

NEWS & ANALYSIS



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# TMR budget reflects sound city management

By P.A.Sévigny  
The Suburban

Following last week's council meeting, TMR residents were pleased to know that their city council has managed to keep their taxes down and the city's expenses under control.

"It's always hard to increase expenses while you're trying to keep taxes under control," said TMR Mayor Philippe Roy, "...but we did it."

As of next year, tax rates will be limited to only 1.56% which is significantly lower than the government's own 2.2% consumer price index. While taxes are on one side of the equation, expenses, as ever, are on the other side. In 2013, local expenditures are expected to be increased by a least 3.52% with a 16% rise in the town's urban maintenance

costs and a 40% increase in the budget allocation for horticultural work which is completely in line with the town's ongoing 'green' objectives. The new budget also provides for the temporary addition of another road crew.

In order to pay for the new increased costs, the town has worked out a positive balance of nearly \$600 000 through a new deal to service its long term debt. The town will also recover more revenue from its water bills, its provincial sales tax reimbursements, its various recreation activities and assorted fines are expected to be worth another \$600 000. During a short telephone interview, the mayor told The Suburban that he was pleased to be able to limit tax increases for residents without compromising the quality of the town's services.

"I'm proud of what we managed to get done," said Roy. "Our environmental measures are enhanced, year after year, and protection of our plant, road and building heritage is ongoing...It's a slow process [but] it will lead to conclusive results."


In contrast to previous years, the town will not use its accumulated surplus to finance its operating budget. As of 2013, the town's council intends to use their surplus to support capital projects, pay down the town's long-term debt and serve as a safety net to offset unforeseen events. According to Roy, the town's positive balance sheet is the result of gradual and sustained efforts which were initiated several years ago.

"That's our priority," said Roy. "Sound financial planning... sound financial decisions." ■

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# LaSalle passes 2013 service tax rate

By Tracey Arial  
The Suburban

Property owners in LaSalle will be will be charged service taxes of 0.1149% on property values next year, in addition to borough taxes, water supply reserve taxes, investment taxes, a water-use fee and a waste-management fee.

LaSalle set its rates on December 13 when two bylaws passed at the December council meeting came into effect. The first imposes a service tax of 0.0649% on the value of all buildings in the borough during

the 2013 year. This is lower than the 0.0692% rate charged in the last two years, but the borough will use a second service tax to make up revenues.

Known as a special tariff on services, the second tax imposes an additional 0.05% on the value of all buildings in the borough. It is a transfer tax to the boroughs from the central city of Montreal.

All the boroughs can charge either a tax on services or the new tariff on services in 2013 if they choose.

LaSalle was one of nine boroughs to charge a tax on services in 2012. The others

were Anjou, Lachine, Montreal-North, Pierrefonds-Roxboro, Saint-Laurent, Saint-Leonard, Southwest and Verdun.

Several boroughs have already passed bylaws to charge service taxes and/or tariffs for 2013, including Ahuncic-Cartierville (0.05%), Anjou (0.06%), Pierrefonds-Roxboro (0.0758 %), Saint-Laurent (0.02%), Ville-Marie (0.05%), Villeray-Saint-Michel-Parc-Extension (0.05%) and Southwest (0.05% for all buildings and 0.0118% for recreation and community buildings). Others are in the process of passing them. ■

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# CSL launches 'bulky waste Wednesdays'

Côte St. Luc has launched a collection of bulky waste, for free, from local single-family homes and duplexes, the city announced.

"Bulky Waste Wednesdays will make it more convenient for residents to dispose of items such as old mattresses, sofas and refrigerators," said Mayor Anthony Housefather. "By scheduling bulky waste collection on the same day each week, we also hope to minimize the occurrence of bulky waste staying at the curb for days on end."

According to a city announcement, "currently, residents wishing to dispose of their bulky waste must call the Public Works department to schedule an appointment and pay a fee for the pick-up. But with Bulky Waste Wednesdays residents will no longer have to have to call nor pay. Special bulky waste teams will pick up bulky waste left at the curb."

The rules involved are:

- "Items must be placed at the curb between noon on Tuesday and 8 a.m. on Wednesday."
- "Residents can place a maximum of three items for pick-up at one time; however, residents can place items for pick-up every week for as long as necessary. A resident who wishes to have more than three items picked up at once can call Public Works for



pricing on a special pickup."

"Bulky Waste Wednesday means a more convenient and less costly service for residents," said Councillor Steven Erdelyi, the council member responsible for the public works portfolio.

For more information, consult [www.CoteSaintLuc.org/en/BulkyWasteWednesdays](http://www.CoteSaintLuc.org/en/BulkyWasteWednesdays).

- JG

10 • THE SUBURBAN, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2012