

Echoes from Barkmere – August 2016

Here is a resume of the last council meeting held August 13th, 2016 and a small resume of the special information session we held concerning Milfoil right after the council.

- Mayor Trépanier informs Barkmere citizens that the invasive species Eurasian Milfoil has been found in Bark Lake, more specifically in Silver Bay. An information session will follow the Council meeting.
- We have received a letter from the Mayor of Arundel informing us that citizens from Barkmere can take tennis lessons in Arundel. An information pamphlet is available at the Town Hall.
- Following a letter from Mr. Peter Gélinas stating the increase of boat traffic and the intensity of the waves generated that affect residents from Priest road, the mayor reminded everybody that the 2 white buoys mark a zone where there must be no wake.
- BLPA: Lea Hardcastle informed us that the S'mores night has been rescheduled to next Saturday because of the rain. She also informed us that the Corn Roast will take place on Saturday September 3rd.
- Concerning FILAU, high speed internet, we have given other names of residents interested to have an antenna on their land. Unfortunately, FILAU is too busy right now and won't proceed with this until fall.
- The Arts Committee has chosen a piece of art by a local artist from the Laurentians, Mr. Pierre Leblanc, from Val David, to put on the front exterior wall of the new municipal building.
- A reallocation of the grant of the Rural Pact 2015 will enable to pay for the move of fiber optic internet service to the new municipal building and for the construction of a rack for Canoes/kayaks at the municipal landing for residents from Barkmere.
- The construction of the municipal building is on schedule. It should be finished by September 29th and thus, the council could be held in it in October.

- The town has voted a contract to Biofilia for professional services concerning Milfoil. They will do a complete survey of the lake, to study portions of the lake not yet covered and to explore all lake tributaries, like Hart Lake.

Mr. Jake Chadwick has proposed an **Action Plan concerning Milfoil:**

This year:

- Hire Biofilia to do an immediate survey of the lake
- Visit/confirm with all upstream lakes the presence, or not, of Milfoil (week of August 15)
- Visit/confirm inlet and its upstream water basin (week of August 15)
- After this week's work and depending on results, decide on further diver sweeps
- Double down on boat access issues & washing vigilance
- Together with BLPA, prepare communications and education materials for residents for fall bulletins

Next year:

- Hire experienced biologists (students?) for assistance to audit & locate Milfoil during July 15-August 15 period
- Follow up study of Biofilia
- Identify and pre-hire a team of divers to harvest any Milfoil found
- Recruit, train and coordinate the support infrastructure (kayakers, marker distribution, etc)
- Review/monitor upstream water basin
- Work on discouraging/eliminating floatplane visits to the lake
- Increase links with other lake areas to monitor best practices
- Thoroughly review alternatives to Milfoil treatment (e.g. Milfoil weevil)

Please find attached a pdf document with a few explanatory pictures of the team at work during the last week.

Also a report is attached on the closure of the moto quad trail at the head of the lake (in French only).

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