

CSL's portfolio shuffle

By Joel Goldenberg
The Suburban

Côte St. Luc council underwent a significant portfolio shuffle at last week's council meeting, with some councillors who had been responsible for dealing with various services in the city getting new duties.

Councillors with particular portfolios deal with the city departments and functions in question, and present monthly reports at council meetings.

Mayor Anthony Housefather told The Suburban that he decided on these and other changes because "at a certain point in time, you need new ideas and new views in a portfolio.

"The people I shuffled were the people who had been in the same portfolio for the last eight years," he said. "You just have to shake things up. And different people want to try different portfolios too. Just leaving the same person there forever is probably not the best for that person, because they should be learning new things, too; and not the best for the

portfolio."

The most significant shift was that of Councillor Glenn Nashen, who was responsible for and associated with the public safety portfolio for some 20 years. He is now taking on public affairs, communications and information technologies, but is retaining the emergency preparedness dossier and overseeing the volunteer Citizens on Patrol, which he created in 2006.

"My passion for the all volunteer Emergency Medical Services launched my political career 25 years ago and my keen interest in promoting and advancing this unique life-saving service has never wavered," Nashen wrote on his blog. "I will continue to serve as an active member of the Public Safety committee and push EMS forward."

Councillor Sam Goldbloom, who had the library portfolio, is now in charge of the public safety portfolio, as well as dispatch and Emergency Medical Services.

As for the other council members, Housefather is still in charge of the

portfolios involving the agglomeration council, legal affairs, purchasing, human resources and inter-governmental affairs, and he also takes on inter-cultural and intercommunity relations. Councillor Steven Erdelyi, who had the public works portfolio, is now in charge of the finance portfolio and continues with the environment portfolio.

Councillor Dida Berku, who held the finance portfolio, is now in charge of public works and railway relations, is co-chairing environment with Erdelyi and retains the Cavendish Blvd. link portfolio. Councillor Mike Cohen, who held the communications portfolio, is now taking on library and culture, retaining sponsorship and taking on animal protection, expanded from the cats committee portfolio.

Councillor Allan Levine keeps the seniors, Legion and tennis portfolios, and takes on urban agriculture and hockey. Councillor Mitchell Brownstein continues with parks and recreation, and Councillor Ruth Kovac continues with urban development. ■