



Spring / Summer Bulletin
May 27th 2014



Message from the Mayor

Spring has been shy to show up this year. And for the impatient Bark Lakers like me, it seemed like an eternity before we could get back... well home! But impatience must be kept in check, because safety and prudence must always remain on our minds. 2014 will be a year of festivities, where we will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Bark Lake Protective Association. And as the Municipal Council looks at his agenda for this year, 2014 will also be the year of Public Security.

As the landslide at Sixteen Islands Lake has shown, small towns are not free of natural disasters. This event forced us to take a look at the Barkmere Plan of Emergency Measures. First, it dates from almost 20 years ago - and landslides were not part of the emergency situations considered at the time. But more importantly, after many natural disasters (ice storm, Saguenay flood), and some not natural (as the Lac-Mégantic tragedy) have shown, the criterias for a good emergency plan have changed drastically over the past 20 years. Even locally, the long power outage of Christmas 2012 has reminded us that we need to be able to act rapidly and in an efficient way.

This is why Council has put together a committee to review the existing plan, and to draft a new one, which will conform to the new rules decreed by the Quebec Government. Our plan will require collaboration of the neighbouring municipalities with which we share our emergency services, as well as coordination with the Regional Municipality (RCM). Councillors Tim Kalil, Chantal Raymond and Bruce MacNab, as well as yours truly, will share that task.

The RCM has also started the process of revising its Risk Management Schema. Barkmere has obligations under that schema, and one is to install a dry fire hydrant, to enable our fire services to draw water from the Lake, to refill their tanker trucks. This is also a task that the Town expects to complete this year. Council has also decided to pay for the training of local First Responders. We do have an inter-municipal agreement to benefit from the Arundel First Response Service. But when emergencies are on the Lake, it is better to have Bark Lakers fully trained who can intervene even more rapidly.

Public safety is also a daily concern. We have one public road in Barkmere, and its speed limit is set at 50 km/h, like most municipal streets. However, this limit is not often respected, and I fear for our local citizens who walk along it, sometimes with baby strollers. We are eager to get to the Lake, but it is not going away. We can take the time to get to it safely. There are also deer who like strolling along Barkmere Road: let's not risk a collision with them.

The "nautical" nature of our municipality brings up another type of safety concern: navigation. Last year, the Town has invested in more marker buoys, and will continue to do so. For 2014, the Sûreté du Québec (SQ) announced that they will increase their presence on the Laurentian Lakes to enforce safety rules on boats. There are some speed limits on the Lake, like on roads: close to shore, in the Narrows, in and out of the main landing area. The Town will ask the SQ to enforce them, because the safety of all should be paramount on a lake.

The SQ will also be asked to look at minor misdemeanors that have become problematic in Barkmere: theft and vandalism to boats at the landing. Gas and other items are being stolen, and some irresponsible miscreants have been mixing water in the gas tanks, stranding some people in the middle of the Lake and damaging motors. Even the Municipal boat was targeted twice, again this past Spring. This has to stop.

In spite of all these worries, the season has started and the place is so magnificent. I wish you all a wonderful and safe summer 2014.

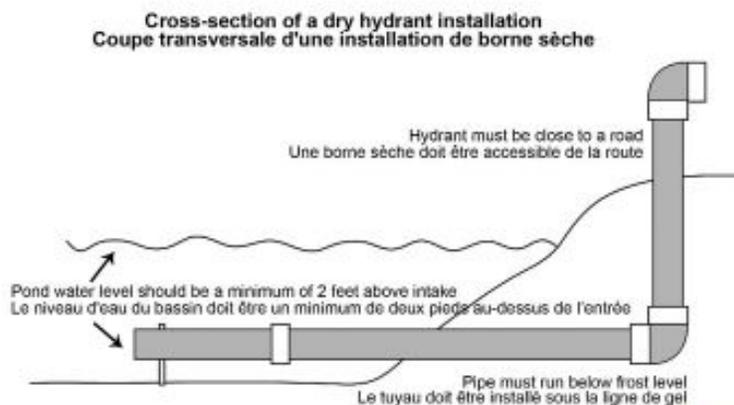
Luc Trépanier
Mayor

Dry Hydrant project in Barkmere

By: Bruce MacNab

As part of our efforts to conform to the Fire Safety Cover Plan as mandated by the MRC des Laurentides, the Town of Barkmere plans to install a dry hydrant in the landing area this summer.

