# Côte Saint-Luc INSIDE OUT



- City notes
- Health & safety
- New and ongoing projects
- Environment
- Improving our city



#### **Your City Council**



**Oren Sebag** Councillor—District 1 **1** 514-485-6945 

Portfolios: Public safety and

volunteer Citizens on Patrol



Mike Cohen Councillor—District 2 **1** 514-485-6945 

Portfolios: Communications, animal welfare, and sponsorship

Steven Erdelyi Councillor—District 4



Dida Berku Councillor—District 3 **1** 514-485-6945 dberku@cotesaintluc.org @DBerku didaberku.blogspot.ca Portfolios: Urban planning, citizen engagement, central city, transportation, chair of the Planning Advisory Committee



**\*\*\*** 514-485-6945 @StevenErdelyi StevenErdelyi.com Portfolios: Finance, environmental

issues, chair of the Audit Committee



Mitch Kujavsky Councillor—District 5 **1** 514-485-6945 mkujavsky@cotesaintluc.org Portfolios: Engineering, special projects, and the CSL Dramatic Society



Councillor—District 6 **1** 514-485-6945 

Portfolios: Library, culture, and traffic



**Sidney Benizri** Councillor—District 7 **\*\*\*** 514-485-6945 sbenizri@cotesaintluc.org Portfolios: Public works, inter-community relations



**Ruth Kovac** Councillor—District 8 **\*\*\*** 514-485-6945 @RuthKovac1 Portfolios: Parks and recreation, and seniors



#### New again

Voters in Côte Saint-Luc went to the polls last November 5, 2018 and elected your city council. After every election, the city council is new again. It doesn't matter if you've served before or not. The main job of the mayor and councillors is to be leaders of the community—to set the course, create the policies and instruct our staff, led by City Manager Tanya Abramovitch, to make it happen.

Our other job is to listen to our community and to respond to their concerns. In Côte Saint-Luc, I think we do this quite well. Our council members typically respond to emails within a day, and usually within a few hours unless we are at a meeting or working at a day job. Listening is a priority. It's why we launched the CSL Ideas Facebook group last fall, added feedback forms at all front-line counters, and scheduled public consultations and information sessions on important issues.

Apart from setting policies and listening to residents, the city council has also made it easier for people to see the workings of the city government and administration. For instance, we've started recording all city council meetings so the public can see and hear what's happening without having to come in person. I've interviewed staff for a series of videos that help explain how things work, such as snow clearing or filling potholes.

On behalf of the city councillors whose names and contact info appear on the previous page, I thank you for giving us the opportunity to lead Côte Saint-Luc for four years. I hope you take a few moments to browse through our new city newsletter. Apart from a new look and a new name, the newsletter serves as a residents' guide. We hope you'll find the information useful and helpful.

I wish you and your family a happy and healthy summer. Hope to see you out there.



**Mitchell Brownstein** 

- **1** 514-485-6945
- mbrownstein@cotesaintluc.org
- @mbrownsteincsl
- www.mitchellbrownstein.ca

#### Mitchell Brownstein

Mayor



With vCOP members Issie Karpman and Allan Bramson



With the community as we unveiled the park sign at Elie Wiesel Park

#### City notes



# Council Meetings

Upcoming meetings:

June 11
July 9
August 13
September 4
October 15
November 12
December 10

Council meetings are held in the Council Chamber at City Hall, 5801 Cavendish Blvd. at 8pm.

Visit

★ CoteSaintLuc.org/ councilmeetings

to view dates for special meetings, to download agenda and minutes, and to view or hear recordings from past meetings.



#### Payment of municipal taxes

The second instalment of your municipal tax payment is due **June 21, 2018**. Your Côte Saint-Luc tax bill can be paid using any of the following methods:

- ► Online banking: Add the payee name VILLE DE COTE SAINT-LUC TAXES and then use the 18-digit "Matricule" number found on your tax bill as your account/customer ID.

  \*Preferred method\*
- At your financial institution via teller, bank machine, or phone
- ▶ Via your mortgage company

- ► In person with cash, cheque or Interac at City Hall on weekdays from 8:30am and 4:30pm.
- By mail: Place cheque(s) and payment stub(s) in the return envelope sent to you with your tax bill and mail to the address below:

City of Côte Saint-Luc
Taxation Processing Centre
P.O. Box 11639 Downtown Station
Montreal, QC H3C 5Z5

#### Statutory holidays

City Hall and administrative offices will be closed on June 25 and July 2, 2018 for Quebec's National Holiday and Canada Day.

