

MoWest sends warning to recycling firm

By Joel Goldenberg
The Suburban

Montreal West council has sent a legal warning to RCI Environnement, the company hired by municipalities across the island to handle recycling pickup,

complaining about the quality of its work.

Councillor Dino Mazzone read a resolution pointing out that the firm of Dunton Rainville sent RCI a “formal letter of warning with respect to the unsatisfactory provision of services to residents.” As

well, the performance bond company, which guarantees that proper work is done by a contractor, is to be notified of the situation.

“The law firm is authorized to take all required steps to call the performance bond company to warranty and take any appropriate

recourses towards the contractor should the latter fail, refuse or neglect to remedy the situation.”

Mayor Beny Masella said residents complained that they would put out their recycling bin “and nobody came to empty it... they would miss three or four houses. Or they would take the bins out and leave them in the middle of the street.”

Masella said a note had also been sent to the company in charge of the town’s regular garbage collection, with good results. Residents had complained that its employees were “forgetting houses and doing a slipshod job.

“We’ve already received comments back that they’ve seen the company’s inspector follow the garbage truck up the streets — things seem to have gotten better and we’ll see how long that carries.”

On the other hand, Côte St.

Luc is generally pleased with RCI’s recycling pick-up service.

“Obviously, with any new contract, there’s been a few occasions where they missed a few homes, but I find that overall the service has been good,” said councillor Steven Erdelyi, in charge of the public works and engineering portfolio on council. “When we first started with them, we had some issues more with residents getting used to the logistics of the new contract — having to position their bin properly. We post reminders on our website.

“Lately, we’ve had relatively few complaints, and when we did have complaints, we have an excellent service at public works that either tries to have the company come back and do the collection or we take care of it at the city level.”

RCI Environnement has not commented by press time. ■

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St. Laurent wins award for disaster preparedness campaign

By Joel Goldenberg
The Suburban

The borough of St. Laurent and a volunteer joint committee of the borough and industries (CMAI) was presented with an award recently for its campaign, “In the event of a disaster, we’re ready. Are you?”

The award was presented at a ceremony Feb. 17 during the 14th annual ceremony organized by Quebec’s public security ministry, held in Ste. Hyacinthe.

The campaign was launched to help ensure that residents would be prepared in case of an emergency. The effort included posters throughout the borough, a guide mailed to all residents and an entry on St. Laurent’s website, ville.montreal.qc.ca/saint-laurent, under the “Services to citizens” section, “Security” subsection.

The guide contains topics like support for children and teens, emergency supplies, first aid kits, how to deal with pets in an emergency, chemical spills, basement flooding, and how to react to tornadoes, major lightning storms, wind-

storms, earthquakes, power outages and heat waves. The guide also contains the contents of emergency plans from St. Laurent, CN Rail and Trudeau Airport.

“Our main goal was to inform the population about industrial risks in St. Laurent and to allow the companies which generate these risks to present their plans for prevention and intervention,” said mayor Alan DeSousa. “I am happy to say that the objective was achieved and that the efforts of the partners involved have been recognized throughout the province.”

DeSousa also acknowledged the “exemplary” work of the CMAI members, as well as its president, Bruno Pelletier. “The contribution of these partners to the development of this vast communications campaign played a crucial role in its success.”

The award was said to be specifically for the borough and CMAI’s “engagement towards its citizens, its leadership and transparency regarding the risks,” as demonstrated during the campaign. ■