This type of hydrant consists of permanent non-pressurized piping system from the lake to a location within 10 feet of a permanent road. This would allow the firemen to hook the truck up directly to the hydrant and pump water into their tank.



Barkmere has an inter-municipal agreement for fire services with Arundel, Montcalm, and Huberdeau. In areas where there are no water mains or domestic fire hydrants, firemen need to use mobile water supply vehicles to move water to the location of a fire. The Huberdeau fire station has two fire trucks and Montcalm has one. Each truck has a 1500 gallon capacity. Currently, the firemen would use portable pumps to refill their tanks from the lake. In the winter, they would also need to bore a hole in the ice to access the water supply. The dry hydrant would reduce the amount of transport and filling time as they would hook the hydrant up to the internal pump in the truck. Also, residents within a certain distance of the dry hydrant could be eligible for reductions in their home insurance premiums.

THE NEW BY-LAWS: 5 YEARS LATER

By Stephen Lloyd



Our “new” Barkmere by-laws are now 5 years old! If you walk through the Town Hall offices, you will find strewn about multiple copies of the white binders containing the hundreds of pages of rules and regulations which were put in place in June 2009. The binders used by our Barkmere administration are now dog-eared and most of the pages have little notes scribbled on them. They have been worked in! The former little green book of Barkmere by-laws is now more of a historical artifact – replaced with the more comprehensive version available on line on our website.

In 2009, Barkmere joined the 1100 or so other municipalities of Quebec with a standard set of zoning, construction, permitting, subdivision and “PIIA” by-laws. Ours are now quite similar in structure and basic content to everyone else’s rules – but with some important Barkmere differences.

Consider what our new by-laws have been through over the last 5 years:

- Hundreds of permits and certificates of authorization have been issued by our inspectors over the period;
- 5 (and counting) brand new cottages have been authorized under the new PIIA process through the citizen-run CCU (Consultative Committee on Urbanism);
- A major subdivision project of the Jesuits property is being worked through according to helpful pre-set rules, rather than having to improvise the details;
- We managed to pass a series of much-discussed amendments to the general by-laws, addressing legitimate concerns from village residents, water-access cottagers and the MRC;
- There has been some delicate interpretation and application of the rules on “grandfather rights”, as we navigate the gradual upgrading of our traditional “low density” Barkmere structures to more modern and environmentally-sustainable housing stock;
- An innovative mechanism is being installed that allows for private, environmentally protective access roads in our fundamentally water-access community, all in a way that is acceptable to the neighbouring citizens and which does not create a financial drain on the Town as a whole.

There have been some bumps in the road. Some citizens have chosen to “test” the by-laws. We may not have got the implementation of the rules exactly right all the time. The controversial case as to whether the private road rules apply on Crown lands within the Town should finally be resolved this summer.

But overall, we should be proud of our by-laws. They brought us more into the mainstream, hopefully provided some certainty to citizens, the Council and the administration, and most importantly, allowed us to credibly continue to protect the Barkmere values that make us different. The work is never done – if you have suggestions for further changes let us know. However, when you see any of the former councillors who put in place the new by-laws: Charles Huot, Michel Leger, Susan de Schulthess, Mark Uchwat, Gil Bennett, Donna Florence and Bruce Perron, thank them again for their enduring contribution to our community.

P.S. Congratulations to the BLPA on their 100th anniversary!

