

'Big Mac' coming to the Côte St. Luc Shopping Centre

BY ISAAC OLSON

For more than a year, the *Free Press* has been asking city officials and managers of the Côte St. Luc Shopping Centre which drive-through restaurant is coming to the small mall's parking lot. The answer was finally revealed during the May 13 council meeting — McDonald's is coming to town.

Officials said there were lengthy negotiations with the fast-food restaurant to ensure the outlet, unlike other locations in the province, has bilingual signage.

The English wording will be considerably smaller than the French as the corporation has to comply with the language law, but Mayor Anthony Housefather said this shows the city continues to respect its bilingual status and English-language population by encouraging businesses to post bilin-

gual signs.

Housefather said the city rejected the first project proposal and has since worked closely with the developer to make sure the busy pedestrian and vehicular thoroughfare remains safe. It will be the only drive-through restaurant in Côte St. Luc, with the closest being those found on St. Jacques St. in NDG.

As the zoning was brought to the table in 2012, councillors Dida Berku, Glenn Nashen and Steven Erdelyi voiced concerns, not because of the construction, but because of a desire for more area parking lots to be "greened up" rather than remaining heat islands. This time around, however, there were no concerns expressed publicly.

McDonald's was approved during the same meeting that councillors established an urban agriculture policy encouraging citizens to eat healthy.

More shuttle services needed for seniors: Kreaden

CSL COUNCIL ROUND-UP



Former Côte St. Luc resident Gerald Kreaden tells the council more senior shuttles are needed in the area.

Photo: Isaac Olson

Representing the Montreal-based Cummings Jewish Centre for Seniors, former Côte St. Luc resident Gerald Kreaden told councillors that seniors need a reliable shuttle that connects residents with the centre and local hospitals.

Members, he said, have inundated the organization's leaders with questions, requests and a sense of urgency on this topic.

The shuttle bus, said Kreaden, would ideally stop at hospitals, senior centres and communities like Hampstead and Côte St. Luc. There is a Société de transport de Montréal (STM) shuttle running from Quartier Cavendish to Carrefour Angrignon, but he said that isn't enough.

"The aged population in our area need this assistance because a lot of them are shut-ins," said Kreaden. "A lot of them aren't driving anymore and my wife keeps reminding me that I won't be driving for much longer either. Seniors have to get around, especially to medical appointments."

Kreaden said representatives have

worked out a route that connects the Montreal West train station, the Quartier Cavendish, medical facilities and the Cummings Centre. Kreaden said he is aware the council has been discussing something like that and the centre's 6,000 members would like to join in the push for a reliable shuttle service.

Mayor Anthony Housefather said city officials do want increased shuttle services and negotiations with the STM are ongoing. The 262, he said, is likely one of the busiest shuttles in the STM network and so there is an obvious need for more of a service in the area. The current route does reflect what seniors wanted at the time, he said, but that doesn't mean more can't be done.

Helmet by-law passes

A by-law amendment that closes any loopholes in helmet usage throughout the city was passed without opposition. Côte St. Luc established its helmet law in June 1992, requiring all cyclists to wear one while pedalling. Now people will need a helmet when riding almost every human-powered thing that rolls, be it skateboards, inline skates or unicycles.

Residents exceed blood drive's goal

Councillor Ruth Kovac said the annual May blood drive clinic was a success as 143 units of blood were collected. The goal was 110 units. These numbers are unprecedented as the amount of donations collected in recent years has been on the decline, explained Kovac, who takes part in coordinating the initiative.

"I think the message is finally getting out there giving blood is giving the gift of life," said Kovac. "You save four lives every time you give one unit of blood."

—Isaac Olson

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New high school continued from p. 19

students are there because they want to be there.

Parents asked if students with learning disabilities are being segregated away from this "elite" school. Students can't by law be denied access due to learning disabilities since like other EMSB schools the facility will serve those students that need help, said Miniaci, but, at the same time, there are other schools within the system that may be better suited for a child with specific academic needs.

As the questions and concerns rolled in, officials said they are listening and will adjust the program as needed. In a later

interview, Liz Arnot, a John Grant parent and member of its governing board, questioned the sharing of space.

While Wise has insisted there is plenty of room in the building, she said it remains unclear as to how students from John Grant will share the space.

"The EMSB proposed that Wallenberg and John Grant would share the gym and a science lab, and they proposed a nine-day schedule for Wallenberg; John Grant has a five-day timetable," stated Arnot.

"So the schedules of the two schools would be incompatible and shared use of space would be impossible to coordinate."