

## CSL council portfolios

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By Joel Goldenberg

Côte St. Luc's 2009-2013 council may have all the same people as in 2005-2009, but mayor Anthony Housefather announced some changes last week in the portfolios they represent.

Housefather introduced the concept of portfolios for Côte St. Luc when he was first elected mayor in 2005, and the councils of municipalities like Montreal West and Hampstead also assign portfolios to council members, including the mayor. In Côte St. Luc for 2009, some portfolios remain the same, while others have shifted.

In federal and provincial politics, when shuffles take place among ministers, they are usually perceived as being the result of some dissatisfaction with the work of some of the ministers. But councillor Dida Berku says this is not at all the case in Côte St. Luc.

"I think it's good to refresh the mandate," she said Thursday. "Everyone was doing a good job. When we're preparing budgets and priorities, each councillor is fighting for his or her portfolio. If councillors are familiar with more than one portfolio, the councillors are more knowledgeable about all the portfolios.

"It makes sense in terms of serving the public interest for councillors to serve in more than one portfolio, when they advocate. They have a much deeper understanding."

According to a city statement, Housefather will be responsible for issues related to human resources, legal matters, purchasing, information technology, and for relations with the Agglomeration of Montreal and other levels of government; Berku will be responsible for finance, the Cavendish Mall re-development (along with councillor Ruth Kovac), the environment — including the preservation of Meadowbrook, the implementation of a code of ethics, and the Cavendish Blvd. extension; councillor Mitchell Brownstein will be responsible for parks and recreation and the construction of a hoped-for Intergenerational and Aquatic Centre (with Kovac); and councillor Mike Cohen will be responsible for corporate identity and communication, sponsorship, and inter-community relations.

Also, councillor Steven Erdelyi will be responsible for public works and engineering; councillor Sam Goldbloom will be responsible for the Eleanor London Library and culture; Kovac will be responsible for city planning as chairperson of the planning advisory committee, the Cavendish Mall re-development (with Berku), and Intergenerational and Aquatic Centre (with Brownstein); councillor Allan Levine will be responsible for issues related to seniors, the Royal Canadian Legion, the potential establishment of an English-language public high school by the English Montreal School Board (EMSB), the rail yards, the Côte St. Luc Tennis Club, the construction of tennis courts at Rembrandt Park, and a feasibility study on the construction of indoor tennis facilities by the city or in partnership with a third party; and councillor Glenn Nashen will be responsible for issues related to traffic, and public safety — "which includes the EMS first responder service, public security, vCOP (volunteer Citizens on Patrol), emergency preparedness, and fire prevention."

The more notable shuffles include that of Erdelyi, who used to be responsible for library issues; Goldbloom, who used to be responsible for traffic and seniors; Levine, who used to be responsible for

town planning and Cavendish Mall's redevelopment; Brownstein, who used to be responsible for public works; and Kovac, who used to be responsible for recreation.

Berku said it was decided to merge traffic with the public safety portfolio.

"Contrary to what they appear to be, such as traffic, it is a very heavy portfolio and very demanding. We decided to put it together with public security, because it's always the same players — police, public security — so they might as well all do it at the same time." She added that the code of ethics portfolio is new to council.

"The mayor decided it was time to have one," he said.