Environmental Matters

By Jake Chadwick

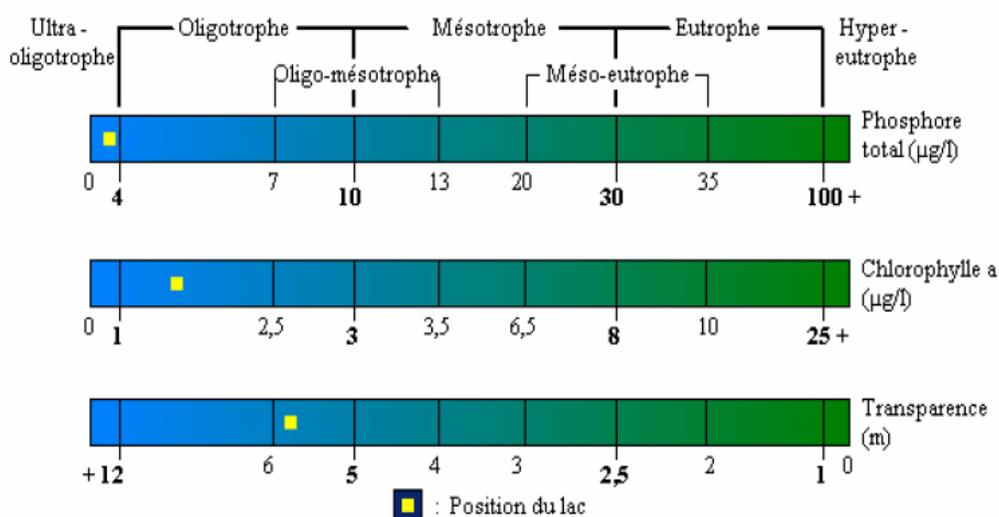


Water Quality

We are pleased to report on our water quality testing results for last season. As usual we tested for important biophysical parameters every month from May through November.

Below is the classic summary diagram from the “Réseau de Surveillance Volontaire des Lacs (RSVL)” program run by the Ministère du Développement Durable, de l’Environnement et Lutte contre les Changements Climatiques (old MDDEP) in conjunction with the BLPA. The program shows where our lake is positioned on three important measurements of water quality: 1) total phosphorus; 2) chlorophyll “a”; and, 3) transparency.

Classement du niveau trophique - Été 2013



The results confirm once again that the lake is in the Oligotrophic phase of its life. In the case of phosphorus, we continue to get average readings at the lower end of the scale putting the lake in the Ultra-Oligotrophic zone which is good news since a low nutrients level mitigates the development of undesirable aquatic plant life and premature aging of the lake. There is little change versus the results of last year with the exception of the average transparency levels. In 2013 the average reading with the Secchi disk was 5.8 meters while it was 6.2 meters in 2012. There are many possible reasons for this including increased pollen or other particulate matter in the spring water, for example. The difference is not significant however. We will continue to monitor these parameters this coming season under the RSVL program with the BLPA and within the CCE’s own water testing program to further build our database of water test results.

The dissolved oxygen and temperature profiles for 2013 also confirmed the clear presence of the three layers typically found in Oligotrophic lakes i.e. epilimnion (0 to 5 meters depth), metalimnion (5M – 10M) and hypolimnion (> 10M). Consistent with prior years’ sampling by the CCE and Biofilia, the most dramatic

change in values for DO and temperature occurs in the metalimnion zone. The profile results confirm that the lake can support a good cold water fishery.

Fecal coliform tests in the outlet stream and in the lake were in line with previous years' results as well. We did get some higher than expected readings in some tributaries which we will be rechecking with priority this spring to see if it was a one-off occurrence or whether this is cause for concern.

Finally, the tests of surface pH resulted in an average level of 7.1 – higher than the 6.9 observed in 2012 but lower than the level of 7.2 which Biofilia measured in 2007 and 2005. The MDDEP states that pH should lie between 6.5 and 9 for good aquatic life (MDDEP, 2005a). Most importantly, the lake's level of pH remains just below the more alkaline level in which Zebra mussels tend to thrive, typically pH levels between 7.2 and 9.0.

Overall the results of all the water tests were very good and the quality of water in the lake remains excellent. The complete 2013 Water Quality report is being finalized and will be posted soon on the town website. I encourage you to review it to familiarize yourselves with the type of testing we are doing and the results.

