

Côte Saint-Luc District 6 Newsletter Summer 2013



Happy summer to all!

Mayor's Message



Mayor Anthony Housefather

It gives me great pleasure to communicate with the residents of District 6 and I want to congratulate Councillor Glenn Nashen who continues to play an important role on our council particularly for his leadership on public safety and transportation issues.

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 particular 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 important developments in District 6. 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 revamped Imagination Park behind the ACC investing in new and innovative equipment enjoyed by kids of all ages. We have worked hard to convince the English Montreal School Board to reopen a mainstream public high school at the old Wagar site and are thrilled that Wallenberg Academy will open in September 2014 provided enrolment targets are met. We also resurfaced the Caldwell tennis courts and entered into a new long term lease with the EMSB. We have also worked closely with École Maïmonides to improve safety in front of the school and will continue to try to improve the configuration on Parkhaven and nearby streets since changes we made clearly need to be tweaked. We have also received a development proposal for the Griffith-McConnell site and public consultation meetings on this proposal took place on July 8 as well as an information meeting on July 2.

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.

My portfolio on City Council is Public Safety, Transportation and Emergency Preparedness, as such, I head the city's Emergency Services Committee ensuring the best quality services to our community. This puts me in touch with our Public Safety Department, which includes Emergency Medical Services (EMS), Public Security and Volunteer Citizens on Patrol, (vCOP) and its director Jordy Reichson, as well as regular contact with Commander Sylvain Bissonnette at Police Station 9.

Glenn J. Nashen

City Councillor for District 6
Responsible for Public Safety, Transportation, and Emergency Preparedness

As chair of our Disaster Planning Committee, I work with all services behind the scenes to safeguard the residents of Côte Saint-Luc in the event of a major disaster.

While EMS is my passion, another area where I have an impact on the day-to-day lives of residents is as head of the Transportation Committee. I have spearheaded several pedestrian-safety initiatives such as our centre-of-the-road crosswalk signs, speed-reducing street line markings and bumped-out sidewalks at intersections.

As founder of vCOP, I've worked with outstanding members of our community to create a corps of residents to augment our sense of community safety and to be available for large scale emergencies. After just seven years, vCOP is a resounding success, the first of its kind anywhere in Quebec. More than 80 volunteers have been trained to patrol city streets and parks every day and to assist when required until arrival of emergency services.

Your City Council and I are your closest level of representation—easily accessible to you and always responsive. I invite you to share your concerns and suggestions.

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Follow me at:

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Blog: GlennJ.Nashen.com



Members of Côte Saint-Luc City Council were on hand as Mayor Anthony Housefather received a Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal on June 5.

A new high school in District 6

Wagar High School closed in 2005, leaving a gap for a mainstream public high school. The English Montreal School Board announced this year that Wallenberg Academy will open in fall 2014 for students entering Grade 7. A Grade 8 class may also start at the same time depending on demand. The EMSB recently held an information evening to a packed house at the ACC. Hundreds of parents expressed interest. District 6 families will finally have a new high school within easy walking distance. The school intends to have language and cultural enrichment as well as a *sports études* program.

To find out more visit:
www.WallenbergAcademy.com

Taking it slow in District 6

I've been very active with Chief Engineer Charles Senekal and his staff at analyzing the traffic patterns across the city as chair of the Transportation Committee. In District 6 and across our city I was chiefly responsible in conceiving of traffic calming measures to slow traffic and improve pedestrian safety. New lane narrowing lines have been painted on Melling, Shalom, Einstein and elsewhere. We've lowered the speed limit on Shalom Ave. and ensured hedges are trimmed at corners to improve visibility. We have installed speed cushions, centre-of-the-road crosswalk signs and bollards on Mackle Rd. and on Einstein Ave. Parkhaven Ave. is much safer now in front of the ACC and École Maïmonides with better crosswalk markings and signs. The city will be smoothing out the raised crosswalks to keep them safe for the students and more comfortable for motorists. New speed limit signs and lane chinking was installed on Wavell Rd. near Melling Ave. A major speed limit adjustment was made on Mackle Road on its entire length. These measures are having a positive impact across District 6 and throughout our city making our streets safer for all.

GlennJ.Nashen.com

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CoteSaintLuc.org

Ville de  City of
Côte Saint-Luc

Social media and local politics

As someone whose day job keeps me immersed in public relations and corporate communications at the Jewish General Hospital, I've embraced social media as an indispensable tool to reach the public and to hear back from them too. This is also true for City Hall and City Councillors to reach out to residents with timely and important information.

My blog, Nashen Notes (GlennJ.Nashen.com), has more than 1,600 posts dedicated mainly to local issues dealing with public safety, current and historical CSL clippings, local breaking news and my opinion pieces on issues such as language rights for Quebec's English-speaking community, environmental issues such as preserving Meadowbrook, Jewish and cultural community issues, and more. This is a wonderful way to reach out to you, my constituents, and equally important, for you to reach back and let me hear from you.

My Twitter feed @GlennJNashen is active with tweets about local emergencies and time sensitive matters. Please retweet me to your followers. My Facebook page is another go-to place for matters affecting daily life in the Luc. Please like me!  Like 

Whatever your preferred method of connecting there are many options to be kept informed about civic issues around your neighbourhood and to be heard back at City Hall.

New life at Griffith McConnell

A new development at the site of the Griffith McConnell proposes to transform the neighbourhood bringing in new families. The developer plans to demolish the existing buildings and erect a new condo building as well as townhouses.

