

Pressure-reducing chambers to help reduce water main breakages

BY ISAAC OLSON

With only two principal points of entry for most of the water piped into Côte St. Luc from Montreal's network, the municipality in the past has experienced sudden, uncontrolled increases in water pressure that led to pipes breaking.

The council has now approved a measure that will change that.

"What this measure is entailing is that the agglomeration of Montreal will install, at the two main entrances to Côte St. Luc, special pressure-sensing devices that will basically counteract any change in pressure," said Councillor Steven Erdelyi, before the council approved the resolution during the September 9 meeting. "When the water pressure from Montreal increases, there will be these special chambers that open and close to allow the pressure on the Côte St. Luc system to be balanced."

The work, which will likely begin in the spring 2014, will be at four spots, explained Erdelyi in a later phone interview. One chamber will be installed where Alpine Ave. meets Côte St. Luc Rd.

and another will be installed near the Côte St. Luc Shopping Centre, he said. Sensors will be installed under Holland Rd. and under Armstrong Ave., he said.

Increases in water pressure often happen when there is a water main break in Montreal, said Erdelyi. The city will reroute its water around the break and this can cause pressure to build up in Côte St. Luc's water network, which can cause a water main break. If the sensors, located within city limits, notice an increase in pressure, they will send a signal to the chambers to reduce the flow and equalize the pressure, he said.

This work is coupled with the city's pipe-lining effort, said Erdelyi. This year there have been 12 water main breaks, he said, compared to the annual average of 15.4, but "of course, we're hoping to bring that number down."

The city is also studying the feasibility of reducing oxidization by installing "sacrificial anodes" along the cast-iron system. Those anodes are often made of copper.

The copper, installed alongside or near the iron pipes, would reduce the impact

of the oxidization, a chemical reaction, by redirecting electrons and limiting the amount of damage done to the pipes in the long term.

The city, he said, is looking to see if this is a cost-effective, efficient way to prolong the life of pipes as lining all the existing pipes is expensive, he said.

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New synagogue president looks to build community

BY ISAAC OLSON

At 40 years old, Judah Aspler might be, by some standards, young for his role as president of the Congregation Tifereth Beth David Jerusalem, but that doesn't mean he isn't equipped for the job to create a welcoming, fun, and educational environment for the some 600 member families.

Now that's not 600 individual members, he noted. That's 600 families, meaning there could be four, five or more in each family and, recently, that member list has been growing.

Aspler said as president, his primary goal is to make sure each and every member is getting the most from the synagogue in terms of programming and social services.

"The number of individuals might have grown today if somebody had a baby," said Aspler, sitting in the synagogue's sanctuary — a place he has frequented for 35 years. He took the position of president back in May and said, "I feel very much at

home here. I get along just as well with the three- and four-year-olds that I get candy to, as I do with the 70-, 80- and 90-year-olds that have been here a lot longer."

While his work with Microsoft counts as his day job, Aspler said his volunteer position with the synagogue, located on Baily Rd. in Côte St. Luc, is sometimes a full-time gig as he, other volunteers and a few paid staff work to meet the synagogue's community-building objectives.

Just this summer, he said, Camp Ilan was held at the synagogue for the first time and due to its success, it will become a weekly program all year round by providing elementary school students every Sabbath with the trained camp counselors and curriculum of the camp, he said.

During the winter, Rabbi Chaim Steinmetz caters to snowbirds by broadcasting his sermon on the web, said Aspler. Steinmetz makes the video every Monday after the sabbath, said Aspler,

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