#### How to submit a claim to the city

The City Clerk deals with all the claims for material damages as well as injuries addressed to the city. You can forward your claim in person or by mail. A detailed letter explaining the circumstances surrounding the incident, the date, time as well as the damages and the claim to the city must be sent to City Hall within 15 days of the event. Do not forget to include your name, address and phone numbers where you can be reached.

All claims must be forwarded to:

City Clerk Office City of Côte Saint-Luc 5801 Cavendish Boulevard Côte Saint-Luc, QC H4W 3C3

#### **Enewsletter**



Sign up for the e-newsletter at

#### CoteSaintLuc.org/enewsletter

You'll receive an email about once or twice a month with useful city info.

#### How to contact us





#### City Hall

- **1** 514-485-6800
- info@cotesaintluc.org

#### **Public Security**

- **1** 514-485-6960
- publicsecurity@cotesaintluc.org

#### **Public Works**

- **1** 514-485-6868
- publicworks@cotesaintluc.org

# Recreation • Aquatic & Community Centre

- **1** 514-485-6806
- □ recreation@cotesaintluc.org

#### Arena

- # 514-485-6806 ext. 2101

#### Library

- **1** 514-485-6900
- □ library@cotesaintluc.org

# Office of the City Manager

- 🗂 514-485-6800 ext. 1902

# Public Affairs and Communications

- \*\* 514-485-6800 ext. 1802

#### **Taxes**

- **1** 514-485-6800
- x taxes@cotesaintluc.org

  x taxes@cotesaintluc.org

  x taxes a cotesaintluc.org

  x

# Urban Planning and Permits

- \*\* 514-485-6800 ext. 1607
- □ urbanplanning@cotesaintluc.org

#### **Engineering**

- \*\* 514-485-6800 ext. 1501
- engineering@cotesaintluc.org

# Legal Affairs and City Clerk

- \*\* 514-485-6800 ext. 1701
- cityclerk@cotesaintluc.org

#### Agglomeration Services

#### **Police**

SPVM Station 9 5501 Westminster 514-280-0109

#### Fire

SSIM fire prevention

**1** 514-280-0874

In case of emergencies call 9-1-1

# Municipal Solution buildings hours of operation

#### City Hall

5801 Cavendish Blvd.Côte Saint-Luc, QC, H4W 3C3Mon to Fri: 8:30am to 4:30pm

#### Library

5851 Cavendish Blvd.
Côte Saint-Luc, QC, H4W 2X8
Sat to Thu: 10am to 10pm
Fri: 10am to 6pm
Statutory holidays:
12pm to 5pm

#### **Public Works**

7001 Mackle Rd.
Côte Saint-Luc, QC, H4W 1A5
Public Works Office

Mon to Thu: 7:30am to 4pm
Fri: 7:30am to 3pm
Public Works Yard

© Mon to Thu: 7:30am to 9am, 9:15am to 11:30 am, and 12pm to 2:30pm Fri: 7:30am to 9am and 9:15am to 11:30 am

#### Aquatic and Community Centre

5794 Parkhaven Ave.
Côte Saint-Luc, QC, H4W 0A4
Mon to Fri: 6am to 11pm
Sat: 8am to 9pm
Sun: 8am to 10pm
ACC Shutdown dates:
Aug.17 to Sept. 9, 2018

#### Arena

6985 Mackle Rd. Côte Saint-Luc, QC, H4W 1A5

From the first Saturday after Labour Day until mid-May Mon to Fri: 9am to midnight Sat to Sun: 8am to 11pm

From mid-May until the last week in June

O Closed for five-week maintenance period.

Sat to Sun: Closed

From the last week in June until Labour Day

Mon to Thu: 9am to midnight
Fri: 9am to 9pm



#### Construction or renovation projects

Permits are required for most construction or renovation projects including but not limited to: fences, sheds, balconies/decks, swimming pools, driveway alterations, exterior modifications and interior renovations that change the floor plan of your house (e.g. removing or adding new walls). If you are unsure whether or not you require a permit or have any questions relating to permit applications please contact the Urban Planning Division at **urbanplanning@cotesaintluc.org** or **514-485-6800 ext. 1607**.

