



The Mayor's Report

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Responsible for public safety and security on the Executive Committee
of Ville de Montréal

Tabled at the regular meeting

of Borough Council

on June 7, 2011

Good evening, my dear Verdunites:

This evening, I am proud to present you a report on what we have done since June 2010. Proud, because, as you will see, Verdun has reaped the rewards of its efforts achieved in close cooperation with its residents who very actively took part in all the information and consultation sessions held to improve the proposed projects.

Once again, the list of our accomplishments is a long one.

Updating of Master Plan

And so, on February 8, we adopted what I call the "cornerstone" of Verdun's development, that is, the Verdun chapter of Ville de Montréal's Master Plan.

My colleagues on Borough Council and the members of Verdun's Administration didn't conceal their satisfaction over all that was achieved, following a highly democratic process that gave hundreds of residents an opportunity to express their views within a consultation process that we had initiated the day after the last election.

Just as I have already repeated several times, this process consisted of making amendments to the Verdun Borough's chapter of Ville de Montréal's Master Plan, in order to account for the updating of certain issues and to specify the directions in this regard for the next five years.

From now on, our Master Plan even better defines the framework for our actions that will ensure the sustainable and harmonious development of our beautiful borough.

For example, in the L'Île-des-Sœurs neighbourhood, with the Master Plan now updated, the warehouses located along chemin du Golf can be demolished and the construction of residential rental buildings can get under way. These completely private pieces of land create a physical and visual barrier blocking the river. Requalifying this commercial sector as a residential sector will make it possible to give all residents on the island access to the waterfront areas in this sector.

In the Desmarchais-Crawford neighbourhood, the updated Master Plan is ensuring the protection of the heritage of high-density building complexes from now on, and mainly the "wartime" housing.

The updated Master Plan will also make it possible for us to preserve the built and natural heritage of the Douglas Mental Health University Institute. Within this perspective, we intend to oversee the preservation of all or part of certain buildings of heritage interest, to set up—in consultation with the Institute—a conservation area for environmental purposes, to reach an agreement with the Douglas Institute on the location and development of a walking and cycling path that will take into consideration both compliance with the planned development framework as well as patient safety, and lastly, to proceed with the planning of the construction project for the new hospital, by means of a general plan.

In the Wellington-de-l'Église neighbourhood, we will develop a beautification plan for public property and will authorize new uses, and particularly, for micro-brewery restaurants, which will help liven up rue Wellington and rue de l'Église.

Development of a cultural hub

As a number of you already know, developing a cultural hub is one of our priorities, if not OUR priority. Although I would have liked to see more immediate results, I am pleased to inform you that the auditorium project is progressing in due course. I hope to be able to announce its completion by the end of the summer, so that we can inaugurate it at the end of 2013. Other, equally high-benefit cultural projects will be delivered very soon. Repairs to Maison Nivard-De Saint-Dizier are almost completed, and we expect it to be open by September. The Orchestre symphonique de Montréal will even be holding an outdoor concert there on July 28 to mark the 300th anniversary of this jewel, which will be officially named Maison Nivard-De Saint-Dizier – *musée et site archéologique* (museum and archeological site)

In the L'Île-des-Sœurs neighbourhood, we plan on inaugurating Maison intergénérationnelle in September. As you probably know, this former ESSO service station, built according to the plans of the famous architect Mies van der Rohe, was honoured with a citation from Ville de Montréal. Action Surveillance Verdun will be looking after the day-to-day management of this youth and seniors' centre.

One again this year, *Summer Scenes* is presenting a program with a wide variety and wealth of entertaining performances at the Borough's parks. Florence K. will be launching our 2011 season on June 9, at De l'honorable-George-O'Reilly park, near the Natatorium.

The dance floor—as popular as ever—will continue to delight hundreds of residents, who will no doubt be happy to see that the roof has been extended and that repairs are being made to the floor at the present time, thanks, in part, to the \$83,810 raised within Hydro-Québec's Energy-Wise Program. As for the Borough, it has invested an amount of \$26,000 in this regard.

And once again this year, *Montréal Complètement cirque* will be presenting a *Weekend Cirque à Verdun* as part of its program of activities. This event will be held July 15-17 at Studio B in Édifice Guy-Gagnon, the site of our future auditorium.

Sports and recreational activities

There is no lack of accomplishments in relation to sports and recreational activities either.

Last January, we inaugurated the refrigerated skating rink—a donation by the Montreal Canadiens Children's Foundation. It proved to be a success from the very start, enjoying a good turnout of skaters. And I am happy to inform you that we are currently developing a program of activities to ensure that these outstanding facilities are used at other times than during the winter. Such activities are expected to begin at the end of July, as soon as the landscaping—presently under way in the area surrounding the refrigerated skating rink—has been completed.

The existing Beatty park will be redeveloped for tiny tots and a new park will be set up a bit further west for 6-12-year-olds.

In the L'Île-des-Sœurs neighbourhood, we will be developing Maynard-Ferguson park in two phases, starting this year.

And lastly, the vacant lot located at the corner of rue de Verdun and rue de l'Église will be converted into a cool area and will become Philippe-Zotique-Millette park, named after the 9th Mayor of Verdun.

