

March 2007

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# APAW



# APBA

[www.apaw.ca](http://www.apaw.ca)

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## L'équipe de l'APBA The APAW team

Stephen Lloyd  
 Emilie Benoit  
 Liam Dixon  
 Micheline Dufresne  
 Marie-Josée Gendron Jozien  
 Vet  
 Jon Williams

## SHINING LIGHT ON THE SUNRISE PROJECT

Bravo to the APAW members who stood up for our Angell Woods and succeeded in saving another little piece of it! On February 9, 2007, the saga that is the Sunrise Project finally came to a close, from a green space protection point of view. While the Project ultimately will go ahead, our Association should be proud of the leadership role that we took in the community discussions surrounding the development.

You will recall that, in May of last year, the City began the approval process for construction of a 195 unit senior living residence to be operated by an American multinational. When word of the project approval process began to trickle out, APAW raised concerns about its location. The project was slated for a valuable buffer area immediately to the east of Angell Woods, adjacent to the site of Angell Woods Appreciation Day, near the Woodland level crossing. The actual lot had been designated in the Conservation Partnership Agreement signed in 2004 between APAW and the land-owner as an area where the parties agreed to cooperate proactively to find conservation solutions.

We sent out a call to our members to voice your thoughts, and the results were overwhelming! Many, many of our members wrote to Council and attended and spoke out at a June public consultation on the Project. Speaking out publicly in favour of consideration of green space vs. "piecemeal development" took some courage. Many criticized our position as being unrealistic, obstructionist and just plain "anti-senior". In fact, all the pro-Angell Woods sentiment was respectfully put forward, often most powerfully by "seniors" themselves!

As a result of the momentum generated at the June public consultation, local citizens even succeeded in the Fall in temporarily holding up the zoning change required for the Project. It was a very tense time, but to their credit, most of the players involved distinguished themselves by their respectful discourse and openness to community concerns. In fact, both the current land-owner and the future operator of the Project took the time to meet and discuss meaningfully with APAW representatives and other concerned citizens over a period of several months.

In the end, the Sunrise Project will go ahead pretty much as originally advertised. It will however be a two phase project, with the first phase taking up the least environmentally sensitive lands. As well, the operators of the project now have a much better appreciation of their new neighbours and of the values they hold dear!

Most importantly, effective February 9, the last hurdle was cleared to allow for some of the lands surrounding the project to be zoned park. These lands include the parking lot area at the entrance to Angell Woods as well as a narrow buffer zone currently owned by the City and lying between the Project and the Sidney-Cunningham residents to the east of it.

Last but not least, the famous "Luger Triangle" (the old 18th hole of the Fresh Meadows Golf Course, where many dog walkers meet and greet on their way into the Woods), which was actually deeded to the City way back in 1991 on condition that it always remain a park for its residents, will finally be zoned park in its entirety.

Congratulations and thanks, APAW members, for your passion and commitment to your community and what makes it great. We cannot win 'em all, but we can clearly hold our heads high on this one. On to the next!

**Stephen Lloyd, President**

## Nos Anges Gardiens Our Guardian Angells

John Ciaccia-Co-Chair  
 Brian McManus-Co-Chair  
 Dr. Rea Brown  
 Michael Christodoulou  
 Marie-Hélène Gauthier  
 Tom Grainger  
 Paul Jussaume  
 Janice Murray  
 Paul Normandin  
 Patrick Palerme  
 Michael Soles  
 Hon. Pierre H. Vincent

## Special messages Messages spéciaux

APAW-APBA  
 a un nouveau courriel,  
[angellwoods@yahoo.ca](mailto:angellwoods@yahoo.ca)  
 Si vous souhaitez recevoir de nos nouvelles par courriel, veuillez remplir le formulaire ci-joint et nous l'envoyer. Nous procédons à un réajustement de notre liste de membres.

Vous êtes invités à nous envoyer photos et articles à propos du Bois Angell pour notre prochaine édition.

