

## LETTER TO THE HON. LUC FORTIN

To the Hon. Luc Fortin

As members of *The Diggers and Weeders Garden Club of Montreal* we would like to bring to your attention the importance of saving the last remaining vestige of the garden of the former William Notman house. This small property is cherished by local residents and contains trees of heritage value: two rare Kentucky Coffee trees, planted by the grandfather of one of our members, as well as three silver maples, each 125 years old. We understand the developer of the property has said he will move the trees, but we have received expert advice that this is not possible. Our heartfelt concern is that the destruction of these heritage trees to make room for more condos does not sit well with the city's effort to create green oases for its citizens. We suggest that, given the age of the three maple trees (3 x 125 yrs = 375), this area could be named a heritage park in honour of the 375<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Montréal.

Our Club was founded in 1932 and as concerned citizens, our members have a long history of keeping an eye on our city's green spaces, particularly its trees. For instance in 1976, at the time of the Olympic Games, Mayor Jean Drapeau planned to fell 875 mature trees located in the Jardin Botanique in order to make way for various sports venues. Our Club members campaigned to prevent this and we were successful.

Furthermore, we have a long association with the Notman house: in the 70's, when it was a residence for senior women called St. Margaret's home we, at the request of the sisters who ran the home, revived the garden for them; many of our members who worked on this project remember it with pleasure.

It is with great hope that you will be able to take the necessary action to preserve this green heritage.

*The Diggers and Weeders Garden Club of Montreal*

cc: M. Denis Coderre

Heritage Montreal Foundation