

# Echoes from Barkmere – January 2017

Here is a summary of the last council meeting held Saturday, January 14<sup>th</sup> 2017.

- The small official opening ceremony of the new municipal building was held on December 19<sup>th</sup>, with the presence of the Member of Parliament for Laurentides-Labelle, Mr. David Graham, and the Member of National Assembly for Argenteuil, Mr. Yves Saint-Denis. An article was subsequently published in the Information du Nord Mont-Tremblant newspaper.
- A revised draft agreement with the new Régie d'Incendie du Nord-Ouest des Laurentides (RINOL) was sent to the Director of that service. A meeting should be held during the week of January 16<sup>th</sup>, to finalize this file.
- There were many questions raised regarding the non-renewal of a lease between the Town and Mr. Gordon Miller for a piece of land where boathouses rented by Mr. Miller are located. The Mayor gave the following explanations:

The Town has received letters from many tenants of Mr. Gordon Miller regarding their spot in the boathouses of Mr. Miller, following a notice from the Town of Barkmere that was sent, advising that the Town did not intend to renew the leasing contract for the land behind the 5 door boathouse (the one further away from the main landing). The Mayor understands the worries of these tenants, and has taken the opportunity of this meeting to provide some explanations.

First, he gave some precision regarding some facts related to the leasing contracts. The two boathouses are the subject of two separate leasing contracts. The one for the land behind the 5 door boathouse is expiring in October 2017. The one for the 7 door boathouse is expiring in 2019, and is not the subject of the Town notification. Therefore, Mr. Miller can continue to rent some spots to all his tenants in 2017. Also, the mailing of the notification was supposed to be preceded by a meeting with Mr. Miller to explain the reasons for the non-renewal, and also with a resolution from the Council. The Mayor and the Director General apologized for this mistake.

The whole issue of revitalizing and modernizing of the landing area, and of the renewal of the equipments, was the subject of the works of a Council committee about 10 years ago, resulting in a plan of action that was adopted by the Council at the time. Since then, the Town has been working to implement the recommendations of this committee. Within this context, the Town had decided to renew the leasing contracts with Mr. Miller for limited terms of 8 and 10 years, to allow time to plan for solutions for these aging infrastructures, either coming from the lessee himself, or from the Town. The contracts have a clause within them requiring the lessee to proceed with repairs and to maintain the structures to render them safe, amongst other concerns.

To be a member of the Municipal Council of a Town means to be responsible to manage the assets of that Town, which are the property of all the taxpayers. The Council must ensure that these assets are utilized in an optimal way, for the benefit of ALL taxpayers. The Council must not only take decisions for the current year, but also for the next 5 and 10 years. It becomes very obvious for the members of the Council that the situation with these boathouses cannot be left to continue for a long time, and that we must put in place some infrastructures for the future. Moreover, the increases in number of cottages and the plan put forth by the Town to favour boat access by the Lake versus building new roads are causing the requests for wharves to increase every year. It was already the case 10 years ago; it is even more the case in 2017.

To accommodate this situation, we need to implement some expansion and replacement plans for the existing infrastructure. Within this context the Municipal Council does not believe that renewing the leasing contracts with Mr. Miller, considering the age, the state and the limitations of the existing boathouses, serves the interests of all the taxpayers nor is it consistent with continuing with the plan of revitalizing, modernizing and expanding the infrastructures of the landing.

It is clear that this plan must take into account the existing current needs, which are for covered spots located near parking spaces. But we also need to plan for more spots on that side of the landing, because it is not possible anymore to add more spaces in the current zone of municipal renting without impeding seriously on the boat traffic. The new infrastructures will also need to ensure the security of the users and conform to the modern standards and regulations for buildings on the shore, that are being enforced by the provincial government.



Ville de / Town of

# **BARKMERE**

*182 ch. Barkmere road*

*Barkmere, QC J0T 1A0*

*Tel : 819-687-3373*

*[communications@barkmere.ca](mailto:communications@barkmere.ca)*