# Annual General Meeting/Assemblée Générale Annuelle

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You are cordially invited to the Annual General Meeting of the  
**Association for the Protection of Angell Woods**  
**Monday, March 19th, 7:30 – 9:30 pm**  
Centennial Hall  
88 Beaconsfield Blvd, Beaconsfield

Vous êtes cordialement invités à l'Assemblée Générale Annuelle de  
**l'Association pour la protection du Bois Angell**  
**Lundi, le 19 mars, 19h30 à 21h30**  
Édifice Centennial  
288, Boul. Beaconsfield, Beaconsfield

Three positions on the executive committee are up for re-election. If you are interested in serving on the executive, please submit your nomination to [angellwoods@yahoo.ca](mailto:angellwoods@yahoo.ca) by Thursday, March 15, 2007. Otherwise, come and hear the latest news, meet and greet fellow members and find out how you can help.

Our guest speaker this year is our local MNA and Minister,  
Geoff Kelly.

Trois postes sur le comité exécutif sont sujets à ré-élection. Si vous êtes intéressés à servir sur l'exécutif, veuillez nous contacter à [angellwoods@yahoo.ca](mailto:angellwoods@yahoo.ca) d'ici jeudi, le 15 mars 2007. Autrement venez vous informer des dernières nouvelles, rencontrer vos confrères membres et apprendre comment vous pouvez aider. Cette année notre conférencier est notre député provincial et Ministre, Geoff Kelly.

## Message from the Beaconsfield Environment Advisory Committee

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The Beaconsfield Environmental Advisory Committee (BEAC) to the City Council of Beaconsfield is hosting an Environmental Fair on Earth Day: April 22nd, at the Beaconsfield High School. The objective of the Fair is to educate, network and exchange ideas, products and strategies for creating a more sustainable lifestyle in the West Island. The format of the Fair will be that of informal information exchange at kiosks, hosted by experts (non-profit sector, government and private sector), short lectures throughout the day, plus food and children's activities. We are pleased to announce our two keynote speakers: Gill Deacon of the CBC TV and Marc Garneau, the first Canadian in space.

Some of the themes to be represented, either in the lectures or at the kiosks will be:

- Alternative energy sources;
- The 3 R's;
- Energy efficiency;
- Alternatives to pesticides;
- Anti-idling;
- Composting;
- Sustainable lifestyle choices;
- Responsible consumerism;
- Reusing and reducing water consumption;
- Air quality;
- Food sources: local organic farming.

If you would like to exhibit, please contact Kate Coulter at [kate.coulter@beaconsfield.ca](mailto:kate.coulter@beaconsfield.ca) or 514-825-4501. Look for more details in the paper on our website in the near future.

## *ONCE UPON A TIME...*

A long time ago, long before we were born, farmers all over the Island of Montreal cleared land to make fields to grow crops to feed their families and the growing population of the New World. These fields were often carved out of stands of magnificent trees teeming with birds and wildlife. With time, many families gradually abandoned farming as Montreal grew and expanded. Some of the fields metamorphosed back into forest, blossomed and became a haven for a multitude of plants and animals. One such farmer was Mr. Angell and some of his former farmland is now known of as Angell Woods.

Angell Woods remained well hidden from most people. Only the very privileged who stumbled upon it would visit it, and they guarded their secret jealously until one day..... Suburbia happened. The population was growing rapidly and needed houses to inhabit. People's pressing needs were put before anything else.

Angell Woods nonetheless continued to grow more mature and beautiful and became more protective of its tenants as time passed.

Some of it ultimately became part of a golf course that kept to itself and did not bother it. People would come and go; the forest was still growing and few were aware of its beauty.

Then the golf course fell prey to mechanical shovels as new houses started eating up the remaining green space.

One day, looking for some solace from the hectic pace of life, my husband and I were amazed to discover Angell Woods with all of its splendor and magic. It was obvious that very few had walked in it, but there were some that had made some trails around obstacles and dense shrubbery near Lakeview Avenue.



