

Here is a resume of the last council meeting held April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

- We have received the figures for the waste management for 2015 from the MRC. We went from being the worst municipality in terms of recycling to one of the best. Our initiatives this summer paid off with the two mobile ecocentres and the removal of large waste containers.
- We are going to hire a new administrative assistant, following the departure of the one we had recently hired. The General Director has proposed a new candidate, Mrs. Manon Tassé, to be hired as self-employed to do accounting and secretarial work. She will be starting on April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016 conditional on positive references.
- Concerning the new Community Centre / Town Hall project, the Mayor explained that no financial commitments have yet been made to the qualifying contractor, as we are still waiting for the green light from the Provincial Government. We are expecting that approval shortly, and if all goes well, the project will be approved at the May Council meeting and construction could start in mid to late May. As part of the provincial approval process, Barkmere had to pass a borrowing by-law for at least the amount of the proposed provincial subsidy towards the project. The subsidy is provided to the Town by way of a full loan guarantee from the Province. Barkmere borrows the amount of the grant from a bank specified by the Government and the Government pays the capital and interest on that loan. The Mayor explained how this process is similar for most public sector projects in Quebec. While 12 people signed a register requesting a referendum on this borrowing by-law (By-law 237), 48 signatures were required to force a referendum. The borrowing by-law as required by the Government is therefore following procedure but the final amount borrowed will only be known at the end of the project, once all the costs are in, and the rest of the financing is resolved.. Full details of the financing of the project will be presented in the spring Bulletin.
- Financial statements for 2015 were presented with the report of the independent auditor. All in all, everything is good and we have a cumulated unallocated surplus of \$27,488. The Mayor thanked Councillor Marc Fredette for his very good work in this portfolio.
- Councillor Chantal Raymond announced that the new website for the Town of Barkmere is now ready. We will thus open the website this week and your suggestions are more than welcome. Visit [www.barkmere.ca](http://www.barkmere.ca)
- We are purchasing new docks to add 4 fingers (8 boat slots) at the landing. After having receiving six tenders, the town has chosen to buy these docks, as the rental is really too expensive. This will be at no cost to taxpayers and will be

financed through the rental fees. The Mayor thanked the General Inspector, Mr. Dave Roy for his great work. To rent a space, please contact Dave at [inspecteur@barkmere.ca](mailto:inspecteur@barkmere.ca)

- Due to our efforts and those of the Municipality of Montcalm, the Ministry of Forests, Fauna and Parks has granted the permission to Hydro-Quebec to close the road which follows their electrical line at the source of the Lake. This should put a stop to the traffic of big SUVs, Jeeps and Hummers whose drivers had taken the bad habit of going «off road» right into the rivers which feed Bark Lake. A special thank you is due to Marie-Hélène Gauthier who spearheaded our efforts and also to Charles Huot and Mayor Trépanier who joined Marie-Hélène to get this situation resolved.

Here are pictures taken last Saturday of the repaired dam and of the lake. It really still looks like winter.





Once again, for more details, consult the minutes of the council meeting that will be on our website next month.