

COUNCIL ROUND-UP

Some still ignoring new crosswalk on Mackle, though situation greatly improved: Kovac

Residents of Habitations Mackle, an apartment complex located at 6655 Mackle across from the Cavendish Mall, are still jaywalking, according to Côte St. Lucer Sidney Margles, who, on May 14, asked the city council if more can be done to educate people about the dangers of crossing the street whenever, wherever.

"Regardless of the fact that the stop signs are there, you have people crossing at the wrong location," said Margles. "It's totally ludicrous to put in a stop sign a hundred feet from another stop sign for the purpose, not for traffic, but to let people cross the street."

A stop sign was installed there this winter to make it safer for pedestrians, who otherwise refused to cross the street at nearby intersections and were regularly hit by cars. The stop sign was installed with the support of the local police department after attempts to educate the public failed.

"Most of council was very reluctant to put a stop sign at that location, but we eventually felt compelled to do so because, after numerous meetings and letters, people persisted to walk across there," said mayor Anthony Housefather, noting that, even after getting hit by a car, injured residents continue to jaywalk at the same location.

Councillor Ruth Kovac said she, officers from Station 9 and a CLSC representative and city held yet another information session at the apartment complex this spring in an effort to encourage safer

crossing habits.

"For the most part, it's working," said Kovac. "Ninety percent of the time, motorists are making their stop and people are crossing where they are supposed to. We haven't had an accident since it's gone up which is really something because, in two years, we had seven people injured and sent to the hospital."

Dirty snow dump hump

Rhoda Albert, who lives near the city's snow dump just off Marc Chagall Ave., asked if there is any money left from the allocated \$10,000 the borough authorized to be spent on breaking up the snow dump pile. Now, she said, the remaining debris is a mess and it needs to be cleaned up.

A bulldozer and operator were brought in for three, eight-hour days of breaking up the pile, the mayor confirmed, and he said Public Works will look into doing a clean up on the site.

Councillors, mayor authorized to marry citizens

Housefather said he and Kovac were recently asked to conduct marriage ceremonies so, in response, the city voted in favour of authorizing all council members to marry people in the city.

— Isaac Olson



Sidney Margles, who, on May 14, asks the city council if more can be done to educate people about the dangers of crossing the street whenever, wherever.

Photo: Isaac Olson

CSL encouraging residents to exchange broken brown bins

By ISAAC OLSON

Côte St. Luc, arguably, has one of the more successful organic waste disposal programs in the province but, say officials, a batch of city-issued brown collection bins have proven defective and now residents have the option of trading in faulty bins for free replacements.

"In the fall of 2008, when we went city-wide, it seems there was a problem with the plastic used with the bins," the said Councillor Steven Erdelyi, noting the program started in 2007 as a pilot project.

The initial 2007 bins are still in operation, said Erdelyi, as the expected lifespan hovered around 25 years. However, the 2008 bins were not properly treated with UV resistance, so they became brittle and break easily. The supplier has taken responsibility for the error and is replacing the bins but, continued the councillor, "we're encouraging residents to contact the Public Works department."

Erdelyi, who is the councillor in charge of Public Works, said the hope is the brittle bins won't turn residents off from participating in what has become an effective program. Studies indicate 80 to 90 percent of CSL residents in single-family homes and duplexes are participating in the program.

"In some weeks, we'll find more brown bins than blue bins for pick-up," said Erdelyi. "We have a very high participation rate."

The organic waste program, he noted, has reduced the amount of garbage going to landfills by 38 percent. Residents, he

said, can put any kind of organic waste in the bins as, unlike home composting that does not allow for meat or other products, Erdelyi said anything people eat can go in the bins.

"This is a program the city hopes to keep expanding," said Erdelyi. "We're hoping more and more people will participate."

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lot of first-time donors at the event, which I am thrilled about. If you missed it, please visit www.Hema-Quebec.qc.ca for information on the next clinic near our area or near where you work.

Finally, tickets are on sale at the library and Aquatic and Community Centre for the production this week of Norm Foster's *Office Hours*. Tickets are \$15. You also purchase tickets by phone at 514.485.6806, ext. 2200.

Ruth Kovac can be reached by e-mail at rkovac@cotesaintluc.org. She is the councillor responsible for urban planning issues. She also represents Côte St. Luc District 8.

Correction

In the May 8 story, "Library grant to fund new environment café" (p. 17), the amount of the grant from the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation should have read \$2,500.

ARE YOU HEARING IMPAIRED?
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Wednesday, June 6, 2012, 6:30 PM

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at MAB Mackay Rehabilitation Centre
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