We were astonished at the beauty we found and the calming effects the woods had on us. We wanted to share our discovery and allow other people to partake in this last piece of paradise in suburbia. So we made a pact with Angell Woods. We would make some trails to showcase the forest's beauty, and would try to do so in a responsible manner. We followed natural paths where dead trees had already fallen and we trimmed shrubbery just so that every body could walk easily in the woods and marvel at what it had to offer.



Over time, about 20 years to be precise, we carefully developed a circuit of trails, maintaining them for the enjoyment of all. We try very hard to be respectful of the environment and cleanliness is paramount for us.

As word spread about Angell Woods' beauty and peacefulness, traffic in the forest increased. With that traffic, a few humans and their beloved 4-legged friends unfortunately left behind waste once they had finished with their walk. The forest spirits were not pleased and threatened to take the forest's magic and mysteries away forever from us undeserving and disrespectful humans. They warned us of bad things to come. Slowly people realized that they had taken the Woods for granted and had wounded it.



Over the past year we have noticed a great improvement in the cleanliness of the forest and hope that this will develop into an epidemic. We appreciate all the responsible people that come and enjoy this precious piece of Paradise.

The Woods are for all of us to treasure, hence it **must** be everybody's responsibility to take only pleasure from the forest and to leave only footsteps behind.

(Signed)

***Your humble stewardship elves!!!***

# Réveillez-Vous!

J'ai découvert pour la première fois le Bois Angell il y a 2 ans. Peu de temps après, je me suis impliquée avec APBA dans l'espoir d'aider à préserver le bois ainsi que le pré qui le borde et éviter tout développement résidentiel additionnel. Deux années ce n'est pas très long, mais c'est suffisamment de temps pour développer un réel attachement à la beauté et la richesse qui font du Bois Angell un trésor inestimable.

Deux années sont aussi suffisantes pour que de nouvelles et sombres études, mandatées par les Nations Unies et réalisées par des sommités scientifiques mondiales, fassent la une de tous les journaux pour confirmer que le réchauffement planétaire est causé par l'activité humaine. De plus, ces études nous apprennent que si rien n'est fait pour restreindre les émissions de gaz à effet de serre d'ici 10 ans, les dommages occasionnés par nos excès seront irréversibles et auront des conséquences plus que désastreuses.

La vie sur terre telle que nous la connaissons ne survivra pas et nous ne faisons pas exception à ce pronostic. Tout ça m'apparaît comme un très coûteux sacrifice, beaucoup plus grand et dévastateur que l'effort qui nous ait demandé aujourd'hui, ici à Beaconsfield, pour sauvegarder le Bois Angell pour nos générations futures.

Nos arbres emmagasinent le carbone et lorsqu'ils sont coupés ce gaz à effet de serre est relâché dans l'atmosphère, ce qui n'est aucunement recommandable dans la situation pressante à laquelle nous sommes confrontée. Le Bois Angell appartient en majeure partie à des promoteurs immobiliers qui ont créé une richesse en bâtissant nos communautés. Mais ce qui était désirable à une certaine époque est aujourd'hui devenu un grave problème dans notre ère actuelle de réchauffement climatique. De plus, l'étalement urbain ne règle pas nos problèmes mais les amplifie, que ce soit par la congestion routière de nos rues locales et de nos autoroutes ou par la destruction de nos derniers espaces verts sauvages dont nos communautés ont tant besoin pour que nous puissions tous nous épanouir dans un milieu sain.

Je crois fermement qu'il est de notre ressort, à chacun de nous, d'être éveillé à l'appel que la communauté scientifique nous a lancé et d'écouter ce que notre propre conscience des changements environnementaux nous confirme depuis plusieurs années déjà. Je suis très curieuse du monde dans lequel je vis et je m'intéresse énormément à ce que nos gouvernements et leaders mondiaux vont faire. Toutefois ces personnes vivent loin d'ici. Moi, je vis ici à Beaconsfield et mon choix est de faire ce que je peux dans mon entourage immédiat et dans ma propre communauté.

