

City to pave 3 roads, line 9 water pipes

BY ISAAC OLSON

As Côte St. Luc kicks off its annual street repaving this month with a \$610,000 investment, crews are continuing to line water pipes with protective sleeves that officials say will reduce water loss and prevent costly water main breakages.

“This year, in light of what we have all been reading about the Charbonneau commission, I think we tried to be extra careful to dot every ‘i’ and cross every ‘t,’” said Councillor Steven Erdelyi. “Normally, the work would have started and been almost finished by now, but because everything got a little delayed, the road repaving wasn’t planned to start until September 9.”

This year, the city is focused on three streets for repaving, according to Erdelyi, who manages the Public Works file. Côte St. Luc, he said, often tears up streets and rebuilds the foundation from scratch to ensure a longer lifespan. Just adding new asphalt, he said, can only breathe five to 10 years of life into a road whereas rebuilding, though more expensive initially, means roads last for many years.

PIPE LINING THIS YEAR:

- Davies Ave. between Guelph Rd. and Wavell
- Parkview Crescent between Parkview Rd. and Merton Rd.
 - Wentworth Ave. between Guelph Rd. and Kildare Rd.
 - Melling Ave. between Guelph Rd. and Wavell Rd.
- Jellicoe Ave. between Mountbatten Rd. and Wavell Rd.
- Westminster Ave. between Guelph rd. and Wavell Rd.
 - Emerson Rd. between Einstein Ave. and Kellert Ave.
- Hudson Ave. between Côte St. Luc Rd. and the train tracks
 - Wolsely Ave. between Guelph Rd. and Wavell Rd.

Some streets, he noted, may simply get asphalted over rather than rebuilt if studies indicate the foundation is in good shape, but most of the time the road is completely redone.

Citing a \$53,000 contingency budget, Erdelyi said the entire length of Cranbrooke Ave., from Westover Rd. to Sunnybrooke Ave., will be redone. Magnolia Rd., from Westluxe Ave. to Smart is on the list, as is Blossom Ave. from Mackle Rd. north to the Canadian Pacific property, he said.

Erdelyi said the city focuses, as it is in two of these selected streets, on roads that

have had water mains lined. In those cases, he said small sections of streets were excavated to insert the liner into the existing water main, leaving a patchwork of road behind.

Blossom, he noted, was damaged by the Marguerite Bourgeois school expansion, he added, and that helped move it up on the priority list.

The goal is to have this work done by the end of October.

Since the 2006 demerger, Erdelyi said the city has redone 6.87 kilometres of road for a total of 11.26 percent of the city’s road infrastructure.

This year, along with the paving, the water infrastructure under nine stretches of road is being renovated for just under \$2 million, said Erdelyi. Six of the nine projects have already been started, he said.

“We are at the stage of laying the temporary water system,” which connects to nearby fire hydrants by temporary above-ground pipes that connect to the home’s spigot the councillor explained.

“We have been able to reduce our consumption of water,” he said, noting 20 percent of the city’s water mains have been lined.

“We also reduce the number of water main breaks. Every time there is a break, it comes at a huge cost to the city.”

Erdelyi noted the money coming to the city from the gas tax helps fund these projects, but the funding is not consistent and this makes it hard to plan ahead.

The city, he said, is lobbying the upper levels of government for a more reliable source of funding from the gas tax.

While citizens will be inconvenienced during the work, the councillor said “in the long-term, of course, they will benefit.”

CSL officials demand cable companies beautify boxes

BY ISAAC OLSON

Cable utility boxes from big-name cable companies are becoming more common as customers demand faster internet service, but the metallic cubes often become graffiti canvasses and, to some eyes, mar the urban landscape.

Côte St. Luc, in its effort to beautify the city, is taking action against these “eyesores” by requiring Bell Canada to camouflage or hide the boxes, according to Councillor Steven Erdelyi, who said he came up with the idea when he noticed the initiative in western Canada.

Recently, Bell Canada made a request to install more of the boxes in the area, the councillor explained, which prompted officials to tell Bell that the old and the new boxes must be hidden if the company wants to expand in Côte St. Luc. Videotron, said Erdelyi, will be next when that company requests to install more boxes.

While the city can clean up graffiti on public property, it can’t clean it off anything private, noted Erdelyi, which means

the city relies on the company to keep their utility boxes clean.

The first one is located on Hudson Ave. near Guelph Ave. in Yitzhak Rabin Park, which Erdelyi said is “one of the worse ones for graffiti in Côte St. Luc.” There are nine others the city would like to see redone. The newest box is coming to Mackle Rd., near Beethoven Ave., he said.

Véronique Arsenault, a spokesperson with Bell, told the *Free Press* that “we work hard to maintain our outdoor equipment in good operational and visual condition.”

Prints

In the case of Côte St. Luc, she said Bell has been working to improve the appearance of the equipment with prints, which she said are easy to clean and won’t fade over time.

This isn’t the first time Bell has taken on such an initiative. “In other cities such as Toronto, we work with city officials and local artists to paint original artwork on our equipment as part of their beautiful city programs,” said Arsenault



The Musicians of the World Orchestra performed a benefit concert on August 22 at the former Wagar High School in support of the Côte St. Luc Cats Committee. Tickets were \$10 each and the proceeds went to supporting the committee and its trap, neuter, release and adopt program. The concert also supported Educhat (www.educhat.ca). Conducted by Joseph Milo, the Musicians of the World Orchestra performed Beethoven, Broadway and All That Jazz: the Cat’s Meow. The concert drew a full house, packing the auditorium to near maximum capacity.