

District 3 Newsletter

Summer 2013



Dida Berku

City Councillor for District 3

Responsible for finance, the environment and the Cavendish extension

Also Chair of the Finance and Audit Committee, Member of the Pension Committee of the Employees of the City of Côte Saint-Luc, Member of the Pension Committee of the Firefighters of the island of Montreal and official representative to the CLD Centre-West representing the cities of Côte Saint-Luc, Hampstead and Montreal West.

Mayor's Message



Mayor Anthony Housefather

It gives me great pleasure to communicate with the residents of District 3 and I want to salute Councillor Dida Berku for the amazing effort she puts into her district and the city government. Dida and I collaborate on all issues. In addition to her leadership on financial and environmental issues, Dida is intrinsically involved in all aspects of the city and her intelligence and insight are incredibly valuable to me and the rest of council and our staff.

Like you, I was troubled by the train derailment and fire in Lac Mégantic on July 6. As you are no doubt aware railways fall under federal jurisdiction. Although the safety record of railways is generally good and the city has an Emergency Measures Plan to respond to any railway related incident we need to learn lessons from this tragedy. For the last eight years that I have been mayor, we have enjoyed a very positive relationship with Canadian Pacific Railway and we have asked for a meeting with officials from CP to review the measures and procedures it has put in place to ensure the safety and security of transport throughout the Saint-Luc yards and in par-

ticular along the shared track used by commuter trains and freight trains. We will also be joining with our fellow cities and towns in Canada to ask for changes to federal regulations to the extent necessary to respond to the issues raised by this incident.

Over the last several years we have seen some amazing changes in Côte Saint-Luc. We have constructed the new Aquatic and Community Centre (ACC) that has created a community hub in Côte Saint-Luc and made us a leader in swimming programs. The building with its library annex, dance studio, arts studio, gym, multipurpose rooms and seniors centre, not to mention a café is an enormous asset to our city.

We have also worked hard with the EMSB to restore a mainstream English public high school to Côte Saint-Luc and Wallenberg Academy is set to be launched at the former Wagar site in the fall of 2014. We have invested heavily in our water infrastructure and continue to restore roads, sidewalks and parks on an ongoing basis with District 3 receiving a large share of this spending. Over the last few years we have lined the water infrastructure in much

of District 3 and completed the renovations of the playground equipment and soccer grounds at Singerman Park.

Your City Council has worked hard to lead the fight against Bill 14 at the municipal level and has coordinated the campaign against the provisions within the bill on bilingual communities. We have successfully secured the support of almost every bilingual municipality in Quebec as well as many non-bilingual communities and both of the major groups representing Quebec municipalities. Please visit bilingualstatus.com a website established by the city to learn more.

Finally I want to reassure you that contrary to what we are hearing goes on in other cities in this province, Côte Saint-Luc has policies and procedures and people in place to ensure that our city runs with honesty and integrity and in the best interest of residents.

I wish you a very happy summer season.

Councillor Dida Berku was honoured to pin a Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal on Mayor Anthony Housefather on June 5, 2013. Mayor Housefather received this award in recognition of his selfless service to the community.



Given the recent developments in municipal affairs in Quebec, as your City Councillor for District 3, I am proud that we live in our beautiful well-managed city where we can all count on the integrity and good ethics of the elected officials and the city management.

In Côte Saint-Luc, we are totally dedicated to offering a high standard of services to all our residents in compliance with our code of ethics that is "with integrity, loyalty, honour and prudence in pursuit of the public interest of the city and the pursuit of equality and fairness for all our residents."

In the district, over the past year many projects have been successfully completed and this includes the playground equipment and soccer grounds at Singerman Park and the new protected lane for Cavendish southbound from Fleet. The upgrading of the lights at that intersection and the protected lane have helped divert the through-traffic from driving through the Baily-Glencrest short cut. We are monitoring the new measures to see how we can further make improvements.

On the subject of traffic, I am committed to promoting alternative and active transport. Towards that end we are planning to extend the Côte Saint-Luc bicycle route to protected lanes along Baily to allow for safe passage of bicycles from Cavendish Blvd. to Côte Saint-Luc Rd. As well, over the course of the summer we will be announcing the results of the shuttle-bus survey, which we launched in collaboration with the Jewish General Hospital in order to propose

continued on page 2



Last fall, the city and the Jewish General Hospital began work to survey residents and hospital staff on whether they would use a shuttle bus from Côte Saint-Luc to the Côte-des-Neiges hospital district.

continued from page 2

alternative transport to and from here and the Côte-des-Neiges hospital district. In order to reduce congestion along Fleet Rd. and parking and traffic around the hospital area, I urge those residents of District 3 who work and/or go to this area regularly to consider whether the proposed shuttle can work for you. As well, I remind you that our district is very well serviced by public transport (bus routes 162, 103, 104, 138 and 420) and encourage you all to take the bus regularly, as I do most workdays.

