

NEWS & VIEWS

CSL council notes

By Joel Goldenberg
The Suburban

Côte St. Luc's councillors gave their monthly reports at the Janu-

ary council meeting from their respective portfolios.

Councillor Steven Erdelyi, in charge of environmental issues and finance, said that from Janu-

ary to November 2014, garbage disposal went down 2.6 percent compared to the same period in 2013, while recycling increased four percent.

"Our total diversion [of waste from landfills] is up 4.9 percent," he added. "This is the eighth year in a row where we continue to see the amount of garbage going flat or being reduced, and we see the amount of diversion increasing. Hopefully, next month, we'll have the end-of-year results."

Councillor Mike Cohen, in charge of library and culture, sponsorship and animal protection, announced that the Eleanor London Library implemented a new computer and printing reservation program called Envisionware.

"This allows patrons to be more independent because it operates on a self-serve basis," he explained. "The first component of the program is called PC Reservation, and it enables our patrons to walk up to a self-serve station and use a valid library card to reserve a computer on their own. This program controls and monitors all aspects of the reservation process... and it ensures that the people who reserve computers are actually members of the library. We have a certain amount of computers and it should be library members who use them. This system automatically logs them off when their time has

elapsed."

Printing, usually handled by staff members who accept payment, will also be self-serve soon, Cohen added.

"This is another example of our library moving ahead with the times."

Councillor Sam Goldbloom, in charge of the public safety portfolio, said that the city's Emergency Medical Services team, which stabilizes residents before the arrival of Urgences Santé, responded to 2,833 emergency calls in 2014.

"Our volunteers provided 19,099 hours of service, which is a new record," the councillor added. "We also took delivery of our newest ambulance in December, and now our fleet is back up to three vehicles."

Councillor Glenn Nashen, in charge of communications, IT, emergency preparedness, and volunteer Citizens on Patrol, said there was a 21 percent decrease in criminality as a whole in Côte St. Luc in 2014 compared to the year before.

"This is a tremendous number," he added. "Much of it is due to the patrolling and prevention work that goes on by our officers, our [security] agents and our volunteers."

Councillor Ruth Kovac, in charge of the urban development portfolio, reported that the long-time Griffith McConnell seniors residence building is no longer there, having been demolished to make way for a housing development on Parkhaven Avenue and the surrounding area.

"It's quite interesting to see the sky," she added. "We look forward to the redevelopment."

City Hall Executive Committee round-up

By Tracey Arial
The Suburban

Montreal's executive committee focussed on renovations, soccer and Montreal's 375th Anniversary at the January 14 meeting.

Loans for almost eight million dollars were approved for the renovation of City Hall, with half of that coming from the agglomeration.

The renovation of the Municipal courthouse will cost \$8,500,000, with six million coming from the agglomeration.

A renovation permit for an 1840's structure in Ville Marie was also granted.

Councillors also approved \$1 M\$ in funding for a Mountain to River walk to honour Montreal's 375th birthday, all of which will be paid for by the agglomeration.

The agglomeration will also

pay 30 million dollars to improve the Gilles-Villeneuve circuit for the Formula 1 Grand Prix. The approval of a contract to bring the Formula 1 to Montreal until 2024 was approved at a previous meeting on December 17.

Diane De Courcy was given a contract in camera for \$95,000 a year over two years for an unspecified mandate. Presumably, this has something to do with the transfer of schools from the Commission de Montreal to the Marguerite Bourgeoise school-board. Whatever the project is, a budget for \$125,589.40 was set aside for 2015.

A public tender for multimedia equipment in the Montreal soccer stadium was discussed behind closed doors.

TEQ Inc. was also given another three million dollars for the Soccer Centre of Montreal project in an in-camera discussion. ■

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