

NEWS & ANALYSIS

# CSL council: congrats to all

By Joel Goldenberg  
The Suburban

Côte St. Luc's councillors spent 14 minutes at the Sept. 29 city council meeting in a veritable love-in, paying tribute to each other and the council as a whole they have been sitting on.

This all went on to an audience of three, not counting *The Suburban*, among them District 5 candidate Leo Sculnik and council regular Dr. Bernard Tonchin.

However, in light of subsequent events, the mutual love is also being seen as a second endorsement of the three incumbents who face challengers in the Nov. 1 municipal election — Glenn Nashen, Steven Erdelyi and Allan Levine. The first endorsement came when a press release featured Mayor Anthony Housefather supporting all eight current council members and all eight supporting Housefather.

In the latest salvo of love, councillor Ruth Kovac, who was since acclaimed, got the ball rolling, pointing out that the Sept. 29 meeting was to be the last before the election. (*The Suburban* has since learned that a Côte St. Luc meeting could conceivably be held this month as six council members out of nine have been acclaimed).

"The last four years have really flown by, and I want to thank you for your excellent leadership and dedication," Kovac told Housefather. "I want to thank my colleagues on council for the passion they always bring to any debate and discussion — the passion you bring to the debate always means you're representing your residents in the best possible way... Hopefully, in a new mandate, we'll continue to do the good work we've been doing."

Councillor Allan Levine, who is facing Sculnik as a challenger, said "it's been a pleasure working with this council. I've been working since '86 and I've been working with a lot of councils, and we've never accomplished as much as we have this year."

Councillor Mitchell Brownstein, since acclaimed, said he was "truly amazed over the last four years how pleasant and wonderful it has been to work for this council." He added that the assigning of portfolios to councillors "has given us all the ability to do a lot more."

Councillor Dida Berku, also acclaimed, said "this has been a council where we've been able to work together really, really well. We're all independent, we all have our own missions and causes and are very passionate about them — sometimes a little too much. I'm including myself in that category... We want the best for the citizens of Côte St. Luc."

Councillor Glenn Nashen, who subsequently found out he is facing two challengers, said it has been a "treat to work for this council, this mayor, our city manager and the staff of the city. Usually, the theory is the longer you're in a job, the easier it gets. Somehow, these last four years, I felt I put in way more time than I ever expected to.... We are all united in our passion and love for Côte St. Luc."

Councillor Sam Goldbloom, since acclaimed, said in his business background, "I really have not experienced anything like I have in the last four years, working with a group of people, the passion, the commitment and goal of making Côte St. Luc the best city on this island, and we've done it."

Councillor Steven Erdelyi, who is now facing a challenger, said he has "enjoyed the last four years, and I

look forward to four more years. I feel we are on the cutting edge."

Councillor Mike Cohen, since acclaimed, said he was impressed with "how well we have communicated as a council. Not only face to face, but electronically. We are in contact with each other several times a day, seven days a week, whether we're on holiday, communicating by e-mail. I hope that will continue."

Housefather, also acclaimed, wryly decided to "conclude the mutual admiration society."

"I really do appreciate working with each and every one of you, it's been a wonderful four years and I'm very proud of what we've achieved as a staff and council, and residents." ■

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