Once again this past spring, I lead the Jane's Walk walking tour of the Meadowbrook Golf Course. This year the tours were well attended and enjoyed by many residents from Côte Saint-Luc and across the island. Given my dedication to the protection of green space and Meadowbrook I urge you all to consider the tree protection by-law before cutting or pruning your trees. Our trees are our best protection for maintaining good fresh air and a healthy habitat for our birds and small wildlife. Through our new urban agriculture initiative we are planning on planting more fruit trees in public spaces and this will further enhance our CSL Grown program. Please check out the new demonstration garden in back of the City Hall/Library when you have a chance. There are many new courses and initiatives for those amateur gardeners interested in planting in their own yards or in the new community gardens which we have made available. Please see CSLGrown.org for more details.

As well I am very pleased to see that most residents of the district are in compliance with our waste management by-law and are using their brown and blue bins on a regular basis.

Diverting our waste from landfills is very important and we must all improve our performance in order to meet government mandated targets of 60 percent diversion of waste from landfill. For your convenience we sell brown paper bags for the organic waste at the Public Works Department at 7001 Mackle Rd. and should you or anyone you know have any issues at all please feel free to call the the Public Works Department for assistance (514-485-6868). If you want to join our Eco-Action committee as a volunteer, as co-chair of this committee I can tell you we need more resident participation as we are hoping to educate and encourage residents across the city in condos and apartment buildings to reduce, reuse and recycle. For more info please visit EcoCSL.org

As the chairperson of the Finance Committee, I work closely with our committee members and staff to monitor our spending and finances. The new re-development at the

To contact Councillor Berku, call **514-485-6945** or send an e-mail message to dberku@cotesaintluc.org.



District 3 encompasses Baily Rd. (to the north), parts of Côte Saint-Luc Rd. (to the south), Silverson Ave. (to the west) and Pinedale Ave. (to the east). For more information, I can be reached at (514) 485-6945 or dberku@cotesaintluc.org. PLEASE NOTE THAT DUE TO THE DELIVERY PROCEDURES OF CANADA POST, SOME HOMES OUTSIDE OF DISTRICT 3 ARE RECEIVING THIS NEWSLETTER. THOSE OF YOU WHO DON'T RESIDE WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES ABOVE FALL INTO THIS CATEGORY



Councillor Dida Berku was presented with a Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal on February 11. Other honourees that evening were Roy Salomon and Dr. Marc Affilalo.

Cavendish Mall has generated additional tax revenue for the city. What is less well known is that since 2005 I have been a member of the economic development committee of the CLD Centre West, which serves Côte Saint-Luc, Hampstead, Montreal West and Saint Laurent. This committee helps fund young and established entrepreneurs in our community. If you know of any entrepreneurs who are looking for financing contact the CLD at info@destl.ca or **514-855-5757**.

As to the opening of Cavendish this is a dossier I am following closely and am happy to report that at the last meeting of the Agglomeration Council the City of Montreal undertook to reinscribe \$44 million into the Transportation budget for Phase 1 of the Cavendish extension. This is part of the agreement with the government of Quebec over the transfer of the Hippodrome (Blue Bonnets) land. In consideration of the transfer of the land by the Quebec government, Montreal agreed to reactivate the Cavendish file by completing the studies



The City of Côte Saint-Luc unveiled its food charter and action plan on April 18 to transform the city into an urban agriculture leader in Quebec. Councillor Dida Berku is pictured with City Manager Tanya Abramovitch, Mayor Anthony Housefather and Councillor Mike Cohen.



Jane's Walk tour at Meadowbrook.

they started in 2004 and by putting Cavendish extension back in the three year capital budget. I will be following this dossier closely to ensure that Montreal follows up on this undertaking.

As I am called upon to answer to residents' requests and complaints I hope I have been able to meet your various inquiries. For example, some residents have requested a dog run in our district, I invite those who are interested to come up with some suggestions that the city can explore. A dog run is always a divisive issue but I am willing to explore any reasonable suggestions you may have.

Have a great summer and I am always available by e-mail and look forward to hearing from you.



Councillor Dida Berku accepted an award on behalf of the city for its environmental efforts at the third annual Villes et villages à la Rescousse (City and Towns to the Rescue) held on March 22, 2012 in Joliette, Quebec.