



Echoes from Barkmere – September 2018

Here is a summary of the last Council meeting held Saturday, September 8th 2018.

- 15 minutes before council, we had a public meeting concerning draft by-law 251 on **docks and cribs**. Stephen Lloyd, President of the Consultative Committee on Urbanism (CCU) explained the proposed changes to the draft by-law and here are the two main changes:
 - a) the maximum permitted dimension was not sufficient for navigation purposes and has been increased to allow for boat access for cottages which do not benefit from sufficient water depth at their shoreline;
 - b) there was ambiguity whether we could, or not, repair cribs under water and we will now be able to do it, around mid-October when the by-law comes into effect. To see the draft by-law go to the homepage of www.barkere.ca and click on the link.

- Mayor Trépanier mentioned the presence in the audience of the candidate for the Quebec Liberal Party for Argenteuil riding, Mr. Bernard Bigras-Denis and welcomes him.

- Mayor Trépanier also mentions that small game hunting season with rifle, bow arrow or crossbow, has started this Saturday, so please be careful when walking in the forest. Hunting is allowed up to 150 meters from your property, on Crown Land.

- Mrs. Léa Hardcastle, from the BLPA thanks everybody for a great season. This winter, they will be working on next year's program so your

comments, suggestions, or offers of volunteering are welcome. You can communicate with them at www.blpa.ca .

- Mr. Jake Chadwick has asked the mayor, in his absence, to read an update concerning milfoil. Milfoil was found in Silver Bay only, which is good news. 486 plants were removed in 2018, comparatively to 696 plants in 2017, a decrease of about 30%. Remember that in 2016, we removed 5,000 plants. Mrs. Anne Létourneau will soon give her final report and her comments and suggestions for next year in terms of buoys identification and better practices for people who live within the confines of the infested area. Next year she wants to develop a **local** team of volunteers to help identify plants. The volunteers would be supervised by Anne's diving team. If you are interested, please contact Mr. Martin-Paul Gélinas, our Director General.

- We have hired a new **inspector: Mr. Gabriel Bélanger**. He will also be supervisor of the installations, and responsible for environment and navigation. Mr. Bélanger has worked five years in the municipality of Lac Tremblay Nord as inspector and has also worked in construction. He will work 4 days/week and his hiring will permit to offer a week-end service until the end of the season.

- Mr. Marc-Olivier Duchesne, in his name and on behalf of the Council, thanks the summer students for their excellent work. He particularly wants to underline the extraordinary work done by David Castonguay who was the only full time employee at the city during a few months.

- There is a new evaluation role from the MRC following the cadastral reform. The ministry of Natural Resources and Fauna has decided to re-create the lots submerged under the lake, due to the creation of the dam at the beginning of the 20th Century. **Many many lots** have been submerged and so the initial proprietors have sold these lots smaller than what they had initially, therefore keeping the underwater part under their name. It has caused an administrative nightmare. The ministry is basing itself on lots dating from 1932 and further (even though the dam dates from around 1902). They have given an appraisal value to these submerged lots and want us to retrace the proprietors or their succession to tax them. To summarize, you might have a neighbour in front of you in the water, and therefore your docks and boathouses might be on their land and will be non-conforming. To see if you have a neighbour underwater in front of your property, you can go to infolot, follow the steps, and if you can open the map of the province of Quebec, zoom on your lot (the website works very

badly and it takes a few trials!) If you see a lot number in the water in front of your property, it means that someone else has this lot. To follow...

- The telephones at Town Hall will now use IP technology with the MRC and drop out of Bell Canada which is too expensive. The only glitch is that our main number will disappear but we will be able to keep the inspector's phone number, 819-681-3374. We will keep you informed as to the moment this change will take place.

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, generally at the next council meeting.

Here are town pictures of the mayor Luc Trépanier and of our new Director General, Mr. Martin-Paul Gélinas, taken during last council:





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