

Recycling up 8 percent, garbage down 3.4 percent

CSL COUNCIL ROUND-UP

Côte St. Luc's continued effort to decrease the amount of garbage going to landfills is proving successful, according to Councillor Steven Erdelyi, who outlined recent Public Works statistics during the February 11 council meeting.

"For recycling, comparing 2012 to 2011, we're up 8 percent so I'm happy about that," said Erdelyi, noting these are still rough numbers. "Organic waste is up 2.5 percent and garbage down 3.4 percent."

These numbers have continued to drop over the last five to six years, said Erdelyi, since the organic waste collection program began.

Earlier this month, Côte St. Luc officials publicly urged Montreal to proceed as quickly as possible with the construction of the new compost centre for residents in the west of Montreal. The new compost-treatment centre would, if all goes as planned, be built in St. Laurent.

According to a press release issued on February 7, Côte St. Luc collects organic waste from 5,000 homes, but "it is still far from reaching the Quebec government target of 60-percent diversion of organic waste," said Erdelyi.

No questions asked

There were no questions for the Côte St. Luc city council before or after the

meeting and the audience was smaller than usual, with rows of mostly empty seats. The mayor noted it was strange to have no questions as there are usually a handful of people armed with concerns.

Periodicals and binding

Council has opted to continue its periodical subscription and database services contract with Ebscoin 2013 for an amount not to exceed \$32,800, including all applicable taxes.

"Basically, Ebsco provides this subscription management service, which makes the management of our periodicals much easier," said Councillor Sam Goldbloom, noting the service includes handling subscription renewals and claims. The city will also continue its book-binding service contract with a company that binds the library's softcover books in stiffer, protective covers so they will last longer.

The amount, said Goldbloom, is not to exceed \$17,000, including taxes. The service increases the lifespan of the book, the councillor noted, and allows librarians to spend less time patching up paperbacks to keep them in service.

Mayor Anthony Housefather chimed in to note that the city isn't necessarily spending \$17,000 on this service, as it is a pay-per-book deal. The council has only given the green light for a maximum expenditure.

—Isaac Olson

Residents honoured with Jubilee medals

BY ISAAC OLSON

During a small ceremony at the start of the February 11 council meeting, two Côte St. Luc residents nominated by the council for the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal were awarded the honour. Councillor Dida Berku was also recognized for receiving the medal last year.

The medal honours individuals who have given selflessly in service of their communities and during this year of celebrations, 60,000 Canadians are being recognized.

Dr. Marc Afilalo and Roy Salomon were selected by the city, and according to a press release, Afilalo was nominated for



Councillor Glenn Nashen (left) and Mayor Anthony Housefather (right) give Dr. Marc Afilalo the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal.

Photo: Isaac Olson

his contributions to the field of emergency medicine in his capacity as chief of the emergency department at the Jewish General Hospital for the past 27 years. Salomon was nominated for his long-

continued on p.21

Bill could kill bilingual status

My thoughts on Bill 14

Let local MNAs know how you feel



COUNCILLOR
STEVEN ERDELYI
CSL CORNER

I'm concerned about the Parti Québécois' proposed Bill 14 on many levels. As a city councillor, my primary goal is to serve the residents of Côte St. Luc, which is one of 83 cities and three boroughs in Quebec with bilingual status. This allows our city to send all communications in English and French, a right unavailable to the 94 percent of Quebec cities without bilingual status.

Until now, cities with bilingual status could never have it taken away from them. But Bill 14 gives the government the power to unilaterally revoke bilingual status once the number of people with English as their "mother tongue" drops below 50 percent. This is ridiculous for three reasons.

First, the way the government defines who is English-speaking is absurd. They choose "English mother tongue," which is the narrowest possible definition and excludes people who first learned, say, Italian or Yiddish as toddlers but today speak English at home.

In Côte St. Luc, more than 80 percent of the residents speak a language other than French at home, 75 percent prefer to deal with the municipality in English, 66 percent speak English at home, but only slightly less than 50 percent are "English mother tongue."

Therefore Côte St. Luc, one of the most English-speaking areas of Quebec, could lose its right to communicate in English because of the way Quebec defines who is English speaking.

Second, it is absurd that a municipality needs a majority of English speakers (however you define it above) to be able to offer services in English.

Third, it is unconscionable that the PQ would remove the grandfather clause that guaranteed cities with bilingual status the right to it in perpetuity.

This is why our city and Mayor Anthony Housefather have led the fight against the changes in Bill 14 related to municipalities.

Côte St. Luc adopted a resolution opposing the changes proposed in Bill 14 and we have convinced all of the other cities and boroughs with bilingual status

on the island to adopt the same resolution.

We are also working with the Association of Suburban Municipalities (ASM) to convince more than 60 cities across Quebec and the group that represents all municipalities in Quebec — the UMQ — to oppose the changes as well. Mayor Housefather will be presenting a brief on behalf of the ASM at the National Assembly hearings in March.

As an educator, I am also concerned about Bill 14. It is already difficult enough for many high school students to graduate given the many government exams they must write. Part of Bill 14 would make the French exams even more difficult and could increase the drop-out rates in Quebec.

As a taxpayer, I am concerned that by the proposed new rules affecting previously exempt small and medium-sized businesses (26 to 49 employees) that will be forced to francisize.

This will discourage businesses from expanding or encourage them to go elsewhere. As it is, it is difficult enough to set up a business and be successful without more government regulations.

When I was younger, I travelled extensively and for a few years lived in a Japanese city of 100,000 people. There were, at most, 10 English-speaking foreigners.

Yet the signs in city hall and on highways were in Japanese and English. While travelling, I have seen most governments doing what they could to serve its residents in as many languages as possible.

Quebec is the only government I have seen that tries to limit how well cities can serve their residents.

I urge Quebecers to contact their local MNAs as well as other MNAs in the Quebec Liberal Party and Coalition Avenir Québec (CAQ) to let them know how you feel about Bill 14 and encourage them to vote against this new legislation.

Visit BilingualStatus.com to learn more and to find the e-mail or Twitter address of your member of the National Assembly

Steven Erdelyi can be reached by e-mail at serdelyi@cotesaintluc.org. He is the councillor responsible for Public Works and Engineering. He also represents Côte St. Luc District 4.