You can also see the summary results of the RSVL program at the following link: <http://www.mddep.gouv.qc.ca/eau/rsvl/index.asp>

Shoreline Study

Last August we commissioned Biofilia to conduct an update of the 2005 study of the status of the shoreline around the lake. The following table summarizes their assessment:

State of the Shoreline	2005		2013	
	Km	%	Km	%
Natural	31.73	85.5	29.70	80.0
Slightly disturbed	2.92	7.9	3.07	8.3
Disturbed	1.51	4.1	2.78	7.5
Very disturbed	0.94	2.5	1.56	4.2

Source: Biofilia report, Programme d'évaluation et de surveillance du lac des Écorces à Barkmere, Suivi 2013.

As shown above, while 80.0% of the lake's shoreline is still considered "Natural" or untouched, this proportion has decreased by 5.5% points from the 85.5% measurement in 2005. The proportion of "Disturbed" or "Very Disturbed" shoreline has increased from 6.6% to 11.7%. The main cause of this deterioration is quite simply the increased number of cottage properties on the lake. As part of our objectives for 2014, your

CCE plans to meet with owners of properties with problematic shorelines to work together to try and resolve the issues so that we can minimize the deterioration of our protective shoreline. Although the trend is not in the right direction, we are still much better than other lakes in our region, some of which have 50% or less "Natural" shoreline.

Septic System Monitoring

Our town management has been very vigilant over the last year in continuously improving our database of information related to septic systems and ensuring tests of those where potential problems have been identified. As there is no compromise for faulty septic systems, some fines have had to be leveled for polluting and non-conforming systems or to get owners to comply with the legislation. The CCE will be working over the coming year to assess the feasibility of the town managing the regular pumping of all septic systems around the lake as is done in many municipalities. We will have news on this project in the fall.

In closing, I would like to thank all members of the CCE for their help during the year and in particular Pierre Trempe for his tremendous help in water testing and managing the RSVL program together with the BLPA. Lastly, we thank all residents of Barkmere for their continued care and diligence in helping to protect our most important and treasured resource: the lake and its surrounding watershed.



Mini echos of Barkmere

By: Chantal Raymond



Since January, I have been sending to those who subscribed an information letter called: ***Echos of Barkmere***. Indeed, we had promised during the last elections to improve our communications with citizens. This is a **very brief** memo that highlights certain points of interest for Barkmere residents, namely on pertinent information that has arisen during last municipal council meeting, interesting pictures and ad hoc information concerning certain current issues. If you are interested in receiving it, go to the HOME page of our website at www.barkmere.ca and click on the blank box to subscribe.

I would also like to submit to your attention the possibility of receiving this Municipal Bulletin by e-mail. Every printed example costs close to \$7.00 after colored photocopy, ink, envelopes and stamps. If you opt for the e-mail option, you will receive the bulletin without postal delays and be *greener* by printing only what you need. After all, this is your tax money that could be used to better ends.

It's official!! The Commission of Toponymie of Quebec has approved the denomination of '**Pointe Pope**' during their last meeting on May 9th. *Pope's Point* is a point formed by the properties of Gordon, Barbara and Audrey Pope. Congratulations to the Popes, long-time pioneers at the lake!

New this spring: we have a handicapped parking space at the landing near the main dock. Therefore, if you or your visitors with reduced mobility have the handicapped parking sticker, you can certainly use this space. If this happens to be very popular, we might create another one next year.

Concerning FILAU (Fibres Internet LAUrentians): because of delays due to the provincial election, the project of high speed internet has been postponed until the end of summer. There is an antenna close to Lake Caribou in Saint-Faustin, another one in Montcalm, near the chemin Larose. This will give the city service on ALL its territory. The antenna already in place on the land of the Apôtres de l'Amour Infini, in Mont-Tremblant, near Arundel, will cover the western part of the village. Courage! The interminable minutes of waiting to upload are about to be a thing of the past.

A date to put on your calendar: Saturday July 12 2014. The firemen from the SSI of Huberdeau Montcalm will present a fire prevention and security seminar, on how to use fire extinguishers and the importance of smoke and CO detectors, among other things. More details to come in the ***Echos of Barkmere*** (if you have subscribed !!!) or on the municipal billboard at the landing.

