

NEWS & VIEWS

CSL McDonald's to have some English

By Joel Goldenberg
The Suburban

Côte St. Luc approved a Site Planning and Architectural Integration Programs (SPAIP) and minor exemptions Monday night for a planned two-storey drive-thru McDonald's restaurant to be located in the parking lot of the Côte St. Luc Shopping Centre.

And it was pointed out that there will be at least some English content at the restaurant. The "exit" and "enter" signs at the

drive-thru will be bilingual, although the English will be much smaller than the French, according to planned signs shown on a large screen at this week's council meeting.

"When we originally looked at some of the plans for the McDonald's, we noticed all of the signs were in French only," Councillor Steven Erdelyi said. "We requested that McDonald's have some bilingual signs, and they acquiesced. I haven't seen the inside signage, but I'm hoping

they will follow with signs on the inside as well - the menu - and include English as well."

Mayor Anthony Housefather said he believes Côte St. Luc is the only city in Quebec "that actually asks commerces to respect bilingualism within the scope of the law, as permitted. And this is an example. I'd be very surprised if any other McDonald's in Quebec has bilingual signs at its drive-thrus.

"We can be proud of the fact that we quietly convince com-

merces to actually follow the law and do what they're allowed to do," the mayor added. "The English may be smaller and less prominent, but it is there. I'm very proud that, given the situation with Bill 14 and the Quebec gov-

ernment trying, in many ways, to eliminate the presence of English in Quebec, that Côte St. Luc is sending a message that we don't agree with that, and if the law allows it, you should [put up bilingual signs]."

Shriners begin to build their new hospital

By P.A.Sévigny
The Suburban

Montreal's new Shriners Hospital located within the city's super-hospital complex may provide Montreal's Gérald Tremblay with some consolation for the decade he spent in the mayor's second floor office located in Montreal's City Hall. Some will remember that Tremblay was the mayor who joined Quebec Premier Jean Charest in managing to convinced the Shriners to keep their hospital in Montreal.

Ten years after the charity originally began to think about expanding their hospital and moving it to the new Glen Yards complex, a rising number of delays and the usual politics began to raise the organization's doubts about both Montreal and Québec's determination to maintain the kind of medical infrastructure they required to support both the research and the work being done in their hospital. As both problems and the inevitable delays began to hobble the government's determination to build the new hospital complex, civic leaders from London, Ontario began to collaborate with their local Shriners organization in order to convince the organization's leadership to move their hospital out of Montreal and build a new one in their city. After rally-



ing the Charest government to his cause, Tremblay joined the premier and the rest of the Montreal Shriners as they all attended the Baltimore convention where the two men led the effort to keep the Shriners Hospital in Montreal. While the Ontario delegation brought up the usual questions about language and Québec's political future in order to hobble the delegation's efforts, both Tremblay and Charest managed to convince the organization's senior leadership that it would be a catastrophic mistake to move a working hospital with decades of history and acquired experience out of a city which still manages to maintain some of the best medical faculties in the world. Apart from their own initiative to save the hospital, local Shriners also joined the Premier and the Mayor after which their collective efforts saved the day and the future of the Shriners Hospital in

Montreal.

As a member of the Shriners Board of Directors, Jerry Gantt is more than happy to see trucks full of concrete waiting in line before they can pour their load into the freshly built forms that are rising throughout the southwest corner of the hospital site.

"It's been almost four years since I've been visiting this site on a regular basis, he said. "The best part of the whole process is when we finally get around to actually building the hospital."

While the Shriners have already committed \$97 Million to the project, the local organization is presently launching a campaign to raise another \$20 Million to help pay for the new hospital. The Montreal's Children's Hospital has already agreed to donate some \$5 Million after which assorted Shriners chapters in both Canada and the northern United States are willing to pledge another \$5 Million over the next five years. ■



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