

NEWS & VIEWS

CDN/NDG Borough to begin building its new library-cultural centre

By P.A. Sévigny
The Suburban

Following a recent special meeting called to honor the occasion, CDN/NDG Borough councillors have decided to award their \$15 million contract to build the new Notre Dame de Grâce Cultural Centre to the city's Geysler Group.

"It's been six years in the making but now we're finally going to see the shovels hit the ground," said Gilles Bergeron.

As the borough's director of sports and culture, Bergeron is more than pleased to see that the new project is finally beginning to turn into a working reality. As ever, money is always the big issue that lies between what starts off as a good idea and the moment when the mayor gets to cut the ribbon on opening night. According to borough documents, the entire project will include both a library along with a multi-purpose hall to



accommodate cultural exhibitions along with a wide variety of performances. During an exclusive telephone interview, Bergeron told *The Suburban* how project managers and borough leaders took advantage of a number of government programs which

helped them turn the borough's big project into a working reality.

While the entire project is expected to cost nearly \$24 million, (\$23.6 million to be exact) the province is expected to help both the city and the borough build the new

library while both the city and the borough will combine their efforts to build the new cultural centre. According to Bergeron, both the city and the province will contribute 40 percent of the bill while the borough will contribute the rest of the money (20 percent) it needs to build the new library. As for the cultural centre, the city is expected to pay 60 percent of the bill while the borough plans to pay the balance (40 percent) of what it will cost to build the centre.

According to Bergeron, construction will begin within the next few weeks on the site located on the south-west corner of the Monkland and Benny Crescent.

Aside from its LEED (Leading Ecological and environmental Design) certification, borough planners expect the new library, combined with the two year old Benny Farm Sports Center, to both redefine what it means to live in the western parts of the CDN/NDG borough. ■

CSL declares Cavendish development roads, infrastructure 'substantially' complete

By Joel Goldenberg
The Suburban

Côte St. Luc council recently passed, by majority, resolutions declaring the "substantial" - not final - completion of infrastructure, roads and lighting, on the Quartier Cavendish housing development site.

Mayor Anthony Housefather explained to the May Côte St. Luc council meeting that "when a developer does work, such as at the Cavendish Mall redevelopment project, the developer undertakes to perform certain works. The city will supervise while the works are being done and then inspect.

"The developer is doing most of this at their cost and then, at the end of the day, the city says - with our engineering department and outside professionals, the work is substantially complete," he added. "And under the municipal works agreement signed between the city and developer, we're accepting the works, they did what they were supposed to do under the contracts, and we'll transfer

the title from the developer to the city. From then on, the city becomes responsible for the roads, sidewalks and the lights. Our engineering department has done its inspections, and they're happy with the condition."

Councillor Dida Berku explained that some deposits have to be given back to developers, "but at the same time, we're going to be retaining a \$3.8 million guarantee for the execution of the work for the next five years.

"We have all the guarantees in place we need to ensure that the roads, infrastructure and lighting were done according to our specifications," she added.

Another resolution transferred the deed for the roads from the developers to Côte St. Luc, for one dollar.

An additional resolution designated certain lot numbers as streets, such as Park Place, The Avenue, Jubilee Road and part of the existing Kellert Avenue, and called for bilingual street signs to be erected.

Housefather asked that the English

and French versions of the resolution both contain the bilingual designations of the streets, such as Place Park Place and L'Avenue/The Avenue, "so that it's clear, if a Quebec bureaucrat is reading only one version of the resolution, that it's a bilingual name."

Councillors Steven Erdelyi and Allan Levine voted against the resolutions. Erdelyi has voted against all aspects of the project, saying he is unhappy with the plans as a whole and what he considers to be a "lack of green concessions" for environmentally-friendly buildings." Levine has voted against most of the resolutions, saying in 2010 that constituents would be paying, through taxes, for "two private roads" on the site.

Housefather responded to Levine at the time that in terms of the city's \$1.4 million expense, "that's one-third of two streets. Everything that I've learned, asking all of the experts who have done development in different cities, this is not only customary, it's a good deal for the city." ■

Dauphin elected president of Federation of Canadian Municipalities

By Kevin Woodhouse
The Suburban

Having been elected last July as the vice-president of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), Lachine Borough Mayor Claude Dauphin received the support from his national colleagues this past week in Vancouver where Dauphin was elected as president of the FCM.

The election was held at the FCM's yearly conference and trade show, the 76th of its kind after the FCM was established in 1901, representing over 2,000 municipalities from across the country.

Dauphin has more than 30 years of experience at the municipal, federal and

provincial level, having served as MNA for Marquette as well as serving as senior advisor to the Finance Minister from 1997 until 2001.

"I am very happy and thankful towards the some 1 800 delegates, mayors and councillors from all over Canada, for this vote of confidence," Dauphin said in Vancouver after being elected. "Citizens of Lachine also expressed their pride in the fact that their borough mayor was elected to this prestigious office. I would like to reassure them that I will always be there to look out for their best interest even though this new challenge has many obligations."

Dauphin will hold the post until 2014. ■

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