

Bigshots come out for Grease



From left, CDN-NDG borough mayor Michael Applebaum, Canadian Ambassador to Israel Joel Lion, CSL mayor Anthony Housefather, CSL councillor Allan Levine and Hampstead mayor Bill Steinberg celebrate the Côte St. Luc Dramatic Society's VIP performance of Grease. During the pre-show gala and full-scale musical performance on January 25, which included appetizers and birthday cake for Housefather, it was announced that fundraising efforts have already reached \$45,000. The initiative, which draws money from ticket sales, a raffle, actor membership dues, sponsor donations and individual contributions, will help pay for the drama society's performances and put funds into sports, recreation and culture. The plan is to use that money to not only fund programming, but also help pay for those who otherwise can't afford to participate. Photo: Isaac Olson

COUNCIL ROUND-UP

City continues to upgrade services, moves ahead with Imagination Park plans

During the January 23 Côte St. Luc council meeting, councillors voted to invest nearly \$470,000 in Imagination Park, which will be installed next to the newly constructed Aquatics and Community Centre (ACC).

"One of the things that will be really interesting is the outdoor pool, the indoor pool, the park and the café's terrace will all be interconnected," said Mayor Anthony Housefather, who later noted there will also be a fire pit so "roasting marshmallows will happen on a regular basis."

Maimonides Park was levelled to make way for the ACC with the promise that it would be replaced. The mayor noted Imagination Park, due to budgetary constraints, will be the one big park investment this year. However, the council did authorize a \$100,000 investment in park facilities throughout the city.

"This will be a unique park for young families and young children," said District 6 councillor Glenn Nashen, citing the interactive play structures and close proximity to the ACC that will help encourage active, educational, team-building play. "It will be unlike anything we've seen not only in Côte St. Luc, but probably in the entire west end of Montreal."

Street lights, public works, water mains

Councillor Steven Erdelyi, who represents District 4, said the city is encouraging residents to report burnt-out street lights by recording and calling in with the four-digit code found on the light pole.

Erdelyi announced the city's Public Works department is now certified as a preventive maintenance centre by the Société de l'assurance automobile du

Québec (SAAQ). This, he continued, allows the city to maintain and service vehicles without sending them away.

As far as water main breaks are concerned, "in December we had three water main breaks, which is sort of average for that time of year. Actually, a touch below average."

Family story time, coffee at the library

Councillor Sam Goldbloom, representing District 1, noted family reading time has been restored by the Eleanor London Public Library's children's librarian. The bilingual program is held every Sunday at 11 am. There is no need to register, he noted, as interested participants just need to show up.

For people interested in becoming more tech savvy, there are free weekly workshops being held every Tuesday at the library at 10:30 am from January 24 to March 27. There is one evening session slated for late March. For more information, visit: Elcslpl.org.

"I urge everyone to partake and participate in these programs," said Goldbloom and, he continued, the library has a new self-service café complete with tables, chairs and vending machines that dispense snacks and beverages.

Cats need volunteers

CSL's feral cat trap, neuter and release program is going strong and now, said District 2 councillor Mike Cohen. Volunteers are needed to fill a variety of roles such as trapping, planning public events, fundraising and more.

"This is very exciting for people who love animals," said Cohen, who cited the program's continued effectiveness when it comes to limiting the city's feral cat population.

Cohen recommended interested residents visit his website for more information (Mikecohen.ca), call the program's hotline (514.485.6800 ext CATS) or check out its Facebook page.

— Isaac Olson

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CSL Rec Department dance

The Côte St. Luc Parks and Recreation Department hosts its annual winter carnival Valentine Dance on Saturday, February 11, 7:30 pm at the Côte St. Luc Gymnasium, 7500 Mackle Rd.

Hot and cold hors d'oeuvres will be served and people can bring their own wine. There will be door prizes and dance music will be played by George Thomas Entertainment.

Tickets cost \$22.50. To purchase them, call 514.485.6806.

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