

## Seniors discuss age-old issues: Traffic, library; Three-way race in demerged city

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### Full text:

#### Municipal Elections

Like dozens of other Cote St. Luc seniors, Dave Karp makes his way most mornings to Cavendish Mall, where he and his friends chat about the news of the day over a cup of coffee.

These days, much of the talk at the mall centres around who will be sitting in the mayor's chair after the Nov. 6 election.

Will it be Bernard Lang, the 80-year-old former mayor who has 35 years of political experience? Or Anthony Housefather, a 35-year-old borough councillor and past president of Alliance Quebec who led the successful demerger battle that has allowed Cote St. Luc residents to reclaim their beloved city?

Since Friday, voters now have a third choice, with newly declared candidate David Fuchs, a local businessperson.

Karp said he has yet to make up his mind about who will get his vote. He acknowledges that Lang served the city well as mayor, from 1976 to 1998, overseeing the expansion of the city's famed library and providing excellent public services, including timely snow removal.

On the other hand, Karp said he has been impressed with the size of Housefather's political machine and the high profile he has kept since becoming a borough councillor in 2001. Previously, Housefather served on Hampstead city council for seven years.

Many of the issues in this campaign are the same ones that have dogged Cote St. Luc for years.

Voters want to ensure that the Meadowbrook golf course is preserved as green space and many residents now acknowledge that access roads - including the much-talked-about extension of Cavendish Blvd. - must be improved in one form or another.

Resident Bertha Kahansky, who uses the municipal library twice a week, said the new city council will have to decide whether to restrict access to the library to Cote St. Luc residents.

After the megacity mergers, membership skyrocketed to 28,000 from 9,700. But that figure dropped to 11,500 after the borough council began charging all library users a \$5 fee.

"We had to wait too long for books because there were so many people," Kahansky said.

Housefather says he supports the indirect extension of Cavendish, which would see two sections of the boulevard link up via Royalmount Ave.

Lang said he now supports the indirect route because he doesn't want a direct link, between Cavendish in C.S.L. and Cavendish in St. Laurent, forced upon the city by the province.

Both candidates are committed to returning services, such as snow removal and street cleaning, to pre-merger standards.

Lang contends that local streets, parks and public services were neglected in the megacity because too many veteran civil servants were given job buyouts following the mergers.

"We had new people who didn't have the same feeling for Cote St. Luc and, as a result, we got the kind of service that you get in Montreal," he said.

But Housefather said he expects voters will reward him on election night for leading the successful fight to demerge from Montreal. On the day of the demerger vote in June 2004, when it looked like not enough Cote St. Luc voters would make it to the polls, Housefather raced to the busy intersection of Cavendish Blvd. and Fleet Rd. with a bullhorn and encouraged residents to get out and vote.

Longtime local columnist Mike Cohen, who is running for council for the first time, said both men are highly regarded among the city's 22,500 eligible voters.

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#### Mayor candidates

1. David Fuchs

Independent

2. Anthony Housefather

Independent

3. Bernard Lang

Independent

#### Councillor candidates

##### District 1

1. Sam Goldbloom

Independent

2. Marvin Helfenbaum

Independent

3. David Seymour

Independent

4. Gerald Sidel

Independent

##### District 2

1. Mike (Michael) Cohen

Independent

2. Howard Silbiger

Independent

##### District 3

1. Dida Berku

Independent

2. Juda Silbiger

Independent

##### District 4

1. Steven Erdelyi

Independent

2. Robert Leibner

Independent

3. Michael Lifshitz

Independent

4. Arie Sochaczewski

Independent

##### District 5

1. Allan J. Levine

Independent

2. Aline Malka

Independent

##### District 6

1. Glenn J. Nashen

Independent

District 7

1. Mitchell Brownstein

Independent

District 8

1. Ruth Kovac

Independent

**Illustration**

Colour Photo: PHIL CARPENTER, THE GAZETTE / Rita Zack (left) and Bertha Kahansky at a mall in Cote St. Luc. Kahansky wants access to the library restricted. ;

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