

## NEWS &amp; VIEWS

# Montreal consult report okays St. Laurent compost plant

By Joel Goldenberg  
The Suburban

The Office of Public Consultation of Montreal (OCPM) released a more than 50-page report this week approving the building of a composting plant on Henri Bourassa West in St. Laurent.

The city has placed a reserve on the land, which is owned by Crest Realities.

The OCPM held public consultations on the planned plant late last year. Some who provided input, including the supported the building of the plant, which is to take the place of an already existing building that will have to be demolished.

But some residents living not far from the plant expressed opposition, fearing the possibility of more traffic in the area, and odours and chemicals being released into the air. The report takes note of the concerns, and calls for a way for residents to follow the project in all of its stages. The report also mentions a response on this issue late last year by the island-wide Montreal agglomeration that chemical products are not used in the composting process itself, but that some chemicals may be emitted, and that if any bioaerosols were emitted - with the conditions that would exist with a closed operation and filtration of the air before it is emitted- "the concentration of bioaerosols would be very weak and their dispersion in the air would not be a risk for neighbouring residents." In its recommendation, the OCPM recommends it have access to a list of any chemicals involved.

The *Suburban* also brought up concerns about the location- the choice of a lot with an existing building that would have to be demolished. After the last

public consultation, Roger Lachance, director of the City of Montreal's environment department, was asked about vacant land in the entire western sector, which includes the West Island.

Lachance told *The Suburban* at the time that Montreal looked very hard at many possibilities, and that the St. Laurent site was the one that fit all of the needed criteria.

"One would think there is a lot of space in the West Island, but when we looked at the different possibilities, they were always close to residences or businesses, and we didn't find another one," he said at the time. A site near Trudeau airport was rejected because there were fears it would attract birds.

According to the report, there were numerous criteria by the Quebec environment ministry and the agglomeration on which the search for a site was based, including a minimum of 500 metres between the plant and any residences and businesses; ideally a municipal property (the property is private); land that is vacant, degraded or of little value; and the absence of an existing building. Some of these criteria were not met, but the report says more than 10 sites were studied with the aid of the provincial and municipal criteria before reaching a conclusion.

The borough of St. Laurent was pleased with the OCPM's report, saying its own recommendations to ensure residents' quality of life were taken into account by the consultation body, including traffic flow solutions. But the borough is also calling for the plant to obtain LEED gold certification, to ensure the facility is environmentally friendly; and to make sure the building is

pleasing aesthetically.

"The construction will undoubtedly have a positive impact for St. Laurent," said Mayor Alan DeSousa. "Not only will dozens of jobs be created, but we will gain expertise in the treatment of organic materials. Since St. Laurent is recognized as a leader in the environmental field, we are very excited to work with all involved to make this project a success."

The City of Côte St. Luc also welcomed the OCPM approval, saying it will enable that city and neighbouring municipalities and boroughs to "send their mixed food and garden organic waste to be treated and converted to quality earth compost that could then be reused on the island."

"Since Côte St. Luc is the first city on the island of Montreal to have introduced door-to-door collection of organic waste, we are very anxious to increase our output and to ensure that our organic waste is treated responsibly on the island," said Councillor Dida Berku, who has the environment portfolio on council.

A city statement also pointed out that "even though Côte St. Luc has a curbside collection service for 5,000 homes, it is still far from reaching the Quebec government target of 60 percent diversion of organic waste and most cities on the island do not even have organic waste

collection."

"The new compost-treatment centre will reduce travel costs for the waste trucks, and will allow more cities and boroughs to divert, collect and send their organic waste to a centre where it will be properly treated," said Councillor Steven Erdelyi, who has the public works portfolio. ■

## ST. PATRICK SQUARE



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Friday, February 22 from 2:00 to 4:00

### Mayor Anthony Housefather

What you need to know about Bill 14

Followed by Q & A

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## CSL passes new tree bylaw 5-3

By Joel Goldenberg  
The Suburban

After years of debate behind closed doors and sometimes out in public, Côte St. Luc recently passed a new bylaw regarding the cutting down of trees on private property and how they are replaced at property owners' expense.

Councillors Ruth Kovac, Sam Goldbloom, Mike Cohen, Mitchell Brownstein and Allan Levine voted in favour, while Dida Berku, Steven Erdelyi and Glenn Nashen voted against.

The new bylaw amends that city's tree protection bylaw, which sought to have homeowners replace one tree they were cutting down on their own property with several. However, each case prompted divisions among councillors as to how many trees should replace one or more felled private trees.

The new law says one tree felled in front or secondary front yards would have to be replaced with one new tree, unless five or more trees are felled on one property within one year. One tree would be replaced with two, and a fine would be given, if it was

felled before a permit was sought. A certificate is given to cut down a tree if one of several conditions is met, such as the tree being dead, infested, dangerous or that it blocks visibility and pruning will not help.

"There's two conflicting visions we always have," Côte St. Luc mayor Anthony Housefather told the December council meeting, "between those who believe that someone has a right to do absolutely everything to do with their property versus those who believe the city has a responsibility to intervene when something they believe is a public welfare on the property could be harmed."

