

Echoes from Barkmere – July 2016

Here is a resume of the last council meeting held July 9th, 2016.

- Mayor Trépanier informs Barkmere citizens that they can be part of the program Croque-livres at Arundel library. It is a nice initiative for youngsters who want to give a book or take one. Arundel library is located in Arundel City Hall.
- FILAU: the case file is not progressing as intended. There were 2 possible sites to put an antenna for high speed internet, but the citizens owning those land did not show any interest in having an antenna on their private land. It is unfortunate because the equipment has already been purchased and is ready to be installed. We need 3 criteria to put the antennas: accessibility 12 months a year, electricity and a piece of land high enough.
- Council has taken note of the strong views raised at the public consultation on excessive exterior lighting. While exterior lighting is a difficult subject which evokes diverging opinions on many sides, there are some clear Barkmere guidelines that are **already in place**. Each lot is entitled to an **absolute maximum** of between 5 and 8 exterior lights, **including** lights attached to buildings. ALL exterior lights must be covered and either pointed towards the ground or the building which they are intended to illuminate. The basic model «garden lighting» aesthetic solar lights which are simply placed on the dock or the shoreline, and which are not shielded or directed towards the ground, are NOT permitted under our by-laws.
- The ministry of Municipal Affairs has renewed its program RénoRégion for main residences. There are though much restrictions to be admissible. More details can be found at City hall or in the files that are annexed to this document.
- The MNA from Argenteuil, Mr. Yves St-Denis, has confirmed a request for grant of 30,000 \$ for the program to improve the municipal road network (PAARRM) 2016-2017 (15,000\$ from last year). The town will finish constructing the ramp for the boat launch and will improve the car access to the rental docks.
- Mr. Charles LeGuen, representative of the BLPA, reminds us that the regattas will be held Saturday July 30th 2016 on Goulden Island.

- Municipal building: no lateness, the septic system is installed, the filling is finished around the perimeter, the walls are coming up, the well has been dug. Expected time of delivery: September 29th 2016.

- With the grant for the municipal building came the obligation to put aside \$10,000 to purchase public art. The whole process is dictated by the Ministry of Culture. Barkmere has one representative on a committee of 3 (the other two being the government civil servant and an artist named by the government) to select the art from a prescribed list. Because our project is relatively small, Barkmere's art will not be created from scratch. We will have to purchase our art from the current unsold inventory of the Laurentians artists who are registered with the government's program. The committee has selected a short list of 5 artists who will be asked to make proposals. The piece of art will likely be a metal bas-relief which will be placed on an outside wall of the building. It will be there forever, so fingers-crossed that we are given some reasonable options to choose from...

- Do not forget that all objects that do not fit inside the garbage containers at the landing must be brought to the eco-centers (mobile or permanent). **No garbage will be tolerated outside the containers.**

- Included is an interesting article published in *La Presse* in July 2016 concerning milfoil and its dangers for the lakes.

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

SUMMARY OF THE JUNE 18 TOWN HALL MEETING **ON URBAN PLANNING**

1. The meeting was well attended (50+ attendees) and everyone spoke passionately but respectfully. We also received some excellent written submissions.

2. We covered at length the current rules regarding grandfather rights for non-conforming structures. The rules for what you can do with your non-conforming structure depend on some key variables: 1. is it a main building or an accessory building? 2. Are you renovating, enlarging or completely rebuilding? 3. Is the

structure itself “non-conforming” (i.e. too big or too small)? Is it located in a set-back? Or is it in the Shoreline Zone? As always, check with our Inspector. Dave can help you through the process.

3. Exterior lighting has increased a lot through the years, as more residences around the lake have electricity. The low cost of solar “lawn and garden” lights has also led to many people placing them on their docks and around the shoreline, for decoration or to make it easier for them to navigate – on land and on the water. We heard many strong opinions about this evolution. The majority seemed to want a reduction on the current levels of exterior lighting, obviously while not negatively affecting security. Other communities have put in place “dark sky” rules to reduce light pollution.
4. We covered the existing rules in our by-laws regarding exterior lights. The key points: A) Each lot can have a maximum of from 5 to 8 outside lights (3 or 4 mounted on the main building and 2 to 4 which are “standing” or “ground-based”). B) ALL exterior lights must be covered and focused on the ground or on the building they are illuminating. C) No lights at all are permitted on floating rafts or driveways.
5. We looked into the future, in terms of urban planning, by comparing Barkmere to two other nearby Laurentian lake-based communities which have virtually identical territories in terms of size:

Barkmere has about 200 private residences, of which **25%** are all-season access. Barkmere residents pay \$460,000 annually in taxes, of which \$3,000 goes towards “Leisure and Culture” and \$52,000 goes towards “Transport” (road maintenance).

Lac-Tremblant-Nord has about 200 private residences, of which **10%** are all-season access. Lac-Tremblant-Nord residents pay \$265,000 annually in taxes, of which \$2,000 goes towards “Leisure and Culture” and \$17,000 goes towards “Transport”.

Ivry-sur-le-Lac (Lake Manitou) has about 450 private residences (with 4 ongoing residential development projects), of which **42%** are all-season access. Ivry residents pay \$1.2M annually in taxes, of which \$25,000 goes towards “Leisure and Culture” and \$250,000 goes towards “Transport”.

6. The idea behind the Town Hall meeting was to provoke healthy discussion. That certainly seems to be happening! Feel free to reach out to your Town Councillors over the summer with your 2 cents.

