

# Côte Saint-Luc District 8 Newsletter Summer 2013



## Ruth Kovac

**City Councillor for District 8**

Portfolios—City planning (chairperson, Planning Advisory Committee), Cavendish Mall re-development, construction of the Aquatic and Community Centre

## Mayor's Message



**Mayor Anthony Housefather**

It gives me great pleasure to communicate with the residents of District 8 and I want to thank Councillor Ruth Kovac for the excellent work that she does for the district and the City of Côte Saint-Luc as a whole. Whether through her leadership in the area of urban development or her strong contributions in the area of finance and recreation, Ruth is an incredible asset to council and someone I greatly rely upon.

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 amazing changes in Côte Saint-Luc. We have constructed the new Aquatic and Commu-

nity 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. I look forward to seeing the next stage of renovations in Nathan Shuster Park. When they will be completed, the park will be a showpiece with some of the best playground equipment I have ever seen for younger and older kids.

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

## Beautiful Changes

**B**eautiful changes are coming to the two large parks of District 8. Both Pierre Elliott Trudeau Park and Nathan Shuster Park are slated for renovation in the next few years. We have already started the process through a series of placemaking exercises, in which residents, council members, and staff visit a site and propose ideas on how to make it an attractive destination.

While I want residents to thoroughly enjoy these two parks, I am also conscious of the costs. Any plan will maximize the attractiveness of the destination in a cost-effective way. A beautiful park will draw more people to it and to the homes around it. Côte Saint-Luc is getting younger and renovated parks are a key part of our plan to attract even more young families and people. My goal is to have work complete at Pierre Elliott Trudeau Park in time for Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday on July 1, 2017.

Working together with Mayor Anthony Housefather over these past few years has seen Côte Saint-Luc blossom and create a buzz in the city. Innovation, excellence, accountability and transparency are the key words in his vocabulary. That applies to City Council as well as staff. This makes for a stimulating work environment.



**Councillor Ruth Kovac and Mayor Anthony Housefather presented the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal to Roy Salomon on February 11. He was nominated by the city for his long-time involvement with Maccabi Canada, from player to eight-term president of the organization.**

municipalities. Please visit [bilingualstatus.com](http://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.

Have a great summer!

## Safety

To ensure better safety at the entrance to the Cavendish Mall on Mackle Rd., I convinced my colleagues on City Council to add a stop sign and a crosswalk there. I have visited some of the high rise buildings with officers from Neighbourhood Police Station 9 to address safety concerns as well as to do fraud-prevention education. We will try to meet as many of you as possible.



**Councillor Ruth Kovac and Marie-Christine Norbert of the PDQ 9.**

## Aquatic and Community Centre

In August, the Aquatic and Community Centre turns two years old. When we set out to build it, Mayor Anthony Housefather asked me to be part of the committee that met weekly to oversee the construction alongside the professional staff. This was truly a labour of love. It was delivered on time and on budget. I encourage you to visit and participate some of the programs or go for a swim. It is a beautiful place to meet and also have lunch at the *Café Aqua*. I am fiercely proud of this accomplishment.



**The Aquatic and Community Centre houses two indoor pools.**

## Cavendish Renaissance

The Cavendish residential redevelopment has transformed the area. Beautiful new single-family homes, semi-detached and townhouses have risen. The new southern face of the mall along The Avenue now has a Yeh! Frozen Yogurt and Café. The area is taking off. Several years ago, the Mayor tasked me and Councillor Berku to oversee the development of the new area. We worked with the developers to achieve a balance between the high-density development they wanted with the lower-density area that we envisaged for young families. The location is ideal with its proximity to schools, the mall, the library, and the Aquatic and Community Centre.



**Councillor Ruth Kovac at the grand opening of Yeh! Frozen Yogurt & Café on The Avenue on June 17. Also pictured are Raquel Gurman, Zelda Gurman, Quartier Cavendish managing partner Roy Salomon, Joanne Gurman, and Marvin Gurman.**

## Committees

There is always much work to be done in the city. Councillor Berku and I oversee all the disbursements from the city, which tells you that we watch carefully how our tax dollars are spent. Smaller is better and demerging from the mega-city was the right decision. We are able to have a hands-on management approach and work together with a very dedicated team of employees to deliver the best possible personal service.

I continue to be chairperson of the Planning Advisory Committee, which reviews plans for new construction as well as renovations. The site of the former Griffith-McConnell Residence will undergo substantial redevelopment in the months to come. The Urban Planning Department, the Planning Advisory Committee and the City Council have been actively involved in reviewing this project. If you are planning any work at home, please check with the Urban Planning Department to see if you require a permit.

Sitting on various committees gives me a better perspective for the decision making that comes to City Council. This includes Finance and Audit, Emergency Preparedness, Volunteer Recognition, Canada Day and the newly-formed Public Spaces Committee, which I also co-chair.



**City Manager Tanya Abramovitch, Urban Development Director Charles Senekal, Councillor Ruth Kovac and Peter Kovac.**

## Events

We celebrated V-E Day in May together with the Brigadier Frederick Kisch Branch 97 of the Royal Canadian Legion. If you missed it this year, please attend next year. We owe so much to the generation of soldiers who liberated Europe.

I was thrilled by the results of the Annual Côte Saint Luc Blood Donor Clinic, which exceeded our target of 110 donations—reaching 142. Thank you to Dr. Michael Weinstein who gave his 99<sup>th</sup> donation. A heartfelt thanks to all the volunteers and staff who work to make it happen!



**Councillor Ruth Kovac and blood donor clinic co-chair Dr. Michael Wiseman at the May 7 event.**



**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.**

Côte Saint-Luc will soon launch SeeClickFix, a web tool that allows citizens to report non-emergency neighbourhood issues. It has an associated free mobile phone application so you can take a photo of, say, a pothole or graffiti with your Android or iPhone and send it to our Public Works staff.

I wish you a happy and healthy summer and invite you visit our excellent facilities and participate in Côte Saint-Luc city life!



*(left)* **Members of Côte Saint-Luc City Council were on hand as Mayor Anthony Housefather received a Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal on June 5. *(right)* D'Arcy McGee MNA Lawrence Bergman, Montreal Holocaust Memorial Centre executive director Alice Herscovitch, Councillor Ruth Kovac, and Ron Meisels, whose step-father was saved when Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg issued him a passport during the Second World War.**

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District 8 encompasses the north-east corner of Côte Saint-Luc bordered by Stephen Leacock Ave. (to the west), Mackle Rd. (to the south), Brandeis Ave. and Krieghoff Ave. (to the east) and Wallenberg Ave. (to the north). For more information, I can be reached at 514-485-6945 or [rkovac@cotesaintluc.org](mailto:rkovac@cotesaintluc.org). Please note that due to the delivery procedures of Canada Post, some homes outside of District 8 are receiving this newsletter. Those of you who do not reside within the boundaries above fall into this category.

