

Meadowbrook activists seek summit

By Joel Goldenberg

Activists seeking to preserve the Meadowbrook golf course as a greenspace have sent a letter urging a meeting with landowner Fairmont Hotels, says Les Amis de

Meadowbrook member Jo Ann Goldwater.

Goldwater said noted architect Phyllis Lambert signed the letter seeking a meeting, along with Robert Perreault of the Regional Environment Council, CôteSt.HampWest

councillor Dida Berku and former Montreal West mayor John Simms. Copies of the letter were sent to Montreal's executive committee, and local MLAs and MPs.

Groups like Les Amis de Meadowbrook and the Green Coalition have feared that the June 20 demerger vote has lessened the resolve of the megacity to preserve the greenspace and follow the recommendation of the Public Consultation Office to preserve the golf course as a greenspace.

"We just feel they're not really interested in doing anything to preserve Meadowbrook," said Goldwater. "Even if they would have good intentions, I cannot see anything much happening over the next year or two, because there's going to be so much reorganization [related to

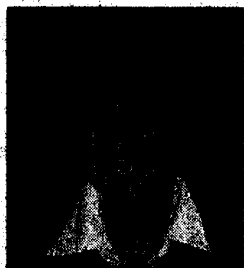
demerger]. That's why we decided to approach Fairmont."

Goldwater said the Fairmont chain has its own policy of maintaining its golf courses green.

"In Whistler, B.C. they have their own resort with their own golf course; and they implement environmentally friendly practices there," she said. "The pesticides are organic or natural, they conserve water, they're trying to keep the natural habitat — the birds, the animals, the trees."

Montreal Mayor Gérald Tremblay told activists late last month that nothing has changed in Montreal's policy, but he remind-

ed activists that boroughs like Côte St.HampWest, where most of the activists are based, voted to demerge last June.



Berku: City lacking resolve on greenspace.

Half of Meadowbrook is in Côte St. Luc, where the former council voted to rezone the land recreational from residential, prompting a lawsuit by Canadian Pacific. CôteSt.HampWest borough chairman Robert Libman has said the site has potential for profitable all-season recreational activities.

The other half is in Lachine, where the council has expressed some willingness to support keeping the site green in exchange for funding to improve infrastructure in the former Ville St. Pierre. ■