

CSST investigating Hampstead public works accident

By Joel Goldenberg
The Suburban

The Commission de la Santé et de la Sécurité du Travail du Québec is investigating a Feb. 24 accident in Hampstead, in which a town employee was injured when a public works vehicle's

approximately 10-foot mechanical arm fell.

The worker, who was trimming trees on a cherry-picker, was injured and brought to hospital. The arm came down very close to a home at Holmdale and Finchley. Police blocked off the area and the remnants of

trimmed trees could be seen in the area.

Hampstead councillor Michael Goldwax told a recent council meeting that the CSST is still investigating what he called a "very severe" accident, and that the employee has been with Hampstead for more than 20

years.

Constable Jean Thelismond of Station 9, who was on the scene at the time, said that, according to witnesses, the arm on the truck broke and fell. "When the arm went down, he did also," said the constable.

In terms of the injured worker, "we saw some blood, and he said he had pain all over his body."

The constable said the worker was conscious at the time and was able to talk.

"He was very clear when we talked to him, he knew where he was."

The longtime occupant of the house, who did not want to be identified, said she was shocked by what took place on what is otherwise a very quiet street.

"It was a very bad accident,

and right in front of my house, where I've lived for 45 years," she said. "There were three or four people there working, and one in the tree. I haven't checked if there is any damage yet to my house — I couldn't go out because all the branches were there. The guy came flying down — I think he has a broken leg and I don't know what else. I think the branch broke."

From what *The Suburban* saw from a distance, there did not seem to be any evident damage to the house.

"I feel sorry for the worker," the resident added. "I offered them coffee, but they didn't want. They were calling the ambulance, and it arrived very, very soon. That's all I know. This was a shock for me early in the morning. This is a very quiet street." ■



CSL launches cat trap-neuter-release program

By Joel Goldenberg
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A committee specially dedicated to cats in Côte St. Luc has recently announced the launch of a much-wanted trap neuter and release program, to curb the stray cat population in the city.



The program, which was spearheaded by Côte St. Luc councillor and cat lover Mike Cohen, is receiving financial support from the city of Côte St. Luc and the Canadian Pacific Railway.

"From our initial meeting, which attracted well more than 100 people, we have a dedicated group of cat lovers who I believe will make a difference in our community," said Cohen. "I am also grateful for the fact that both the SPCA and the Côte St. Luc Hospital for Animals are aboard."

The Côte St. Luc Cat Committee will focus on the TNR (trap, neuter, release) program, which humanely traps, sterilizes and releases feral cats back into their habitat. But they will also educate the public about "the importance of sterilizing cats," Cohen added. "This will be done by arranging visits to local schools, setting up information booths within the community and establishing a Facebook page. A special hotline will be introduced for people to report feral cats in their neighbourhood."

Cohen also said he hopes that other communities will follow the lead of Côte St. Luc and launch such committees as well. He added that Shelley Schecter, "considered to be one of the city's foremost experts in TNR, has agreed to serve as the CSLCC's special advisor. She will train committee members on trapping."

For more information, call 514-485-6945 or send an e-mail to mcohen@cotesaintluc.org. ■

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