

CSL: Brownstein wins but some veteran councillors defeated

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The winds of electoral change that swept through Montreal Monday night partially buffeted Côte St. Luc as well.

While Mayor Mitchell Brownstein won re-election (he was first elected by acclamation last year) with 5,605 votes (57.8 percent) against former Mayor Robert Libman (4,092 votes- 42.20 percent), three incumbents were defeated in results that shocked many. The campaign was hard fought, especially between the two mayoral candidates.

The mayoral results were cheered at Brownstein's packed campaign headquarters. Family members, friends, council members, as well as Mount Royal MP Anthony Housefather and former D'Arcy McGee MNA Lawrence Bergman, were on hand.

In District 1, Sam Goldbloom, first elected in 2005, lost by a close margin to newcomer Oren Sebag. Sebag received 590 votes (51.94 percent) to Goldbloom's 546 votes (48.06 percent). *The Suburban* had heard word early on that Seat 1 might be in play.

In District 2, Mike Cohen, also first elected in 2005, won a convincing victory against challenger Mélodie Cohn, with 1,008 votes (81.69 percent) to Cohn's 226 votes (18.31 percent).

Dida Berku, first elected in 1990 and the only councillor to serve uninterrupted in the pre-merger, merger and de-merger eras, was acclaimed.

In Seat 4, Steven Erdelyi, first elected in 2005, won convincingly against Eric Banon. Erdelyi received 749 votes (71.13 percent) to Banon's 304 votes (28.87 percent).

In Seat 5, the dean of council Allan Levine, first elected in 1986, was defeated by Mitch Kujavsky. Kujavsky received 837 votes (55.8 percent), Levine received 502 (33.47 percent) and Armand Essiminy received 161 votes (10,73 percent). As with

Seat 1, we had heard Seat 5 might be in play.

In the shocker of the night, Glenn Nashen, first elected in 1990, was defeated by former CSL public works director David Tordjman. The victor received 731 votes (56.14 percent) to Nashen's 571 (43.86 percent).

Seat 7 was easily won by Sidney Benizri, who was first elected last year. Benizri received 919 votes (79.98 percent) to Matitya Serero Loran's 230 votes (20.02 percent).

And Seat 8 was won again by Ruth Kovac, who was first elected to council in 1990. Kovac received 834 votes (66.93 percent) to Monique Assouline's 412 votes (33.07 percent).

Brownstein, in a Facebook post, congratulated all the candidates on their efforts, and complimented Libman for a "well-run campaign.

"I sincerely hope that our old friendship from wonderful days gone by, will be a starting point for collaboration on issues of common interest in the future," Brownstein added in a message directed to Libman.

In an e-mail to *The Suburban*, Libman said he congratulated Brownstein on a hard-fought campaign.

"Democracy was very well served and our residents certainly benefitted from the experience," Libman added. "We put out a lot of substantive content and initiatives to make Côte St. Luc an even better municipality. I hope that the new administration considers some of the proposals and strategies that I brought forth regarding tax reduction, urban planning, infrastructure repair and open government."