Common courtesy: please slow down on the wooden bridge on Barkmere road. When cars come in fast, it produces a sound board that annoys the immediate neighbours. Also, immediately after the bridge, going towards the lake, there is a sharp curb that is dangerous for the pedestrians. Some villagers have had a few scares while walking on this curb. Slow down!

We have received a letter from the Régie intermunicipale des déchets de la Rouge (RIDR) concerning the collection of **non-conforming municipal garbage** (wood, metal, cement, gypsum). From now on, the municipalities will be charged for costs relating to the handling of non-conforming material, starting May 1st 2014. It is thus very important to respect the accepted garbage to avoid these unnecessary costs (quite prohibitive).

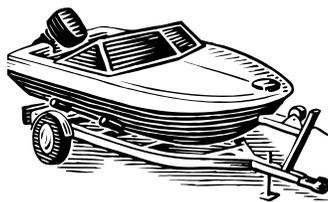
LIST OF NON-CONFORMING MUNICIPAL GARBAGE

DRY MATERIAL	Wood, metal, shingle, cement, gypsum
DANGEROUS DOMESTIC RESIDUES	Paint, solvent, lamp compact fluorescent lamps, batteries, sprays, oil, oil filter, gasoline, propane bottles, contaminated plastics (used to contain HHW)
TIRES	
ELECTRONICS	Computers, screens, televisions, microwaves, etc.
MATTRESSES	
GREEN RESIDUES	Leaves, plants
HALOCARBONS	Fridges, freezers, air conditioning, dehumidifier, water distributors
PLASTIC	Recyclable plastics

I remind you that the collection of **Large Waste Items** is still on. There will be a container at the landing from June 13 to September 15 2014. Only the following items are accepted:

Household or garden furniture (table, chair, sofa, mattress, box spring, bed, desk, bookcase, shelves)

Electrical goods without halocarbons (stove, dishwasher, washer, dryer, water heater).



Be aware that the Sûreté du Québec will be more vigilant this summer on our lake. Make sure that you have all the required navigation equipment on board. For example, for a pleasure craft up to 6 meters (which is the case in Barkmere) :

- One Canadian-approved personal flotation device or lifejacket of appropriate size for each person on board
- A buoyant heaving line at least than 15 m (49'3") long

- a watertight flashlight
- a manual propelling device **OR** an anchor and at least 15 m (49'3") of cable, rope or chain in any combination
- a bailer
- a sound-signalling device
- Navigation lights that meet the requirements set out in the *Collision Regulations*
- a fire extinguisher if the pleasure craft is equipped with an inboard engine, a fixed fuel tank of any size, or a fuel-burning cooking, heating or refrigeration appliance

For details concerning pleasure craft equipment <http://aceboater.com/en/equipment-pleasure-craft-must-carry-on-board>

Please notice: we still have mooring space at the public dock. If you want to rent a dock, contact the inspector at inspecteur@barkmere.org Please note that if you want to moor your canoe, or kayak, we have space available at a lesser cost. You must be a Barkmere citizen.

The Inspector's Corner

By: Dave Roy

INFORMATION ON YOUR SHORELINE

NOTICE TO CITIZENS ON THE SHORE OF BARK LAKE AND ITS PERMANENT TRIBUTARIES LOCATED ON THE TERRITORY OF BARKMERE

The Town of Barkmere continues to apply the regulatory provisions to protect the lake, the water quality and the surrounding environment.

Enforcement action may be taken by the City to ensure that all citizens respect the regulations regarding the environment. A person who contravenes to any of the provisions of bylaw # 201 commits an offense and is liable to a fine.

DEPTH OF THE SHORELINE

The shoreline is the strip of land bordering the lake and extends inland from the normal high water mark. Its width is 15 meters (49'-2") and horizontally measured from the natural high water mark.

RULES ABOUT THE SHORELINE

While mowing grass and brush, as well as the clearing on the shore of the lake are prohibited, regulations allow one or more openings to allow access to the water. The width or their combined widths must not exceed 2.5 meters (8'-2")

when the slope is less than 30%. In addition, any access must be covered with a ground cover plant. Crushed gravel is prohibited.

