

NEWS & ANALYSIS

CSL councillors re-elected

By Joel Goldenberg
The Suburban

The few Côte St. Luc councillors who faced challengers in Sunday's election were easily re-elected to their seats, with large margins.

District 4 councillor Steven Erdelyi was re-elected with a mind-blowing 94.4 percent of the vote, to challenger Charles Lemieux-Marchand's 5.6 percent. Erdelyi even bested councillor Mike Cohen's impressive 92 percent tally of 2005. Veteran councillor Allan Levine was re-elected with 74.4 percent of the vote to challenger Leo Sculnik's 25.6 percent. Mayor Anthony Housefather and the rest of council were acclaimed.

But the media spotlight was on District 6, where councillor Glenn Nashen won with 65.8 percent of the vote, to Charles Lugassy's 30 percent and Sonia Cohen-Peillon's 4.3 percent. This race was more bitter, as there were accusations of attempting to split the community on a Sephardic-Ashkenazi basis, violations of rules at polling stations and a "gang-up" in terms of Mayor Anthony Housefather supporting all the sitting councillors. The candidates had lively debates on Radio Shalom and CJAD.

Nashen, reached by phone, said there was a 40 percent turnout for his district.

"It's a very decisive victory, considering the race we just encountered and I take

that as a sign from the residents of District 6 that they favour my position of a one united Côte St. Luc community, not one divided into different groups," said the councillor, who is in charge of the public security portfolio on council. "That means all Côte St. Lucers, regardless of their country of origin or language or religion. That's what makes Côte St. Luc a special place, and we'll continue to make Côte St. Luc a special place."

Nashen pointed only congratulated Cohen-Peillon for the tone of her campaign, and said he will speak to her about issues she has.

Levine said he was proud to win all of his polls, and six straight elections since 1986.

"My wife and I love the door to door campaigning, and we hit every door," he said. "I am extremely grateful to my 750 loyal voters, who I know personally, and who have never let me down."

Erdelyi thanked District 4 residents "for their support and for placing their confidence in me once again. I also would like to thank the volunteers that helped me with my campaign."

"It has been a pleasure to serve the citizens of Côte St. Luc over the last four years. I look forward to four more years and hope to continue working to make Côte St. Luc the best place to live not only on the Island of Montreal, but in Quebec and all of Canada." ■



Artist's rendering only.

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Sam Goldbloom



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Dida Berku



Councillor District 5
Allan J. Levine



Councillor District 7
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Councillor District 4
Steven Erdelyi



Councillor District 6
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HAMPSTEAD

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another Steinberg ally, was easily re-elected, with 72.3 percent of the vote to Sternthal slate member Roz Bakst-Gross's 27.7 percent. Steinberg pick Harvey Shaffer was newly elected with 60.2 percent to Sternthal slate member Daniel Miller's 39.8 percent. Councillors Leon Elfassy and Michael Goldwax were acclaimed, and councillor Clifford Borden did not run for re-election. Turnout was 44.7 percent, less than the 48 percent of 2005.

The town was frequently in the media spotlight, as viciousness took hold at successive council meetings. Accusations were traded of lying, poor handling of finances and inappropriate use of the town's website; lawyer Julius Grey was nearly fired by the town for his political views, a decision vetoed by Steinberg; and the Sternthal slate candidates were accused of running a one-issue campaign — their opposition to the Langhorne Park dog run. Some residents told *The*

Suburban they were embarrassed by the atmosphere of negativity.

On election night, the Adessky Community Centre was under a semi-lockdown, and the vote-counting process took many hours. Residents in the centre were able to peek through the blinds and watch the expressions of candidates, and in some cases, read their lips.

Sternthal, who came out after 10 p.m. to concede, acknowledged that the campaign was "very difficult and tough — but I don't regret any part of it."

"I want to congratulate the mayor on his victory — the people have spoken," he told *The Suburban*. "I wish him the very best. I want to say thanks to the candidates who ran with me, and I want to congratulate Abe Gonsior and all the other candidates who have won. Democracy is a great institution and we respect their decision. I hope the town has heard what we said and goes forward with the right program."

"I've had 20 years and now I'm into retirement." ■

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