

## MONTÉRÉGIE CONNECTION PROJECT

### What would life in the Montérégie region be like? .... Under the GOING GREEN Scenario

#### When the elected dare to go green

A Story by Kess Vaderheson

During the 2020s a party that put sustainable development at the forefront of their platform came into power, holding a majority government. This government did what environmentally inclined people could only dream of, they implemented new policies regulating energy production. The road was paved for the use of new types of energy: solar, wind and even biomethylation.



Louis-Olivier St-Onge, prefect of the Regional County Municipality (RCM), and Clara Mazzola, president of the Chamber of Commerce, sat down with the members of their groups and wrote a development plan for the Vallée-du-Richelieu. This plan was adopted with both enthusiasm and skepticism because the vision and the plans were so avant-garde.



The people and businesses of the Vallée-du-Richelieu were up for the challenge, and soon thereafter a windmill parc was opened between the Saint-Hilaire mountain and the Rougement mountain. A number of public transportation buses became electric, while others, like the Beauregard buses, opted for the installation of biogas motors which used fermented byproducts provided by 600 farmers from the region. Public transportation really took off.

The Vallée, now greener than ever before, was experiencing incredible population growth. Yet still, the amount of single-family homes was not augmenting, as people knew they had to learn to live in smaller areas. Densification was not a bitter experience for the government or the people, all were happy about the multiplication of alternative living quarters that encouraged communal spaces and sharing. The Chamber of

Commerce admired the audacity of the young entrepreneurs getting set up in the region.

The economic prosperity of the region also allowed further development of green spaces. A green and blue belt were established around the region, followed by the progressive construction of forested corridors which provided refuge for plants and animals. Even industries were proud to be using green techniques. The RCM also decided to instate a new policy whereby two units of green space had to be put into place for every unit of urban development. The green spaces of the region were so vast that they connected to surrounding regions, providing fauna with larger areas to move around within.

Between agricultural fields large bands of forest were installed. Agroforestry was really popular and the water and air were fresher than ever. The numerous spaces covered by trees also supplied important amounts of wood which was harvested. The hybrid poplar, which grows very fast, especially helped move this industry forward. The only unfortunate thing in the area is that agriculture was less present than before as most youth did not work in this field and imported fruits, vegetables and meat were inexpensive and dominant in the market.



Even the greenest of people couldn't believe their eyes. All dreams were allowed and people joked about changing the name of the Vallée-du-Richelieu to the Vallée-Verte (Green Valley). Citizens and business entrepreneurs offered numerous activities to tourists that took advantage of the surrounding great outdoors. Old activists no longer had to protest, they admired the world around them and wrote poems about the beauty of it all.