

# Parking lot redo, water infrastructure repair, more underpass work to come

BY ISAAC OLSON

As the Côte St. Luc city council dives into 2017, there is plenty to get done and to do that, elected officials have to first approve the needed spending. During the February 13 city council meeting, eight new by-laws were approved, authorizing millions of dollars' worth of loans.

## City hall/library parking lot

By-law 2478 was approved, authorizing a loan of \$1.575 million for various improvements to the exterior portion adjacent to the rear of city hall. In other words, the parking lot.

Councillor Steven Erdelyi said the parking lot behind city hall, shared with the always bustling library, is in "tremendous need of repairs. We're also looking at re-

configuration to maximize the number of parking spots."

Currently, he said, motorists are having trouble manoeuvring in the parking lot, often hitting the concrete curbs and barriers. The design will add parking spots and vegetation, he said.

## Water infrastructure

By-law 2479 was approved, authorizing a loan of \$2.2 million for water infrastructure repair. Erdelyi noted the city first began 10 years ago the process of inserting specialized pipe-lining sleeves into water pipes to add 20 to 50 years of life to the infrastructure.

He said the city has so far inserted 14,220 metres of lining. This accounts, he said, for nearly 20 percent of the city's pipes and this work will continue as it has

proven to be an effective tool in preventing water pipes from bursting.

This project is covered by the gas tax, he noted, meaning the majority of funds should be returned to the city. This initiative is coupled with two pressure valve stations added to the main entrances to Côte St. Luc.

## Underpass work & other

By-law 2480 was approved, authorizing a loan of \$2.3 million to inspect and repair the underpass located in Côte St. Luc on Cavendish Blvd. The underpass in question is north of Côte St. Luc Rd., passing under the train tracks. Last year, the focus was the underpass on Westminster Ave.

Erdelyi said the work has been in the planning for a few years. The goal is to start by June and do as much of the work

as possible during summer vacation to minimize the impact on residents. The work will start with the southbound lane and end with the northbound.

Mayor Mitchell Brownstein said attention to traffic flow will be required by the tender contract.

"This is going to be an inconvenience for several months, but we don't spend \$2.3 million lightly," said Brownstein. "We need to do it. We want to make sure it is safe."

By-law 2481 was approved, authorizing a loan of \$767,000 for playground equipment and park facility upgrades. This money will be invested in three different parks, Erdelyi said.

By-law 2482 was approved, authorizing a loan of \$525,000 for the purchase and replacement of the heating, ventilation and air conditioning system in city hall.

By-law 2484 was approved, authorizing a loan of \$221,000 for the purchase of various software and an access control system for various municipal buildings.

By-law 2485 was approved, authorizing a loan of \$741,000 for the purchase of heavy vehicles, trucks and equipment.

By-law 2486 was approved, authorizing a loan of \$300,000 for the purchase of vehicles.

## February 13 council meeting highlights

# Kujavsky cites snow clearing paradox

BY ISAAC OLSON

In watching snow clearing operators work in the city of Côte St. Luc on February 13, Mitchell Kujavsky noticed a paradox and, later that evening, he brought it up with council.

"Snow clearing is fine, but I've noticed a paradox today," he began. "When the ploughs come, they clear the snow to the sides and then they clear the sidewalks. When you clear the sidewalks, it's normally during the day and it usually creates a dam."

That dam of snow, he explained, prevents motorists from getting into their driveways. This means motorists must park their cars in the street until the job is done or clear a path themselves. With cars in the street, the street-clearing blowers can't come through to finish the job. He

suggested the crews operate in teams.

City mayor Mitchell Brownstein said he will pass Kujavsky's suggestion on to the director of Public Works as "she is in a much better place" to offer a response. Brownstein noted he had just seen a post on social media that morning where a satisfied resident described the crews as being fast and efficient.

According to the city's website, during and after every snowfall, Côte St. Luc ploughs, salts and clears 65 kilometers of roads and 122 kilometers of sidewalks. Temporary no-parking signs are put up "on many streets before our snow-clearing operation. The goal is to prevent delays in snow clearing caused by vehicles parked on city streets."

Cars may be towed and owners will be fined \$153. Parking alternatives may be available. For more information, check the

city's website.

## Cohen plugs 3D printer/newsletter

Councillor Mike Cohen said the library is creating personalized key chains with its 3D printer, charging \$2. So far, the library has printed 31 keychains with some going as far away as Toronto and Australia, he said. There are 50 more keychains waiting to be printed. This activity highlights the capabilities of the library's 3D printer, he said.

The library's electronic newsletter subscriber list continues to grow, he said. The newsletter goes out regularly, updating patrons on the many activities that go on at the library.

"We are now up to 900 recipients of this newsletter every month," he said. "That's up from 850 in December. We were at 786 in October."

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