

Letter to the Editor The Suburban

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Sacrifice for the environment

With reference to Remo Zaccagna's article, City unveils greenhouse gas plan, (The Suburban, March 14), I applaud Montreal's, and more locally, Côte St. Luc's efforts to try and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The statistic given in the article of city services being responsible for 1.5 percent actually seems very small. I can only imagine what the percentage of emissions is made up by individual drivers and how much that could be reduced if every citizen played his or her part.

My husband and I often go for evening walks in and around Côte St. Luc and Hampstead. A quick survey of nearly every block reveals an astonishing number of SUV's; there's one in almost every driveway (and sometimes two)! I'm not sure what the allure is for these large, gas-guzzling monsters. I'm suspicious that it's a status symbol because no one can possibly argue that they need a huge four-by-four to drive around a city.

I believe that the cities of Côte St. Luc and Hampstead (and others: Montreal West, Westmount, etc.) could augment their efforts by actively encouraging their citizens to drive more gas-efficient cars, to take public transit, and finally, to carpool if it's absolutely necessary that they commute by car. While one person's decision to stop driving an SUV may not amount to much emission reduction, just imagine if everyone did!

We need to be prepared to "sacrifice" some of our luxury for the good of the environment. I say "sacrifice" but come on, we're incredibly spoiled; we're talking about giving up a luxury for a minor inconvenience, not a cutting-off of electricity or something.

It's simply time that we all do our part or we'll be very sorry in the not-so-far-away future.

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