

CSL is no plumbing paradise, but city says things are getting better

BY ISAAC OLSON

Morris Greenberg, a Sunnybrooke Tower resident, and a building's administrator, Shirley Silverstein, went before the council on October 17 to lament what they described as a failure to maintain the city's waterlines and inability to promptly notify residents before water is temporarily shut off.

"You've known for years that these pipes were corroded," Silverstein told Côte St. Luc's city council in reference to the lines running beneath streets Kingsley and Sunnybrooke. "Yet, you did not plan to replace the pipes. What you are doing ... when they are breaking, is fixing them and these pipes are breaking again."

Silverstein argued that cutting off the water supply three times in 10 days will damage the building's plumbing and, Greenberg alleged, his condo's plumbing has already been a real "pain in the ass" due to the city's infrastructure. They said it is time to replace the pipes.

However, replied Mayor Anthony Housefather, the technique of "sleeving" pipes, which involves inserting specialized liners into old pipes, is a cost-effective method of retrofitting the under-



Morris Greenberg, a Sunnybrooke Tower resident, addresses the council.

Photo: Isaac Olson

ground network because it demands far less excavation and lasts up to 100 years. Despite the effectiveness, he continued, the entire city cannot be renovated in a matter of months. As far as notice is concerned, he said there is an effort to notify residents as quickly as possible.

Beyond the routine of shutting off water for the work, added Councillor Steven Erdelyi, there was an accidental breakage that led to an emergency valve closure. This year, \$772,000 of the \$1.2

million of investment in waterlines is going to District 4 where Sunnybrooke Tower is located. Noting the city inherited a poorly maintained network of pipes from Montreal in 2006, he said the sleeving method is about 10 times cheaper than replacing the old lines.

"We have invested, I would say, over the last five years, somewhere in the area of \$12 to \$13 million in terms of sleeving," said Housefather. Renovation timelines, he continued, are based on a prioritized list laid out by engineers and Sunnybrooke Ave. may move up on that list due to the recent problems.

"We're at a point where we've sleeved 25 percent the entire city and we will continue doing that."

Construction under way at Les Cours Marc Chagall



Pre-construction preparation work for Les Cours Marc Chagall, a 21-unit townhouse project to be built on Côte St. Luc's Marc Chagall Ave., got officially under way on October 31, when officials and associates of the company behind the project turned the first sod with the assistance of an elected representative from Côte St. Luc. Seen here from left are real estate agent Anita Benabou Rozenblat; David Sigler, Judy Sigler, Gerald Issenman and David Brown, all with the Côte St. Luc Building Corp.; and Côte St. Luc city councillor Mike Cohen. The first units are to be delivered next July.

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