However, for residents whose land calculated at the high water line width is less than 10 meters (32'-10"), a single opening with a maximum width of 1.2 m (4'-0") is permitted when the slope is less than 30%.

When the slope of the bank is more than 30% regulation allows pruning and trimming required to create a window (hole in the screen of vegetation to allow views of the water) a width of 5 meters (16'-4").

In addition, when the slope of the bank is more than 30% it is possible to build a staircase or a path under the following conditions:

The staircase with a width of 1.2 m (4'-0") must be built on piles or stilts. The stairs must be constructed so as to preserve the existing vegetation in place. This staircase does not include deck or patio; only the bearings of a width of 1.2m (4'-0") may be allowed.

The path of a width of 1.2 m (4'-0") must be achieved without fill or delay. In addition, in order to avoid erosion, the trail should be planted and, whenever possible, be arranged so curvy depending on the topography.

In addition, soil sealing (concrete, asphalt, tile or slab, etc.) is prohibited on the shoreline.

REVEGETATING THE SHORELINE

A regulatory provision requires riparian landowners to reforest the first 5 meters from the shore if natural revegetation is not adequate. These provisions are primarily intended to ensure that the riparian owners do not use strategies diverted to prevent vegetation growth along the lake or river. It applies to all lakes and streams.

The fact that you revegetate the first 5 meters (16'-4") of your shore will not allow you to mow the lawn, as well as clearing the rest of your shoreline.

In conclusion, the revegetation of your shoreline must be done with native plant species that are listed in our bylaws. **In addition, all work on the shore, even planting vegetation, are subject to a certificate of authorization issued by the Town.**

BUILDINGS ON THE SHORELINE

When buildings or grandfathered building are present on the shore, it is permissible to clear brush, prune and maintain vegetation in a strip of 2 meters (6'-6 ¾") in the immediate periphery of these buildings and structures.

AVAILABLE RESOURCES

This narrative does not override the regulations. It was designed to explain the outline of the regulations for the protection of shores.

Thus, the complete regulation is available on the website of the Town at www.barkmere.ca

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC

RCM OF LAURENTIDES

TOWN OF BARKMERE



TOWN OF BARKMERE RATEPAYERS

PUBLIC NOTICE

ENTRY INTO FORCE OF BYLAWS

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given by the undersigned, Director General and Secretary-Treasurer of the Town of Barkmere:

THAT the Bylaws mentioned below, adopted by the Municipal Council on August 10th, 2013 entered into force on May 16th, 2014, the date appearing on the certificate of conformity issued by the RCM of Laurentides.

BYLAW	TITLE
Bylaw number 219	Bylaw number 219 to amend Zoning Bylaw number 201. This Bylaw aims to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impose conditions on the erection of a structure, undertaking or building in a landslike risk zone.
Bylaw number 220	Bylaw number 220 to amend Bylaw number 204 for permits and certificates. This Bylaw aims to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impose conditions on the erection of a structure, undertaking or building in a landslike risk zone.

BYLAW	TITLE
Bylaw number 221	Bylaw number 221 amending Bylaw number 201 relating to zoning. This Bylaw aims to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add standard regarding the effects of the introduction of new antennas and telecommunication towers.
Bylaw number 222	Bylaw number 222 amending Bylaw number 204 related to Permis and certificates. This Bylaw aims to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add standard regarding the effects of the introduction of new antennas and telecommunication towers.

GIVEN AT Barkmere, Quebec, this 27th day of May 2014

Katia Morin

Director General and Secretary-Treasurer

INFORMATION ON CITY HALL

OPENING HOURS

May to October
 Tuesday to Saturday: 8 AM to 4 PM

Telephone 819-687-3373
 Fax 819-681-3375

Personnel:

Town manager/ Treasurer
 Building inspector
 Landing attendant

Katia Morin
 Dave W. Roy
 Michelle Thibault

1-819-687-3373
 1-819-681-3374
 1-819-421-3689

(dg@barkmere.org)
 (inspecteur@barkmere.org)

