l'an dernier, durant une semaine marquée d'une très forte sécheresse, l'usine de Pierrefonds a filtré jusqu'à 19 millions de gallons par jour, soit presque la limite de la capacité théorique de l'usine. Il n'est pas impensable, croit-il, que sous certaines conditions favorables, l'usine puisse même filtrer un gallonage excédant cette capacité théorique.

Construite sans aucun octroi ou subvention, ainsi que le confirmait M. Joachim Cloutier, l'usine demeure donc une réalisation entièrement régionale, financée par les seules cinq municipalités membres du réseau. L'ordonnance ministérielle d'octobre 1973 stipulait d'ailleurs, tel que déjà mentionné, l'obligation de tenir une comptabilité et un budget séparés, le partage des coûts de capital et d'intérêts suivant une base d'évaluation des immeubles desservis, ainsi que le partage des frais d'exploitation, suivant la consommation réelle de chaque municipalité.

Pour l'année 1977, le paiement de la dette s'est ainsi effectué sur une base de 0,38 cents du \$100 d'évaluation, tandis que les frais d'exploitation atteignaient 0,73 cents du 1 000 gallons d'eau potable. L'usine est présentement administrée par la municipalité de Pierrefonds, avec le concours, au niveau de la supervision, d'un comité intermunicipal composé de représentants des cinq entités municipales.

1. L'urbanisation dans la conurbation montréalaise, page 55.

2. Ibid. dans Avertissement.

3. Répertoire des municipalités 1975.

West Island's water systems fail to pass latest quality tests

Residents of five West Island communities will have to continue boiling their drinking water at least until tomorrow, a Quebec Environment Protection Service official said yesterday.

Gilles Chevrier said nine of 26 water samples taken Monday at various points in the water system supplied by the Pierrefonds filtration plant still show coliform bacteria contamination.

"We will be taking more samples for testing Thursday (today) and the results should be available Friday afternoon," he said. "Until that time we are asking the municipalities to continue boiling their water."

Since contamination was first discovered last Friday, about 40,000 residents of Pierrefonds, Dollard des Ormeaux, Roxboro, Ste. Genevieve and Ile Bizard have been under orders to boil their drinking water at least 20 minutes before consuming it.

West Island hospitals and clinics have received numerous calls from people complaining of stomach ailments during the last five days and some shoppers have been adding bottled water to their grocery lists.

Chevrier said the nine contaminated samples were from the Dollard des Ormeaux and Roxboro sections of the 300 miles of pipe carrying Pierrefonds plant water.

"This is near the end of the system," he said. "While it's difficult to say at this point precisely what the problem is, what can happen in hot weather with high consumer demand is a very low concentration of disinfectant chlorine by the time the water reaches the end of the line and a resulting growth of bacteria in the pipes."

While contamination appeared to be localized in two sections, Chevrier said everybody on the system should continue boiling water.

"We don't want to take any chances," he said.

Chevrier said that with continued flushing of the system now being carried out by the Pierrefonds plant the problem might already be cleared up but no one can be sure until tomorrow.

Pierrefonds Mayor Cy McDonald said the flushing involves increasing the chlorine content from the normal one part per million to four parts per million, increasing the water pressure to make sure a full volume of water reaches even the most remote parts of the system and opening fire hydrants so the circulated water is flushed out.

"We're also adding another three parts per million of chlorine at a reservoir about midway through the system to make sure the concentration is not too dilute by the time it reaches the end of the line," he said.

Boiling water taken from the system removes the chlorine so there is no danger to the public from the increased dosage as long as they follow boiling orders.

The Pierrefonds filtration plant, completed in 1975 and one of the most advanced in the province, uses the ultra-modern odorless ozone process to disinfect its water. A small amount of residual chlorine is added to ensure that the water remains potable no matter what contaminants it meets as it courses through the system.

McDonald said that in future a higher dosage of chlorine will have to be added in peak summer months and some way will have to be found to cool the water from the warm, bacteria-en-

couraging 26 degrees it reaches in the summer.

Pierrefonds will also ask the other four municipalities on the system to allow it to take charge of more frequent flushings of the system to clean out any bacteria which may be forming.

In the past, some municipalities flushed their sections of the system twice a year like Pierrefonds and some did not.

"We're also taking our own samples for analysis to a private laboratory," McDonald said.

"It's not that we don't trust the provincial tests, but there seems to be some discussion among chemists about the methods used."

Québec et la CUM ont signé un protocole d'entente

PAR MARCEL CHOUINARD

Le gouvernement du Québec et la Communauté urbaine de Montréal ont convenu d'entreprendre la dépollution du ruisseau et de la baie de l'Anse à l'Orme, dans le secteur ouest de l'île de Montréal.

