

Echoes from Barkmere – July 2017

Here is a summary of the meeting of the Municipal Council of the Town of Barkmere held on July 8th, 2017.

- Ms. Anne Létourneau, who was hired to manage our efforts in the fight against the Eurasian Milfoil, made a presentation. Until now, some plants have been identified and removed at the same sites where we had found the milfoil last summer, but in much lesser numbers. This is good news, demonstrating that our efforts have reversed the expansion of the invasion. A particular attention is being given to the inlet area, as the lake is shallow, and if the plants reach a certain height, they will be potentially torn by the boat propellers, which would allow it to propagate. It is therefore very important to remove the plants while they are less than 30 centimetres in those areas.

Apart from the work to be done in the affected areas, the objective is to visit and register observations on the whole shore of the Lake this summer. The search done in the Main Bay did not discover the Eurasian Milfoil in that sector of the Lake, but only the native milfoil, which is not invasive. According to Ms. Létourneau, the sectors where the water is shallow, like Green Bay, will have to be particularly scrutinized also.

Ms. Létourneau invited people to be prudent when the divers are present, as it is difficult for them to see boats when they are under the surface. Please keep a safe distance from the pontoon boat of the Town and of the buoys indicating that the divers are present. Ms. Létourneau will also put signs at the landing indicating the area where the divers will be every day.

- Mayor Luc Trépanier reminded that some seaplanes have been seen doing touch-and-go's repeatedly on Bark Lake. When we know that the Eurasian Milfoil was most probably introduced to the Lake by such practices, the situation is worrisome. He asked that witnesses take note of the license number of the planes, so he can contact the owners to sensitize them to this issue.
- The office of the Argenteuil MNA confirmed that our request for a grant to the PARAMM program has been accepted. Council adopted a resolution to use this amount to redo the asphalt in front of the municipal building and over the damaged portions closer to the landing area. The balance of the subsidy will serve to repair and rebuild the rainwater collection system, which is completely blocked and is not functioning anymore, causing a lot of erosion in this area.
- During the meeting with the representatives of Hydro-Quebec on June 20th, they have announced that the logging works should start during the month of August. Mayor Luc Trépanier, as well as one of the members of the Town's committee on that project, Mr. Charles Huot, have indicated that the cottage season is at its maximum at that time of the year. They requested from Hydro-Quebec to require the selected contractor that the works in the area of the Lake be done in October only, since they are supposed to extend from August to the end of November. Hydro-Quebec is also supposed to give us

the list of actions that they are enforcing to protect the sensitive environment in the area of the inlets of the Lake.

- Regarding high speed internet, the FILAU organization has submitted to the Town a proposal for the Town to finance the purchase and installation of the equipment that they plan to install on the territory of Barkmere. This proposal had raised many questions and concerns within the members of the Council. Discussions will continue.
- It is disappointing but the walkway to the new rental wharves is still not built. Techno-Pieux, which has been granted the contract last month, still did not schedule the works. However, the door of the municipal garage has been installed.
- The members of the Council adopted a resolution to purchase an archive management software, et gave a mandate to a consultant to organize the archives of the Town. This should ease the work of our employees when they have to search for an old document.
- The Municipal Council gave its support to the Association for the Defense of the L'Arc-En-Ciel School of Huberdeau. This elementary school is very important for the vitality of the villages in the region. The Laurentian School Board was looking to move some services, including the kindergarten, to other schools, which would cause an important increase in travel time for young children.
- Finally, the members of the Council have affirmed the intent of the Town to join a future inter-municipal company for the transportation and collection of domestic waste, if conditions are acceptable. Apart from Barkmere, the company would be formed by the municipalities of Amherst, Arundel, Huberdeau, Montcalm and Mont-Tremblant, and would replace the collective contract with RC Miller.

Luc Trépanier
Maire / Mayor
Ville de Barkmere / Town of Barkmere