#### **Parking**

Parking rules are set by Côte Saint-Luc bylaws and the Quebec Highway Safety Code. To avoid a fine, please read parking signs carefully before parking your vehicle. Here are some examples where you cannot park a vehicle:

- On any street overnight between 3 am and 6 am
- ▶ Where signs prohibit you from parking at all times
- In an emergency lane
- ► Where temporary signs prohibit you to do so for operations such as street cleaning or snow removal
- In a handicap zone when unauthorized to do so

To request a short-term overnight parking permit, visit **parking.cotesaintluc.org** or call the 24-hour Public Security communications centre at **514-485-6960**.

#### Cat licenses

All outdoor cat owners or keepers must ensure that their cat has an annual licence payable on the first day of July each year. The annual licence fee for each outdoor cat that is spayed or neutered and which bears a microchip or a tattoo is \$10, for an outdoor cat that is spayed or neutered, but does not bear a microchip or tattoo is \$15 and for an outdoor cat that is that is not spayed or neutered as a result of a medical exemption (a cat that is 10 years or older or has a medical exemption from the veterinarian attesting to the fact that the cat cannot be spayed or neutered) is \$20.

#### Dog licenses

All dog owners must ensure that their dog has an annual license, payable on the first day of May each year. The annual license fee for each dog that is neutered or spayed is \$15. The annual license fee for each dog that is not neutered or spayed is \$30. To purchase a license, visit City Hall. More info: **CoteSaintLuc.org/PetLicenses** or call **514-485-6800**.

#### Watering your lawn

You can water your lawn with portable sprinklers between 6pm and 11pm every day. If you have an inground sprinkler system, you can water your lawn between 1am and 7am. Watering with either type of system is limited to 45 minutes per day. If you use a handheld hose, you can water your lawn at any time.

For information on other by-laws, visit

★ CoteSaintLuc.org
/ByLawGuide





If there is any discrepancy between the explanations on this page and any relevant bylaw, the wording of the by-law will prevail.

#### New and ongoing projects



#### Kirwan Park project

The city launched the first steps in the renewal of Kirwan Park with the December 3, 2017 public consultation meeting. About 80 people took park and shared their vision for the space. The city has compiled these ideas and comments, which will influence the eventual design of the park. The next step is for the city to hire professional consultants to design a park based on this and other feedback. Once the designs are ready, the city will organize a new public meeting towards the end of 2018 to present these concepts to the public.



#### New dog run

The Joe Raie Nature Path and Dog Run near the western part of Côte Saint-Luc Rd. is almost complete. It will provide a beautiful area for dog owners in the south-west area of the city, including paths, benches, a fountain, fencing, and lighting. The work is scheduled to be completed in summer 2018.

#### Infrastructure projects 2018

The following projects are ongoing or planned for 2018.

- Sleeving of 21 sections of sewer and storm water pipes
- ▶ Sleeving of 13 sections of water mains
- ▶ Reconstruction of certain sections of sidewalks
- Sacrificing anodes project to increase life span of the water mains by slowing down formation of rust
- ▶ Rehabilitation of the Parkhaven Outdoor Pool
- Replacement of the electrical control panels for the Trudeau park baseball field lights and Confederation Annex lights
- ► Installation of shade structures at Trudeau Park playground
- Replacement of the scoreboard at Trudeau Park baseball field

- ▶ Installation of new signage at Trudeau Park
- Installation of additional fence at Trudeau Park playground
- ▶ New vehicle entrance barriers at Trudeau Park
- ► Construction of a wiffle ball field
- Reconstruction of sidewalks in front of Bernard Lang Civic Centre
- Rehabilitation of the HVAC system at Bernard Lang Civic Centre
- Improvement in communication and programming of traffic lights along Cavendish Blvd.
- Many minor repairs and upgrades to parks across the city

#### 150 Trees for Canada's 150th

The first stage in the campaign to replant 150 trees at Pierre Elliott Trudeau Park is complete. The city raised funds to plant 64 trees. Every donor will have a dedication message on one of the leaves of the plaque designed for the campaign.

The city will continue to take donations until 150 trees are sold. Interested donors can call 514-485-6800, ext. 1801.



#### Improving our city



This is a list highlighting improvements to Côte Saint-Luc and some of the people, places and things the city is most proud of.



