

Council to close helmet-law loophole

CSL COUNCIL ROUND-UP

Residents at the March 11 council meeting expressed concerns over the number of skateboarders not wearing helmets in Côte St. Luc and a need to close a loophole in a 1992 by-law that requires cyclists to wear head protection.

Councillors responded by saying by-law 2403 will make helmets mandatory for just about everything that rolls, be it skateboards, in-line skates or unicycles.

A notice of motion was approved by council and the changes will be voted on at an upcoming meeting. Mayor Anthony Housefather said the city is updating the law as an increasing number of people are riding more than just bikes.

“There are new toys, if you will, on the market,” said Councillor Glenn Nashen.

“Skateboards aren’t new, but there was a loophole where in-line skates and skateboards or anything else weren’t included as we thought it was when we adopted it in the 90s. But there are other self-propelled mechanisms that are not covered by the by-law and that’s why we’re ramping up the by-law.”

City website use increasing: Cohen

The city’s website continues to draw a steady stream of web traffic said

Councillor Mike Cohen.

“We had 12,681 visits in the last month and mobile visits were 3,640,” said Cohen. “So that meant, 24 percent of the people coming to our website did so with a mobile device.”

City aims for coat of arms recognition

The council voted to petition the governor general to have the Canadian Heraldic Authority recognize Côte St. Luc’s coat of arms. The city’s mark includes a winged bull and symbolism showing the city’s connection to the railroad junction and agriculture. The motto “Civibus meis” offers a double meaning, as it can be translated either as “for my citizens” or as “by my citizens.”

Bulldozer to break up snow dump

The council voted again this year to spend up to \$10,000 to break up the snow dump off Marc Chagall Ave. to speed up the melting process.

The snow dump hump has drawn complaints from nearby residents who say it’s dirty. Darkened by street grime, tar and dirt, the pile often lasts long into the summer without the help from the bulldozers. Both councillors Steven Erdelyi and Nashen again disagreed with spending tax dollars on something that will melt with time.

—Isaac Olson

Helping protect bilingual status



MAYOR
ANTHONY HOUSEFATHER
CSL CORNER

On Tuesday, March 12, Mayor Philippe Roy of the Town of the Mount Royal and I explained to a legislative committee in Quebec City why the parts of Bill 14 affecting bilingual status of municipalities are harmful. We presented on behalf of the Association of Suburban Municipalities, which represents the 15 demerged municipalities on the island of Montreal. But we also spoke in the name of approximately 70 Quebec cities and boroughs that have bilingual status that have adopted resolutions asking to retain such status regardless of population fluctuations.

Since I have already written extensively about Bill 14, I am not going to restate my comments again. For those who are interested, I would encourage everyone to visit BilingualStatus.com to read what I have written and to read the brief we are presenting to the commission.

Instead, I want to use this opportunity to encourage all those concerned Quebecers who have written to me to express their outrage at Bill 14. The actions you are taking are important. The letters to members of the provincial legislature, letters to the editor, petitions and demonstrations have all had an effect. I also want to thank the Quebec Liberal Party, which has taken a stand against Bill

14 and pledged to vote against it. Thank you, as well, to the Coalition Avenir Québec, which, it has been reported in the media, will vote against any changes to bilingual status.

In spite of this good news, I and the other mayors and councillors of the 86 municipalities and boroughs with bilingual status will only rest when we make sure that our bilingual status is protected. So, please continue to write to your provincial legislators on this important issue.

In the last few months I have heard things that I have not heard in a decade. People are once again concerned about their future in Quebec and the actions of this government certainly have exacerbated the concerns of those who believe in an inclusive and bilingual society where individual rights are cherished. However, the government is a minority and is unlikely to last for long. Meanwhile, we live in one of the greatest, most vibrant places in the world, despite the many frustrations that we have experienced lately. We need to make it clear that this is our home and we are going to fight for what we believe in. We are not going to be scared away or pushed out by those with a different vision.

We on the Côte St. Luc council believe that one of our roles as elected officials is to be your voice, and we will fulfill that mandate as best as we can.

Anthony Housefather can be reached by e-mail at ahousefather@cotesaintluc.org.

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interactions. But when she got home, a Bank of Montreal representative called to ask about unusual charges to her account and a few minutes later, a TD Bank representative called with the same notification.

The woman checked her purse and discovered her wallet was missing.

She knew she had it in the store because she paid with a credit card from the wallet, but she did not know how the crook stole the wallet, the officer said.

At this point, noted DeAngelis, it is not

clear how much was charged to her credit cards. However, he added, this is a good example as to why people should remain vigilant over their wallets and valuables when out in public as there are plenty of fast-fingered thieves.

—Isaac Olson

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