The Aquatic Centre project is advancing more slowly than planned, due to a particularly complex financing arrangement and the lack of an adequate financing program at the moment. We are continuing our representations to the various levels of government, with unremitting perseverance. This project will be carried out and we will be doing our utmost to reach our goal as soon as possible.

An agreement between the parties is preventing me from commenting on the golf course project in the L'Île-des-Sœurs neighbourhood. But I do want to reassure you that there are further developments with regard to this project and that satisfactory solutions—both to us and to the developer—should soon be reached. One thing is for sure, however: there will be a golf course in the L'Île-des-Sœurs neighbourhood this summer.

And lastly, as every year, many sports activities will take place in the Borough's parks, with the support of local organizations, which we want to sincerely thank. Tennis, football, soccer, baseball and basketball

games, to name a few, will once again be held here. And we are investing a lot of energy in restoring Tennis Woodland, where the clay court facilities are truly outstanding for tennis buffs.

Environment

The environment is still a priority for our Administration.

With regard to its waste management collection, Verdun continues to really stand out and be the object of envy and admiration in the eyes of many boroughs and cities in Greater Montréal. I would like to thank the residents for their invaluable cooperation. We owe such success to them, first and foremost.

A new pilot project—the food scraps collection—was launched on June 2 in Sector 4. Residents in this sector are being encouraged to register for this pilot project either on the Borough's website or by phoning 311. Our borough is obviously a real waste collection laboratory!

Over the past two years, we have revitalized our lanes in order to convert them into green lanes, with the participation of the residents concerned. Considering the immense success of this initiative and the enthusiastic requests on the part of the residents concerned, we are pursuing the program this year, needless to say.

Last May, we adopted a new policy that promotes the sterilization of household pets and that prohibits the presence of dogs in Boisé Saint-Paul in order to preserve this outstanding location. However, animals that are kept on a leash will be allowed in the other Borough parks from now on, except in children's playground areas.

And because Verdun loves to distinguish itself and respond to new needs in an original way, we have just adopted a Charter on the proper conduct for household pet owners.

Public works, traffic, safety and security

There continue to be numerous public works projects as well as those relating to safety and security as well as traffic-related projects.

For example, the expansion of L'Île-des-Sœurs' fire station 67 is ongoing and should be completed in a few months' time.

The work involved in reconfiguring the entrances and exits of the L'Île-des-Sœurs neighbourhood has resumed since mid-May and is now in its final phase. Our objective is to reopen Exit 5 of the Bonaventure Expressway as soon as possible, sometime in August. Then all that will be left to complete is certain landscaping work as well as paving repairs at entrance 57.

At the entrance to L'Île-des-Sœurs, the road marking operations that were carried out are already giving rise to a smoother flow of traffic at the approach to the roundabout. We are in the process of completing the lighting work, and soon, the structure—the main part of which will be preserved out of respect for its designers, who were the winners of Canada-wide competitions—will be given a different look and will be better adapted to the environment. The reminder of the importance of the island's green spaces will be clearer.

In addition, over the upcoming weeks, we will be undertaking road marking operations to make the intersections safer for motorists, cyclists and pedestrians. We have named this the Intersection Visual Clearance Operation, which will be carried out in the Borough's three neighbourhoods, both in commercial and residential areas. Reconfigurations will nevertheless have to be expected in certain delivery areas, drop-off points, taxi zones and street parking locations reserved for residents as well as certain parking spaces for the disabled. All these particular situations will be analysed, case by case. Our objective is to ensure that at the end of the process, the Borough's 1300 intersections will be safe, for the benefit of all users.

At the same time as this operation, the Borough will be carrying out various road and sidewalk repairs.

Among the large-scale work, I would like to mention, in particular, those on rue Bannantyne, between 5^e Avenue and rue Egan, and those on rue Argyle, between boulevard Champlain and rue Bannantyne. These two road sections will be completely rebuilt, including the underground water supply, sewage and service infrastructures.

New L'Île-des-Sœurs elementary school

The L'Île-des-Sœurs elementary school project is still a priority, of course. In order to improve the construction project within a small part of De la Fontaine park, we announced the temporary suspension of the process that is supposed to lead to the final adoption of the zoning bylaw drawn up for this purpose and the creation of a working committee made up of some twelve residents from adjacent areas, members of Marguerite-Bourgeoys school board and Borough representatives.

In fact, the committee held its first meeting last evening and I have been told that it produced good results. A second meeting is scheduled for June 13.

May I repeat that we are still convinced that the only solution is still the same: to build the new elementary school in a small part—less than 10%—of De la Fontaine park and mostly on a parking lot. It is the only place belonging to the Borough that is available, viable and suitable.

Conclusion

As you can see, there is a lot happening in Verdun. It is a dynamic borough that is growing and developing. The number of residential projects, including social housing, is on the rise; the number of socio-community activities is soaring in all neighbourhoods... Verdun is an ideal place for anyone seeking an outstanding quality of life.

At the beginning of this report, I thanked Verdunites for their contribution toward achieving our projects. I wouldn't forgive myself if I failed to pay tribute to the efficient, relentless work of my colleagues on Borough Council and the members of our Administration. It is thanks to all elected officials and public service employees that our community is constantly being revitalized.

I hope all of you will be able to make the most of the summer season that is fast approaching and to enjoy, to the fullest, the activities that we have planned for you here in our borough.

I thank you for your kind attention.