

Côte St. Luc sells another 'invisible' alley

BY ISAAC OLSON

The Côte St. Luc city council sold a small section of one of its numerous unmarked lanes during the most recent council meeting, making for the first such sale of the year. Last year, the city made two lane sales of "invisible" alleyways to property owners who want to renovate or expand their yards.

At the January 28 meeting, a 343-square-foot section of an unmarked lane adjacent to 5784 Hudson Ave., was sold for just over \$10,400.

However, the lane is only apparent on maps and property plans because when the city was first being designed, alleys were to run behind or beside homes much like they do in the neighbouring borough of CDN-NDG, which has 123 public lanes.

The borough's lanes, once designed to provide access to driveways and for trash pickup, are now more often used as pedestrian shortcuts or access for Hydro-Québec and other utility workers.

In CSL, the alleys were never built in and while people plant gardens on the space, mow the lawn and have fences clearly marking the territory, it's actually the city that owns lane-sized sections of land on the sides and behind homes,

according to Darryl Levine, director of Public Affairs and Communications.

In fact, he said, there are about 450 homes that abut these alleyways and while the city doesn't mind if people have their bushes or prized petunias growing on them, it does become an issue whenever people want to build a shed or install a pool.

Some people are aware of the public lanes when they buy their homes, as the divisions are marked on property plans. Others, however, don't realize it until they apply for a building permit, he said.

The city offers the option to sell the land by the square foot, but he said there is an unofficial policy of ensuring the neighbours are aware of the land sale before the deal goes through — offering neighbours a 50/50 share of the land if they're interested in making the purchase.

Technically, homeowners face the risk of losing a section of their side or backyard to a land-buyer interested in adding a few feet to their property line and the city, he said, tries to give neighbours a fair chance at buying the property.

He said the land can't be given away because there are costs involved in transferring it to a new owner just as there is with any property sale in the province.

Underpasses to be spruced up

BY ISAAC OLSON

Côte St. Luc is looking to do something about its not-so-pretty underpasses and the project should be completed by the end of this summer, according to Mayor Anthony Housefather.

Sym Davis and Elizabeth Speyer went before the Côte St. Luc city council on January 28 to discuss what they say is the much-needed beautification of the train underpass on Westminster Ave., near Côte St. Luc Rd.

"When you're walking by, you'll see 16 big, ugly cement blocks that are there, essentially, to hold up the southwest wall," said Davis.

Councillor Steven Erdelyi said the city is looking into the current state of its three underpasses and a study is being conducted to see what work needs to be done. This inspection, he said, began when the city wanted to replace the cement blocks in question, but planners realized it would be more effective to deal with all of the city's underpasses at the



Elizabeth Speyer addresses the council on the condition of the city's underpasses.

Photo: isaac olson

same time. The city is exploring its options, he said.

Housefather said the owner of the rail-ways needs to approve plans and the city needs to look at the costs involved and who is responsible for those costs. He estimates the project to get under way this summer.

PHYSIOTHERAPY CLINIC
A small clinic with a great reputation for high standards of physiotherapy - including the most recent techniques promoted by Advanced Physical Therapy Education Institute.
 FOR FULL DETAILS PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE
www.annakirova-pht.com
 5885 Cote-des-Neiges, suite 206 Tel: 514-750-5117

Bookkeep-it Lena Papadam
Bookkeeping, backoffice & consulting services

514-799-9866
info@bookkeepit.ca

Are you having trouble keeping up with your payroll, DAS, GST and other paperwork?
Do you have corporate or personal income taxes that need to be submitted?
Let me take care of the books, so you can take care of your business.

Bookkeeping - Accounting - Back Office Creation - Consulting

KB GROUPE CONSTRUCTION
25 years of experience.
 Able to meet all of your Construction and Renovation needs.
 Call us to book your Brick, Concrete, Bathroom and Basement jobs.
 Check out our web site @ **www.kbgroupeconstruction.com**
 Contact Karl @ **514.947.3562**
 RBQ# 8361-4172-01

Please write to us!

We want to know what's on your mind. Identify letters as "for publication" and include your first and last name and the area in which you live, all of which will be published. Letters will be edited for length, content and style.
 Send your letters and ideas to: editor@freepresspaper.com

WOOD FINISHING
TOUCH-UPS / REPAIR SERVICE ON SITE
 Kitchen Cabinets, Dining Room/ Bedroom Sets, Antiques, office furniture
STRIPPING/STAINING
FREE ESTIMATE

Henry Cornblit
 514.369.0295

Professional Craftsman

Saturday Morning Activities
5 to 12 years
 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
 Starting January 26th 2013

Zumba ★ Music/Rhythm Crafts and Games ★ Snacks ★ Adult French Conversation Classes ★ **Cost: FREE**

Westmount Baptist Church
 411 Roslyn Avenue
 (corner Sherbrooke street west)
514-937-1009

CARTES ETC.
 LOCAL ARTISANS
 UNIQUE CARDS & GIFTS

20% off
 (valid until Feb. 28, 2013)

5901 Sherbrooke W
 (corner Royal)
514 489-2625

BLINDS & DRAPERIES
MFG & WHOLESALE DISTRIBUTORS

Free Shop-At-Home • Free Estimate
 Residential • Commercial

CUSTOM MADE UP TO 50% OFF

- Vertical
- Horizontal
- Wood blinds
- Pleated Shades
- Silhouette
- Roller Shades
- Shutter • Screens

SHADE-O-MATIC
 Est. In 1985
Decor F. Soleil Inc.
 5465 Queen Mary **514 485 7357**
www.decorfsoleil.com