- ▶ Opening of the Shalom Bloom Sculpture Garden at Pierre Elliott Trudeau Park
- New sculpture donated by Dr. Harry Rosen for the front of City Hall
- Arbour boy and girl sculpture placed at Aquatic and Community Centre (ACC)
- Release of digitized films from 1974, 1975 and 1979
- Four productions in 2017 by the CSL Dramatic Society, and the launch Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat The Musical in May 2018
- Record 6,000 person attendance at Canada 150 celebration at Pierre Elliott Trudeau Park
- Canada 150 art student exhibit at ACC
- ► Canada 150 performance, The Dream Catchers.
- ► John Elias Baseball Memorabilia Showcase inaugurated at ACC 2
- Video documenting the story of Holocaust survivor Marcel Zielinski

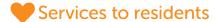
#### Sustainable activities

- Electric vehicle station added to Bernard Lang Civic Centre, Public Works and ACC parking lots
- ► Two electric vehicles added to Public Works fleet
- ▶ Beehive added to top of Public Works Building
- ► Green and Blue Patrol visits to homes
- ► E-waste bins at Public Works open 24/7
- Spring cleaning drop-off service at the Public Works Yard
- Relocation and replanting of 45 mature trees

#### Citizen engagement

- ► Launch of CSL Ideas Facebook group
- ▶ Launch of CSL Recreation Facebook page
- ► Launch of EMS Instagram account
- Launch of CSL Day Camp Facebook page and website

- Live online results on 2017 municipal election night
- Detailed 2018 operating budget published in spreadsheet format online
- ▶ Public consultation meeting on Kirwan Park
- ► Public information meeting on forested area behind Ashkelon Garden
- Smart Cities Challenge public meeting and livestream
- ► Student Education Day at Public Works
- Video and audio recordings of City Council meetings
- New format for city newsletter



- Extended hours at library on Saturdays
- More birthday party options offered at ACC
- ▶ More programming offered to ages 12 month to 5 years at ACC
- More group swimming lessons by introducing Red Cross swimming lessons
- On-site online registration with help from Parks and Recreation staff
- Two outdoor ice rinks opened
- Launch of the Pierre Brunet Recreation Fund to help residents' families who need financial help to register their children in recreation programs and to support children with special needs
- ► Faster response time for access to documentation requests

#### Safety

- Mobile speed display sign
- City smoke detector brigade replaced 96 batteries or smoke detectors in homes of residents while ringing the bell of 590 homes
- Vacation spot check service for residents who go out of town
- ► City-wide flushing of fire hydrants to ensure they are in working order





#### Improving our city



#### Infrastructure

- New water pressure regulation system has reduced yearly water main breaks by 75 percent
- Rehabilitation of Cavendish underpass
- Rehabilitation of Westminster underpass
- Rehabilitation of Côte Saint-Luc Rd. underpass pump station
- Protecting the water network from rust with annual sacrificing anode project
- Renovation of Pierre Elliott Trudeau Park 4
- ▶ New dog run park on Côte Saint-Luc Rd.
- ▶ New protective fences at Edward J. Kirwan Park
- Rehabilitation of City Hall parking lot with safer design for motorists and pedestrians and better lighting
- Rehabilitation of the fountain at Yitzhak Rabin Park
- Upgrades and reconfiguration at the ACC including a larger fitness room with more equipment, game room makeover with more games, introduction of the book corner, new multi-purpose room, and activity-filled atrium area

# Recognition and Community Life

- ► Annual volunteer recognition evening
- ➤ Youth swim team members Vanessa Patrizi, Iris Pouliot, Olivia Lam and Amaya Sastron-Navarrete broke the Quebec record in the 4x50 medley-relay on on March 2, 2018
- Swim team members Ainsley and Caitlyn McMurray, Iris Pouliot and Sun Bin Kim were made members of Team Quebec for their excellence in competitive swimming.
- Earl Kimmel recognized by City Council on March 12 for more than 50 years of service as city notary, city clerk and member of the Planning Advisory Committee
- Elie Wiesel honoured posthumously at inauguration of Elie Wiesel Park.
- Charlotte Dumaine and Adrian Marcellus from the CSL Figure Skating Association were made members of Team Quebec for their excellence in Figure Skating.

