

Political novice Steven Erdelyi wants to represent District 4

BY NOAH SIDEL
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Looking to take his first jump into municipal politics, 30-year-old Côte St. Luker Steven Erdelyi hopes to make a big splash.

COTE ST LUC

Barely in his third decade, Erdelyi teaches math at NDG's Marymount Academy where he also heads up and teaches in the science department. With his young age and experience with today's youth, the fledgling politician hopes to bring a fresh touch to CSL city council, and to attract young families to the municipality.

"I think it's important to have representatives who are looking out for the youth of Côte St. Luc, although I will also be able to represent people of all ages," Erdelyi said.

"We need to encourage young families and young people to move to (CSL) by providing services tailored to their needs such as an improved library, community activities, sports and other such things."

In an area with one of the oldest populations in Canada, Erdelyi says he is also capable of fighting for that part of his constituency, should he be elected in the fall 2005 municipal elections.

"I've been involved in issues other than youth-oriented ones as well. I'm active in my tenants association for one and I also co-chaired an awareness campaign/fundraiser for the Saidye Bronfman Centre," he said.

From a political perspective, Erdelyi was a member of Alliance Quebec's board of directors and served as vice president of its youth wing for a time. He was also active in the CSL demerger movement last spring, focusing on the area in

which he intends to run, District 4 in the south-west sector of Côte St. Luc.

As a demergerist and potential future councillor, Erdelyi believes the city will be best served by those who fought for its independence

and not those who fought to stay in Montreal — well, at least not current borough mayor, Robert Libman.

"Robert Libman may have thought it was best for the residents to stay in Montreal, but I disagreed. And because he fought for that, it should disqualify him as a future leader of the City of Côte St. Luc," Erdelyi said.

Erdelyi holds CSL's other prominent pro-mergerist, borough councillor Dida Berku, in a different light, however.

"I see Robert and Dida differently because Robert was a staunch fighter of the mega-city before it happened and then turned into its number one defender. Dida may have let down some people by fighting for it, but she has fought for Côte St. Luc for a long time and I think she still can," he said.

Either way, Erdelyi says he is running for his own reasons, not to go after Libman or any other politicians.

"I'm running because I think I can make a difference in (CSL) politics and improve living conditions for residents back to where they were before the mergers," he said.

"Over the last few years, the City of Montreal has under-funded Côte St. Luc and we've been forced to cut services. Now we need to fight to get those services back."



ERDELYI
Demergerist