"In the end, the question is how much burden you place on a resident who wants to cut down a tree. Do you set unreasonably high fees or high standards, or do you try and say, even though we believe trees are really important, we're trying to place a reasonable standard on the residents seeking to petition to cut down a tree. In the end, it's not a perfect compromise, nothing is."

Kovac said the bylaw is fairer and less expensive to residents who need to fell a tree for a variety of reasons, there will be no net

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## The Kiddush Cup II

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**Sunday, March 3, 2013**



Come see Congregation Beth Israel & TBDJ battle it out on Bell Centre ice!

1:00pm - 2:00pm: TBDJ vs. BIBA Youth hockey games

2:00pm - 3:00pm: TBDJ vs. BIBA Alumni hockey game

3:00pm - 4:00pm: TBDJ vs. BIBA Kiddush Cup game

Admission is free, kosher lunch & snacks available for purchase.

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**4:00pm - 5:00pm Free Skating session**

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For more information, please visit <http://TheKiddushCup.org>.

# NEWS & VIEWS

## AROUND THE TOWNS

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cheque is received for the second installment, you will receive a reminder two weeks prior to the deadline for payment. See [www.cotesaintluc.org/finance](http://www.cotesaintluc.org/finance) for more information."

### FORMER HAMPSTEAD DIRECTOR-GENERAL DIES

The Town of Hampstead announced "with profound sadness" that its former director-general, William Remington, died Feb. 12. He was 83. "For nearly 40 years, Mr. Remington was a fixture of the Hampstead administration, exuding a calm confidence over all aspects of town operations," says a Hampstead statement. "In his time with Hampstead, he was witness to the largest expansion in our community's history, with the redevelopment of the former Hampstead golf course north of Fleet Road into 'New Hampstead,' and the construction of hundreds of new homes. He also oversaw the construction of the community centre in Hampstead Park, creating a new gathering point for Hampsteaders in the heart of the community. He left an indelible mark on Hampstead

and the people he worked with, and his dedication to public service is unequalled in the history of the town." The town council expressed its condolences to Remington's family.

Côte St. Luc Mayor Anthony Housefather, who was a Hampstead councillor, also released a statement.

"I am deeply saddened to learn of the death of Bill Remington," Housefather said. "During the first six years I served on a municipal council, Bill Remington was city manager and his incredible knowledge that he passed on to me helped me learn how to properly run a municipality. He was a man of

great integrity and he will be sorely missed."

### MOWEST MARCH BREAK MADNESS REMINDER

Registration is taking place for Montreal West's annual March Break Madness events, taking place March 4-8. The events include a trip to Acrosport Barani in Laval March 4, Tubing at Mont Avila March 5, an introduction to breakdancing with Youri March 6, an École d'équitation 1101 with horses March 7 and Disney On Ice at the Bell Centre March 8. The cost for the full week is \$215 for residents and \$225 for non-residents. The cost per day is \$55 for

residents and \$65 for non-residents. Registration is at the community centre. Spaces are limited. For more information, call 514-484-6186.

### ST. LAURENT BOOK FAIR DONATIONS REMINDER

The borough of St. Laurent is encouraging residents to donate books, board games, CDs and DVDs for an upcoming book fair. All profits from their sale will be given to the Carrefour jeunesse employment Saint-Laurent. Donations can be made until March 11 at borough hall, the Centre des loisirs, municipal workshops, St. Laurent economic development and the

Vieux-Saint-Laurent library. The book fair will be held March 18 and 19, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the Louis Labeuge building, 545 Crémazie Blvd. East.

### EXTENDED HOURS AT ST. LAURENT CITIZENS OFFICE

The borough of St. Laurent is extending the hours of its Citizens Office Feb. 27 to March 1, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., to enable residents to pay their property tax bills on time. The Citizens Office is at the city hall, 777 Marcel Laurin. Tax bills can also be paid through the websites of major banks through a 14-digit account number without hyphens, in person at banks and by mail. ■

## TREES

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loss of trees, and the city itself plants even more on public property. She also said there are only about 30 tree cutting requests a year. Berku said she is opposed, for environmental reasons, to new rules that "weaken and dilute" the original tree replacement bylaw, which she drafted.

Brownstein said the new bylaw clarifies and puts into law what council was already allowing, by majority vote, when deciding on individual cases.

Erdelyi said a 2007 Montreal agglomeration study showed that in terms of tree canopy coverage, Côte St. Luc had 15 percent, below the 20.3 percent average, Montreal West's 29 percent and Hampstead's 27 percent.

Levine said he wants to respect residents' quality of life, "and when that tree is preventing me from watching my child playing outside, I want that tree cut. I am willing to put more money into the tree budget to plant more [public trees]."

Nashen said the idea that a tree has to be chopped down to see one's

children playing is "ludicrous," prompting a rebuke from Levine for being "personal." Nashen also argued that the status quo is not being maintained, and that there are many studies linking trees to health.

Goldbloom said council should do what it can to enable residents to enjoy their property, and that he believes in freedom of choice on one's own property. Cohen said residents have to be taken into consideration, and to "try and protect trees where necessary, but also try to be understanding of our residents." ■



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