- The CSL Dramatic Society was recognized by BroadwayWorld.com with Best Musical Theatre Company, Best Original Costume Design (Linda Babins for Little Shop of Horrors); Best Original Set Design (Sabrina Miller for Little Shop of Horrors); Best Performance by a Male in a Featured Role—Fancy Nancy) and Best Original Costume Design (Elyse Malo for Little Shop of Horrors)
- Famous names who were featured in Parks and Recreation programs include Quebec Premier Philippe Couillard, figure skater Elvis Stojko, musician Oliver Jones, former Canadiens player Guy Carbonneau, and journalist Tara Schwartz.
- CSL Head Youth Team Swim Coach Mike Calcutt received awards and recognition including from the president of Team Canada for his work with our team and especially with those who made Team Quebec
- Nearly \$11,000 was raised for the Manoir Ronald McDonald House at the 2018 Winter Carnival, which brings the overall contribution from the city over the years to \$69,000
- Emy Legault of new CSL triathlon program invited to Triathlon Canada's Mixed Team Relay Talent ID Camp and was nominated to the pool of potential relay athletes for the ensuing Olympic campaign
- Pierre Brunet Parks and Recreation Bursary Fund helps local families by providing financial aid to help register their children in recreation programs. Funds will also support children with special needs.
- Staff participates in annual Denim Day collecting funds for the Cure Foundation
- ► In 2017, staff donated more than \$500 to the Montreal Children's Hospital foundation

#### **Administration**

- Collected \$100,000 from insurance companies for damages to city property
- ► Preparing to launch new document management system to improve efficiency







#### **Environment**



#### Poison ivy

Côte Saint-Luc has signs posted at Pierre Elliott Trudeau Park and Nathan Shuster Park where poison ivy is known to be. We spray a non-chemical natural product three times a year (in June, July and August). The spray has greatly reduced the poison ivy at those parks, but parents need to help protect their young children by keeping them away from those areas. Older kids need to be warned by parents to look out for the bright signs posted by the city. Poison ivy leaves always appear in bunches of three leaflets, hence the saying, "Leaves of three, let them be..."

#### **Emerald Ash Borer**

If you believe that your ash tree has been infected by the Emerald Ash Borer, consult with a professional arborist. If a professional arborist has determined that your tree is too infected for treatment, you will unfortunately have to fell it. Please note that only a certified professional from the *Société internationale d'arboriculture—Québec* (SIAQ) will be authorized to fell the tree. The felling period for trees infected with EAB will be from October 1 to March 31, unless your tree is deemed dangerous and then it can be felled at any time. If the tree is felled during the spring and summer months the wood from that tree will have to be brought to the Public Works yard for storage. To fell your tree you will need to complete a permit application form available at the Urban Planning office (5801 Cavendish Blvd.) or at **CoteSaintLuc.org/UrbanPlanning**. For the felling of infected ash trees, the city will waive the usual \$75 permit fee.

# Diversion Rates

Thanks to your efforts, Côte Saint-Luc increased the amount of waste diverted away from landfill and to recycling or composting facilities by 9.45%. The more we divert, the more grant money we receive from the Quebec government. You can help us boost these numbers even higher in 2018 by putting more of your food scraps and yard waste into your brown bin each week.

### Organic waste collected at curb



+3.76%

1,065.55

1,106.39

#### Organic waste brought to Public Works Yard



Recyclables collected at curb



**Bulky Waste** 



Garbage



Note: in metric tons

#### Waste management



#### **Branch collection**

The city will collect your small branches on Mondays as part of the organic waste collection. However, we ask that you follow these rules to prepare the branches for pick-up. The branches must be less than 30 centimetres (12 inches) long and less than 5 cm (2 inches) in diameter. They must be long tied in bundles of no more than 45 centimetres (18 inches) in diameter.

If the branches are more than 30 centimetres (12 inches) long, please bundle them as described above and place them at the curb on Wednesdays, which is when we collect bulky waste.

#### Special pick-ups and drop-offs

Some items cannot be placed in blue bins, brown bins, regular waste or bulky waste. This includes mostly large electric devices like refrigerators, air conditioners, water coolers, dehumidifiers, televisions, vacuums and so on.

For items small enough to fit in your trunk, residents must bring them to the Public Works Yard, and drop it off at the e-waste bin. You can also drop it off at the Écocentre Côte-des-Neiges (6928 Côte-des-Neiges Rd.). Please call 514-872-0384 to inquire about opening hours.

For items too large to transport yourself, the city will pick up these items at the curb by appointment on any day of the week. Call Public Works to arrange a pick up time.

#### New bins

Contact Public Works to get a second brown bin or blue bin, if you need a different sized bin or if your bin in damaged. Replacement bins are free. Additional brown bins are free. Additional blue bins are \$50 each (any size).

