



Echoes from Barkmere – January 2018

Here is a summary of the last Council meeting held Saturday, January 20th 2018.

- Mayor Luc Trépanier invited the assembly to hold a minute of silence for the memory of Mrs. Frances Miller, widow of Mr. Edward Miller, who passed away on December 26th 2017, as well as for the memory of Mrs. Nancy Hale, a former resident of Barkmere and mother of Councillor Jake Chadwick, who passed away on December 21st 2017. The Mayor extended the condolences of the Council to both bereaved families.

- The newspapers have related the story of a formal notice sent to the Town of Barkmere and to the municipality of Ivry-sur-le-Lac by the Association of Sport Fishing of Quebec. The association is demanding that these two municipalities modify their by-laws in order to abolish decontamination fees for the boats launched in their lakes, and a few other articles, arguing that they are contradicting the right to navigate, which is of federal jurisdiction. Mayor Trépanier, after consulting the lawyer of the Town, replied that the Council will review bylaw 162 in 2018, in light of the Court of Appeals decision in the case of Chalets St-Adolphe vs Saint-Adolphe-d'Howard. This decision confirmed the obligation and duty of the municipalities to protect lake environments and shorelines, with measures including boat decontamination. The court decision also confirmed the right to impose fees for this service to external visitors who are not paying taxes in the municipality. Mayor Trépanier pointed out that the president of that association has admitted to the Info du Nord newspaper that his association attacked two very small municipalities, in the hope that they would not have the capacity to spend legal fees to defend themselves.

- The extraordinary meeting on the adoption of the 2018 budget for the Town was postponed to February 10, due to the fact that the regular meeting was delayed by a week, caused by the winter storm of January 12 and 13.

- Thanks to the efforts and involvement of our Mayor Trépanier to get high speed internet in Barkmere, FILAU has installed a new Tower in Arundel that now completes the coverage of the Barkmere village area. If you want to obtain this service, you can contact customer service at 819-681-3399 to take an appointment to install equipment. The service is much faster and gives an alternative to Explore net that is often not very reliable and not very fast.

Once again, for more details, consult the minutes of the council meeting that will be posted on the town's website once they are ratified at next council meeting.