

NEWS & ANALYSIS

Côte St. Luc park getting \$500,000 makeover

By Joel Goldenberg
The Suburban

Donald Fletcher Park on Baily Road in Côte St. Luc is getting \$500,000 in improvements beginning in September with a possible completion date by Halloween, Oct. 31, councillor Steven Erdelyi told a District 4 meeting at the Waldorf residence last week.

Erdelyi dealt with several issues at the meeting, such as recycling, traffic and the clean up of formerly messy areas around the district.

The councillor pointed out the park is located at the western end of Baily Road,

not far from Westminster, and is close to railway tracks and homes. He added that the park currently has bocce and basketball courts, as well as a gazebo and a playground. A focus group was consulted on what residents wanted and did not want done with the park.

"We looked at the bocce court, which was a source of complaints — we found that people weren't using it," and Erdelyi explained. "It's being used more by younger people as a hangout. So we cut back the shrubs and we'll be removing [the court] in the renovations" and it will be replaced by a new basketball court.

"The basketball court needed some maintenance, and the trees in the park tended to split up the park and block the views. Some of the paths are going to be redone — the grass has been eaten away and that will be repaired."

Erdelyi described the park's play area as "minimal" and added that it is used extensively.

"Because it is so used, we found there wasn't enough equipment there and that will be expanded. The swing set will be upgraded and expanded. The gazebo will remain, but it will be repaired and renovated."

Other measures include a new path for skateboarding and rollerblading, blocking the view between the park and railway tracks, and building a mini-soccer field — mini because of the relatively small size of the park.

"A lot of kids have been playing soccer, but they were playing on a poorly grassed area with no nets."

Security will also be increased.

"The park is generally very safe, but we want to make sure it's even safer, so we'll add better lighting and eliminate some potential hiding areas." ■

APPLEBAUM

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"Good projects can't get off the ground while, for some reason, bad projects get all the city's attention and support."

Speaking directly to Montreal's anglophones, Hanna said people in the city's west end had to consider what was really happening to their city when global magazines such as *The Economist* describe Montreal's civic corruption as the city's endemic problem and a constant problem for urban development. During a short interview after the press conference, Hanna said people in the west end will have to put their usual differences aside because there were solutions available but they could only work if everybody "pulls together" to find working solutions. Citing such examples as the Tremblay administration's stillborn efforts to develop the Griffintown district, the struggling Empress Theatre Project and Applebaum's failure to save the borough's famous Fraser-Hickson Library, Hanna said the city's government was adrift and the next municipal elections could become a debate about the city's leadership in the wake of five separate police investigations into the city's recent affairs under the Tremblay administration.

Aside from perennial green candidate Peter McQueen, Professor Hanna's only competition in the NDG district is Marie-Josée Mastromonaco, a local school commissioner known to be loyal to Mayor Applebaum. ■

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