

# City to improve snow operations: Erdelyi



Councillor Steven Erdelyi.

Photo: Isaac Olson

BY ISAAC OLSON

Côte St. Luc officials are continuing to upgrade snow clearance equipment while tweaking operations each year in order to keep service up and costs down, according to Councillor Steven Erdelyi, who manages the city's Public Works file.

The late December snow storm wreaked havoc across southern Quebec but Erdelyi said it didn't push CSL over budget for the 2012 season and overall, he is happy with the way snow clearing operations went in the five business days following the storm. However, in looking ahead, he said the city would continue its effort to improve snow operations, with the recent stormy weather only adding to the to-do list.

From the storm, the city learned that it would have to relook at enforcing its new law requiring gardeners and private

snowplough companies to have a license. One of the reasons the city recently established this law was to make sure they don't dump snow in the street. Erdelyi said not all companies are respecting the law and the city will be working with these contractors in the future to ensure they follow the rules.

There were complaints from residents that some streets took longer than they would like, he added, and city crews need to avoid blowing snow on peoples' walk and driveways.

"The goal this year, because it is our last year with the current contracts, is to assess how much we should be doing in-house versus how much we outsource," said Erdelyi, noting the city does about 60 percent of the snow clearance while the rest is done by contractors. "We have been gradually replacing our fleet, though we do still have some older snow blowers."

The city, he said, is considering the average amount of snowfall in recent years, which, since the heavy winter of 2007-2008, has been decreasing. The lighter winters, said Erdelyi, saves the city money in the long run.

"We pay our contractors a base for 160 centimetres and above that we pay per centimetre," said Erdelyi, noting last winter brought about 100 centimetres but in 2007-2008, brought over 500. The city spends about \$2 million a year on snow operations, he added.

Unlike Montreal, which removes the snow from the streets, CSL mostly uses

snow blowers to spray the snow onto front yards. When removal is necessary, such as on the arterial roads, the city has a snow dump off Marc Chagall Ave. — a dump that has drawn criticism from local residents for being unsightly, although Erdelyi contends the location saves the city thousands of dollars by not requiring snow to be shipped elsewhere.

Last March in a split vote, the city opted to spend roughly \$10,000 on breaking up

the snow hump to speed up the melting process. Erdelyi said he is not in favour of spending the money when the snow pile will melt anyway. At this point, he said the budget has not been finalized so he can't say if officials will vote to again break up the pile.

Most of December had very little snowfall, he said, and "the longer we go without snow, the more likely we are to stay on budget or even save money."



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## Registration low for new health-focused classes

BY ISAAC OLSON

Two new health-focused programs, one for youth and another for adults, are failing to garner registrations.

Côte St. Luc Recreation department's Alvin Fishman, who said the courses may be postponed, said the lack of registration "is a little disheartening" but he is working to get the word out so these new programs can get off the ground.

The 10-week course for youth aims to teach kids the importance of eating healthily and exercising. Youth these days, he said, "are not using their body. They're not developing core strength."

Studies indicate child obesity and dia-

betes are increasing due to poor diet and a lack of exercise, he said, but this course, taught by Marla Friend, will show children the positive effects of good lifestyle management throughout all stages of one's life.

The other program is a 10-week "ultimate workout" for adults.

If they aren't cancelled, the adult fitness class is slated to start January 17, from 6 to 7 pm at the Samuel Moskovitch Arena studio room, while the Children's Wellness classes should begin January 20 from 11 am to noon at the Harold Greenspon Auditorium.

For more information, contact Fishman: 514.485.6806 ext. 2012

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