

Cohen wants to penalize pet owners who leave dogs in hot cars

By ISAAC OLSON

Councillor Mike Cohen said the Côte St. Luc city council is pushing forward with a plan to penalize pet owners who leave their dogs in the car during the summer months.

"To me, it is morally criminal, sadistic toward animals and unfair," said Cohen as he described the potentially fatal dangers of leaving dogs in oven-like cars under the summer sun.

During the June 9 council meeting, councillors approved a notice of motion to amend By-law 267 concerning dogs. The first step, said Cohen, is to let Public Security and Montreal police review the proposed by-law as the city is looking to make it a finable offence.

"What this means is we will be able to issue fines," said Cohen, noting the amount of those fines has not yet been decided as this new by-law amendment takes shape. "If someone is in the Côte St. Luc Shopping Centre or the mall and there's a dog barking like crazy and it's 85 degrees out, [authorities] will be able use their judgement and decide if it is cruelty



Nearly 20 elected officials from Côte St. Luc, Montreal West, Westmount, Hampstead and the English Montreal School Board (EMSB) took to the stage on June 15 to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the 2004 demerger vote. Despite the challenges in getting the needed number of voters to the polls, cities like Côte St. Luc were able to split from Montreal after the province forced a merger. As part of the celebration, Bowser and Blue put on a concert.

Photo: Isaac Olson.

to animals."

Dogs should not be locked in cars, said Cohen, for more reasons than just the

heat. The dog, he said, could also be stolen.

"A pet is such an important part of your life and you don't want to put it at risk," said Cohen, who handles the city's animal protection portfolio. "People need to take this issue more seriously."



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Hal Hannaford, headmaster of the Westmount-based Selwyn House School, was the official auctioneer at 11-year-old Harry Mastrogiuseppe's annual "Harry's Box Auction." Mastrogiuseppe, a Lower Canada College student, came up with the idea to raise money to build a school in Sudan after a trip to Thailand opened his eyes to poverty. To date, he has raised over \$24,000 for his efforts. This year's June 15 event, which included a carnival, was held in the soccer fields across from Côte St. Luc's Aquatic Community Centre (ACC).

Photo: Isaac Olson.



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Council Report – June 9

Itman wants doggy doo receptacles made available to residents

Irving Itman, a regular at Côte St. Luc city council meetings, told officials on June 9 that specific doggy doo receptacles, available in other cities, are needed to encourage dog owners to clean up after their pets.

Mayor Anthony Housefather said bags and trashcans are made available in areas that people walk their dogs so as to encourage pet owners to curb their animals.

One of the problems, said Housefather, is that people are stuffing poop-filled bags back into the bag dispensers as opposed to the readily available garbage cans.

“It’s also a matter of dog owners being a bit more respectful of everyone else,” said Housefather. “But we will look into it.”

The council approved a motion to acknowledge the 100th anniversary of the Jewish Public Library. Found in the neighbouring borough of Côte des Neiges-NDG, the Jewish Public Library was founded in 1914 and now holds over 150,000 items in five languages.

Diluted ‘Charter of Values’?

When a resident asked what the city will do in the face of the Liberal Party’s diluted “Charter of Values” that Premier Philippe Couillard has said would be proposed, Housefather said, “All I can say is, we have made our opinion known about the previous Charter of Values. I’ve certainly met with our MNA, David Birnbaum, and let him know that it is my opinion and, I think the opinion of our council and the majority of our residents, that no charter is needed.”

In the event that charter is proposed, the city would have to review the proposal before taking a side, he said.

Litigation resolved

From cars colliding with lampposts to a recent flooding incident, the council approved the resolution of three different law suits – a pretty standard routine at council meetings.

“Everyone who comes to our council meeting regularly knows that, at every meeting, we have somebody that knocks over a lamppost and a settlement needs to

be resolved with that person,” said Housefather. “It’s like our lampposts are a beacon of light for our drivers to run right into them.”

Among the cases resolved this meeting was a settlement with the city’s insurance company for flooding in the Harold Greenspon Auditorium. There was also a settlement for \$4,622 (car versus lamppost) and another for \$7,000 (car versus brick wall at the Aquatic Community Centre).

Kovac issues ‘Hero in 30’ challenge

With most of the city councillors now trained by Côte St. Luc’s “Hero in 30” program, Councillor Ruth Kovac is challenging other residents and municipal leaders to do the same – to get cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and Heimlich maneuver training.

