

## Accident on Mackle



An 83-year-old CSL woman was injured in the early afternoon of November 25 when she was hit by a motorist on Mackle Rd., near Stephen Leacock. Police say the victim, who was crossing illegally, suffered an injury to her left foot and was taken to the hospital.

Photo: Free Press

continued from Wagar asbestos, p. 11

non-issue that should not, he argued, affect the potential move in any way, as asbestos levels have been or can be mitigated when needed. If the building needs repairs and asbestos stands in the way, it will be removed — just as it would if it was a problem at RVHS's current building, he added.

"It's upsetting," he said. "If you want to retain a school, give me the arguments in regards to retention of the school, but don't give me scare tactics."

When asked if he was implementing scare tactics, Perez argued he is not pointing his finger at health issues, but at the needed financial and time investments needed to prepare the Palatucci facility for a math and science school like RVHS. He described Wise's fear-tactic accusation as "inappropriate" considering his focus is on financial responsibility.

The asbestos is not an issue if it is not disturbed, he said, but if crews do the some \$400,000 in needed renovations, that asbestos will have to be removed and it will have to be done quickly. If school officials

approve the move, he added, crews will have to get the building ready over summer break in order to start classes by the fall.

"It's not conceivable that the renovations be completed in a six- to seven-week time period," said Perez, noting the time to plan those renovations would also be short. "The kids would lose out because you would have a math and science school with no science labs."

The asbestos discussion solidifies the already existing worries among parents at the John Grant centre for children with special needs that is currently housed in the building — though its future is uncertain were the EMSB to make the move.

Liz Arnot and Cynthia Dudley, members of the John Grant Governing Board, said parents of the centre's some 130 students do have concerns about the asbestos being stirred up by construction as, said Arnot, past contractors have refused to work on the facility due to the material's high concentration in some areas. A 2006 did find asbestos "hot spots" said Arnot, and this is something that parents would liked fixed regardless of the building's future with RVHS.



Steven Erdelyi

## CSL CORNER

### Public Works and Engineering work year-round for Côte St. Luc residents

When people find out about my portfolio, I often get asked by residents what the Public Works and Engineering departments do. An easier question would be what these departments don't do in the city of Côte St. Luc, but I'll try to cover the key points.

Some activities that go on all year round without interruption, such as curbside collection of garbage, recyclables (blue bins) and organic waste (brown bins). Since introducing the organic waste curbside collection program in 2007, we have reduced the amount of waste going to landfills by 34 percent.

Other year-round activities done by Public Works include repairing burnt-out street lights and maintaining all city buildings, property and vehicles. Engineering oversees all major projects in the city and traffic calming.

Much of what is done by these departments is seasonal. Fall is a time for our Public Works crews to collect leaves, close parks, prepare outdoor skating rinks, and ensure that the fleet of snow removal vehicles is ready.

In winter, the focus is on snow-clearing and removal, and salting main streets and intersections. In Côte St. Luc the majority of the work is done by city workers but there are sections and streets done by contractors. This has led to a friendly competition between the two as to who can do a better and quicker job.

Streets are cleaned on a priority basis with main streets, areas in front of schools, hospitals and bus stops being done first.

In the spring, the focus at Public Works is on getting the parks ready for residents, planting the beautiful flowers and plants, and filling in potholes that may have formed during the winter.

Summer is the time when we maintain parks and flowers planted. We also trim city trees and remove those that are dead.

The Engineering team oversees street repaving and the relining of water pipes. To date, we have lined approximately 20 percent of the pipes and are continuing this project every year, which adds about 50 years to the life of a water pipe.

In Côte St. Luc, Public Works, Engineering and all our departments work together as a team to provide residents with a constantly improving and expanding level of services. All this is done as efficiently as possible while keeping any tax increases as low as possible.

If you have any questions or comments regarding these services, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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Steven Erdelyi is the councillor in charge of the Public Works and Engineering departments.

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