I am quite hopeful that the project will be a big improvement for the neighbourhood by beautifying what essentially has become run down buildings. It will offer new housing opportunities in a conveniently located part of the city—close to our 5-star community installations. This gentrification is in keeping with city priorities of promoting itself as a municipality providing services and attractions for young families all the while respecting and serving the needs of its older population.

Proximity to excellent city services such as the Aquatic and Community Centre with its indoor pool, fitness room, art studio, library express and seniors clubs, along with the gymnasium, outdoor pool, Imagination Park and a new public high school—Wallenberg Academy—should make this project very desirable. Direct access to city buses 161, 162, 104, 138 and Gold Shuttle 262, are also appealing for those choosing public transit options for their new homes. I went door-to-door in late June to invite adjacent neighbours to come to City Hall for an information meeting held July 2 where residents asked questions and saw the plans for themselves. Ultimately, the current neighbours must appreciate what is to come before it can get off the ground as any such re-zoning is subject to a register and referendum. A public meeting also took place on July 8.

Council has worked hard on behalf of the local neighbours over the last many months to ensure that the project enhanced the district. The development will be quite different than what was there for the last 50 years or so and the Planning Advisory Committee, City Council and myself as the local councillor reviewed each element taking into consideration those who currently live next door. Our role is to consider project proposals by the land owners that enhances the community by providing desirable homes to attract new residents. At the same time it is vital to consider the immediate neighbours and their desire to continue to have a beautiful environment around their homes. We believe this project achieves these goals and we hope you, the residents, agree.

Residents may also call Jeff Davey, manager of Urban Planning at City Hall 514-485-6800 or email jdavey@CoteSaintLuc.org for more information.

You can contact me anytime at GJNashen@CoteSaintLuc.org, 514-485-6945 or via my website GlennJ.Nashen.com.

CSL Cycles

The CSL Cycles initiative that I proposed a few years ago continues to roll out across our city with reserved bike lanes and cycle routes. You can follow the leisurely 10 km loop around Mackle, Blossom, Wavell and Marc Chagall which cuts through the forested areas of Shuster Park and Trudeau Park. This summer we are launching bike lanes along Baily Rd. that will hook up with Montreal's bike lane on West Broadway in NDG. We are also creating an eastbound lane along Kildare that will connect to the newly opened road known as The Avenue. Overall, we are offering more comfortable and safer cycling options each year for recreation as well as for commuting.

See Click Fix

SeeClickFix is a web tool that allows citizens to report non-emergency neighbourhood issues, which are communicated to Public Works, as a form of community activism. It has an associated free mobile phone application.

The tool centres around a web-based map that displays all user comments. All users may add comments, suggest resolutions, or add video and picture documentation. Anyone can elect to receive email alerts based on Watch Areas by geographical area and filtering reports by keyword.

SeeClickFix covers more than 25,000 towns and 8,000 neighbourhoods, in the United States, Canada and abroad. The site allows for anonymity of reporting as a way to encourage more people to report issues, hoping for transparency that keeps civic agencies accountable. In Côte Saint-Luc, users can select from categories such as pothole, streetlight, graffiti, sidewalk damage, damaged sign, debris in the road and more.

The app will be functional this autumn and will be available from the city's website. Please let us know what you see that needs attention.

Parks, Leisure and Recreation

Place-making sessions have been taking place over the last months to envision a new and totally redesigned Pierre Elliott Trudeau Park on Mackle Rd. Originally planned out in the late 60s and early 70s as Centennial Park, the 1.3 million square foot (121,000 square meter) facility has huge potential for much greater use by our residents.

Imagination Park, with entrances off Trinity, Glenarden/Fairside and Melling, as well as access from the indoor and outdoor pools, has been a hit with the younger crowd. Its interactive play structure offers individual and team participation. A natural gas outdoor fireplace will warm passers-by during the colder seasons. Welcoming signs will be installed this summer.

The tennis courts at Caldwell have been completely resurfaced and provide a great opportunity for you to pick up a racket and knock the ball around.

The outdoor pool has new food services being provided by Café Aqua and the grounds will now open to the playground at Imagination Park.

We've even created the first parkette at the corner of Caldwell and Mackle in honour of the centennial of the Donald Berman Maimonides Geriatric Centre.



The city honoured Jackie Robinson on its Human Rights Walkway during a ceremony on Canada Day at Pierre Elliott Trudeau Park.



Councillor Glenn J. Nashen and Mayor Anthony Housefather presented the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal to Dr. Marc Affilalo on February 11. He was nominated by the city for his contribution in the field of emergency medicine.

We're looking for volunteers

We are constantly on the lookout for new volunteers to join EMS and vCOP. We provide the training. Please help us recruit a few good residents. Call 514-485-6954 for more information or visit CoteSaintLuc.org.

Helmets for all

I continue petitioning the Quebec government to require helmets for cyclists as has been the case in Côte Saint-Luc since I introduced the first municipal legislation in Canada in 1992. There is an 80 percent risk reduction in traumatic brain injury for a helmeted cyclist. And why not for skiers too? With odds like that how can you say no? Wishing you a safe and enjoyable summer.



District 6 encompasses Mackle Rd. (to the north), Wavell Rd. (to the south), McMurray and Eldridge avenues (to the west) and Parkhaven and Kellert Ave. to the east. For more information, I can be reached at 514-485-6945 or gjnashen@cotesaintluc.org. **Please note that due to the delivery procedures of Canada Post, some homes outside District 6 are receiving this newsletter. Those of you who do not reside within the boundaries above fall into this category.**