

Council passes by-law requiring landscapers to obtain city permits

BY ISAAC OLSON

Snow removal contractors and landscapers will now need a city-issued permit to work within Côte St. Luc and a new by-law amendment allows bulk, yard and construction waste to be deposited at Public Works for a fee.

Both of these measures, passing unanimously during the May 14 council meeting, were enacted by the council with the environment in mind as, proponents claim, both will help limit the amount of trash and debris on city streets. However, one local contractor says costly permits mean small businesses need to hike prices — something customers don't want.

Landscape/snow permits

Without permits, explained councillor Steven Erdelyi, snow, leaves and debris have been pushed into the street by contractors and caused safety problems. The new law will come into effect June 15, giving contractors roughly a month to get the needed permits.

When asked by a resident how the city plans to educate contractors and enforce the by-law, Mayor Anthony Housefather

said the Public Works department will be spreading the word and “yes, it will be enforced.”

This is ridiculous: Landscaper

After 35 years of landscaping and removing snow in the surrounding area, Ernest Chapman takes issue with laws that demand permits because price competition is already fierce enough.

In turn, he said these types of rules give bigger contractors, who can afford to offer a lower price despite the cost of permits, one leg up on smaller businesses. He said these types of municipal laws force people out of the job and they put more strain on the welfare system.

Chapman, claiming he is always careful with snow and leaves, said he understands that some private snow removal contractors are negligent and should be getting permits, but the same could be said about the city's street operations that are often dumping snow right on freshly cleared driveways.

But when it comes to landscaping, he said “people are already complaining about the prices as it is.” Requiring

permits in places like Hampstead, Westmount and Montreal West, he concluded, feels like “they're trying to put us out of business. This is ridiculous. I don't find this fair at all.”

Trash disposal

At the council meeting, Councillor Dida Berku said residents and contractors will be offered different fees to deposit waste at the Public Works yard but, she noted, people will be required to prove the trash was produced in the city.

With fees ranging from as little as \$10 to as much as \$90 depending on the waste, Berku said, “we feel this is going to generate approximately \$40,000 to \$50,000 a year. It's money that we need to cover the disposal of this waste and, also, it will encourage people to not just dump it on the street as it is not ordinary garbage.” Residents can also call the Public Works department, she noted, and, for a fee, pay to have waste collected.

“Along with the licensing of contractors, we're hoping to instill some discipline in Côte St. Luc and in the way yard waste and other waste materials are disposed of,” concluded Berku.

make an appearance in the nearby city of Hunderfitz. Ages 3-7.

Oh non, George! by Chris Haughton

Harris laisse son chien George tout seul à la maison. George a promis d'être sage. Il aimerait tellement être sage. Mais il vient juste de voir un gâteau dans la cuisine... Que va faire George? Pour les 3-7 ans.

DVDs

A Better Life

In this touching, poignant, multi-generational drama, an illegal immigrant and humble striver from Mexico borrows \$12,000 to buy a used truck so he can start his own upscale gardening business in Los Angeles. After the vehicle is stolen he and his resentful son must search for it across the city's Latino neighborhoods or face a life of deprivation.

CDs

MDMA by Madonna

Featuring duets with M.I.A. and Nicki Minaj, Madonna returns with her latest studio album, which includes the single, “Give Me All Your Luvin.” The CD also includes the Golden Globe-winning song, “Masterpiece” from the film *W.E.* that was co-written and directed by Madonna.

ON THE SHELVES AT THE CSL PUBLIC LIBRARY

English Adult

A Small Circus by Hans Fallada

Hans Fallada's account of a town rife with corruption, greed and brutality, first published in 1931, was written as Weimar Germany collapsed around him. It is an extraordinary novel about the failure of governments and the failings of people.

Straphanger: Saving Our Cities and Ourselves from the Automobile by Taras Grescoe

In the 20th century, our greatest cities were almost ruined by the automobile. The author argues that only a global revolution in transportation can bring them back from the brink.

He offers alternatives to car-based living, told through encounters with bicycle commuters, subway engineers, idealistic mayors and disillusioned trolley campaigners. In a world of skyrocketing gas prices and political unrest in the oil-rich corners of the world, this is essential reading.

French Adult

L'hymne de bataille de la mère tigre par Amy Chua

Livre sur le conflit culturel entre l'Est et l'Ouest. Pour l'auteur, fille d'immigrés chinois aux États-Unis, est inconcevable d'éduquer ses enfants à la façon occidentale, trop permissive, individualiste, vouée à l'échec. Elle opte pour l'éducation chinoise!

Claustria par Régis Jauffret

Roman qui s'inspire d'un fait divers, passé en Autriche, et analyse une histoire de séquestration se basant au mythe de la caverne de Platon.

Children's

Larf by Ashley Spire

No one believes Larf exists, because, you see, he is a sasquatch, the only sasquatch in the world. He loves living alone in the woods, where on any given day he might be found jogging, gardening or walking Eric, his pet bunny. But everything changes when Larf discovers that another sasquatch is scheduled to



Constructive solutions for your residential & commercial building projects

RESIDENTIAL COMMERCIAL

- Kitchens
- Bathrooms
- Basements
- Painting
- Door & window installation
- Brick work
- Cement work
- Flood damage
- Insurance work

Building on Success

Turn your *to-do job* into a *job well done!*

25 years of building & renovation experience

LICENCED, INSURED, BONDED
GENERAL CONTRACTORS

RBQ Licence #8361-4171-01

Now booking appointments for Spring & Summer 2012:

514-815-4412

kbconstructiongroup@yahoo.ca



Brick and Stone Repair

- Brick Sealer • Chimney repairs
- Tuck pointing • Interior brick
- Parging • Window Sills

Free Estimates
T.: 514.821.1422

www.maconneriesam.ca

qi gong/taï chi
in nòg?
514 484-1591

If you'd like to be on our subscription list and receive our paper by email, send your email address to office@freepresspaper.com