Lorsqu'il aura été approuvé par les membres du conseil de la Communauté lors de leur réunion qui aura lieu mercredi, un protocole d'entente sera signé entre la CUM et le ministre délégué à l'Environnement, M. Marcel Léger. Les travaux de dépollution pourront alors commencer.

Avant d'en arriver à assainir ce ruisseau, ce qui n'est pas prévu avant le milieu de l'année 1981, la CUM devra entreprendre la réalisation d'ouvrages importants dont le coût avoisinera les \$20 millions.

L'intercepteur Nord qui arrête actuellement à la hauteur du pont de l'île Bizard devra être prolongé encore plus à l'ouest au coût de \$14 millions. Percé en tunnel, cet intercepteur captera toutes les eaux usées du versant Nord de l'île de Montréal pour les acheminer vers l'usine de traitement actuellement en construction dans le quartier Rivière-des-Prairies, à l'extrémité Est de l'île de Montréal.

Parallèlement aux travaux de prolongement de l'intercepteur, on procédera à l'installation d'une conduite gravitaire de 66 pouces de diamètre qui reliera l'usine d'épuration existante de Kirkland à l'extrémité de l'intercepteur prolongé. Le coût, pour cette tranche des travaux, est estimé à \$4,8 millions.

Rappelons qu'au cours des dernières années, la pollution du ruisseau de l'Anse à l'Orme a suscité de nombreuses représentations sous forme de résolutions, requêtes, pétitions et démarches faites à la Communauté et à divers organismes provinciaux par les conseils des municipalités de Pierrefonds, Senneville et Kirkland de même que par les citoyens de ces municipalités.

PROGRAMME D'EPURATION

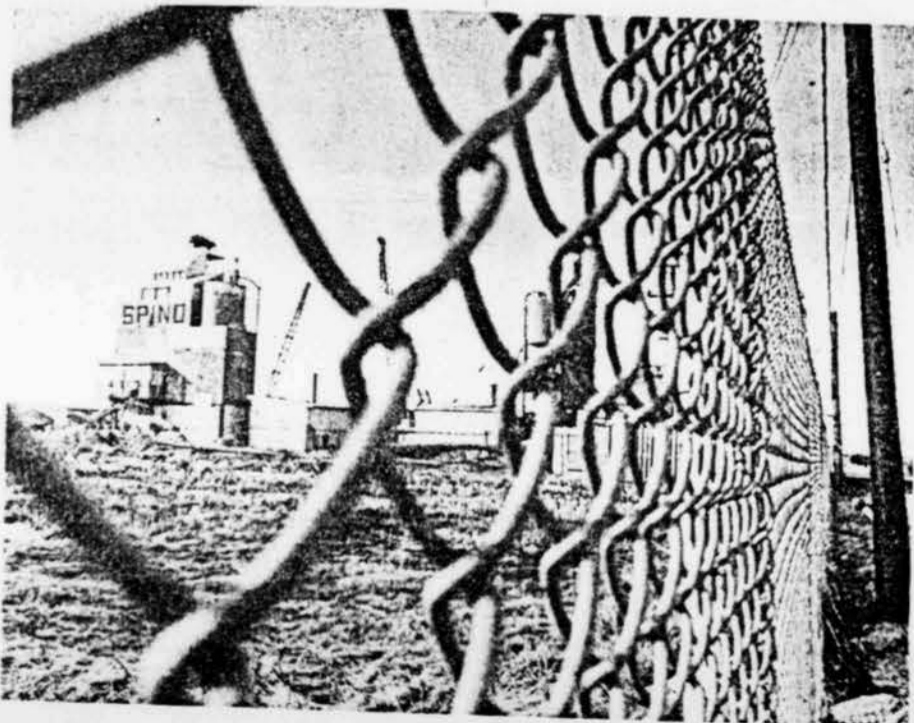
A cette même assemblée du conseil, le service d'assainissement des eaux de la Communauté déposera son 24^{ème} rapport d'étape dans lequel il est fait état du progrès des études et des travaux d'épuration.

Le forage et le bétonnage de l'intercepteur nord qui s'étire sous terre depuis le prolongement du pont de l'île Bizard jusqu'à l'extrémité Est de l'île de Montréal, en suivant le pourtour de la rive Sud de la Rivière-des-Prairies sont maintenant complétés. C'est dans ce tunnel, aux dimensions imposantes, que seront éventuellement déversées les eaux usées du versant nord de l'île de Montréal pour être acheminées vers l'usine d'épuration où se déroulent actuellement le gros des travaux dans le cadre de ce programme.

L'appel d'offres pour la construction de la station de pompage, de la centrale d'énergie et d'autres structures connexes de l'usine d'épuration se poursuit. Une centaine de copies des plans et des devis ont été vendus jusqu'à maintenant et l'ouverture des soumissions pour ces travaux est prévue pour le 29 mai.

