

NDG Cougars sweep hockey championships in Bantam-level action



NDG: NDG and Fédération de l'Est battled stride for stride in both the Bantam A and Novice A Coupe Montreal finals. See story p. 13.

Photo: Michael Moore

Shimshon Hamerman of Solomon Schechter steps down after 33 years



HAMPSTEAD: Steven Erdelyi, left, takes over as head of school from Shimshon Hamerman. See story p. 18.

Photo: Courtesy Solomon Schechter Academy

Special report: Free Press rides along during a shift with Côte St. Luc vCops



CÔTE ST. LUC: Elaine Meunier and Lewis Cohen volunteer for CSL's vCops. See story p. 17.

Photo: Isaac Olson

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**NDG
Hampstead
Côte St. Luc**

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Countdown begins for super-hospital opening

BY ISAAC OLSON

The McGill University Health Centre super-hospital project is nearing completion and officials say it will meet the construction deadline. The next step will be moving in, and that's no simple task.

"If you don't hear from us, it's because it's going well," said André Dufour, president of Groupe immobilier santé McGill (GISM) at SNC-Lavalin, who was speaking during the Good Neighbourly

Relations committee meeting on March 25.

There are still 1,000 workers on site and the building is 93 percent completed.

"We need to deliver the hospital by September 30 and we have a countdown clock in the main office. Sometimes it's ticking too fast. Sometimes, too slow."

While the public mostly sees the external work on the building as crews install 28,000 pieces of aluminum on 270 facades, he said the rest of the work is on

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Hamerman retires from Solomon Schechter Academy

Steven Erdelyi takes over

BY ISAAC OLSON

After 33 years, Solomon Schechter Academy's (SSA) head of school, Dr. Shimshon Hamerman, is retiring. Taking his place is Côte St. Luc city councillor and long-time education administrator, Steven Erdelyi, who is currently the principal.

Hamerman said he is ready to enjoy some rest and relaxation when he officially passes the reigns off to Erdelyi. The academy, a k-6 school, has had its main building on Côte St. Luc Rd. since 1955 and its recently established Amiel Early Childhood Centre (Jr. Pre-K and Pre-K) straddles Côte St. Luc, Hampstead and Montreal.

Erdelyi said, despite the change in leadership, the private school will continue to offer an exceptional academic program as “we challenge our students to think critically in three languages.” His goal, he explained, is to help students become life-long learners to prepare them to meet the challenges of tomorrow. Erdelyi has previously been the principal of Hampstead

School, vice principal of Westmount High School and head of Marymount Academy's science department. He became principal of SSA in July.

“I am very excited to become the head of school of Solomon Schechter Academy starting in the new school year and I look forward to the challenge that the new position will bring,” stated Erdelyi.

After emigrating from Israel to Toronto in 1960, and his extensive studies in the United States, Hamerman's 1970 introduction to Montreal was as the cantor of the Tifereth Beth David Jerusalem synagogue in Côte St. Luc. While Hamerman is now able to speak seven languages, he didn't have much French when he enrolled and successfully achieved his Bible studies doctorate at the University of Montreal. He then got his start as principal of SSA in 1981, before it distinguished between that role and head of school.

Now three decades later, he said it's time that the elementary school has someone that is “dynamic and youthful. The school needs new blood. New energy. It's an excellent school. It needs a new



Shimshon Hamerman.

Photo: Isaac Olson

vision.”

Looking back, Hamerman said he will always be fond of the relationships he developed with his fellow administrators and teachers. He is proud of the school's many advancements over the years, including the recent development of the Early Childhood Centre.

He said Erdelyi is a “natural choice” for the job.

“He is used to having full responsibili-

ty for the school entity and I think he will do very well,” said Hamerman, noting he is the one that chose Erdelyi and lobbied for his taking over as head of school. When it comes to retirement, he said, for now, he plans to just take it easy.

“I'm sure that, in time, I will be looking for things to do, but at this point, I welcome the opportunity of not being beholden to anyone — to being my own person.”

Mini-med is back

Public lecture series on surgery at JGH

At the end of April, the Jewish General Hospital (JGH) will host a weekly public education series on surgery, covering everything from hernia to brain operations. The lecturers will be surgeons and healthcare professionals from the JGH.

From April 29 to May 27, the two-hour lectures will run from 7:30 to 9 pm in the hospital's Block Amphitheatre, room B-106.

The “mini-med” school is open to the public, where participants will learn about the procedures of the operating room and the role of ethics.

The fee is \$45 for adults and \$30 for students (with valid student ID) and seniors (60 and over).

For more information, visit: jgh.ca/minimed.

Licence plate stolen from car



POLICE REPORT
STATION 9

The Police Report is intended to inform readers of recent police activity in the community. The articles are written from information taken from police reports and given to the reporter by a Station 9 constable.

Constable Vincent DeAngelis said a Hampstead man reported a stolen licence plate to police, saying it happened sometime between March 20 and 25. The car was parked on Kilburn Crescent, said DeAngelis, when the crime occurred. The resident went out to his car only to notice the plate was missing and there was no evidence as to the alleged crime. The Quebec plate was numbered: FHN1942

—Isaac Olson



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