Si certains choix individuels sont plus faciles que d'autres c'est très bien, mais je suis consciente que certains de ces choix sont plus importants et requièrent un effort différent de chacun d'entre nous dans notre communauté. Alors je vous invite à faire comme moi et à devenir membre de APBA et de prendre conscience que ce magnifique bois doit être sauvé dès aujourd'hui.

Demain, il sera déjà trop tard.

Si chaque résident de notre communauté décide de mettre l'environnement au sommet de sa liste de priorités plutôt que sur une vague liste de préoccupations, alors nous pourrons accomplir notre devoir.

Devenez membres d'APBA et envoyez un courriel à notre maire, Monsieur Benedetti, afin qu'il mandate son conseil à prendre des mesures concrètes pour sauvegarder le Bois Angell aujourd'hui. Participez en grand nombre aux réunions du conseil municipal et faites entendre vos voix. Agissez là où vos efforts auront le plus d'impacts. Est-ce que sauver le Bois Angell coûtera de l'argent? Oui, certainement. En aurons-nous les moyens? Oui, il le faut. Avons-nous les moyens de ne pas le faire? Non, si nous ne le faisons pas, qui le fera?

Alors, prenez part aux efforts que nous déployons et devenez actifs dans votre communauté. Encouragez vos amis à devenir membres d'APBA et aidez-nous dans nos démarches pour sauver les Bois Angell. Sachez que de tout temps un groupe de citoyens engagés peut faire un monde de différence ici et maintenant. Sinon demain n'existe pas.

## Réveillez-vous!

*Témoignage de Micheline Dufresne*

# The Guardians of Angell Woods

My husband and I had the opportunity to move to Beaconsfield in May of 2002 after living for over 18 years in a rather typical congested Montreal urban neighbourhood on a street with half a dozen trees and way too many parked cars.

During the construction of our first single home, we made daily pilgrimages to check on the progress. As I turned off the 40 west and onto Chemin St. Marie each evening, I was always struck by the freshness in the air and quietness of the drive into my new neighbourhood. In the spring of 2002, I had not yet walked the trails or truly discovered the woods, but I enjoyed the abundance of birds, small wildlife and incredible wildflowers that were in the field behind our home. The magnificent old growth trees of the woods muffled the noise of the trains and the highway, and provided a fresh cool breeze in evenings. I realized then what a paradise we had found!

Early in the summer of 2002 while walking my dog near the edge of Angell Woods, I noticed a small hand written sign announcing the first Angell Woods Appreciation Day to be held May 2003 in Stephen Walsh Park on Lakeview Avenue. I walked through the woods towards Lakeview where the event was unfolding, Lots of kids, dogs and neighbours enjoying a beautiful picnic just on the edge of one of the walking trails. It was truly a celebration of a special place in our community. There was a sign-up list for those who wanted to do more to help in awareness and protection of the woods, the beginning of a grassroots movement of truly dedicated people who cared about this hidden treasure in Beaconsfield.

At the first general meeting, 32 interested and motivated volunteers with a variety of life skills showed up at the door of Stephen and Marie H el ene Lloyd's home on Lakeview Avenue to see what they could do to help the cause of preserving Angell Woods. Nature lovers, photographers, graphic artists, seniors, kids, and other interested souls who just cared about preserving a piece of our neighbourhood that meant so much to them.

Today APAW has a 7 member Executive and over 600 members who help in organizing the annual Angell Woods Appreciation Day, spring cleaning the woods, posting signs, cutting trails, maintaining our web site [www.apaw.ca](http://www.apaw.ca) and spreading the word that we will not let this spectacular forest be destroyed. We work with various NGO's to find alternatives to the development of the woods. We lobby the mayor and council to make them aware of the importance of creating new park zones, keeping traffic and roads away from the edge of the fragile woods and to look for solutions in deferring development. APAW has managed to secure a buffer zone between any housing development and the woods which will always remain a conservation area.

With the momentum we have gained in just over 4 years, we look forward to new ideas from you and ways in which we can convince the community that this is a space to be saved, not destroyed.

***Jozien Vet***  
***APAW Executive***