La construction de l'émissaire, cet ouvrage percé en tunnel dans lequel seront déversées les eaux traitées à l'usine pour les acheminer jusqu'à leur lieu de déversement dans le fleuve Saint-Laurent, va bon train. Le creusage de cet émissaire, d'une longueur de 4,7 km, est quasi terminé. Reste maintenant à le bétonner.

Rappelons que l'entrée en service de cette usine, probablement en 1981, permettra d'assainir la Rivière-des-Prairies.



(Photo R. Leblanc)

Derrière cette clôture, un chantier important dans lequel la Communauté urbaine, le gouvernement du Québec et celui d'Ottawa ont dépensé jusqu'à maintenant \$229 millions.

MUC to vote on extension of pipeline

By ROBERT DYKSTRA

Pollution problems affecting L'Anse à L'Orme Creek and L'Anse à L'Orme Bay on the west end of Montreal Island will be cleared up if a proposed \$20-million extension to the Montreal Urban Community sewage system is approved.

The MUC council is expected to give the project the go-ahead tomorrow.

The plan involves extending the island's northern sewage collector pipe west about four kilometres at a cost of \$14 million. The pipe now ends at St. John's Road in Pierrefonds.

The second part of the project involves linking the collector with pipes from the community of Kirkland — the major polluter of L'Anse à L'Orme Creek — at a cost of \$4.8 million.

The entire project is scheduled to be completed by June, 1981.

The extensions have already been approved by the provincial government and the MUC's executive committee.

L'Anse à L'Orme Creek runs through the municipalities of Kirkland and Pierrefonds, emptying into L'Anse à L'Orme Bay, part of Lake of Two Mountains.

The pollution problem has long been a sore spot, especially with Pierrefonds residents, who object to the fouling of the lake's shoreline and the banks of the Rivière-des-Prairies by untreated effluent.

Kirkland's sewage treatment plant is now working at 300 per cent capacity, according to local officials, forcing the overflow to be dumped into the creek.

Kirkland Mayor Sam Elkas says the problem was prolonged because the municipality was originally supposed to be hooked into the planned southern interceptor — the second phase of the MUC's massive \$1.2 billion sewage treatment project — which was to run from the western tip of Montreal Island, along Lake St. Louis and the St. Lawrence River, to the east-end water purification plant.

In 1977, the province ordered a moratorium on the construction of the southern interceptor and later gave several other areas priority for clean-up — including L'Anse à L'Orme Creek.

Kirkland and its neighbors, Pierrefonds and Senneville, have, for a number of years, pressured both the MUC and the province to come up with a solution to the problem.

The MUC executive committee will also seek tomorrow approval for \$20 million worth of modifications to the eastern section of the collector system and a further \$200,000 for sewage inspections — 90 per cent of which will be paid for by the province.

About \$433 million has so far been spent on the MUC sewage project, which is expected to cost a total of \$1.2 billion by the time it is completed.

In 1971, the cost of the project was estimated at \$450 million.

Pierrefonds official sure water's pure — but keep boiling it, anyway

By **WALTER BUCHIGNANI**
of **The Gazette**

About 100,000 West Island residents have been boiling their drinking water since Saturday — and at least one Pierrefonds official believes they are wasting their time.

Pierrefonds city manager Gérard Le Page said yesterday he is convinced last week's tests indicating that water was unfit for drinking were inaccurate.

"We're positive it's a wrong sample," Le Page said, a half-empty glass of water sitting on his desk.

"I'm not boiling my water."

Nevertheless, residents are advised to keep boiling their water until new results are available, maybe by tomorrow, Le Page said.

Pierrefonds's water-filtration plant on Rivière des Prairies also serves Dollard des Ormeaux, Rox-

boro, Ste. Geneviève, Ile Bizard and part of Kirkland.

One sample out of 24 taken last week found fecal coliform bacteria levels slightly higher than the provincial government's acceptable maximum — 11 instead of 10 per 100 millilitres of water.

High bacteria levels cause cramps, diarrhea and infections.

Le Page guessed the analyst sampling the water might have used contaminated measuring devices. He said Pierrefonds has not failed its weekly tests since 1978.

Charles Rouleau, president of An-

alex Inc., the company that takes water samples for Pierrefonds, acknowledged the sampling might have been wrong.

"I'm not saying an error was made, but human error is possible in everything. These are types of analysis where human error is possible."

Water safe: tests

Residents of six West Island communities can stop boiling their drinking water after three consecutive tests of the Pierrefonds water filtration system showed it is not contaminated.

About 100,000 residents of Pierrefonds, Dollard des Ormeaux, Roxboro, Ste. Geneviève, Ile Bizard and Kirkland were advised Sept. 19 to boil their water after a testing lab reported a routine sample showed levels of fecal coliform bacteria slightly higher than the provincial government's acceptable limit.

City manager Gerry LePage said the warning to boil water was a precaution and there was no danger.