

City to restrict potable water usage

BY ISAAC OLSON

With one dissenting vote on December 10, Côte St. Luc city council passed a by-law restricting the use of potable drinking water with the aim of preserving the natural resource. Violation of the new by-law can generate fines ranging from \$100 for a first offence to \$2,000 for repeat offences.

The by-law restricts sprinkler watering periods to between 6 and 11 pm. Watering by in-ground sprinkler systems is permitted only between 1 and 7 am and the duration of watering by all automatic or portable systems is 45 minutes. The new law also stipulates that water may not intentionally run into the street or onto the neighbouring property and that driveways, sidewalks, street patios or exterior walls may only be washed once per week.

Other prohibitions include not using drinking water to melt snow or ice, and installing an air conditioning or refrigeration system that uses drinking water. Car washes will be required to have water recovery systems and landscape ponds must recirculate their contents.



Councillor Steven Erdelyi says the new potable water by-law doesn't do enough.

Photo: Isaac Olson

The new ruling does not restrict the use of drinking water for horticulture activities such as growing vegetables, fruits, flowers and more, nor does it restrict the use of drinking water for all municipal operations.

Councillor Steven Erdelyi voted against the measure.

"While I feel this by-law is a good start in the right direction, I, at the same time, feel that we could have gone further," he

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Cars targeted



POLICE REPORT
STATION 9

The Police Report is intended to inform readers of recent police activity in the community. The articles are written from information taken from police reports and given to the reporter by a Station 9 constable.

Station 9 Constable Vincent DeAngelis is reminding residents who park their cars in a residential building's underground parking garage to be extra vigilant because in the last two weeks, six such garages in the area have been targeted by burglars breaking into cars to steal personal items.

DeAngelis said on December 4 an apartment complex on Côte St. Luc Rd. was hit sometime between 9:30 pm and 8 am the next morning. Two cars were broken into, with the passenger windows smashed, said DeAngelis, and GPS units,

left on the dashboards, stolen. One GPS unit was valued at about \$500, said DeAngelis, while the other was \$200.

Another theft took place on December 7 between 10:15 and 10:30 pm. The triangular window in the rear passenger seat of a Lexus was smashed and \$20 in change was stolen.

At this point, he said, there are no suspects or descriptions.

This type of crime has been happening regularly throughout the West End. As reported in the November 20 edition of the *Westmount Independent*, police from three different stations nabbed three car burglars red-handed in Westmount and the thieves, whom officers have been tracking for some time, were well known for sneaking into parking garages and stealing valuables from vehicles — often systematically breaking into several vehicles each time.

"The best advice would be never to leave personal items in plain view," said DeAngelis.

—Isaac Olson

Cotler honours residents

BY ISAAC OLSON

Mount Royal MP Irwin Cotler honoured 30 residents of his riding on December 10 with Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medals, acknowledging their dedicated service to the community.

"I think each of these people has helped to better the human condition," said Cotler. "Some are real unsung heroes."

Several of the winners reside in Hampstead, Côte St. Luc and NDG and were honoured for services ranging from a volunteering as emergency medics to starting non-profit organizations.

One of the winners, noted Cotler, is CSL resident Saul Deitcher who has a long list of reasons for being honoured with a Jubilee medal. One of those reasons is Deitcher's daily visits to hospital patients.

"He is bringing light into people's lives every single day," said Cotler. "That's not the only thing for which he is being recognized but that, I think, alone is cause enough for him to be recognized and that holds true for each of the people on the list. They have brought light into people's

lives and they have made a contribution, to Montreal, Quebec and beyond."

The awards are being distributed as Cotler works to establish a "Justice for Sergei Magnitsky" inter-parliamentary group in honour of the late Russian lawyer who uncovered the largest tax fraud in Russian history and died in custody because of it.

The goal of the group, he said, will be to internationalize the campaign Magnitsky started and encourage Canada to follow in the footsteps of the European parliament and the US by establishing sanctions, such as travel bans, against the some 60 Russian officials allegedly tied to the 37-year-old whistleblowing lawyer's death.

During the press conference, Cotler also noted his recent effort to designate December 10 as "national speak no evil day" to encourage parliamentarians and citizens to partake in a day of mutual respect.

Cotler said he was inspired by the recent hostility between political parties in Ottawa. However, Cotler said, he didn't get the full support needed for the motion.

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