

Nashen commends rescue services after windstorm

CSL COUNCIL ROUND-UP

During the November 11 Côte St. Luc council meeting, Councillor Glenn Nashen commended the city's volunteer emergency medical services, volunteer citizens on patrol and public security for their handling of the recent windstorm that brought in a flood of emergency calls.

The storm, which swept across southern Quebec on November 1, blew down wires and trees throughout the city, he said, and the public safety teams had to work together to respond to "a number of life-threatening emergencies. They did a tremendous job responding to these emergencies."

One call, he said, was for an emergency medical situation in an elevator stopped by a power outage. The medical emer-

gency, he said, turned out to be not as bad as thought, but the public safety teams responded quickly and ensured people were safe.

Tonchin calls for generators in senior homes

Meeting regular Bernard Tonchin, in light of the recent storm and power outages, said Côte St. Luc has no shortage of seniors and high-rises. The high-rise and senior homes throughout the city should have back-up generators in case of outages, he said, or residents must use the stairs — something very difficult or even impossible for people with reduced mobility.

"We have to do something," said Tonchin, noting there seems to be an increase in power outages.

Some of these issues, replied Mayor Anthony Housefather, are beyond the city's legislative ability and are up to the

province. Were the city to pass a new by-law, it would only affect new buildings. Beyond that, he added, Quebec already has certain building codes with respect to generators in senior homes and other requirements, but the city, he said, will consider Tonchin's suggestion.

Hydro Quebec, he noted, is working to move power lines underground to reduce power outages.

No water main breaks for three months

Councillor Steven Erdelyi said October was the third month in a row of no water main breaks.

At this time last year, he added, there were 19 water main breaks whereas this year has only had 12 altogether.

Describing it as a "huge decrease," Erdelyi said this shows the new liners the city is installing throughout the water piping system are working to prevent breakages.

The pipe-lining projects for 2013 are complete, he said, as are the road resurfacing projects.

New play structure for Yitzhak Rabin Park

The playground addition to Yitzhak Rabin Park will cost the city over \$14,000, according to Councillor Allan Levine, who read the motion aloud. The council, short two members, approved the measure.

Levine joked the play train structure no longer conformed to the Canadian Railway Safety Act and was removed. People in District 5, he said, have been demanding a replacement.

"Now we have this brand new train that will operate without noise," said Levine. "It will operate safely and carry only the sweetest, loveliest cargo — our wonderful little children."

—Isaac Olson

New commander looks to listen to the people

BY ISAAC OLSON

Station 9's new commander said he has plans to put officers on bicycles and focus on traffic issues in Côte St. Luc, Hampstead and Montreal West.

Commander Marc Cournoyer said the first step, however, is to meet with local officials, organizations and residents before setting concrete goals for the area.

Cournoyer, 47, is a West End resident who joined the Montreal police force (Service de police de la Ville de Montréal SPVM) in 1988 and has worked across the island in a variety of roles.

Cournoyer said he has experience developing a close relationship with people from the diverse communities within the areas in which he has worked — from St. Laurent and Westmount, to Pointe Claire and Park Extension — but said his expertise is in domestic violence. He managed the file for the entire city, handling sensitive cases, training officers, developing a risk-assessment form and more.

Cournoyer said Station 9 has very few domestic violence cases each year and, overall, the crime rate isn't nearly what it is in other areas. However, that doesn't mean he is going to take it easy as he plans out his goals for the coming year.

"For me it is important to maintain good relations with the citizens," he said,



Commander Marc Cournoyer in his new Station 9 office. Photo: Isaac Olson

noting that includes residents, vCops (CSL's Volunteer citizens on patrol), public security, EMS and everything in between. "It's important to work together."

His goal, he said, is to introduce a bike patrol in 2014 because residents can more easily talk to an officer who is cycling through the city. When it comes to traffic, he said the primary issue is to reduce the number of accidents on some of the busier streets and ensure pedestrians can cross safely.

Beyond that, he said, he has been meeting with community members to hear what they are worried about.

"I want to create a good plan that represents the needs of the citizens," said Cournoyer.

CSL Cats Committee distributes cat shelters

BY ISAAC OLSON

As it does every year, the Côte St. Luc Cats Committee is distributing custom-made cat shelters across the city and throughout the region before the cold winter months settle in — shelters that protect homeless felines from the elements in what can otherwise be a deadly season.

The Cat Committee's Shelley Schecter said a volunteer makes the Styrofoam shelters that come from recycled medical coolers used to transport medicine.

With a little door, a plastic curtain covering the entrance and dry, hay inside, the cats can curl up in the box during the colder months.

Schecter said residents put the boxes on their property if they are feeding cats so the animals stay protected.

If residents are feeding cats, they are encouraged to contact the organization to get a shelter.

The committee started constructing and distributing the shelters in 2010. Schecter said so far, the committee has

distributed at least 30, but according to the organization's estimates, there may be 10,000 homeless cats in Côte St. Luc.

Nobody knows the exact estimate for homeless cats, she said, but the organization bases the number after studying the population on certain streets.

This, she said, is factored in with the province-wide estimate of 1.5 million homeless cats in Quebec.

"The problem is that each female cat can have three litters a year," she said.

"They can have between 12 and 15 kittens a year. So, if you have more than two cats having three litters a year, then you are looking at huge numbers. They breed faster than rabbits."

Most municipalities don't allow people to feed cats while at the same time, have by-laws against animal cruelty, she said.

Côte St. Luc allows people to feed cats. She said people have a responsibility to care for these animals because humans have created the problem by domesticating cats and bringing them to the area.

"Cats are not supposed to be outside," she said. "They are domestic animals."

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