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Ville de  City of
Côte Saint-Luc

Council endorses Brownstein



Former Côte St. Luc mayor Anthony Housefather, left, is endorsing Councillor Mitchell Brownstein, right, as his replacement. They are pictured at Housefather's last council meeting as mayor, October 22. Councillor Allan Levine has backed out of the race and the entire council has endorsed Brownstein. See p. 13 for story. Photo: Isaac Olson

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Councillors support Brownstein's CSL mayoral bid

CJN STAFF

Mitchell Brownstein has received the endorsement of all seven of his fellow councillors, as well as Anthony Housefather, in his bid to become mayor of Côte Saint-Luc.

Brownstein, first elected to council 25 years ago, hopes to succeed Housefather, who was elected to Parliament for Mount Royal in the federal election last month, after serving as mayor for a decade.

There are just under two years remaining in the mandate. Brownstein was the first to officially declare his candidacy on Nov. 16.

The members of council backing Brownstein are Dida Berku, Allan Levine, Sam Goldbloom, Mike Cohen, Steven Erdelyi, Glenn Nashen and Ruth Kovac.

"In stepping down as mayor, I am not leaving Côte Saint-Luc," said Housefather. "I still live here, and as the federal member of Parliament, I will be working very closely with my former council colleagues as well as the other elected officials in the riding.

"It is very important to me that Côte Saint-Luc remain a city that empowers and encourages each council member to succeed in their areas while having a mayor that can unite the council and create

consensus ensuring the best services are delivered to residents... I firmly believe that Mitchell will deliver the same type of results that I did as mayor and, due to our close friendship, I will remain very involved in advising him whenever he wants my input."

Brownstein, a lawyer, served on city council from 1990 to 2001. He then joined Housefather, Kovac and Nashen as a co-chair of the successful demerger movement that won the 2004 referendum to reconstitute the City of Cote Saint-Luc and returned to council in the 2005 election. He was re-elected by acclamation in 2009 and 2013.

As a councillor, he has overseen the two largest municipal departments, public works, and parks and recreation. He founded the Côte Saint-Luc Dramatic Society, and co-chaired the Aquatic and Community Centre development project.

As a longtime member of the planning advisory committee, he was involved in many development projects, including the Or Hahayim synagogue expansion, the Hebrew Academy building, Beth Chabad, the Cavendish Mall redevelopment and residential projects where he put the em-



Mitchell Brownstein

phasis on encouraging young families to move in to Côte Saint-Luc.

Brownstein said he is most proud of his being one of the leaders of the successful Canadian Unity resolution movement in 1996. Côte Saint-Luc was the first city to adopt a unity resolution and was followed by more than 50 municipalities, which he says, served as a contributing factor in the Supreme Court reference and ultimate adoption of the Clarity Act by the federal government.

"Côte Saint-Luc is fortunate to be a relatively small city without a party system, allowing individuals to work together, by consensus, without having to toe the party line," Brownstein said.

Cohen noted that Brownstein has been involved with some of the city's most important files during his time in office. "This council needs continuity and leadership," he said. "Councillor Brownstein has all of the right qualifications to thrive in this job."

Berku added: "Given that we just came out of a very divisive federal campaign, and since there are less than two years to go until the end of this mandate, it's a good time for council to rally around one candidate for mayor while all councillors continue to focus and pursue their areas of interest.

"I want to promote the best interests of the city by rallying our efforts into team governance, minimizing tension on and off council and hopefully saving the city the costs and disruption of a city-wide mid-term election."

Nashen is serving as acting mayor. No date has been announced for a mayoral election, if necessary. ■