The “Hero in 30” program teaches groups of people basic CPR (chest compressions) and the Heimlich maneuver (saving someone from choking) in 30 minutes, she explained.

“This is how to help somebody right away without the panic,” she said, noting the class has been offered by the city at

recent events like a blood donor clinic. “It works.”

City staff will be offering the program throughout the summer and there will be group classes during Canada Day celebrations, she said.

Teenager earns award of merit

Councillor Mike Cohen, during his district meeting on June 2, issued an award of merit to 16-year-old Mathew Stein. Stein is a grade 10 student at Bialik High School and Cohen recognized the teenager for cleaning up the streets and sidewalks of District 2.

Frustrated with the litter found throughout his neighbourhood, Stein has been scouring District 2’s streets and scooping up the trash one piece at a time. Stein’s hope, according to Cohen’s blog, is that others will follow his lead and be less inclined to litter when they see him out on the streets picking up trash.

Food, cont’d. from p. 1

that we can sell it cheaper than you could usually buy it and hopefully cover some of the expenses that went into the project,” said Richer. “Maybe we can pay ourselves a small salary as well. But, really, the goal is to produce the cheapest, highest quality produce we possibly can.”

Richer noted the aim is to not have to travel too far to farm and, she noted, the group is zeroing in on the St. Raymond district. While working with several local organizations, Godber said the hope is to provide fresh produce to isolated neighbourhoods.

“We are improving, little bit by little bit, the food security in NDG,” said Godber.

As this project moves forward, Richer said the goal is to build the group’s network of potential properties and start getting those properties ready for next year as some plants, like garlic, need to be planted in the fall. Richer said no experience is required if people want to get involved.

For more information, email lecyclealimenterre@gmail.com



Cycle AlimenTerre members, from left, Samantha Richer, Max Godber and Iman Khailat.

Remembering Bernard Lang

Former Côte St. Luc mayor praised by council

BY ISAAC OLSON

Former Côte St. Luc mayor Bernard Lang, who served in municipal politics for a total of 35 years, died on June 12 at the age of 88 and, looking back, councillors remember the man for his unyielding dedication to the community.

"It is very rare that you can point to anyone who had as much impact on a municipality as Bernard Lang has had on Côte St. Luc," stated Mayor Anthony Housefather on behalf of the council.

"Serving on council between 1964 and 1998 (and as mayor for 22 of those years), he was instrumental in the development of the city. From our library to our parks, arena and EMS service, his fingerprints are all over our treasured institutions and the 34,000-odd people that live in Côte St. Luc today, as well as former and future residents, owe him a great deal of gratitude for his service. He will be sorely missed."

On his blog, Councillor Mike Cohen says he was a beat reporter for *The Suburban* and other local newspapers when he first met Lang.

"Bernard Lang was a full-time mayor, spending virtually every weekday at city hall," states Cohen. "He stood up against any wrongs coming to the city."

Councillor Ruth Kovac has served on council since 1990 and remembers working with Lang on a number of issues. In a phone interview, she said, "He taught me a lot. It's really the closing of a chapter. It was a different era. It was a different time. We didn't have smartphones in those days. As a matter of fact, it was a huge thing for me to insist that we get cellphones."

Kovac said it was a little bit slower pace back then and, yet, "he understood the population very well. He knew what they wanted." When questioning the expense of planting flowers in the spring, Kovac remembers Lang telling her that managing a city is more than just picking up the garbage or clearing snow - it's about "beauty and the soul. We need beauty in our lives and this was important to him."

The library was important to Lang, said Kovac, and he was determined to protect its funding.

"He had a lot of input into setting the tone for what Côte St. Luc should be," said Kovac.

Councillor Glenn Nashen has also served on the council since 1990, but he declined an interview request and, instead, referred the *Free Press* to Housefather.

CSL library gets in to gardening business



Côte St. Luc: City officials cut the ribbon on the Côte St. Luc library's new demonstration garden. The garden, located behind the library, will provide a place for hands-on gardening workshops. The June 8 inauguration included the second annual "Great Tomato Plant Giveaway" where 400 tomato plants were distributed to the first 400 residents.

Photo: Isaac Olson.



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Classic golf

The city of Côte St. Luc's 35th annual golf classic will take place on Tuesday, July 8 at Meadowbrook Golf Club (8370 Côte Saint-Luc Rd.).

Gravel Décarie will serve as the title sponsor, and CSL resident and jazz legend Oliver Jones will serve as honorary chairman.

Registration is \$27 per player at the Parks and Recreation department administration office, 7500 Mackle Rd.

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