

#### JULY 16<sup>TH</sup> — JULY 27<sup>TH</sup> 2019 SELL YOUR GOLD

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**Bekir Gulpekmez** 

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# **WEST ISLAND** JULY 17, 2019

QUEBEC'S LARGEST ENGLISH WEEKLY NEWSPAPER



Pierrefonds-Roxboro Mayor Jim Beis addressed bureaucrats at public consultations stating that since the 2019 flooding, "there has been no initiative by the government that will help the citizens and municipalities build the proper infrastructure to prevent this from happening again.'

### Government promises new flood maps

By Kevin Woodhouse The Suburban

Perhaps it was the outrage expressed by homeowners at the various public consultations pertaining to the recent proposed special planning zone (SPZ) decree concerning new flood zones by the provincial government but the CAQ released a statement noting that the flood maps "are being reviewed to improve their precision."

The recurring theme at the

recent West Island forum attended by a capacity crowd public consultation was that many residents from all over the West Island expressed disbelief that their properties were currently in flood zones as per the new flood mapping but had never been hit by either the 2017 or May flooding or any other for that matter.

The statement noted that in the new "adjusted version" of the maps, only areas affected by the 2017 and 2019 floods will be considered for the SPZ noting that "30 municipalities will no longer be part of the SPZ."

Pierrefonds-Roxboro Mayor Jim Beis spoke to the bureaucrats at the meeting stating that since the 2019 flooding, "no initiative by the government that will help the citizens and municipalities build the proper infrastructure to prevent it from happening again.

"You used the 2019 flooding

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## **LGH** reduces infections by 35%

By Ross Conroy

"The Foundation is very proud to support this leading-edge program and we are very pleased with the absolutely incredible results we have seen." said Heather Holmes.

The Managing Director of the Lakeshore General Hospital Foundation (LGHF) was referring to a new program the foundation was able to finance for the West Island hospital.

The program, now into its third year at the Lakeshore General Hospital, was implemented to improve surgical care under the National Surgical Quality Improvement Program.

The results to date have been noteworthy as the hospital's infection rate has been reduced by thirty-five percent as the "assessment and improvement program collects data on surgical care to reduce risks related to complications, reduce the duration of hospital stays, and, in so doing, improve the quality of care and

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### Pointe-Claire residents oppose bus route through park

#### Mayor open to alternatives

**By Andrea Elliot** The Suburban

The city of Pointe-Claire plans to pave a road through Alexandre Bourgeau Park. The road would be used as a new school bus route, however local residents of Pointe-Claire are unhappy with the city's solution.

According to Mayor John Belvedere, a plan to reduce morning traffic near Marguerite-Bourgeoys elementary school on Ste-Anne Street has been in the works for about 20 years. He believes building a bus route near the back of the schoolyard is the safest and most effective manner to get the students to school.

"There will be a lot less movement, a lot less chance of a kid running between parked cars and if you go in that area you're very restricted with what you can do. There is no way of making the roads larger." he said.

Residents think differently. According to Stéphane Licari, a member of the

Heart of Pointe-Claire group, the solution is unacceptable.

"This is going to be a monster road in a park where we said, you know, since when are we laying asphalt and cutting trees in parks?" said Licari. "This road is going to be way too close to the lake."

Belvedere believes that the majority of the trees that need to be cut down are in fact contaminated ash trees.

"Every Ash tree is going to have to be cut down in Pointe-Claire," he said. "If it wasn't now, it would be next year."

The city also vowed to plant more trees in the near future to replace the ones it will be cutting down.

Pointe-Claire will also plant more trees in the near future to replace those that were cut, he added.

Discussions are currently underway, and the Mayor stated he is open to changing the plan if the Marguerite-Bourgeoys school board (CSMB) or residents offer an alternative.

# Beaconsfield opposes proposed flood plan

By Kevin Woodhouse The Suburban

Like many of its neighbouring municipalities, the city of Beaconsfield has joined the chorus of West Island and off island cities denouncing the government's latest SPZ (Special Planning Zone) decree concerning new flood zones.

Any edifice in the new area that has been flooded with fifty percent damage or more would be forbidden from rebuilding as the SPZ places a moratorium on any property owner found within the new flood zoning from renovating or rebuilding.

During a public meeting held

recently on the subject, Pierrefonds-Roxboro Mayor Jim Beis told the visiting bureaucrats that the new moratorium and the new map is causing "too much confusion" as the new map could make "property values could go down while insurance costs go way up."

The city of Beaconsfield's resolution denouncing the SPZ notes that the new map affects almost 200 lakefront homes and the moratorium "prohibits the municipality from issuing most of the necessary permits and certificates, in particular for the construction, extension and other types of certificates on the concerned properties considering

that no building in Beaconsfield was flooded in 2017 and 2019 and that despite this, nearly 200 properties are now included in the draft order."

The city of Beaconsfield resolution is asking the government to "amend, without delay, the current draft order in a manner that excludes the city of Beaconsfield from the special planning zone since no building in the city has been flooded."

Homeowners who find themselves wrongly associated in the new flood zone are encouraged to voice their concerns via email at zis2019@mamh.gouv.qc.ca and comments can be left until August 19th.





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#### INFECTIONS Cont'd from page A1

services patients receive," noted a statement from the West Island Regional Health Board (CIUSSS).

Other protocols carried out by the program include data sharing with other hospitals to augment efficiency as well as smaller but effective measures such as providing a heated blanket to pre-op patients to ward off potential infection while keeping the patient warm and comfortable.

#### MAPS Cont'd from page A'

as the basis of your maps where this flood, we had 50 to 60 homes flooded compared to 850 homes in 2017," Beis told the bureaucrats to great applause form the assembled.

Beis spoke about his borough's hard work to protect homes from flooding and instead of creating arbitrary maps, "we can work to protect our own homes but there needs to be political will."

Perhaps Beis' salient words were actually taken into account.

Dorval was one of the first cities to denounce the new SPZ and was quickly followed by Vaudreuil-Dorion, Sainte Anne-de-Bellevue, Beaconsfield and others.

The city of Beaconsfield prepared a resolution to send to the provincial government demanding that the SPZ be revised as no home or property was flooded in 2017 or 2019, making the new SPZ unrealistic as well as creating

too much worry for homeowners stuck in the new SPZ from renovating or selling their home as well as insurance hikes and property value losses.

The government is still requesting that any property or homeowners who find themselves wrongly associated in the new flood zone are encouraged to voice their concerns via email at zis2019@mamh.gouv.qc.ca and comments can be left until August 19th.



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