# If your waste was not collected

Mistakes happen, but before calling Public Works, please make sure you followed the collection instructions. Did you place it at the curb after the truck passed by or are all the bins on your street still full? Was the lid open (instead of closed)? Was there something in your bin that shouldn't have been there? If all instructions were followed, report the situation to Public Works.



Upholstered items and mattresses are picked up on **Thursdays**.

Can place at curb Wednesdays at noon.



#### Townhouses, apartments, condos, and institutions

For those townhouses that currently take part in curbside organic waste collection, they follow the same schedule as single-family homes and duplexes. For all other multi-family complexes and institutions, garbage collection is on Mondays and Thursdays, recycling collection remains on Tuesdays and bulky waste collection is on Wednesdays.



For a comprehensive list of what you can and cannot place in the bins, visit

CoteSaintLuc.org/HouseholdWaste

# Curbside collection

We collect waste each week on the following schedule:

MONDAY Brown Bin

What goes inside: yard waste, food scraps

Can place at curb **Sunday at 10pm**. Collection starts **Mondays at 8am**.



What goes inside: aluminum, glass bottles, paper, plastic (except 6)

> Can place at curb Mondays at 10pm. Collection starts Tuesdays at 7am.

#### WEDNESDAY Bulky Waste

#### Examples of items collected:

non-upholstered furniture, bathtubs, toilets, sinks, carpets (rolled), hot water tanks Maximum 3 items. No electronics.

Can place at curb
Tuesdays at noon.
Collection starts
Wednesdays at 8am.

## THURSDAY Garbage

Can place at curb

Wednesdays at 10pm
(closed bin—240L)

Thursdays at 5am (bags

**Thursdays at 5am** (bags, max. 3). Collection starts

Thursdays at 8am.

#### Health and safety



# Stay informed by signing up for CSL Alert

The city uses an automated emergency call service to broadcast alerts and send you general advisories. Our database uses most of the landline telephone numbers located within the Côte Saint-Luc, but not all. If your number is unlisted, if you have only a cell phone, or if you moved to Côte Saint-Luc recently, you can sign up for the CSL Alert system at **CoteSaintLuc.org/alert**.



#### Bicycle and skating helmets

When riding a bicycle, or skating using in-line skates or roller blades, on any street, sidewalk, lane or any public place in Côte Saint-Luc, people of all ages must wear an approved helmet.

#### Dangerous dogs

Côte Saint-Luc by-law 267-3 allows the city to order a dog to wear a muzzle based on the behaviour of the dog, not on the breed of dog. If one has a concern about a dog in based on its behaviour, contact publicsecurity@cotesaintluc.org or 514-485-6960 so we can look into it. If one has been attacked by a dog, one must file a police report at Police Station 9 (5501 Westminster, 514-280-0109).

The bill before the Quebec legislature would introduce breed-specific rules. If the Quebec bill becomes law, then it would apply on our territory as well.

#### **Smoke-free zones**

Quebec law prohibits smoking inside places that are open to the public such as hospitals, schools, libraries, malls, restaurants and so on. Also, you may not smoke within nine metres of the door to a public place where smoking is usually forbidden. This rule also applies near the windows and air-intake ducts of these places.

Côte Saint-Luc has additional rules, which including no smoking (i) within 20 meters of any playground, splash pool, or sports activity, (ii) in all municipal parks during a special event, and (iii) at all municipal outdoor pools. The fine for contravening the by-law starts at \$50 for a first offence. The rules on e-cigarettes are identical to regular cigarettes.

You can view the bylaw on the bylaws page: CoteSaintLuc.org/Bylaws

#### Vacation spot check service

If you're planning on going on vacation, you should ask a trusted neighbour or friend to do periodic spot checks of your home. In addition, you can also use the free Vacation Spot Check service from the Côte Saint-Luc Volunteer Citizens on Patrol, or vCOP.

The service is available to residents of single-family homes, semi-detached homes, duplexes and town-houses who will be away for at least two weeks. vCOP members will visit your home and check for signs of forced entry, like broken windows, open doors, or torn screens. They'll also remove flyers, circulars and newspapers from the front steps. They won't take away your mail. You'll need a trusted neighbour or friend for that, or you can ask Canada Post to hold your mail while you're away.

If your side and back yards are accessible, the vCOP members will walk around your property and inspect those areas, too. If they spot any signs of forced entry during the inspection, they will notify the police.

For more information, visit CoteSaintLuc.org/VacationSpotCheck or call 514-485-6800 ext. 5101.