

City plans to knock down the snow dump hump

BY ISAAC OLSON

Côte St. Luc mayor Anthony Housefather was the tie-breaking vote in a controversial measure to spend up to \$10,000 on bulldozing the massive pile of snow in the city's snow dump just off Marc Chagall Ave. The goal is to speed up the melting process.

"It's just filthy," said Rhoda Albert, noting she was "appalled" to see so many councillors opposed to an expenditure that, equal to her annual property taxes, would benefit the entire neighbourhood.

Albert, a nearby resident, said the pile, which lasts through the summer and, at times, into August, attracts animals and birds as it slowly melts from white to a stark black — darkened by the accumulated street grime, dirt and litter.

"It's disgusting, that snow dump," added Albert. "Something has to be done, especially with all those nice homes moving in there now. Wouldn't it be nice to welcome the new residents with no snow there?"

Calling the snow pile a health hazard, District 2 councillor Mike Cohen said he has been working on this issue since he



The city will spend up to \$10,000 on breaking apart the snow dump in order to speed up the melting process.

Photo: Isaac Olson

took office. Beyond the animals, he said during this past summer's U2 concert,

there were youth climbing on the pile of snow and this, he argued, was dangerous. After the split vote, Cohen said he was disappointed that so many of his colleagues were not in favour of the motion.

Citing the fact that the funding was written into the budget this year, Housefather disagreed with the notion that the snow pile represented a health hazard, though he voted in favour of the motion because it is "more of an aesthetic issue. An annoyance issue. Residents of the Marquise shouldn't have to look out their window in the middle of July and see a pile of snow."

Councillors Steven Erdelyi and Glenn Nashen were on the dissenting side, describing it as a high-cost endeavour when the season is already warm enough to melt much of the snow in early March. Nashen referred to this past winter as the "un-winter" and suggested there are better ways to spend the money.

"While I agree with the mayor that it is an aesthetic issue, I don't agree that it is one to spend a significant amount of money on," said Erdelyi. "This year, we've have much less snow than average."